



Jimmy's Own

Official Newsletter of the Signals Association

Issue 12 - March 2020

Making comms

Who and what is the radio operator?

Call back the past

A photograph from
1965 bring back
memories

How to sierra papa echo lima lima

The evolution of the phonetic alphabet

This First issue in the 'new year' takes us almost one quarter through 2020!

2019 has been a fairly 'rustige' year for us but, hopefully, 2020 will be a more eventful.

2020 will kick off with our team of about 25 volunteers who will be lending logistical support and communications to the organisers of the 2020 Cape Town Cycle Race (formerly the Argus cycle race).

Other events being planned for 2019 are attending a show of "The Bats" in Durbanville on 18 May, four Ten Pin Bowling evenings at Grand West in March, June, August and October, Breakfast at Barristers in April, a Play at a theatre in July and a weekend away in September at Africamps in Wellington.

Our most important event will be our 4th Annual Luncheon to once again take place at the Parow Golf Club on Sunday, 3 May which will be in the form of a three course meal and wine.

Our events for the year will probably end with a popular Year-End dinner at a restaurant.

If any of the aforementioned events interest you, please email Robbie Roberts on robbie.wa.roberts@gmail.com.

It is with sadness that we had to bid farewell to two persons who had played a part in the establishment of this association. Firstly, and I only learnt it in mid January, was the passing of Oom Willem Pretorius on 21 December last year. Col Pretorius was the first and only Honorary Colonel of 71 Signal Unit and he was part of the initial events leading up to the establishment of our association on 2 December 2000.

Secondly, Gerda Cornelissen, wife of WO1 (Ret) Louw Cornelissen. Suffering from cancer Gerda bid us farewell on 13 January not long after the couple relocated from Goodwood to Yzerfontein. Judging from the large contingent of people present at her Celebration of Life service I attended at their home in Yzerfontein on Saturday, 18 January, they had been involved and very much liked by this west coast town's community! Not surprising as Gerda was a well liked person who always carried a smile and a jovial personality with her wherever she went.

And to add to our sad news, we also bid farewell to Mrs Elizabeth Laubscher, mother of our longstanding member Peter Longbottom on Saturday, 22 February 2020. Elizabeth was a regular attendee at most of our social functions and we vividly remember her participating arriving in her wheelchair.

To the Pretorius, Cornelissen and Longbottom families we promise "We will Remember them"!!!

In December 2019 I wished all our members a Happy New Year with the hope that 2020 will be a prosperous one for all. I hope that this year has thus far been good and a healthy one for all.

Let's all try and make 2020 an eventful year for our association. It is only with the support of all our members that we live up to our promise of 1 May 2016 to try follow in the footsteps of our WWII predecessors, the 3rd Brigade Signal Coy Reunion Association, of which the last remaining member Uncle (Sgt) Syd Ireland will, God willing, be present at our Annual Luncheon on 3rd May.

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Who and what is the military radio operator?

By Geoff Laskey

For any military formation to function effectively communications are vital and Radio Operators are an essential links in the process. If communications break down on the battlefield things could go wrong very quickly.

Every combat arms unit needs a radio operator. The radio operator is responsible for the operation of communications equipment at a number of different levels; whether it is within a large Formation HQ, Tactical HQ or Unit HQ.

On the battlefield, they are responsible to provide commanders with the means of controlling the battle using a number of methods including radio.

The military radio operator is responsible to ensure good radio communications by setting up, operating and maintaining radio communication equipment at all times and under all conditions and on all types of terrain.

This can include communication channels over short distances, or anywhere around the world using a modern array of complex radio systems.

Mobility is one of the keys to success on the modern battlefield and poses a number of challenges to maintain communications under such conditions. All communications must

be geared to support a combat force which is required to constantly move to survive and fight the enemy.

Therefore, the skills and technical proficiency of the radio operator play a most important part in mobile radio communications and ultimately the efficient operation of a mobile combat team whether on land, sea or in the air or a combination of the foregoing military forces.

The primary job function of the military radio operator is to ensure effective communications at all times (before, during and after operations).

Military radio operators play a critical role in directing the movement of troops and combat supplies by receiving and relaying information and orders.

They use the equipment to communicate a wide range of information, including information for the execution of operational plans and the transmission of classified information.

Radio Operators are important to successful combat operations and can potentially save lives through being alert, interpret information and taking appropriate actions (timeously notify the correct organisation). On the other hand incompetent or negligent radio operators can also lead to failure of



operations and ultimately loss of life.

In order to achieve the foregoing the military radio operator must be able to perform a number of functions i.e.

- The assemble, configuration and tuning of radio equipment including antennas and power sources;
 - Establishing contact with distant stations;
 - Transmit, receive messages;
 - Processing, logging and recording of messages;
 - Observe communications and security practices;
 - Implement scheduled frequency changes and cryptographic codes; and
 - Perform regular checks and routine maintenance on radio communication equipment to ensure it is serviceable at all times.
- To be able to perform the functions as a military radio operator he or she requires certain skills which include;
- Have good hearing and be able to speak clearly;
 - Must be alert and be able to interpret situations(observe what is

happening on the net);

- Ability to remain calm and determine priorities in emergency or high stress situations;
- The ability to handle mental and physical stress for long periods;
- Interest in and ability to work with communications equipment;
- Understand the importance of codes and communication security;
- Observe and understand the importance of confidentiality (not to talk out); and
- Understand the importance of being part of a team.

In the military environment the radio operator is normally stationed at one of a number of radios functioning on the same frequency, this is referred to as a radio network.

Each radio on such a network also has a unique call sign in order to identify his position or function performed in the organisation.

Radio call signs are unique identifiers assigned to all stations on a specific network and can identify the station's location or its purpose during an operation, regardless of who is operating the station.

The function of such a network is to provide a means for orderly communication within a group of stations and to support and facilitate the process of meeting military objectives through effective communications.

Furthermore some form of discipline is needed to ensure that trans-

missions are done orderly and do not overlap or disrupt messages, if two people transmits simultaneously, the result is chaos and can lead to confusion or messages not being received at all.

In view of the foregoing and to be able to communicate effectively the military radio operator is required to use standardised radio and voice procedures, including various techniques to clarify, simplify and standardise communications in use by the armed forces.

Voice procedure is necessary to ensure that speech on a congested voice radio network is clear, concise and unambiguous and transmission time is limited to the absolute minimum and not prolonged unnecessary.

This method of communications is intended to maximize clarity of spoken communication and reduce errors in the verbal message by use of accepted military terminology.

To avoid confusion and errors during voice transmission, special techniques have been developed for pronouncing letters and numerals. These special techniques resulted in development of the phonetic alphabet and phonetic numerals.

The phonetic alphabet is used by the operator to spell difficult words and thereby prevent misunderstanding on the part of the receiving operator.

In addition to strategic positioning and frequency planning the reliability of radio communications also depends



upon the characteristics of the transmitted signal.

The transmitter and its associated antenna form the initial step in the transfer of energy (signal) to a distant receiver.

A radio station must be located in a position that will ensure communications with all other stations with which it is to operate and yet maintain a degree of physical and communications security.

In this regard the radio operator should advise military planners and give technical input as to the positioning and deployment of tactical radio equipment.

The skill and technical abilities of the operators at the transmitter and receiver (radio station) play an important part in obtaining the maximum communication range possible.

It is therefore important that the military radio operator also have a good understanding of the functioning and importance of the radio antenna.

All radios, whether transmitting or receiving, require some sort of antenna.

The general requirements for trans-



mitting and receiving antennas are that they have small energy losses and that they be efficient as radiators and receptors of radio signals.

One of the functions of the radio operator is to ensure that the correct antennas are used and that they are deployed in such a way as to ensure optimal communications.

The radio operator must be familiar with the capabilities of the types of antennas available for the frequency range being operated in. In this regard there are a number of aspects which needs to be considered i.e. site of deployment (topography), vegetation (trees with heavy foliage absorb radio waves), space available, cover required and tactical restrictions and requirements.

Last but not the least it is the task of the radio operator to ensure that the power sources required for the

functioning of the radios used is in a good condition and the level of power available (battery levels)is adequate to ensure good communications at all times.

Under certain operational conditions the radio operator must understand the importance of preserving battery power thereby extending battery life and ultimately transmission time.

Generally a radio operator refers to a person who is responsible for the operations of a radio system. However in the military sense, if the activities and functions above are considered it is clear that the military radio operator performs a task much wider than just sending and receiving of messages.

His role in the establishment, optimising and maintenance of radio communication systems cannot be over emphasised. The radio operator is often required to perform in diverse and challenging deployment environments.

It not only requires a soldier with certain technical skills and abilities but also needs attributes such as listening, good verbal communication, situational awareness, composure and team work to mention a few.

Military radio operators are required to perform under all different situations and conditions and are often required to go the extra mile to ensure operational effectiveness and successful implementation of military planning.

How to sierra papa echo lima lima

Everyone that served as a Jimmy will have no problem remembering the phonetic alphabet. In fact most people that served in the military will know it.

It is used internationally by the military and by international aviation. Yet it is something that has changed over the years. During the World Wars for example, different countries each had their own version of the phonetic alphabet. Here are a few examples.

US Military World War I	US Military World War II 1939-1943	US Military World War II 1943-1955	UK Military World War II	German Military World War II
A - Able	A - Affirm	A - Able	A - Ack	A - Ärger
B - Boy	B - Baker	B - Baker	B - Beer	B - Berta
C - Cast	C - Cast	C - Charlie	C - Charlie	C - Cäsar
D - Dock	D - Dog	D - Dog	D - Don	D - Dora
E - Easy	E - Easy	E - Easy	E - Edward	E - Emil
F - Fox	F - Fox	F - Fox	F - Freddy	F - Friedrich
G - George	G - George	G - George	G - George	G - Gustav
H - Have	H - Hypo	H - How	H - Harry	H - Heinrich
I - Item	I - Inter	I - Item	I - Ink	I - Ida
J - Jig	J - Jig	J - Jig	J - Johnnie	J - Julius
K - King	K - King	K - King	K - King	K - Konrad
L - Love	L - Love	L - Love	L - London	L - Ludwig
M - Mike	M - Mike	M - Mike	M - Monkey	M - Martha
N - Nan	N - Negat	N - Nan	N - Nuts	N - Nordpol
O - Opal	O - Option	O - Oboe	O - Orange	O - Otto
P - Pup	P - Prep	P - Peter	P - Pip	P - Paula
Q - Quack	Q - Queen	Q - Queen	Q - Queen	Q - Quelle
R - Rush	R - Roger	R - Roger	R - Robert	R - Richard
S - Sail	S - Sail	S - Sugar	S - Sugar	S - Siegfried
T - Tare	T - Tare	T - Tare	T - Toc	T - Theodor
U - Unit	U - Unit	U - Uncle	U - Uncle	U - Ulrich
V - Vice	V - Victor	V - Victor	V - Vic	V - Viktor
W - Watch	W - William	W - William	W - William	W - Wilhelm
X - X-ray	X - X-ray	X - X-ray	X - X-ray	X - Xanthippe
Y - Yoke	Y - Yoke	Y - Yoke	Y - Yorker	Y - Ypsilon
Z - Zed	Z - Zed	Z - Zed	Z - Zebra	Z - Zeppelin

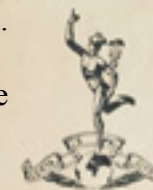
Call back the past

This photograph goes back a few years. The time is January 1965. The place is Voortrekkerhoogte.

A group of young signallers are

undergoing their basic training.

On the left in the back row is Signalman W.A. Roberts. Yes, it's our very own Robbie Roberts.



I SEINOPLEIDINGSREGIMENT SASK
SIGNAL TRAINING REGIMENT SACS

VOORTREKKERHOOGTE

A ESKADRON
TROEP 2

4 JANUARIE 1965 TOT 30 JUNIE 1965

A SQUADRON
NO. 2 TROOP

4 JANUARY, 1965 TO 30 JUNE, 1965



BEERSTE RY (links na regs)/FIRST ROW (left to right): Seinmanne/Signalman B. H. F. FRAHM, M. J. RENNIE, Kai/Cpl S. H. F. SMIT (links), A/V44/ B. JACOBSON, N. BURGESS, A01/W001 C. F. B. DU PIESANE (links SM/Signl SMC, Seinmanne/Signalman TWEEDE RY (links na regs)/SECOND ROW (left to right): Seinmanne/Signalman A. C. SIBBIS, D. KENNEDY-SMITH, A. M. PATTERSON, C. A. SCHIEPERS, K. E. B. WILSON, S. A. BOSSINGER, D. N. NORRIS, R. E. DESCHAMPS. DERDE RY (links na regs)/THIRD ROW (left to right): Seinmanne/Signalman W. A. ROBERTS, W. D. KOEGELINBERG, J. S. NEWMAN, R. J. SANDSTER, K. F. WHITEHEAD.

Wear them with pride

Medal presentation ceremony held at the Cape Town branch of the SA Legion on Saturday, 7 September 2019

What started off as a Medal presentation “Parade” for only four members of the Signals Association and two other deserving Capetonian military veterans, eventually culminated in a much extended event at which no less than 18 medals and awards were presented to 13 recipients from various military backgrounds.

The award ceremony took place with the kind generosity of the Cape Town Branch of the SA Legion who had gone out of their way to make the ceremony a memorable one, which included the most tastiest of snacks for the attending recipients and their guests.

The recipients were honoured to have Retired Brig General John Del Monte as the officiating official handing over the medals. General Del Monte, in his speech, said there is no better way to present medals to recipients than at a dignified occasion such as had been presented by the local branch of the SA Legion.

The following Medals were presented:

Pro Patria Medal

CPL (Ret'd) Marius Fivaz (Formerly served with 2 SAI)

Southern Africa Medal

WO2 (Ret'd) Adriaan de Koker (Formerly served at Infantry School and CTR (Dukes))

General Service Medal

- Lt (SA Navy) Ret'd Claudio Criste (Formerly serving at SA Naval College and SAS Fleur. Claudio is also a Member of SA Legion Branch Exco)
- WO Class 1 (Ret'd) Venanzio Dominico Seini (Formerly SA Navy Regular Force serving at SAS Emily Hobhouse/Naval Command West)
- WO Class 2 (Ret'd) Adriaan de Koker (Formerly served as reflected above)
- S/Sgt (Ret'd) Pierre Johan Fourie (Formerly served with 71 Signal Unit and current Public Relations Officer of the Signals Association. Pierre is also a Member of the SA Legion Branch Exco)
- S/Sgt (Ret'd) Petrus Johannes Jordaan (Formerly served with 71 Signal Unit and current Vice Chairman of the Signals Association)
- CPL Marius Fivaz (Formerly serving at 2 SAI, 54 Bn and Sector 10)
- Signalmans Jeffrey Marcus (Formerly served with 71 Signal Unit

and also a member of the Signals Association)

Unitas Medal

- CPL (Ret'd) Marius Fivaz (Formerly served as reflected above)
- Signalmans (Ret'd) Jeffrey Marcus (Formerly served as reflected above)

40 year Medal: Distinguished Conduct/Loyal Service

- Lt Col (Ret'd) William Alexander (Robbie) Roberts, SM, MMM, JCD with Bar (Formerly served as OC 71 Signal Unit and current Chairman of the Signals Association. Robbie is also the current Vice Chairman of the SA Legion Cape Town Branch)
- WO Class 2 (Ret'd) Stephen Paul Leibbrandt, JCD with Bar. (Formerly served as the Band Leader of Cape Field Artillery Regt. Stephen is also the current Chairman of the Rosedale Service Centre Committee of the SA Legion Cape Town Branch)

40 year Bar for Distinguished Conduct and Loyal Service

Master Warrant Officer (MWO) (Ret'd) Danie Wilhelm Steyn, MMM JCD with Bar (Formerly served as the RSM of Cape Garrison Artillery Regt)

Medal with 30 year Bar for Distinguished Conduct and Loyal Service

WO Class 2 (Ret'd) Christiaan Jaco-

bus Brandsen, JCD (Formerly served with 71 Signal Unit)

30 year Bar for Distinguished Conduct and Loyal Service

Capt (Ret'd) Howard Joshua Shagom (Formerly Served with 71 Signal Unit and currently the Secretary General of the Signals Association)

Sgt (Ret'd) Willem Andries van der Merwe (Formerly served at 71 Signal Unit. Willie also serves on the Manco of the Signals Association). Willie also received his RD Button which is the long service equivalent of the JCD Crossed Swords. It also allows the recipient to use the Post Nominal Title “RD”.

John Chard Medal for 10 years Distinguished Conduct and Loyal Service

WO2 (Ret'd) Adriaan de Koker (Formerly served as reflected above)

On behalf of the SIGNALS ASSOCIATION I would like to congratulate the above recipients on receiving their awards which, although long overdue, was still well deserved and necessary as a token of gratitude for their unselfish commitment to serving our beloved country.

May you wear those awards with pride!

A tragic day in SA military history

By Pierre Fourie

CAPEX 73 was a naval exercise held on 24 November 1973. Taking part were ships of the South African Navy (SAN) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

Also taking part was a formation of six South African Air Force (SAAF) Buccaneers flying out of D.F. Malan Airport (now Cape Town International Airport). The formation of Buccaneers were supposed to attack the SAN/RAN ships.

Buccaneer Serial No 419 was flown by Maj Hans Steinberg and Capt Doep Du Preez and Buccaneer 420 flown by Capt Brian Antonis and Maj Roy Vice.

The formation received a radio message that the ships were not yet ready and the attack was postponed for 20 minutes. The formation split, with four Buccaneers flying towards Cape Point and Buccaneer 419 & 420 flying to the Hermanus area to make up the time.

They encountered thick fog in the Walker bay area. Brian could not main-

tain formation on Hans and did a separation drill (Usually 30° for 30-seconds) and pulled up. They would then liaise on the UHF radio.

According to a navigator in one of the other formations, the last radio call they received was when the lead Buccaneer advised that he cleared the fog at around 5,000ft.

It is speculated, that when Hans broke cloud he immediately levelled off and turned towards Cape Point to join up with the other four Buccaneers.

When Brian heard that Hans was “clear on top”, he might have pulled up sharply (a Buccaneer could easily manage a climb of 20,000 feet-per-minute) and that as he cleared the fog his Buccaneer slammed into Buccaneer 419 with canopy to belly at colossal force, killing the lower crew on impact. (Their crushed bone domes were found later.)

In the top Buccaneer, Doep Du Preez had his head in the radar tube,

with the metal cross member above his helmet. The severe impact caused his head to slam into the cross member with such a force (helmet found) that fatally injured him.

Hans Steinberg was completely uninjured and ejected successfully. They did not wear immersion suits. Hans was found drowned (by HMS Tiger after a magnificent display of seamanship for such a big ship) floating head down in the sea, with an almost deflated Mae West, without the dinghy attached by the cord of the Mae West. He was free of his parachute harness.

Later an autopsy revealed that Hans was uninjured and the cause of death was drowning. A Mae West would remain inflated for more than 72-hours when inflated by air, but if inflated by CO₂, as his Mae West was, it would go flat in a short while.

The CO₂ leaks through the material when floating in water. One has to

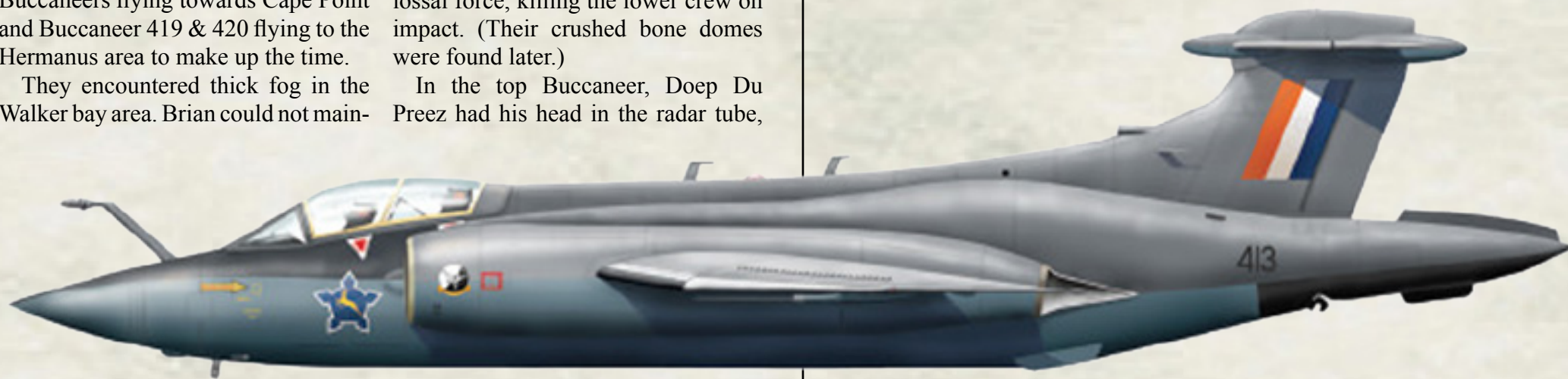
re-inflate it by mouth every so often!

This phenomenon was completely unknown at the time and this knowledge has probably been lost since.

Now the horrible speculation: in the icy waters of the Cape, one would lose the use of one's hands in 15-30 minutes and blowing up a Mae West by mouth through the tube would be impossible.

Why Hans did not wear an immersion suit, only he will know. Why he did not attach his dinghy cord to his Mae West during the strapping in process, nobody knows.

Had he done so, he could have survived as he had no physical injuries.



Dad's Army

Would you have qualified to become a member of Dad's Army?

One of my favourite television series is Dad's Army. It's a sitcom that ran for nine seasons and revolves around the men of the fictitious Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard Unit.

The Home Guard consisted of local volunteers otherwise ineligible for military service, either because of age (hence the nickname "Dad's Army") or by being in professions exempt from conscription.

The unit is led by Captain Mainwaring, the pompous, if essentially brave and unerringly patriotic local bank manager, Mainwaring appointed himself leader of his town's contingent of Local Defence Volunteers.

His second-in-command is Sergeant Arthur Wilson, a diffident, upper-class bank employee who is very laid back.

Lance Corporal Jack Jones, the local butcher, is the oldest member of the platoon and saw action in the Boer War. One of his most heard expressions is "Don't panic", normally said while he is panicking.

Other members of the platoon include Private Fraser (a dour Scotsman who is the local undertaker), Private Walker (who runs the local black market), Private Godfrey (the platoon's medic. Although a conscientious objector during World War I he served as a medic and

won the Military Medal for bravery), and Private Pike (the youngest of the platoon, who Mainwaring refers to as "You stupid boy.").

Anyone that served in the military will find the series funny, mainly because you will recognise characters that you came across.

While the series is a scream, the real Dad's Army was not that funny. In Britain in 1940 the people were worried about a German invasion from the sea and from the air. They started to arm themselves with shotguns and any weapons they could lay their hands on.

The government decided it would be better to organise them into a proper army. In 1939 Winston Churchill had wanted a Home Guard formed - when he became Prime Minister in May 1940 he got it. Churchill had hoped for 500,000. He got 250,000 on the first day and 1,500,000 by June. They were first known as the Local Defence Volunteers - the LDV.

At first these untrained men were a bit of a joke. They weren't given proper weapons, they just armed themselves with anything that could kill. One boy said: "We were set to defend a factory with broom handles. I pinched a knife from my mum's kitchen and tied it to the top."



DAD'S ARMY: From left to right - Sergeant Wilson, Private Pike, Private Fraser, Lance Corporal Jones, Chief Air Raid Warden Hodges, Captain Mainwaring, Private Godfrey and Private Walker.

One 14 year old boy took along a boy and arrow. That would have worried some German tank commander if the Germans really had invaded. Others took along a nice heavy golf club.

The government said Home Guard soldiers had to be aged between 17 and 65. But boys as young as 14 joined.

Some old soldiers from the First World War and before lied about their age and they were eighty years old. No wonder they were given the nickname 'Dad's Army'.

The men in Dad's Army were keen. It was great that they were doing something to help, but sometimes they were a little too keen - and clumsy. Then they became Dad's Disasters.

Horrible Home Guard Facts

1. Home Guard soldiers were worried about how to spot a German. They were warned that enemy paratroopers might be disguised as a nun, a vicar or even a woman carrying a baby. The dumbest idea for uncovering a spy was to shout "Heil Hitler!" and no German would be able to stop himself from raising his arm, clicking his heels and replying, "Heil Hitler."
2. Home Guards were in more danger from their own weapons than from the enemy who never arrived. They were given sticky bombs - a bit like explosive toffee apples on a stick. The idea was that they would run up to an enemy tank and slap the bomb onto the side. But many

tried to throw the bombs, the sticks came loose and the bombs fell at their feet. 768 Home Guard members managed to kill themselves in this manner and nearly 6,000 were injured.

3. And their families were not safe either. More than one of them managed to shoot either their wife or one of their children while cleaning their rifles at home.
4. Early in the war Home Guard soldiers seemed to believe that anyone landing by parachute must be a German. An RAF pilot, James Nicolson, was hit by cannon fire from a German fighter. His foot was smashed and he was on fire. Yet he still managed to shoot down the enemy plane before bailing out. As he drifted down, wounded and still on fire, some Home Guard began blasting away at him with shotguns. Somehow he survived but was more injured by his Home Guard colleagues than by the enemy attack. Nicholson would go on to become the only Second World War fighter pilot to be awarded the Victoria Cross.
5. Home Guards saw spies everywhere. If you had a Hitler moustache you were immediately suspected of being a German spy.
6. School children weren't safe. Alan Chadwick enjoyed going down to the local aircraft factory to watch new planes being tested. As Alan cycled near the fence a Home Guard

ordered him to stop. When he didn't the Home Guard fired a shot into the road. It bounced up and hit Alan in the back and killed him. Why hadn't Alan stopped? Because he was deaf.

7. Some Home Guard soldiers saw themselves as a wartime police force. They set up road blocks to stop and question everyone who came that way. One man complained that he was stopped twenty times on an eight mile journey.
8. A government inspector was measuring a field one day when local villagers accused him of being a German spy. An old farm worker tried to protect the inspector and was shot and killed by a panicking Home Guard members. The inspector tried to show his identity papers but he was also shot. During the Second World War 50 innocent Brits died at the hands of the Home Guard.
9. It was probably even worse being a member of the German Home Guard, the Volksturm. Karl Weiglein, a 59 year old farmer called up to serve, complained when the local bridge was blown up. "The people who did this are idiots and ought to be hanged." But it was Karl that was hanged. His commander, the local school teacher, heard what he had said. Karl was hanged from his own pear tree outside his own front door while his wife watched from the window. The body was left hanging for three days as an example to anyone else who wanted to complain.

SA Legion AGM

South African Legion (Cape Town Branch) held its AGM at Rose-dale on Thursday, 10 October 2019 and the following of our members were re-elected onto the Cape Town branch Executive Committee:

Robbie Roberts, our Chairman re-elected as SA Legion Vice Chairman
Pierre Fourie, our Public Relations Officer re-elected as SA Legion Fund Raising/Marketing portfolio officer
Johan Johnson, our Accounting Officer, re-elected as SA Legion Honourary Treasurer

Tim Riley, one of our ordinary members were co-opted for the first time on the SA Legion Exco, him being the Chairman of the Rosedale Residents'

Committee.

In the photograph below are (L to R):
Back row : Johan Johnson, Robbie Roberts, Tim Riley, Peter Muirhead (SA Legion Ceremonial Portfolio Officer), Peter Napier (SA Legion Welfare Portfolio Officer)

Front row : Stephen Leibbrandt (SA Legion Rosedale Service Centre Committee Chairman) and Ray Nasset (Chairman of the SA Legion Cape Town Branch)

Absent were : Pierre Fourie, Willie Millar (SA Legion Maintenance Portfolio Officer and Claudio Chiste (SA Legion Fund Raising and Welfare Portfolio assistant)



Birthdays

Please join me in wishing a very Happy Birthday to the following members who will be celebrating their birthdays during the next three months. Birthdays during the remainder of 2020 will be published in our next two issues:

March

1st - Joseph Zegal
3rd - Anthony Bethke
8th - Leeann Schmidt
9th - Sharon Fortuin
10th - Amanda Shagom
10th - Carl Fourie
10th - Primegann Fritz
15th - Dirk Byker
16th - Ebrahim Kenny
21st - Herman Jacobs
24th Sinabo Mofu
29th Chris Brandsen

April

1st - Andre Slabbert

1st - Wilna Bekker
3rd - Bjorn Pohlmann
4th - Phyllis Webb
6th - Piet Jordaan
6th - Taufeeq Sheik
9th - Marc Goodleser
9th - Brian Austin
10th - Lesley-Anne Stroud
18th - Howard Shagom
18th - Luzuko Faku
18th - Jerome Beukes
20th - Marina Valentine

May

12th - Tammy Sampson
16th - Sonja Parsons
16th - Peter Longbottom
23rd - Robert Nelson
26th - Ramona Fourie
28th - Carol Dean Klaasen
28th - Wallace Green

And just for the Irish

And just for those members of the Signal's Association who are Irish (or wish they were Irish). An Irish blessing for you for 17 March - Saint Patrick's Day.

Seosláinteantséitéara, an ghadai, an trodaí, agus an óltóra! Mádhéananntu-séitéireacht, go ndéanatuíséitéireachtar an mbás, Mághoideanntú, go ngoide-túcroimná; Máthroidéanntú, go dtroidetú

i leith do bhráthar, Agusmáólanntú, go n-ólatúliomféin.

That, by the way, was in Irish Gaelic. It means, "If you cheat, may you cheat death. If you steal, may you steal a woman's heart. If you fight, may you fight for a brother. And if you drink, may you drink with me."