



Jimmy's Own

Official Newsletter of the Signals Association

Issue 4 - March 2018

Charles Daniel Holloway

15/06/1918 - 23/02/2018

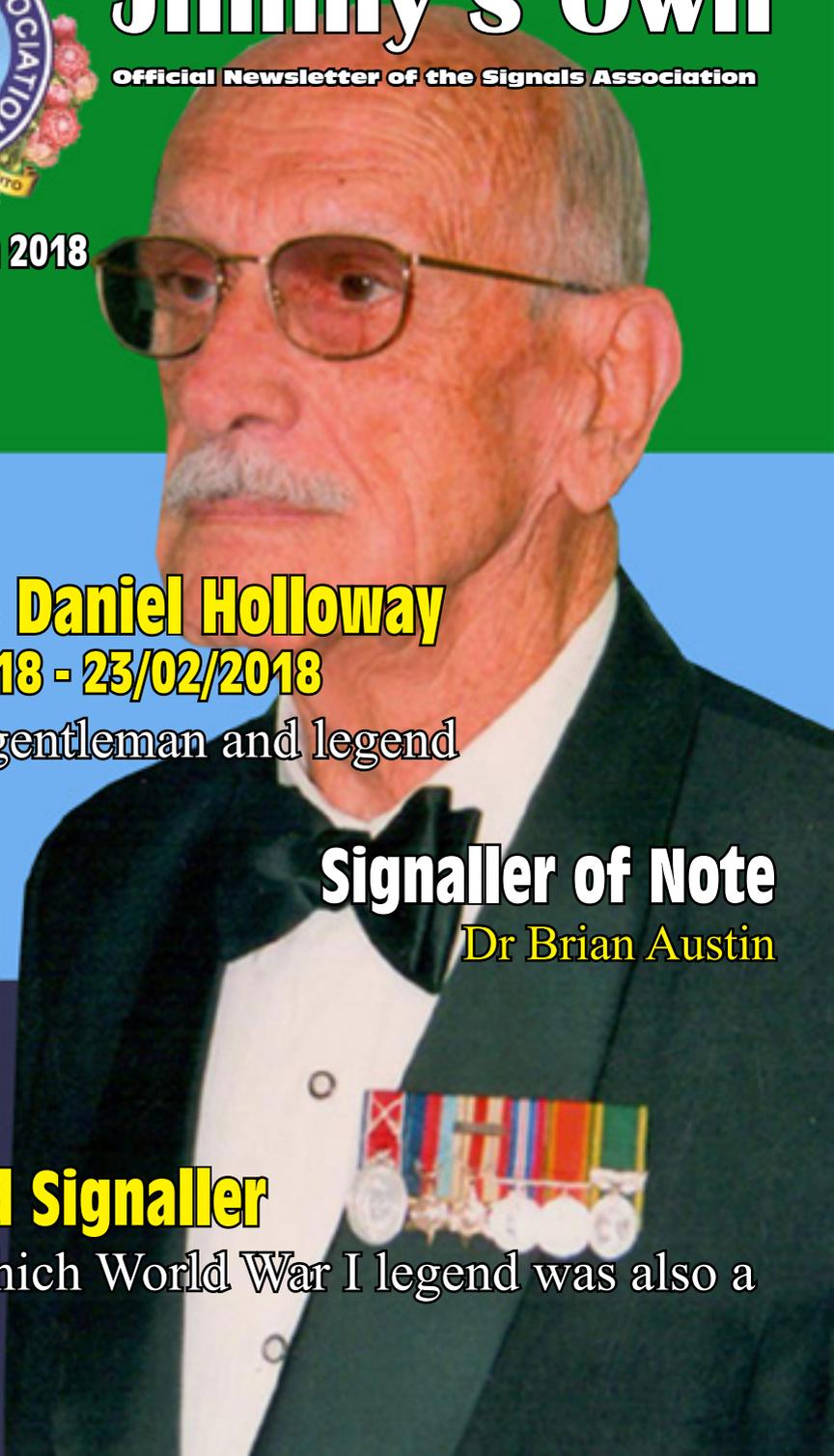
Officer, gentleman and legend

Signaller of Note

Dr Brian Austin

The Red Signaller

Guess which World War I legend was also a
'Jimmy'



This is our First issue for 2018 and already we are almost one quarter through the new year. Time does fly!

In our last issue (December 2017) I expressed the wish for our members, friends and families to have a good and prosperous 2018 blessed with good health.

I hope that the year, thus far, has been good and prosperous for all of you? Regrettably not so for our dear and oldest member Uncle Charles Daniel Holloway, who experienced deteriorating health since the start of 2018 which, sadly, resulted in him passing to higher service on Friday, 23 February 2018. Therefore, it is fitting for us who have been closely associated with this remarkable Soldier and Veteran, to devote this issue to him as a fellow Signaller and one of our Honourable Members. May his soul rest in peace in the knowledge that we Will remember him!

Certa Cito (Signals) greetings from Chairman Robbie Roberts

EXECUTIVE



**Robbie Roberts
Chairman**



**Piet Jordaan
Vice-Chairman**



**Howard
Shagom
Secretary
General**



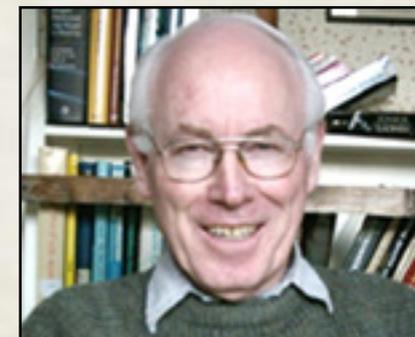
**Wilna Bekker
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**Pierre Fourie
Public
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Officer**

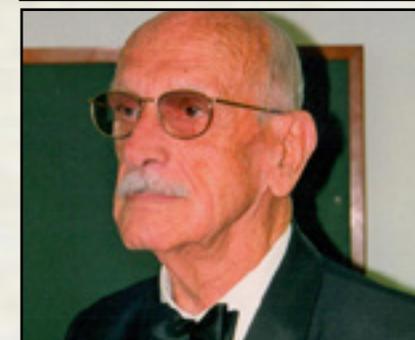
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Front Cover

Charles Daniel Holloway.



Charles Holloway.

Officer, gentleman, and legend

A tribute to Charles Daniel Holloway by Lt. Col (Ret) Robbie Roberts.

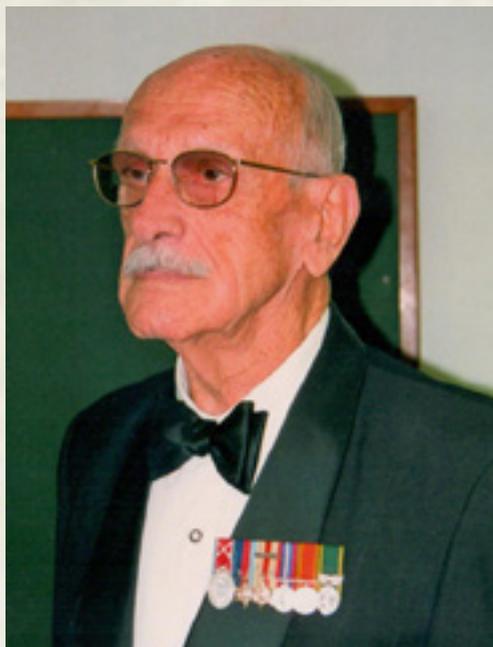
Charles Daniel Holloway was born in Cape Town on 15 June 1918.

After leaving school he joined the Post Office and was sent to be trained as a Post and Telegraph Assistant. This included being trained as a Telegraphist.

In 1937 at the age of nineteen he was called up to do his three year compulsory part-time Military Service. Being a Telegraphist he joined 3 Brigade Signal Company and as he liked the army so much, he regarded it as a hobby.

When war broke out Charles went off to do his duty and was posted to Abyssinia. It was also in 1937 that Charles met Inez Dick (better known as Dickie) who later became his wife.

After attending these courses at The Military College in Pretoria, he became a Sergeant Instructor at the end of 1939. World War II had begun and he and three other members of 3 Brigade Signal Company were selected to do an Officers' Training Course in Potchefstroom. On their return to the Unit they found that all seven Officers of 3 Brigade Signals' Company had signed on for Active Service. The Unit was mobilised on 27 May 1940 so Charles and a Corporal decided they



would go with the Unit in their present ranks as there were no vacancies for officers at the time. Charles later became a Platoon Sergeant.

They campaigned through East Africa and Abyssinia until they arrived in North Africa where on 1 July 1941 he was commissioned, he being transferred to the 1st S.A. Brigade and attached to the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles, a Cape Town based Regiment.

Dickie enlisted in Womens' Auxil-

lary Army Services and was sent to Cairo where the two of them married on 31 October 1942. Any chance of a honeymoon then was soon thwarted when General Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps joined in battle with the Allies at El Alamein.

Charles returned to South Africa with the 1st Division when they were withdrawn after the Second battle of El Alamein, with him also having served in the first battle when the Germans were stopped just short of Cairo.

Charles and Dickie moved back to South Africa with the 1st S.A. Division and they had three children. (Pam, John and Susan).

Upon return to South Africa everybody was medically examined prior to being trained for Armour for the 6th S.A. Division to go to Italy. He was bordered 'C' on account of relapsing malaria, which he had contracted in Egypt. It meant that he could not leave South Africa again.

By this time Charles was a Captain and was appointed Adjutant, 4 Armoured Divisional Signal Company at Auckland Park. Thereafter he moved to the Signal Training Centre at Potchefstroom as Instructor and eventually in October 1944 as Officer Commanding, School of Signals, Military College, Pretoria. He held this position until the end of hostilities and was released from fulltime Military Service on 22 October 1945 and transferred to the Reserve of Officers.

On 6 November 1954 he was ap-

pointed Officer Commanding of 3 Brigade Signal Company, his wartime Unit with the rank of Major.

He was still active after this as either Chairman or Committee Member of the S.A. Corps of Signals' Association which was started towards the end of the war and of which he was a foundation member.

In August 1958, in his civilian life, Charles was transferred to Bloemfontein on promotion, by the Post Office and when prospects did not look good he resigned at the end of 1964 and joined the S.A. Sugar Association Export Division to develop the newly built Sugar Export Terminal in Durban. He became the manager until he retired, after eighteen years, in June 1981, aged sixty-five. Charles and Dickie then ran a very successful extra Afrikaans coaching school from their home until 1999.

In his military reserve force life, Charles was appointed 2/IC, RHQ Corps Signal Regiment, a new Unit which was established at that time and which was also the Senior Unit in the Corps of Signals. This Regiment was disbanded on 1 December 1961 and Charles placed on the Reserve of Officers with rank of War Substantive Major.

In 2000 Charles and Dickie moved back to Cape Town to be nearer to some of the family.

They celebrated their 60th (Diamond) wedding anniversary in October 2002 surrounded by 42 fam-

ily members and friends. This event brought the family together from all parts of the world. Daughter Susan arrived from Sydney in Australia and son John came from Amsterdam. Two grandchildren arrived from Melbourne and Wellington in New Zealand whilst other guests arrived from the UK, Durban, Johannesburg and other parts of the country.

Charles and Dickie visited Australia eight times and Europe 14 times to see the family. He has 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, who keep in touch regularly.

Dicky played the church organ for 47 years. She sadly passed away, aged 89, in 2008. They were married for 66 years. Until last Friday when he passed on, Charles resided at Huis Luckoff in Rosebank with his long standing comrade in arms, Syd Ireland.

Apologies to the family were sent via me by the following of Charles' military acquaintances:

- Dr Brian Austin, a member of the Signals Association, Liverpool, UK
- Theuns Neethling, a member of the Signals Association, Grand Cayman Islands
- H.P. Van Staden, a member of the Signals Association (Work related)
- Frikkie Rabie, Ernie de Vries and Pierre Tromp all of Worcester
- Ian McKinney

- General John Del Monte (RFC meeting in Pretoria)
- General Denis Jelliman (Pretoria based)
- Major Herman Jacobs, 2IC 71 Signal Unit.

I think it will be remiss of me not to quote just a few sentiments expressed to the family via emails to me:

Thank you for letting us know. Please add my condolences to those of all your members in any communication you have with Charles's family.

He's been a wonderful inspiration to us all. Bert Howes (a member of the 3rd Brigade signals Company who went on to become Director Signals) in so many of his e-mails used to mention Charles and his great contribution to keeping the SACS memory alive. Between them the names Holloway and Howes will go down in South African Signals history.

*Dr Brian Austin,
Liverpool, UK*

Charles was a Fine Officer and Gentleman.

Peter Napier

It was always so nice to see Charles and/or his friend Sidney Ireland at the various parades; they always looked so smart and proud and happy to be part of these events. It was heart-warming and uplifting. They were such unique characters, I wish I had gotten to know



PASSING ON THE FLAME: Charles Holloway (left) passes the Flame of the Signaller on to Howard Shagom, Secretary of the Signals Association. In the centre is Syd Ireland, Charles' life long friend and comrade.

them sooner!

Regine Lord, photographer

Thanks for soldiers who sets a military culture example to be proud of.

Maj Genl Johan Dippenaar, Chairman of the Council for Military Veterans Organisation,

John Manning

We, mere mortals, have lost yet another Jimmy but God had gained yet one more.

Robin Cross a Member of the Signals Association and a former officer of SAS Unitie

He has been an inspiration to me for all the years that I have known him as the epitome of an officer and a gentleman, and I regard myself as privileged to be a friend of his.

Charles has finally been called to Higher Service, or in SAAF language "Answered the Sunset Call".

I know how dear he was to you Signals folks, and I am sure he will be

missed and most definitely never forgotten.

Anyone who has had the privilege of meeting him, could only have walked away and said "I have met a true gentleman". I am one of those.

Bruce Risien

He was an amazing gentleman and we'll miss him at the various parades he attended so bravely.

Reverend Tony Bethke

We now only have good memories of one of the most outstanding signallers the SACS has ever had. I salute him and he will always be in my memories for this remarkable man that at 99, could still be an example to all of us and teach us what the good camaraderie of a soldier should be. He has left the Signals Association with a legacy that will and must never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

Brig General (Retired)

Denis Jelliman,

former Director Signals

Reserve Forces

Charles and my paths connected one Sunday morning in early 1996 when he phoned me from Durban at the time I was Officer Commanding of 71 Signal Unit. He was looking for a particular radio set extensively used during WW II for the Royal Australian Corp of Signals Museum.

Charles did not know who I was, but I knew who he was as I had just

updated the unit's history when I learned that he was an Commanding Officer of the same unit, then 3rd Brigade Signal Company, from November 1954 to December 1962.

Little did Charles know that the 3rd Brigade unit never disbanded but had, in fact, experienced name (or shall we say Number) changes.

Charles informed me that he started the 3rd Bde Sig Coy Reunion Association in 1946 soon after the boys returned from the war. The close relationship between our respective two associations continued growing closer and closer from 1996 when I was guest speaker at their 50th Reunion Luncheon until 2016 when they handed over their 70 year old tradition to the SIGNALS ASSOCIATION.

We, therefore, regard ourselves extremely privileged to have been associated with the WW II 3rd Brigade Signallers and we owe them so much as it was they who had encouraged us to continue the proud tradition set by them for almost a century.

I am appreciative of what Charles had done for us, and me in particular, for the many years we have been acquainted and I had the good fortune and greatest of pleasure associating with him as a former fellow commanding officer of the Cape Town based signals unit. It was a great honour for me, personally to have known him. I Salute him and he SHALL be remembered, I promise!

On Sunday, 1st May 2016 at a large



THE TRADITION LIVES ON: From left: Syd Ireland, Howard Shagom, Robbie Roberts. Syd served with Charles in 3rd Brigade Signal Company and they were friends since World War II.

Handing over of Tradition ceremony that took place at the Italian Club in Cape Town, Charles said that for seventy years he and his comrades in arms had maintained the comradeship built up during the 2nd World War, by meeting regularly, sometimes more than once a year.

At that solemn ceremony Charles, in his speech, quoted Mr Winston Churchill when the latter said 'The Battle of Alamein was the beginning of the end of the German army in North Africa.' With that, Charles expressed the hope that the Signals' Association in Cape Town would be the beginning, as an example, and not the end of their effort, for the rest of Signals in South Africa to follow. He expressed the hope for the Signals Association to keep the 'Signals Flame'

burning.

On behalf of the Signals Association, of which I am the Chairman, I pay tribute to a great man, a great signaller and a great veteran. May his soul Rest in Peace with the knowledge of our promise made on 1 May 2016 that we will remember them, the members of the 3rd Brigade Signals Company.

And today we say:

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,

We will remember them.

And, with that, we will remember Charles Daniel Holloway!

Upcoming Birthdays

March

3rd	Anthony Bethke
8th	Leeann Schmidt
9th	Sharon Fortuin
10th	Amanda Shagom
10th	Charl Fourie
10th	Primegann Fritz
16th	Ebrahim Kenny
21st	Herman Jacobs
24th	Sinabo Mofu
29th	Chris Brandsen

April

1st	Andre Slabbert
1st	Wilna Bekker
3rd	Bjorn Pohlman
4th	Phyllis Webb
6th	Piet Jordaan
6th	Taufeeq Sheik
9th	Marc Goodleser
9th	Brain Austin
10th	Lesley-Anne Stroud
16th	Magda Muskett-Yetts
18th	Howard Shagom
18th	Luzuko Faku
18th	Jerome Beukes
20th	Marina Valentine

May

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



Wilna Bekker
1 April



Marc
Goodleser
9 April

Sounding the call

Historically, bugles, drums, and other loud musical instruments were used for clear communication in the noise and confusion of a battlefield.

A bugle call is a short tune, originating as a military signal announcing scheduled and certain non-scheduled events on a military installation, battlefield, or ship.

There are calls for just about any occasion. These include calls such as mail call, mess call, church call, pay call and many others.

Two of the calls, The Last Post and Reveille, have become synonymous with military funerals. Yet how exactly did these calls originate?

The Last Post

The playing of the Last Post is derived from the old custom of beating Tattoo. This word comes from the Dutch Phrase “doe den tap toe”, meaning “turn the taps off”. In the days when British troops served in the lowlands, it was the custom for a drummer to march through the streets, beating his drum to warn troops to leave the taverns and return to their billets. At the sound of the drum, the Dutch innkeepers would order, “doe den tap toe”-

When bugle calls were generally introduced, two posts were written. First Post symbolises inspection of the first inn, to see that all soldiers had left and

the Last Post symbolizes the inspection of the last inn in the town. It was then a simple step for the Last Post to become associated with military funerals, its playing denoting the end of the day. Played at funerals, the Last Post is followed by the Call Rouser, a later version of Reveille, which symbolises the awakening of a new life. The American version of the Last Post is known as ‘Taps’

The Last Post

The custom of waking soldiers to a bugle call dates back to the Roman Legions, when the rank and file were raised by horns playing Diana’s Hymn. Diana was the Roman goddess of the hunt. To this date, the French term for Reveille is “La Diana”.

When bugle calls were officially introduced into the British System by George III, a special call was written for the waking of troops. This was known as Reveille. A Frenchman, Joseph Hayden, is generally regarded as the composer of the calls, which exist substantially unchanged to this day.



Dr Brian Austin

So who exactly is Dr Brian Austin. Let's find out a little more about him.

Brian was born in Johannesburg where he went to school and university (at Wits). He is an electronics engineer with a master's degree related to radio communications underground in mines and a doctorate on the analysis and design of multiband HF antennas for tactical applications involving the ionosphere.

He was employed for ten years in the research laboratories of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa and was then an Associate Professor in his former Department of Electrical Engineering at Wits. In 1987 he emigrated to the UK where he worked for nearly 20 years at the University of Liverpool in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics.

He was called up in 1963 to do his National Service at 10 Signal Training Squadron in Voortrekkerhoogte having requested a posting to Signals. After serving the usual four years of monthly parades at Auckland Park in Joburg, and annual three-week camps, he was delighted when his army days were behind him.

In 1976 he returned to the Citizen Force but this time as a commissioned officer. He served at Witwatersrand Command in a number of roles, even-

tually ending up in the rank of major, as SO2 Tactical Communications. He retired from the SACS in 1984.

Throughout his career he served on various professional organisations related to electrical and electronic engineering. He was a Member of the Council of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers and a registered Professional Engineer (PrEng) in South Africa and a Chartered Engineer (C.Eng) in England. He was also a Fellow of the SAIEE and of the IEE in the UK where he served on its Antennas and Propagation Professional Group. He represented the UK on the International Union of Radio Science (URSI).

In 2001 he published the biography of Sir Basil Schonland CBE FRS who was elected as South Africa's 'Scientist of the Century' in 1999. As Brigadier Schonland he was scientific adviser to Field Marshal Montgomery's 21 Army Group and before that he led the team that developed South Africa's own radar system in the earliest days of the Second World War. Schonland also founded the CSIR and was, at the end of his career, Director of Britain's Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell. The book, *Schonland – Scientist and Soldier*, was published in 2001.

Brian has been a licensed radio



VIPs: Dr Austin (right) with another esteemed member of the Association, namely Brig Gen (Ret'd) Denis Jelliman. It was taken in Johannesburg in 2015. The occasion was the IEEE (the US Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) radar conference which was held, that year, in Sandton, when Brian delivered the opening address as it was the 75th anniversary of the first radar echo ever received in South Africa.

and amateur since 1962. He held the call-sign ZS6BKW in South Africa and is G0GSF in England.

He is now retired and lives on the Wirral peninsula not far from Liverpool.

We are indeed privileged to have Dr Austin as a member of the SIGNALS ASSOCIATION.

Dr Austin is not only an authority on Radar and Telecommunications, but a competent artist of note as can be seen from the photo below of the painting he did of the first radar 'target' in South Africa. It was the watertower on Northcliff Hill, about 10 km from Wits University where that prototype radar had been built. The date of this historic event was 16th December 1939.



The Red Baron Signaller

The greatest fighter ace of World War I was once a 'Jimmy'.

Manfred von Richthofen was the top scoring fighter ace of World War I with 80 confirmed kills.

He became a legend and was both respected and feared by the Allies. He was nicknamed 'The Red Baron' because during the later part of his career he would fly a Fokker Dr-1 triplane that was painted bright red.

In April 1918 he was shot down and he crash landed behind Allied lines where he was found dead at the controls. The British and Australians paid him the highest honour, burying him with full military honours.

Yet von Richthofen was not al-

ways a pilot. He started off the war as a lancer in a cavalry unit. When this unit was later disbanded, he was transferred to the Signal Corps.

So yes, Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Baron, was once a 'Jimmy'.

For over a year he spent his days stringing telegraph wires along the western front. He even earned an Iron Cross for bravery along the way.

It was only in 1915 that von Richthofen applied to join the Imperial Air Service.

BELOW: A replica of the Fokker Dr-1 triplane that von Richthofen flew.

