



Jimmy's Own

Official Newsletter of the Signals Association

Issue 40 - March 2026

RIP WO1 Braam Blom

A Signals legend has passed away

The women that served
The Special Signals Services

Counting the cost

Thoses that paid the ultimate sacrifice



Message from the Chairman and Editor

Here we are with the first edition of Jimmys Own for 2026. We are at the commencement of the Association's activities for what is left of the coming year.

This past year was an exciting and busy year for the Signals Association and its 25th Birthday celebrations. I believe an important milestone like this birthday event etch its mark in the annals of our Association's history and each milestone we reached reflected our shared vision and determination to unite Signallers and to support its members and to foster and encourage the continuation of its "esprit du corps", image and traditions.

I would like to emphasize that these things do not just happen, the support of our Manco and members were of utmost importance. For their time, efforts, and service, I would like to thank them. Without your sacrifices, support and loyalty, the above achievements would not have been possible.

Thank you to all our fellow veterans for your support, courage, strength, and dedication to keeping the flame of the "Jimmys" glowing. It is only through your collective dedication and unwavering support that the Association can grow and support its members in need. Your commitment to our mission is truly inspiring, and I am grateful for your wisdom and dedication.

Our strategy and efforts to expand the Association needs serious deliberation and concerted efforts by each and every member. Your support will be pivotal in this ob-



jective. In this manner I am confident that together, we can ultimately make a lasting impact on the lives and needs of fellow veterans Signallers in need.

May 2026 be a successful and productive year, your continued support will ensure that our organization continues to thrive, making a positive difference in the lives of fellow Signallers in need.

Lastly please submit items for "Jimmys Own" - how big or small is not important as long as you participate in the success and quality of "your own Signals Veteran's newsletter".

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Geoff Laskey

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Front Cover

WO1 Braam Blom

MILITARY “MOTTOS” IN THE SANDF

By Geoff Laskey.

A motto concisely summarizes what an organization cares about, acting as a “rallying cry” for members and helping them feel part of a unified group.

Military mottos in South Africa serve as foundational elements of unit identity, cohesion, and tradition, bridging diverse historical, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds within the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). They function as “summary of history,” distilling a unit’s core purpose, ethos, and battle honours into a concise, memorable phrase, strengthening discipline and pride.

It acts as a “linguistic handshake” that fosters unity, pride, and mental resilience among service members across generations. These mottos highlight key values like honour, courage, and dedication to defending the nation.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) do not have one single official, universal motto for all branches, but rather uses a military code of conduct and individual mottos for each service within the SANDF which has a specific motto that reflects its role and ethos.

Hereunder is a summary of the mottos of a number of the more promi-

nent Services, Formations, Corps and Branches within the SANDF;

- **South African Army:** The motto is “Pride of Lions”. The Combat Training Centre of the Army also uses the Latin motto *Si vis pacem, para bellum*, which translates to “If you want peace, prepare for war”.
- **South African Air Force (SAAF):** The official motto is “*Per aspera ad astra*” (Latin), which translates to “Through adversity to the stars”.
- **South African Navy (SAN):** The motto is “Unchallenged at Sea”.
- **South African Military Health Service (SAMHS):** The official motto is “*Audaces Servamus*”



South African Army

(Latin), which translates to “We Serve the Brave”.

Other Mottos

- **South African Army College** (previously South African Military College): The motto is *Paratus*, which translates to “Preparedness”.
- **South African Army Infantry Formation:** Their motto is “*Gladium Prædamus*”, meaning “Wielders of the Sword”.
- **South African 1 Parachute Battalion (Parabats):** Their motto is *Ex Alto Vincimus*, which translates from Latin to English as “We Conquer from Above”.
- **South African Army Armour Formation:** Their motto is “*Pectore Sicut Ferro*”, which translates to “With a chest of steel”.
- **South African Artillery:** The official motto is “*Primus Incedere Exire Ultimus*”, meaning “First In and Last Out”.
- **South African Air Defence Artillery** (formerly Anti-Aircraft Corps): The official motto is “*Alta Pete*” meaning “Aim High”.
- **South African Corps of Signals:** The official motto is “*Certa Cito*” which is Latin for “Swift and Sure”.
- **South African Army Engineer Formation:** The official motto is “*Ubique*”, which is Latin for “Everywhere”.
- **South African Tactical Intel-**

ligence Corps is “*Exploratio*”, which is Latin for “To explore” or “To investigate”.

The South African Special Forces (popularly known as the Recces) do not have a single overarching motto for the entire brigade. Instead, their identity is defined by the specific mottos of their individual regiments:

- **5 Special Forces Regiment:** “We Fear Naught but God” (or “Ons vrees net God” in Afrikaans). This is the most famous and widely cited motto associated with the elite “Recces” and is often used to represent the brigade as a whole.
- **4 Special Forces Regiment:** “Iron Fist from the Sea”. This reflects the unit’s specialty in maritime and seaborne operations, emphasizing their role as strike forces capable of launching raids directly from the ocean.

Based on the available information regarding the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and specifically the SA Army, the motto often associated with supporting roles and the general ethos of the SANDF is centred around service and, in some contexts, is aligned with the broader “For the brave, for the proud” or “Support to the People” or similar principles of service.

WO1 Braam Blom

The South African Signals Association pays tribute to WO1 Braam Blom, a Signals legend.

Braam Blom was born on 25 July 1943 in Springs in the then Transvaal, grew up in Bultfontein in the Orange Free State and passed away on 19 February 2026 in Nigel, Transvaal.

He Joined SACS in 1960 and completed Course S270 basic radio-operator's Course as a signalman. After his basic training course (PF), he transferred to the Parachute Bn in 1962 and completed his jump course and remained at the Para Bn for 10 years the last three years he acted as Signal Troop commander.

In 1972 he transferred to 1 Signal Training Regt in Voortrekkerhoogte and the following year formed part of the move to the Army Gymnasium in Heidelberg. During that year he was appointed as Squadron Sargent Major (SSM) of 10 Squadron and then from January 1979 to March 1983 as RSM of the NSM training Branch previously (1 Signal Regiment). On 1 April 1983 he became RSM of the Army Gym and after an outstanding and impressive military career retired from the SADF on 31 March 1990, being one of the longest serving RSM's at the time.

WO1 Blom also served in Operation Savannah in 1975 and Operation Reindeer, the airborne assault on Cassinga, Angola in 1978. On 4 May



WO1 Braam Blom

1978 WO1 Blom jumped into Cassinga where he acted as the personal signaller to the mission commander, Col Jan Breytenbach.

Whether doing operational duties, training or regimental duties he always impressed fellow soldiers with his passion for excellence and demonstrating superior military skills and professionalism at all times. In his own words "I believe in precise timing and neatness" and this principle he maintained throughout his military career and personal life.

Over and above his Military career he was a keen drag race enthusiast and

in 1982 he was the SA Drag Racing B Class champion and by 1990 remained the champion for seven consecutive years. It is believed that, in true form, his vehicles were always in an pristine technical and aesthetic immaculate condition and admired by his fellow contestants.

He Married Poppie who passed away some time ago and was married to Elma at the time of his death. Braam also leaves behind a daughter, he also had a son Louis who passed away in 2020. After his retirement he and his wife Elma remained residents of Nigel.

RSM Braam Blom was a Signaller of note and legend in the SACS and

will always be remembered and honoured by all Signallers who served with and under him.

**"At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we will remember him."**

Info obtained from "Ek was daar!! Die Leërgimnasium: 1974 tot 1993""I was there!! The Army Gymnasium: 1974 to 1993" by Diederick Reineke and Arnold (Tappa) Theron.; and South African Corps of Signals Centenary Limited Box Set by Walter Vollker and discussion with RSM (Ret) Johan Smuts who enlisted with Braam Blom 1960.



BATTLE OF CASSINGA: On 4 May 1978 370 South African paratroopers jumped into Cassinga. The base was SWAPO's main planning and logistical base, situated some 260 kilometres into Angola. The late WO1 Blom was one of the paratroopers that jumped into Cassinga as part of Operation Reindeer.

The women who served

By Dr Brian Austin

By the end of WW2 there were 507 women serving in a top-secret unit of the South African Corps of Signals (SACS) with 28 of them being officers.

They were all trained as radar operators and the unit was called the Special Signals Services but known to all as the SSS. Formed in the earliest days of the war at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) with the purpose of designing and building South Africa's own radar equipment, it was commanded by Lt Col (Professor) Basil Schonland FRS who, at that time, was the Director of the Bernard Price Institute of Geophysical Research – the BPI or Beep, to all who served and worked there.

The original radar design team were all university academics who soon went into uniform when the BPI switched its research, overnight, from geophysics to the entirely new field, until then unknown in South Africa, of detecting targets by means of the radio signals they reflected from specially-designed equipment.

Known originally as RDF in England where it was developed, the radar equipment had to be readily transportable so that it could be deployed to wherever it was required. And it had to be operated by highly skilled operators. Hence those women.

The first experimental radar set to be produced at the BPI was called the JB0. The letters JB represented Johannesburg and the zero indicated the very early and unsophisticated beginnings of equipment which would ultimately reach JB5 by the war's end.

After initial testing over the sea near Durban the first SSS operational radar, the JB1, was sent, in July 1941, to Mombasa in Kenya where radar cover was required against possible air raids by the Italian Air Force.

The first radar operators were all members of the original design team chosen both to give them experience of using the equipment in an operational environment but also, and most fortuitously, to be able to sort out any design problems which might be discovered. And there certainly were some but they were all solved by those officers in the field. The JB1 had won its spurs.

The next deployment, just six months later, was to the Middle East where three South African radars were set up in the Sinai Desert to protect the Suez Canal from the Luftwaffe. Again, they performed exceptionally well so much so that the British radars previously providing the radar cover were moved to other operational areas.

It had always been the intention that



BY THE LEFT, QUICK MARCH: Women of the Signals Corp go through their paces on the parade ground.

British radars would be used to protect South Africa's sea ports scattered along the country's extremely long coastline but the mounting pressures on British manufacturing facilities as the Nazi threat increased against the UK meant that delivery to South Africa was delayed. And so, given their proven performance, it was decided to massively increase the production of the JB radars at Wits so that all those ports could be adequately protected.

By now it was apparent that operating a radar required intense concentration, often over many hours, while watching the flickering cathode ray tube for the tell-tale echoes. And, by and large, women, who were far more patient than their male counterparts,

made excellent radar operators.

Immediately the radar training courses that had been set up at Wits as well as at UCT and Natal University were expanded to include women. There, as well as being turned into soldiers they were taught the intricacies of radar operating as well as learning the Morse code so that they could communicate by all available means with the Filter Rooms, as the radar headquarters at the major ports were known.

The commanding officer of those women was Major Nancy Blue whose uncle was Colonel (later Brigadier) Freddie Collins, the Director of the SACS. Alongside her was Captain Ismay Schonland, the wife of Basil, and



Lieutenant Hartshorne, the wife of the legendary South African soldier, Brigadier E. P. “Scrubs” Hartshorne. Given the highly secret nature of radar at that time and South Africa’s dedication never to reveal this British secret to a soul, all those SSS women took an oath of secrecy.

So tight-lipped were they, even within their families and among their closest friends, that the meaning of SSS soon became the Super Snob Squad.

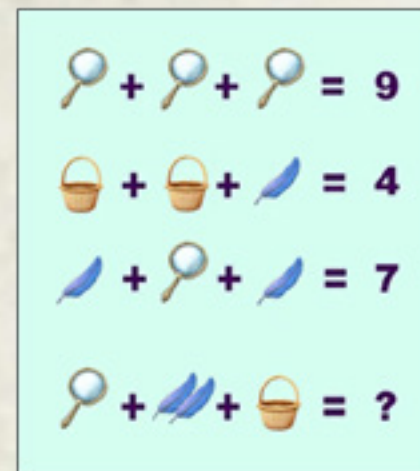
Once trained the SSS women were posted to radar sites all along the South African coast from Baboon Point up the far north-west coast to close to the Mozambique border. There at places with exotic names like Coega, Eagle’s Nest, Karbonkelberg, Rooikrantz, Silversands and Windy Ridge among others, the “radar girls” operated the radars while enjoying the delights of the scenery and the beaches.

In 1963 a special plaque commemorating the women who served in the SSS, and in honour of Nancy Blue who had recently died, was unveiled at the BPI.

The plaque is probably unique in that it is the only one remembering the work of the SACS during the Second World War. It was recently moved to the Engineering Building at Wits where it appears in a most prestigious display of significant engineers. And, of course, the plaque commemorates the remarkable work done there to develop South Africa’s very own radar system that gave sterling service both in the country and in far-distant theatres of war. Though the women only served “at home” they provided by far the bulk of the radar operators without whom the defence of the country’s very long coastline would have been almost non-existent.

Brain Teasers

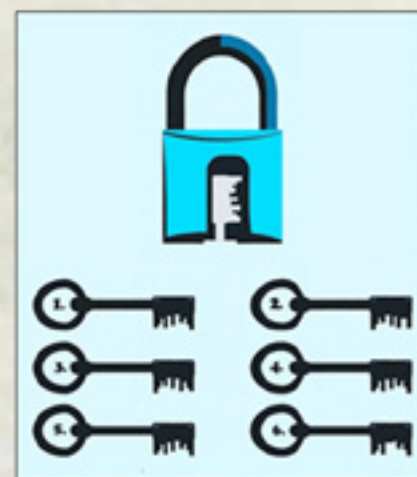
1. Solve this number visual riddle



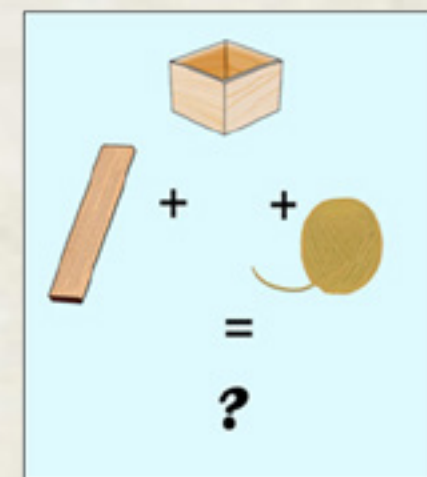
2. Decipher like a pro (Signaller)



3. Which key opens the padlock



4. Guess the item



4. Guitar (neck, box, string)

3. Five

2. Witch

1. Eight

Quotes to think about

“When you become a leader, you give up the right to think about yourself.”

Gerald Brooks

“There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self.”

Ernest Hemingway

“Bravery is not the absence of fear, but the action in the face of it.”

Franklin P. Jones

“Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men.”

Anon

“It is well that war is so terrible, else we should grow too fond of it.”

General Robert E. Lee

“You’re never beaten until you admit it.”

Anon

“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.”

Oscar Wilde

“Opportunities multiply as they are seized.”

Sun Tzu

“Opportunity is missed by most

because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

Thomas Edison

“Age wrinkles the body. Quitting wrinkles the soul.”

Douglas MacArthur

“Superior firepower is an invaluable tool when entering negotiations.”

General George S. Patton

“When in doubt, empty your magazine.”

Murphy’s Rules of Combat Operations

“A bad peace is even worse than war.”

Tacitus

“It is well that war is so terrible, else we should grow too fond of it.”

General Robert E. Lee

“We make war that we may live in peace.”

Aristotle 325 B.C.

“Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake.”

Napoleon Bonapart

“Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die”

Alfred Tennyson

“We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us.”

Winston Churchill

“Aim towards enemy.”

Instructions on U.S. rocket launcher

“War is too important to be left to the generals”

Georges Clémenceau

“I’m not worried about the bullet with my name on it. I’m worried about the million that say “to whom it may concern.”

Anon

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”

Abraham Lincoln

“His troops would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity.”

Anon

“For those who have fought for it, freedom has a flavour the protected will never know.”

Unknown

“...an imperfect plan implemented immediately and violently will always succeed better than a perfect plan.”

Gen. George S. Patton

“You win battles by knowing the



General George S. Patton

enemy’s timing, and using a timing which the enemy does not expect.”

Miyamoto Musashi

“It doesn’t take a hero to order men into battle. It takes a hero to be one of those men who goes into battle.”

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf

“Lead me, follow me, or get the hell out of my way.”

General George S. Patton

“The military don’t start wars. Politicians start wars.”

William C. Westmoreland

“Tell them of us and say, For their tomorrow, We gave our today.”

The Kohima Epitaph



Memoirs by Pierre Steyn

High Flight - Deep Shadows traces the events and impressions that shaped Pierre Steyn's professional life and, in turn, the way he came to see the world. Over more than eight decades, he witnessed – and often participated in – some of the defining moments of South Africa's history. His career in the defence industry placed him at the heart of a sector that played a pivotal role in the nation's evolution during times of upheaval and transformation.

From the thrill of aviation in the late 1950s, when fighter aircraft captured his imagination and set him on a lifelong path, to the fraught politics of the 1990s, when military leadership and political authority collided, Steyn's journey reflects both personal conviction and national struggle. As the country entered democracy, he became its first Secretary for Defence, navigating the hopes of a new era while confronting the shadows of scandal that hinted at deeper challenges to come.

Looking back, Steyn views military power not simply as heroism or adventure, but as a strategic instrument of politics – one that has reshaped battlefields, communication, travel, and the very fabric of society. His reflections offer a rare perspective on how personal experience and national history intertwine, revealing the forces that continue to shape South Africa and the world.



Pierre Steyn is a distinguished South African public servant whose career spans the military, financial, and legal domains – each marked by integrity, strategic leadership, and institutional reform. Born in Swellendam in the Western Cape in 1942, he spent most of his youth in Bellville, matriculating at Bellville High School in 1959. In 1960 he joined the South African Air Force, training as a pilot on piston and jet aircraft, and later flying Sabres and Mirages in fighter squadrons. Rising through the ranks, he commanded an air base, directed major projects, and earned a BMil degree from the University of Stellenbosch, and an MBL from the University of South Africa. His leadership extended into senior roles in the Defence Force, where he attained the rank of Lieutenant General and played a pivotal part in the Steyn Commission of Inquiry, mandated by President F.W. de Klerk, supporting Judge Richard Goldstone's investigation into the "Third Force."

After the transition to democracy, Steyn was appointed Secretary for Defence in a civilian capacity, overseeing policy and institutional transformation in the post-apartheid era. He later joined the South African Reserve Bank as General Manager of Currency Management, safeguarding the integrity of the national cash supply. In 2002, he became the founding Managing Director of SABRIC, building a national platform to combat financial crime through public-private collaboration.

Never one to rest, Steyn pursued law late in life, earning his LLB at age 69 and entering practice as a candidate attorney. His career stands as a testament to principled leadership and offers a rare witness to South Africa's defining institutional moments.

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Like most cultures around the world, the Irish have developed slang that is common to Ireland. Here is a small sample of some of the slang used in the Emerald Isle.

- Amadán - idiot.
- Arthurs - a pint of Guinness; as in Arthur Guinness the founder.
- Be wide - be careful.
- Aul fella - father.
- Aul wan - mother.
- Bogs - public toilets.
- Bold - naughty.
- Cow juice - milk.
- Craic (pronounced crack) - fun time and good conversation.
- Dry up - Shut up!
- Eejit - idiot.
- Flea Rake - a comb.
- Git - rotten or bad person.
- Gobsmacked - very surprised.
- Grand - fine, nice.
- Hole in the wall - ATM.
- Hooley - party or celebration.
- Howya - "how are you?"

If you're planning on celebrating St. Patrick's Day this year then you should at least sound as if you're Irish. Here are a few words and phrases you can throw into your conversation to help.

- Jammy - lucky.
- I've a throat on me - I'm thirsty.
- Jammers - very crowded, busy.
- Knackered - very tired.
- Lay off! - leave me alone, stop it!
- Middling - so-so, neither good nor bad.
- Milling - fighting.
- Mind yourself - be careful.
- Muppet - fool, idiot.
- Nifty - very useful.
- Rabbit on - talk a lot.
- Ri-Ra - fun and excitement.
- Savage - very severe or excellent.
- Shattered - exhausted.
- Sláinte - Cheers (literally Health!)
- Sound - really good.
- Spuds - potatoes.
- Stay easy - relax.
- Vexed - upset.
- Vitamin G - pint of Guinness.
- Whack to you - well done.
- Wise Up - use your head, wake up!
- Yonks - a long time.



Counting the cost

According to official records, 2,573 members of the SADF died while on active service. Yet less than a third of them were killed in action. How did the rest die?

In 1957 the New Defence Act, Act No.44 of 1957 was passed, merging the former Union Defence Force (including Reserves), the Citizen Force, Commandos and South African Permanent Force into the South African Defence Force (SADF), head quartered in Pretoria.

The SADF consisted of a permanent Force, a Citizen Force and Commandos. The three arms of the SADF were the Army, Air Force and the Navy. Later a fourth arm, the South African Medical Services, was formed.

In 1968 conscription was introduced

when it was decided that all white South African males would be required to do a period of compulsory military service.

Conscription was better known as 'National Service'. At first it was for a period of nine months and was then extended to a period of 12 months. In 1978 national service was increased to 24 months. In 1989 national service was reduced back to one year.

The SADF was disbanded in 1994 and absorbed into the new South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

While the SADF was never involved in any declared war, they were involved in combat in South West Africa (now Namibia), Angola, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Mozambique, and Zambia.

The undeclared war in South West Africa and Angola became known as the 'Border War'. It lasted from 26 August 1966 to 21 March 1990. A total of 23 years, six months, three weeks and two days. The SADF took part in no fewer than 52 major operations.

In the 37 years that it existed, a total of 2,573 members of the SADF died while on active service.

Considering the fact that the SADF was

involved in a 'war' for 23 years, this is not a high figure. Especially when you compare it to the American casualty figures during the Vietnam War, another undeclared war.

The Americans were involved in Vietnam for 20 years. During that time they suffered 58,318 dead and more than 300,000 wounded.

The US had more soldiers killed in action (KIA) in a single year than the SADF had in 23 years.

Yet the figure of 2,573 SADF deaths is a misleading one. It would be easy to assume that these people died during the Border War. This, however, is not the case.

In fact only 791 members of the SADF were killed in action or died as a direct result of combat. That is only 30.7 %. So what happened to the remaining 69.3%? How did they die?

The shocking, and sad, fact is that the highest cause of death in the SADF was as a result of motor vehicle accidents.

A total of 844 members of the SADF lost their lives in accidents involving vehicles, both military and civilian. This equates to 32.8 %.

Many troops were killed driving home on a weekend pass, or while returning to their base after a pass.

The driver of a Buffel APC would lose control of the vehicle and it would roll. It was a standing order that troops travelling in the back of the vehicle had to be wearing their seatbelts. Of course some didn't and they would pay the consequences.

The next highest cause of death was as a result of aircraft accidents. These were not as a result of damage to aircraft during combat, but accidents. Many of these accidents took place during pilot training. 241

people died in aircraft accidents.

A total of 236 SADF members lost their lives in shooting accidents. It was not uncommon for there to be accidental discharges (AD). In the majority of cases no-one would be injured.

This was not, however, always the case. Troops shot either themselves or someone else as a result of an AD.

Naturally other accidents occurred on a frequent basis. People would be electrocuted, struck by vehicles, fatally injured in falls. More than a few died in parachute accidents. 151 people died as a result of accidents.

Another cause of death was drowning. This could have been as a result of trying to cross a river, being caught in a flash flood, or even drowning in the base swimming pool. 97 people died from drowning.

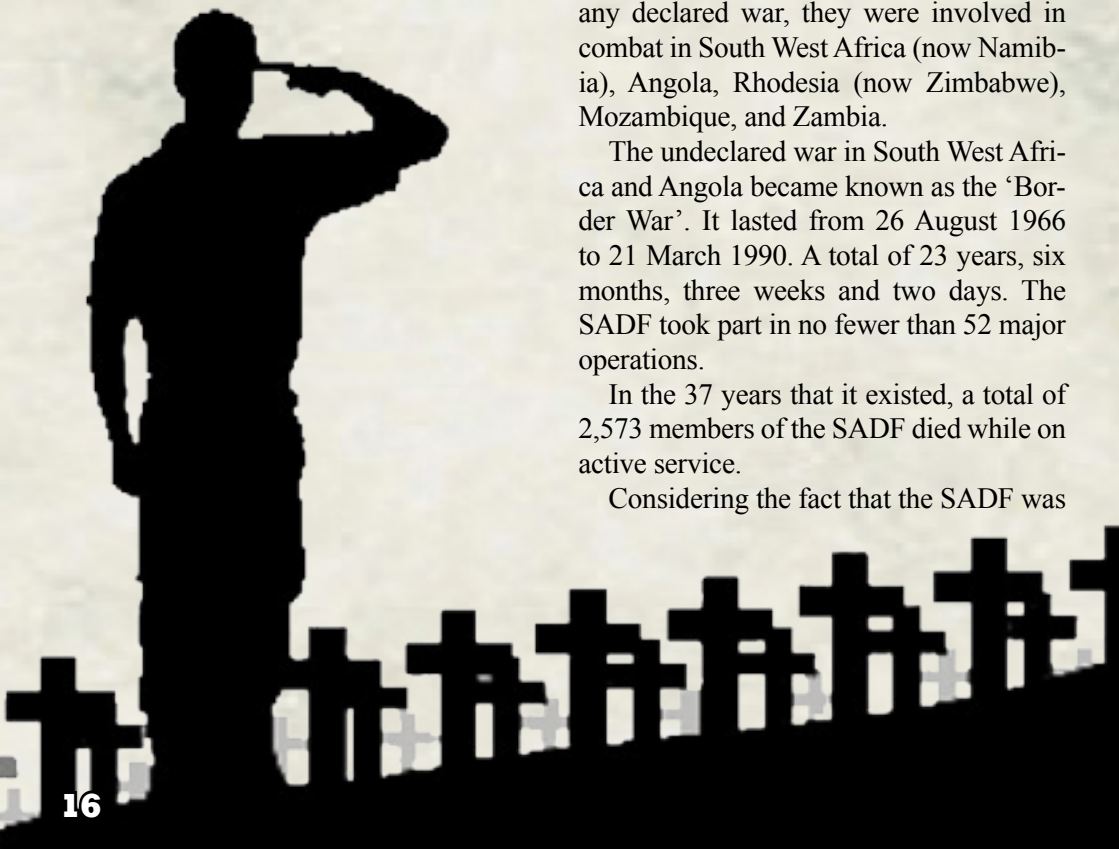
Accidents with explosives resulted in 89 deaths. A mortar bomb falling short during a live fire exercise, troops playing with a hand grenade - these were just some of the causes.

A total of 85 people died as a result of disease or natural causes. These included heart attacks, strokes, asthma attacks and so on.

According to the official records, 24 members of the SADF committed suicide while on active service.

Finally, 15 members of the SADF were killed by wild animals. These included crocodiles, hippo, and elephant.

**Authors note: Please note that the figures used in this article are taken from the official figures given. The total number of deaths may have been higher.*



Did You Know?

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day this month, we look at some trivia all about the Ireland.

- Ireland, along with Sweden, has won the Eurovision Song Contest seven times, more than any other country. Ireland won in 1970, 1980, 1987, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1996.
- The oldest bar in the world is in Ireland! Sean's Bar has been researched thoroughly by the Guinness Book of Records and proudly holds the record for "The Oldest Pub in Ireland", with an official date of 900AD.
- Love duty-free shopping when you travel? Amazingly tax-free stores started at Ireland's Shannon Airport in 1947.
- It takes 119.5 seconds to pour a perfect Guinness.
- Ireland is the only country in the world to have a musical instrument (the harp) as the national symbol.
- The three most famous Celtic symbols of Ireland are the green Shamrock, the harp, and the Celtic cross.
- Nothing less than 3 million pints of Guinness are brewed every day at the St James' Gate Brewery in Dublin.
- The Cliffs of Moher have featured in famous movies, including Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, the Mackintosh Man and The Princess Bride.
- Over 70-80 million people worldwide claim Irish ancestry.
- In Irish, there is no word for YES or NO. However, you can say *Tá sin ceart* – That's right.
- Ireland had a female president in 1990! In the 1990 elections, Mary Robinson was elected the republic's first woman president.
- The song "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" was written by two Americans, George Graff and Chauncey Olcott, in 1912. But no records state that they ever visited Ireland.
- There are no wild snakes in Ireland? The sea has stopped many animals common in mainland Europe from reaching the island. However, many believe that St Patrick banished all snakes from Ireland.
- During the 1840s, Ireland's staple crop – the potato – failed, leading to the Great Famine. An estimated million people died of starvation and disease between 1846 and

1851, and two million emigrated between 1845 and 1855.

- Surprisingly Ireland, the home of Guinness, does not sell the most Guinness in the world! Britain is; first, Nigeria is second, and Ireland is third!
- Only about 9% of people in Ireland have natural red hair, contrary to popular belief.
- Over 40 million Americans are of Irish descent, which is seven times more than Ireland's population.
- The official colour of Ireland is St. Patrick's blue (a shade of azure blue), and not green.
- You may have heard of County Limerick, located in Ireland's southwest. But strangely, there are ten places in the world called Limerick! with eight in the United States, one in Ireland and one in Saskatchewan, Canada.
- The Royal Cork Yacht Club was founded in 1720 and is the world's oldest yacht club.
- Ireland is the second biggest tea drinker in the world! Turkey is first and the United Kingdom is third.
- The oldest hotel in Ireland is in County Wicklow. The Woodenbridge Hotel opened in 1608.
- The Old Bushmills Distillery in Northern Ireland is the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery, with a license to distil granted by King James I in 1608. Located in County Antrim, it has been pro-

ducing Irish whiskey for over 400 years. It was officially registered as a company in 1784.

- In County Cork there is one pub for about every 500 people.
- A motorway in Ireland was delayed by ten years and then re-routed to protect a tree that was thought to belong to fairies.
- Until 1985, you needed a prescription to buy condoms in Ireland.
- In 1853 a Dundalk man named John Coffee built the Dundalk Jail. However, he encountered some financial troubles while building the prison. He ended up going bankrupt and becoming the first inmate in his own prison.
- Sports betting is legal in Ireland; Irish citizens can use online gambling platforms that are domestically certified.
- The guillotine was used in Ireland before it was used in France. The earliest use dates back to 1307.
- There are no female Leprechauns! It might sound strange, but throughout Irish history, all images and stories are of male Leprechauns.
- The Old Bushmills Distillery in County Antrim, which produces Bushmills whiskey, was established in 1784.
- Ireland has one of the highest church attendances in Europe, and about 80% of the total population are nominally Roman Catholics.

Happy Birthday!

The Signals Association's President, Chairperson and Manco members wish all the members below on their birthdays in the next quarter.

We wish you a very special birthday and a wonderful year ahead! We hope your birthday is full of sunshine, rainbows, love, and laughter!

The Association sends you many good wishes on your special day.

26th

Ramona Fourie



March 2026

3rd	Anthony Bethke
8th	Leeann Schmidt
9th	Sharon Fortuin
10th	Amanda Shagom
15th	Dirk Byker
21st	Herman Jacobs
26th	Jose Pereira
29th	Chris Brandsen

April 2026

1st	Wilna Bekker
3rd	Bjorn Pohlman
4th	Phyllis Webb
6th	Piet Jordaen
8th	Christa Krige
9th	Marc Goodleser
9th	Brian Austin
18th	Marina Valentine

May 2026

13th	Frik Rabie
16th	Peter Longbottom
17th	David de Kock
18th	James Tintinger

