



WHALE COAST FLIER

Newsletter of the South African Air Force Association Whale Coast Branch

Volume 3, Issue 5

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Gedenkseël: Avro 504K (1921)

Foto: Monumente, Gedenktekens en Interessantehede in Suid-Afrika

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK/UIT DIE REDAKTEUR SE PEN

The year 2022 is running out fast and we find ourselves in August again – the eighth month of the year, only a few weeks away from Spring and looking forward to warmer, sunshine days in the Whale Coast area.

This edition of *Whale Coast Flier* will once again bring you news on some historical Air Force events that happened in the month of August/September.

This include, amongst others, 22 Squadron's 80th Anniversary and the Oceanos rescue mission. We reported on the rescue operation in a previous edition of our newsletter, but this time round, would like to share a new contribution that we have received, being a photo image of the Co-ordinating Team behind one of the world's most dramatic and succesful operations of its kind.

Ons deel ook graag met almal 'n stukkie Lugmag erfenis, waarvan weining dienende en selfs afgetrede lede van die SA Lugmag bewus is, synde the gedenkteken of monument in Irene, Centurion, van die 1st aangetekende noodlottige militêre vliegongeluk in Suid-Afrika, met 'n Avro 504K dubbeldekkervliegtuig ("Biplane").

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The branch luncheon/braai held at the Hermanus Old Boys Club on 26 August 2022 happened to be another pleasant get-together. At the braai the presentation of a SAAFA Award was made to one of our branch members. See some photo images taken during the event later in this edition.

WEAL AND WOE

Wellbeing of our members. To those members who are battling illness or are recovering from surgeries, we uphold you all in our thoughts and prayers.

MEDICAL HEALTH MATTERS – VPA MEMBERS

Reminder: Optical Benefits and Script Medication. A RFMCF Process Letter was distributed in late 2021 with, among others, “reminders” on processes to be followed with certain medical procedures, to eliminate or avoid unwanted delays in the resolution of requests. We are, however, aware of VPA members still experiencing difficulties in this regard and thought it appropriate to publish the following:

- **“Optical Benefits.** The optical benefits are managed by Opticlear on behalf of RFMCF. Authorization is required for services and material from the Opticlear call centre (claims without authorization will be rejected). If benefits are available, a unique authorization number will be created. Authorization is not a guarantee of payment, as claims will still be subject to final clinical validation, protocols and rules/policy. Contact Opticlear on (011) 461 6337 or (021) 680 3823 or email opticlear@optics.co.za. To view a detailed breakdown of your optical benefits, click on the link below and select “Optometry Network”:
<https://rfmcf.co.za/lookups/> “
- **“Script Medication.** Members are urged to obtain their chronic medication through the SAMHS pharmacies. Herewith the process to be followed to make the necessary arrangements:
 - A member who resides within 50KM from a SAMHS health facility must always use the SAMHS pharmacy for all their medication. If the SAMHS does not have some items in the script, they will provide a buyout for the member to get their medication from a private pharmacy.
 - A member who resides further than 50KM from a SAMHS health facility and who makes use of a private general practitioner may go to a private pharmacy with their script for acute medication only. It is important to give the G-number for the doctor’s visit to the pharmacist. Chronic medication scripts must be faxed to the nearest SAMHS pharmacy. The SAMHS pharmacies will courier the chronic medication to the member. To view a list of the RFMCF Pharmacy Network, click on the link below and select “Pharmacy Network”:
<https://rfmcf.co.za/lookups/> .”



Tips from BMLO re Recordkeeping of Authorizations. Herewith a few tips to all VPA members, emanating from own experiences, to ensure that you are not facing liability for payment of accounts from service providers:

- Obtain authorization well in advance of an appointment for any medical procedure required as SAMHS personnel are not always available at short notice, due to other commitments such as parades, shortage of staff; or in cases where the base/unit's IT system is down.
- Obtain a quotation from the particular service provider e.g. for orthopedic- or radiology services, prior to requesting authorization.
- Ensure that you have a written referral from your local GP, for a particular test or procedure.
- Ensure that you obtain proof of the said quotation (e-mailed or hard copy) and of the authorization (the DD2703 form) for the required services. A G-number appears on the DD2703, which is provided to the RFMCF, for payment of the particular service provider.
- Keep your own register of authorization numbers allocated by SAMHS Medical Health Facilities, for all appointments, including but not limited to, routine GP visits and blood tests at Path Care clinics. Capture information such as: Date of appointment, Name of Service Provider, Authorization number and Name of staff member who provided the authorization number.
- Keep copies of all DD2703 authorization forms issued by SAMHS until such time that the account is paid in full.

If a situation occurs where one receives a "Reminder" from a service provider, for payment of outstanding accounts, it comes in handy to have copies of authorizations when a follow up needs to be done with SAMHS and/or the Fund.

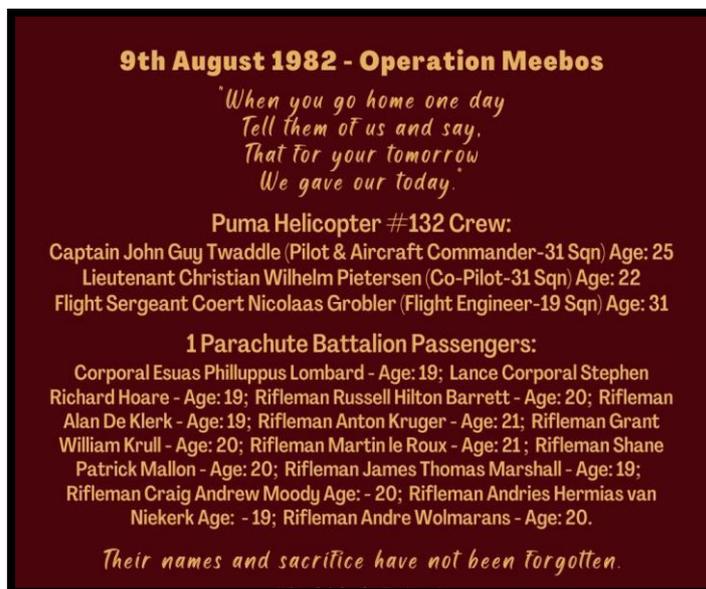
Courier services from Youngsfield Pharmacy over the 2022/23 Festive Season. Herewith a notice from the pharmacist in charge, Maj Z. Miles:

"Due to the scaling down of service during the festive season, there will be a limited courier service available from **09 December 2022 to 13 January 2023**. Please ensure that you order your medication before 09 December 2022 so that you don't run out over the festive season. Thank you for your co-operation."



SNIPPETS/BROKKIES

Operation Meebos. The following contribution was received from Alan Nelson (SAAFA Cape Town Branch). On 9th August 1982, during Operation Meebos, Puma 132 was shot down near Cuvelai - Angola, killing the Pilot, Co-Pilot and Flight Engineer and twelve paratroopers from 1 Parachute Battalion.



The Oceanos Rescue Mission – 04 August 1991.

On 4 August 1991, the *Oceanos* cruise ship sank off the coast of Coffee Bay. The ship's entertainers co-ordinated the rescue of 571 passengers after the captain and his crew infamously deserted the ill-fated ship in the middle of the night. All the passengers survived the ordeal.

The success of any military operation depends heavily on the planning and co-ordination of the operation.

Whilst commemorating this operation in a previous edition, we would also like to pay tribute in this edition, to the Co-ordinating Team at the time, for a job well done - We salute you!!



Co-ordinating Team - 04 August 1991.

(Photo provided by Alan Nelson, SAAFA Cape Town Branch)



Back row: Gerry Everts, Danie Theron, Gary Willemse, Leon van Taak, Glen Dumas.

Middle row: Derick Pieck, Ervin Kotze, Robert Kitley, Leonie, Klaas Munch, Ismail Abrahams, Johan van den Berg.

Front row: Louter van Wyk, Chris Prins, Tiny Hollowes, André (Jinx) Botes.

Monument: Eerste aangetekende noodlottige militêre vlieg-ongeluk in Suid-Afrika (Irene Melkplaas, Centurion).

Op die webtuiste van *Monumente, Gedenktekens en Interessantehede in Suid Afrika* skryf Kobie Ströh, SA Weermag, Transvaal (Gauteng) op 12 November 2019, die volgende:

“Hierdie monumentjie is op die Dairy Farm se gronde, opgerig waar Kaptein Laurence van der Byl en Luitenant Edward Armstrong Stewart se Avro Biplane in  n stuk oop veld neergestort het. Die oop stuk veld nog steeds agter sigbaar. Twee reuse eikebome is weerskante aangeplant en waak oor die gedenksteen.

Die opskrif op die gedenkplaat is die leuse van SALM: Per Aspera Ad Astra: “Deur die wolke na die sterre / Through hardship to the stars.”





“Op 18 September 1922 het Kaptein Laurence van der Byl (RAF/ SAAF) en Luitenant A. E. Stewart (South African Mounted Rifles) opgestyg in hulle Avro 504K (H9699) vanaf Zwartkop basis. Tydens hulle lugtoertjies (aerobatics) naby Irene het die stuurboord vlerk gebreek en hulle het neergestort in die oop veld waar die gedenksteen vandag netjies bewaar word op die bekende en historiese melkplaas. Albei insittendes is oorlede en Laurence vd Byl is in Irene begrawe.

Bronne: SA Military History. They mounted up as Eagles. Military aircraft accidents. History of the SAAF. (South African Military Air Force).

Samesteller: Kobie Ströh

Fotos: Gysbertus Johannes Ströh 2019.”

Boshoed Dag - 06 Augustus 2022

Op hierdie dag, 56 jaar terug op **26 Augustus 1966**, het die Bosoerlog amptelik begin. Die oorlog het vir 23 jaar, 6 maande en 2 dae geduur, waarin 2280 SAW soldate gesneeu het, waarvan 776 in aksie! Ons salueer en eer hulle wat gesterf het ter verdediging van hul Vaderland! Ons sal onthou!

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!”



SAAF/SAAFA

SAAF

22 Squadron celebrates 80th anniversary – defenceWeb. The South African Air Force's (SAAF's) premier maritime helicopter squadron turned 80 in July and to celebrate the occasion, a formal cocktail function was held at Air Force Base (AFB) Ysterplaat on 5 August 2022. One of the former Officers Commanding and a member of our Branch, Christo Stroebel was also in attendance at this memorable celebration. See ***Enclosure 1*** for complete article published by defenceWeb.

Operation Corona deterring poachers in the Overstrand – defenceWeb. Over the past two weeks, 22 Squadron once again, provided air support, being part of the SANDF contingent (Operation Corona) that joined forces with Law Enforcement, Cape Nature, local police and the Dept of Fisheries, Forestry and Environment to execute anti-poaching operations. See ***Enclosure 2*** for the complete article published by defenceWeb.

SAAFA

Branch Luncheon/Braai at Hermanus Old Boys Club – 26 August 2022. Once again, our members enjoyed another memorable afternoon with friends, family and some invited guests.







A highlight of the day was the handing over of the **Order of the SAAF Association (OSAAFA) – Bronze**, for “Distinguished continuous service to the Association”. These awards are normally presented to members during SAAFA Annual Congress, which was held in May, in Velddrif this year. At the time, it was an honour and privilege for the Branch Chairman to receive the award on behalf on one of our own and a former member of the Branch Executive Committee, Christo Stroebel, for his dedication and active participation in branch matters over the past two years. The luncheon served as an ideal opportunity to present the well-deserved award to Christo. Christo’s better-half, Daphne, his son, Riaan and their other invited guests shared the special moment with him.



FUTURE BRANCH ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

The following activities are scheduled for the next month:

- **Branch Executive Committee Meeting:** 21 September 2022.
- **Puma 164 Memorial Event - 10 September 2022:** Dawn Patrol MOTH Club, Bergvliet, Cape Town.
- **Remembrance Day (Poppy Day) Wreath Laying Ceremony - 13 November 2022:** The Cenotaph, Old Harbour, Hermanus.
- **Eindjaar Braai.** Hierdie braai sal vir ons geleentheid bied om die 2022-jaar op gepaste Walviskustak tradisie af te sluit. Ons mik vir die 2de of 3de Vrydag van Desember. Die uitnodiging sal eersdaags uitgestuur word.
- **Overstrand Veterane middag-ete, Onrus Manor Klubhuis – 01 Oktober 2022.** Die volgende uitnodiging is per epos ontvang, vanaf David Peddle, gerig aan Walviskustak Voorsitter asook aan 'n aantal lede van ons tak, wat al voorheen van die etes bygewoon het. Na konsultasie met David, het hy gesê die uitnodiging is gerig aan almal wat sou wou bywoon.

“VETERANE EN GADES MIDDAG ETE - 01 OKTOBER 2022 / VETERANS AND SPOUSES LUNCH - 01 OCTOBER 2022

Geagte Veterane van die Overstrand,

Na 'n lang periode is ons weer aan die gang om 'n ete te beplan, en ek hoop almal sal kan bywoon synde dat die gesondheids risikos van Covid skynbaar afgeneem het.

Soos voorheen sal ons die fasiliteite van die Onrus Manor se Klubhuis gebruik. Die ete word gereel om **13h00** af te skop, maar U is welkom om vroeer aan te kom en gesellig saam met vriende te verkeer. Daar sal 'n kontant kroeg beskikbaar wees.

Die spyskaart wat vir ons voorberei word is soos volg:

- *Geroosterde vark bedien met sous, gebakte aartappels en gemengde groente @ **R86 pp OF,***
- *Stokvis Mornay bedien met rys, ertjies en wortels @ **R 90 pp.***
- *Nagereg is Piesangkoekies met Roomys@ **R18 pp.***
- *Koffie sal bedien word.*
(Geen Kurkgeld sal gehef word nie)

Bespreek asseblief teen die **20 September** by my met 'n keuse van die disse wat jul verkies en bevestig dit met jul deponering in die rekening:

ABSA Bank
Reknr 713683094
Kleinmond-tak
DA Peddle Tjekrekening

Dear Veterans of the Overstrand,

Once again after a lengthy period we are busy planning to share a meal and I hope that everyone will be able to attend seeing that apparently the Covid risks have abated!

As before, we will make use of the facilities of Onrus Manor Clubhouse. The meal is planned to commence at **13h00** but you are welcome to arrive earlier to mingle with friends. A Cash Bar will be available.

The menu is as follows:

- *Roast Pork served with gravy, roast potatoes and country vegetables @ R86 pp OR,*
- *Hake Mornay served with savoury rice, peas and carrots @ R 90 pp.*
- *Dessert is Banana Fritters with Ice Cream @ R18 pp.*

Coffee will be served.

(No Corkage fee will be charged).

Kindly confirm by **20 September** with me that you will attend by indicating your choice of meal and depositing the payment into the following account:

ABSA Bank
Acc no 713683094
Kleinmond Branch
DA Peddle Cheque Acc

Regards

David Peddle
0827883250
Peddledavid7@gmail.com

Pse take note:

- (1) All military veterans are most welcome to attend.
- (2) Space however, is limited in the Onrus Manor dining room – thus it will be a matter of “first come - first serve”.





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The Editorial Committee would appreciate contributions from the Members of SAAFA Whale Coast Branch and extends their thanks for all contributions received. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or of SAAFA National Executive or of the Branch Executive Committee. The Editor reserves the right to amend or reject any editorial matter submitted for publication.



Enclosure 1 to
Whale Coast Flier – Vol 3, Issue 5
Dated 01 September 2022

22 Squadron celebrates 80th anniversary

Dean Wingrin - 8th Aug 2022

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The South African Air Force's (SAAF's) premier maritime helicopter squadron turned 80 in July and to celebrate the occasion, a formal cocktail function was held at Air Force Base (AFB) Ysterplaat on 5 August.

Formed from 31 Flight as 22 (Torpedo-Bomber-Reconnaissance) Squadron in Durban on 1 July 1942, the squadron was assigned anti-submarine, coastal recce and convey escort work with surviving ex-South African Airways Ju-86 and ageing Anson aircraft. The squadron is still known for its maritime role, operating from AFB Ysterplaat (Cape Town) with the Oryx medium transport and Super Lynx maritime helicopters.

Despite a tight budget, the squadron's personnel and supporters turned the main hall at the SAAF Museum satellite branch at AFB Ysterplaat into a dazzling spectacle, with retired 22 Squadron Alouette III light transport and Wasp maritime helicopters suitably displayed outside.

Amongst the guests were three former Officers Commanding: Chris Stroebel, Manie Geldenhuys and Brian Bell. An indication of how the squadron is still fulfilling its duties, the current Officer Commanding, Lieutenant Colonel Kyle Jonker and other squadron members were unable to attend as they are currently deployed to Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as part of the MONUSCO peacekeeping mission. However, they were kept suitably updated of the evening's activities in real time.

Following its formation in July 1942, by August 1942 the Junkers aircraft were replaced by Venturas. In July 1944 the squadron moved from patrolling the Indian Ocean to Gibraltar to operate in the Mediterranean. In July 1945 22 Squadron was posted to Gianacalis in Egypt and in August moved to Idku where it was disbanded on 24 October 1945. The squadron was reformed in 1954, again with Venturas, but was later disbanded once more in 1958.

22 Flight was formed on 1 January 1964 at Ysterplaat to operate the newly acquired Westland Wasp and became a full squadron in May 1976. The Alouette III was added to the fleet in 1978 and the squadron continued to operate the Alouette III when the Wasp was retired in 1990, with the Puma joining the fleet when 22 Squadron was amalgamated with 30 Squadron at the end of 1991. The Puma was replaced by the Oryx in 1994. The squadron took delivery of four Super Lynx maritime helicopters in 2007 and these are operated from the SA Navy's Meko A200SAN class frigates.

The squadron is considered the "maritime" helicopter squadron and provides helicopters, air and ground crews for deployments aboard Navy vessels in addition to its standard SANDF support tasks, mountain rescue, fire fighting, maritime search and rescue, etc.

Congratulations to 22 Squadron and may you have many more safe flying hours ahead.

Operation Corona deterring poachers in the Overstrand

defenceWeb - 26th Aug 2022

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An SA Navy Namacurra on patrol in the Overberg.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) maintains its Operation Corona border safeguarding deployment in the Western Cape is successfully deterring illegal fishing activities.

For the last month, SANDF personnel have been deployed to self-sufficient temporary bases in Gansbaai, Hermanus and Onrus. Land and sea patrols are launched from these bases with air support in the form of a 22 Squadron Oryx medium transport helicopter from Air Force Base (AFB) Ysterplaat. The patrols are to prevent illegal activities by denying poachers access to the sea and to dominate the coastline in this area of operation.

Foot and vehicle patrols cover Pearly Beach, Kleinbaai, Danger Point and Buffelsjagbaai with vehicle control points set up in conjunction with police and municipal law enforcement officers.

During joint operations in the first week of August, SANDF forces together with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), local law enforcement, Cape Nature, and SA Police Service issued 28 road traffic fines amounting to R34 000; arrested one person for possession of an unlicensed firearm; arrested one person for the possession of drugs; and apprehended one person wanted by the police for questioning.

Chief Petty Officer Nkululeko Zulu from the Public Information Centre, Joint Tactical Headquarters Western Cape, reported that the deployment is conducted under the mandate of the SA National Defence Force's responsibility to safeguard the country's borders, and prevent boats and divers in the area from proceeding to the sea to conduct illegal activities.

"The success of this operation will not be measured by the number of arrests made and the confiscated poaching maritime resources but by the fact that we (SA National Defence Force) while deployed along the Overstrand coast restrict poaching activities and disrupt the status quo of the poachers," Zulu concluded.

Since the SANDF deployed to the Overstrand, abalone poaching activity – which was an almost daily occurrence – has dwindled to almost zero.

"Evidence indicates that poaching activities have shifted to the Eastern Cape where a number of known local poachers from our area were arrested in Jeffrey's Bay," said Brigadier Donovan Heilbron, Overberg Police Cluster Commander.

The SANDF previously deployed to the region in February this year.

defenceWeb - 26th Aug 2022