



WYNAND DU TOIT – SAMVOA’s GUEST of HONOUR – ANNUAL MESS DINNER

The first exchange of prisoners of the Border War with Angola took place on September 7 1987, in Maputo, Mozambique. The event involved the release of Wynand du Toit, a high-profile South African officer. Although not breaking news internationally, in South Africa, the drama played out on foreign soil over a long day to a national audience.

Captain Wynand du Toit, a Recce 4 Commando who had been captured in Angola in 1985, arrived on the Angolan presidential jet. In the exchange, 133 FAPLA soldiers who earlier had been transported from ‘somewhere on the border’ and two Europeans- French-communist Pierre-André Albertini and Dutch human rights activist Klaus de Jonge - gained their freedom.



It had taken more than seven months of difficult and often dangerous talks between five nations (more commonly seen at loggerheads than in successful negotiation) and a South African ‘independent’ homeland, to negotiate this complex swap. Those present were unaware of the threshold that had been reached - or of their unheralded and even unwitting contribution to the peaceful transformation that was to unfold. Some observers later remarked it was a key moment in the events and peace talks leading up to the release of Nelson Mandela and the dissolution of apartheid.

Author, public and motivational speaker, farmer (South Africa, Namibia, Congo), and much more. We look forward to welcoming Wynand and Frances du Toit to our Mess Dinner, Saturday 14th October.

There is an open invitation to meet Wynand on Friday 13th October – please see details on following page. NO RSVP REQUIRED

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BOSHOED DAG 26th August, annually

North West Region Chairman of SAMVOUSA, Veteran Philip Nel, suggested that members wear an item of clothing or similar, as a sign of respect, solidarity and remembrance of those who paid the supreme sacrifice through the Border War. The 26th August (the day in 1966 the Border War officially started), was considered the most appropriate day. As the boshloed (bush hat) was the most obvious item, the day was named Boshloed Dag.

The Border War ended with the signing of the Tripartite Accord on 22nd December 1989. Two thousand, two hundred and eighty members of the SADF gave their lives in the service of their country during this period - of these 776 were killed in action.

Boshloed Dag has gained momentum in a short couple of years, and it is listed on the CMVO calendar. I would like to encourage SAMVOAns to wear their boshloed, bush-jacket, shirt, beret, SAMVOA badge, balkie, dog tags, or any similar item, and join with fellow veterans all over the world in remembering those who served and survived and those who gave their lives in the service of their country during the Border War years.

Submitted by Veteran Tony Macquet, MMM
SAMVOA National Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to –

Etienne Theart, Denholme Chapman, Chris Hodder, Schalk Meyer and Michael Schoeman. We look forward to seeing you at meetings and SAMVOA activities in the coming months.

CLAY PIGEONS SHOOTING

Mornington Field & Game Australia
Balnarring Picnic Racing Club
Coolart Rd, Balnarring VIC 3926

Date: 28th October 2017

Shoot: 1pm to 4.30pm **BBQ** 3.15pm - 3.35pm

Costs: \$50 ground fee includes 3 boxes shells

Shells: \$15 / box

OR, \$50 ground fees – BYO shells (no limit)

Please note - Saturday 28th October is a club competition day and experienced shotists are welcome to participate.

Inexperienced shooters will be in a separate area under guidance and supervision.

Shotguns available for the day.

Facilities: Toilets; Tea & coffee (no canteen)

SUNBURY CLUB Wed. 9th September 7.30pm

Presentation: Cuito Cuanavale by Veteran Adam Hattingh, Ratel 20 Section Leader 61 Mech. Advise Patrick Honeyborne if attending: patrick@honeyborne.com.au 'wors rolls from 6.30

SKOUER SKUUR met Wynand duToit

FRIDAY 13th October

Glen Waverley RSL 7pm for 7.30pm

161 Coleman Parade, Glen Waverley

Veterans, families and friends are welcome to join with SAMVOA members to meet Wynand du Toit on Friday 13th October in the Sunset Room, Glen Waverley RSL.

\$20/head entry CASH BAR

There is the possibility that Wynand's books may be available for purchase but due to importing issues and other factors outside SAMVOA's control, this may not be possible. If you have books written by Wynand and would like him to sign them, please bring them with you.

The Warramunga Restaurant will be open from 6pm if you would like an excellent meal before joining fellow veterans upstairs. Please make your own bookings.

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED phone: 8558 4700

THE SHORTEST WAR IN HISTORY

On the 27th August, 1896, the United Kingdom and the Zanzibar Sultanate fought the 38-minute Anglo-Zanzibar War, the shortest war in history. The conflict marked the end of a sovereign Zanzibar Sultanate.

The war was triggered two days prior, when the pro-British Sultan Hamad bin Thuwaini died on 25 August. Though British authorities wanted another British-friendly leader, Hamud bin Muhammad, it was instead Thuwaini's nephew, Sultan Khalid bin Barghash, who seized power in a coup d'état and successfully took the throne.

Displeased, British authorities cited a treaty signed in 1886 stating the British consul had to grant permission to any accession to the sultanate, a requirement bin Barghash had not fulfilled. The British considered this a *casus belli*, or justification for war, and delivered an ultimatum to bin Barghash. The ultimatum was ignored and bin Barghash barricaded himself inside the palace with his 'army' - 2,800 men, including the palace guard, but mainly civilians, servants and slaves.

The sultan's artillery, which consisted of several Maxim machine guns, a Gatling gun, a 17th-century bronze cannon and two 12-pounder field guns, was aimed at the British ships in the harbour. The sultan's troops also took possession of the Zanzibari Navy - one wooden sloop, the HHS Glasgow, built as a royal yacht for the sultan in 1878 and four artillery pieces to defend his sultanate.

The British had gathered three cruisers, two gunships, 150 marines and sailors, and 900 Zanzibari soldiers in the harbour. The ultimatum expired on 27 August 1896 at 9:00am.

A bombardment opened at 09:02 setting the palace on fire and disabling the defending artillery. A small naval action took place, with the British sinking the HHS Glasgow and two smaller vessels, and some shots were fired ineffectually at the pro-British Zanzibari troops as they approached the palace. The flag at the palace was shot down and fire ceased at 09:40.

After the 38 or 40 minutes of warfare, some 500 Zanzibaris had died and only one British sailor was injured. Bin Barghash fled the palace and received asylum in the German consulate before escaping to German East Africa (in present-day Tanzania). The British installed their favoured man, Sultan Hamud. The 40-minute war marked the end of a sovereign Zanzibari sultanate and the beginning of puppet rule in Zanzibar via the United Kingdom.