



ROYAL AIR FORCE OFFICERS' CLUB

Johannesburg

P.O. Box 69726

BRYANSTON 2021

info@rafoc.org

www.rafoc.org

President:	David MacKinnon-Little	
Vice Presidents:	David Lake, Geoff Quick, Basil Hersov	
Chairman:	Bruce Harrison	bruce@jbharrison.co.za Tel: 011 673 0291 Cell: 083 325 0025
Vice Chairman:	Jon Adams	vice-chairman@rafoc.org Tel: 011 678 7702 Cell: 082 450 0616
Hon. Secretary:	Colin Francis	Tel: 011 706 4554 Cell: 082 853 8368
Hon. Treasurer:	Jeff Earle	Tel: 011 616 3189 Cell: 083 652 1002
Committee Members:	Russell Swanborough	Tel: 011 884 2611 Cell: 083 263 2740
	Karl Jensen	Tel: 011 234 0598 Cell: 082 331 4652
	Jean-Michel Girard	Cell: 083 659 1067
	Geoff Fish	Tel: 012 667 2759 Cell: 083 660 9697
	Rob Tannahill	Tel: 011 888 6074 Cell: 082 806 6779
Bank Account:	Nedbank - Melrose Arch	Br: 19 66 05 Account 19 66 278 063

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2018

FEBRUARY LUNCH:

A goodly company of 47 members and guests assembled for lunch on a warm Friday afternoon, and, called to order, observed a Minute's Silence before Grace in honour of Senior member John Greenfield OBE, who had passed away in UK late last year. The Company also recognised the 98th Birthday of the SAAF on 1 Feb, and that Chester Chandler attested into the SAAF on 2 Feb 1953! After an excellent lunch of Potted Shrimp and Stuffed Breast of Chicken presented by Silvasale, all enjoyed in a happy buzz of conversation, we were treated to a live "floor show" compered by Jeff Earle, with Peter Cooke, Wynand Coetzee, Geoff Fish and Mark Clulow, all former 4 Squadron SAAF members, about their involvement in the "Border War". They mix with us at lunches, (yes, they walk amongst us!) yet most of us do not know just what they were involved in. Supported by an excellent audio-visual compiled by Karl Jensen, they gave an up close, personal and often amusing insight into their experiences, which we hope to put on the RAFOC Web Site, to a rapt audience. Q&A followed. Time flew! Memories were awakened and the presentation concluded with a Minute's Silence in honour of those who had not returned, and given their lives in Service of South Africa. We will remember them! The Raffle followed, drawn fittingly by John Martin, a WW2 Veteran of 4 Sqn SAAF. A Senior member wrote: "What a fantastic lunch and panel discussion yesterday!" In a haze of bonhomie, another "whatsapped" "This is what RAFOC is all about!"

RAF CENTENARY:

The formal celebrations begin with the Opening Concert at the Royal Albert Hall on 31 March 2018, and a Centenary Baton Relay will begin outside the Royal Courts of Justice on 1 April 2018. A series of National flypasts, aircraft tours, services and Parades follow, through to the Battle of Britain Services at St Paul's Cathedral and St Clement Danes in London on 16 September 2018. A further list of hundreds of locally organized UK events is at raf.mod.uk/raf100/whats-on/

RAF CENTENARY: BAYS' HILL, AFB SWARTKOP:

Closer to home, all RAFOC members are invited to celebrate the Centenary of the Royal Air Force, together with the **Annual Royal Air Forces Association Memorial Service** for the **Royal Air Force Joint Air Training Scheme** will be held at Bays' Hill at 10h45 for 11h00 on Sunday 8th April 2018. RAFA Chairman Peter McLean will be pleased to welcome you and your wife or partner or your representative there and afterwards at the Gymnasium at AFB Swartkop for refreshments. **Please be**

seated by 10h45 as the flypast will be at 11h00 promptly. Wreaths will be laid during the ceremony. RSVP with the names of those attending and indicate if you will be laying a wreath to **Shirley Stones** at the details below as soon as possible to facilitate catering: Mobile: 082 874 2280 Email: chscons@netactive.co.za.

LOOKING BACK: OUR GRACIOUS QUEEN:

Princess Elizabeth, as she was then, celebrated her 21st birthday (21st April, 1947) in South Africa. For her it was a momentous year; a year of the great South African adventure, coming of age, then her engagement followed by marriage to Prince Philip. During the tour she had her first solo public engagement, the opening of the Princess Elizabeth graving dock in East London. Her sister Princess Margaret played second fiddle, though she was often seen as the prettier, more fun-loving daughter. An interesting article by Sarah Gertrude Millin (at that time a popular thinking author, an early admirer and biographer of Smuts). She wrote in **The Spectator** in 1947: "What, then, did the visit achieve? Principally it showed the physical possibility of a closer Union between the Dominions and England and one another. The King of England was quite simply opening the South African Parliament in his capacity as the King of South Africa. It may indeed have set going the conference system, an important accomplishment that would be. It sweetened the atmosphere of South Africa. Here came four Royal people from England - and they were not at all like the King's grandfather with his goodwill tours in Paris. They were modest, lovable, so anxious to please, so eagerly pleased, that it was almost painful to watch them doing their duty, and another duty, and still another duty, and a further duty, and anything anyone considered a duty - more, indeed, than was necessary for duty".

"LOOKING DOWN THE CORRIDORS"

Kevin Wright and Peter Jeffries (The History Press 2015) - contributed by Geoff Quick, who sends greetings from Tanzania. The corridors in question were the three air corridors into the Berlin Air Traffic Control Zone (colloquially "**The Chukka**") through which the Western Allies were allowed to fly over former East Germany to access the city from 1945 -1990. British, American and French Intelligence agencies used a variety of seemingly innocuous aircraft to gather Imagery Intelligence along and outside of those corridors for over four decades in a series of operations which only recently have been largely declassified, in a large part thanks to the efforts of Pete Jeffries, himself an Intelligence Corps Imagery Interpreter who was intimately involved with their planning and analysis over many years. The book covers all three national operations, but focuses on the British participation, initially with Ansons, then for very many years 60 Squadron Pembroke and latterly Andovers, operating in and out of Gatow, mainly from Wildenrath (close by the HQ at Rheindahlen where the analysis took place). In addition, the adventures of the Chipmunks flying around the Berlin area at low level photographing hand-held "over the side" are documented. As sure as eggs are eggs the other side knew exactly what we were up to, but by keeping the mission highly classified (Operation "Secret" platform "Top Secret") face was saved all round and a highly successful programme that helped calm uncertainties and keep the Cold War Cold ran successfully, despite inevitably having its moments. All well covered in this remarkable book. One postscript I have to add (says Geoff) our much missed and respected late RAFOC member **Ken Munn** was a Squadron Leader on 60 Sqn. Pembroke in the early 70's and kept his involvement in that side of its activities well to himself throughout his retirement.

DRAGON LADY:

The Lockheed U-2, nicknamed "Dragon Lady", is an American single-jet engine, ultra-high altitude reconnaissance aircraft operated by the United States Air Force (USAF) and previously flown by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). It provides day and night, high-altitude (70,000 feet; 21,000 m), all-weather intelligence gathering. The U-2 has also been used for electronic sensor research, satellite calibration, scientific research, and communications purposes. First flown in 1955, early versions of the U-2 were involved in several events through the Cold War, being flown over the Soviet Union, China, Vietnam, and Cuba. In 1960, Gary Powers was shot down in a CIA U-2A over the Soviet

Union by a surface-to-air missile (SAM). Another U-2, piloted by Major Rudolf Anderson, Jr., was lost in a similar fashion during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. The U-2 is one of a handful of aircraft types to have served the USAF for over 50 years, another notable example being the Boeing B-52. The newest models (TR-1, U-2R, U-2S) entered service in the 1980s. The current model, the U-2S, received its most recent technical upgrade in 2012. They have taken part in post-Cold War conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and supported several multinational NATO operations. No other high-altitude ISR asset operating today – or in development – can accomplish the daily peacetime Strategic Reconnaissance Operations of the U-2S, or compete with its future capabilities. U-2S flies more than 10,000 feet higher, 100 mph faster, and has larger bandwidth links than any other high-altitude ISR platform. Flying 24/7 around the world at record-high operational rates, U-2S collects critical targets no other platform can. Today's generation, U-2S, operates with a 30 percent larger airframe and a new GE F118 engine. It has been completely upgraded with a glass cockpit, fiber optic communication capabilities, and state-of-the-art avionics and sensor systems. The U-2 is capable of operating at high performance through 2045, with 80 percent of its service life remaining.

OBITUARIES

WING COMMANDER REG REYNOLDS DSO DFC RAF, who has died aged 98, was one of the RAF's outstanding low-level attack pilots; he flew 89 bombing operations and was decorated for gallantry four times, with two DSOs and two DFCs. In a remarkable career, one of his most effective raids was the bombing of Berlin during the morning of January 30 1943, just as Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering, Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe, was due to address a mass rally as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of Hitler's coming to power. Goering's speech was to be broadcast to the nation. Early that day, three Mosquitos led by Reynolds took off from their base in Norfolk on the RAF's first daylight bombing attack on Berlin, a round trip of 1,150 miles. Their explicit task was to drop bombs on the capital at exactly 11am, the time at which Goering was to begin his address. The attack was delivered spot on time, with the bombs falling near the broadcast station. The explosions could be heard over the radio. It was reported that Goering was "boiling with rage and humiliation" and had to postpone his speech for an hour. A few years earlier, he had famously boasted that no enemy aircraft would ever bomb the German Reich. All the crews were decorated and Reynolds received an immediate DSO for his "calm courage, resolution and endurance".

AIR MARSHAL SIR PETER EDWARD BAIRSTO, KBE, CB, AFC, DL, has died aged 91. The Kingdom of Fife was twice the backdrop for the most death and distance-defying decisions that RAF fighter pilot Peter Bairsto would ever make. The first, saving his Hunter when he was a Flight Lieutenant with No 43 Squadron at Leuchars, in 1956, won him the Air Force Cross. The second, when he was an Air Marshal and Chief of Staff at RAF Strike Command, blazed victory in 1982 with RAF ground-attack Harriers in the Falklands War against Argentina. But when Britain went to war in 1982 to win back the Falkland Islands from invasion by Argentina, Bairsto's vigour proved an inspired choice. "We can do it!" he exclaimed, when others quailed at the distance between home RAF airfields and the South Atlantic. His wisdom was prescient: after the loss by enemy action of the container ship Atlantic Conveyor, and her precious cargo including troop-ferrying Chinook helicopters, the extra firepower offered by the 10 RAF Harriers flown via Ascension Island to make sorties from the Task Force carriers HMS Hermes and HMS Invincible, proved decisive. Their ground-attacks against Argentine positions and artillery, as British forces yomped across the barren terrain, helped speed the advance to Port Stanley and victory. Bairsto retired in 1984. (on a note Jon Adams was awarded his wings by then Air Commodore Bairsto in 1972)

SURGEON CAPTAIN RICK JOLLY OBE RN, who has died aged 71, was a naval surgeon possessed of outstanding personal bravery and unparalleled dedication to his patients, who through his skill and leadership saved the lives of both friend and foe during the Falklands War. In April 1982

Jolly was commanding the headquarters troop of the medical squadron of the Commando Logistic Regiment, Royal Marines. He was on Easter leave when the Argentines invaded the Falklands, and he and his team embarked at short notice in RMS Canberra, which had been taken up from trade. "Because of previous friendships," he recalled, "it didn't take more than 10 seconds to establish a working relationship with the embarked troops." As Officer Commanding Medical Squadron of the Commando Logistic Regiment Royal Marines, Jolly was Senior Medical Officer of 3 Commando Brigade RM and commanded the field hospital at Ajax Bay. The conditions in the field hospital were poor and despite the dirt, poor lighting, air attacks and the presence of two unexploded bombs, only 3 of the 580 British soldiers and marines wounded in action were to die of their wounds and none while under the care of Dr Jolly. He wrote the book "The Red and Green Life Machine" about his experiences, and he is the only serviceman to be decorated by both sides after the conflict, being awarded an OBE (Military Division) from the UK and the Orden de Mayo (Order of May) - awarded to "foreigners who distinguish themselves by service or personal achievement, or who have gained the nation's gratitude" - from Argentina.

SHOOTING STAR DOWN:

The Bolivian Air Force has retired the very last Lockheed T33 Shooting Star in military service anywhere in the world. Primarily a training aircraft, some smaller air forces used it for light strike ground attack duties. It was initially used by the USAF, Navy and Marine Corps from the late 1940's and subsequently with some 30 Air arms – including Canada, France, Turkey and Japan. Nearly 6600 were built, of which 870 were produced in Canada and Japan.

NEXT FUNCTION:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Friday 2 March 2017, 12h30 for 13h00 at Wanderers.

As is customary, there will be no speaker or guests at the AGM, as this is the opportunity for Members to review the management and health of the Club and elect the Committee of their choice. In accordance with Club Rules, Motions or Proposals will not be accepted from the floor at the AGM. Any Member wishing to raise a subject at the AGM is requested to notify the Secretary in good time, at least 14 days before the meeting.

Lunch Fees: R200 pp. If paying EFT please use your "Name + Lunch" as "reference"
NEDBANK Melrose Arch, Branch 19 66 05 Account 19 66 278 063

All bookings please to bookings@rafoc.org or if you do not have access to e-mail:

Rob Tannahill	Tel: 011 888 6074	Cell: 082 806 6779
Colin Francis	Tel: 011 706 4554	Cell: 082 853 8368
Jon Adams	Tel: 011 678 7702	Cell: 082 450 0616

Look forward to seeing you there!

Bruce.