



## ROYAL AIR FORCE OFFICERS' CLUB

Johannesburg

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BRYANSTON 2021

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## RAFOC REMINISCENCES AND RAMBLINGS - WEEK 99

4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022

### GREETINGS:

Day 708 – and the landmark 100th edition of these Ramblings... Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine has overshadowed all other news in the last week... the Beast from the East is hogging the headlines... "die koeel is deur die Kerk"... Minister Naledi Pandor highlighted that SA "will be sending troops to Ukraine and providing diplomatic support"... Ramaphosa dismayed... Minister Thandi Modise meanwhile celebrating with the Russian Ambassador... Oh, yes, we have no bananas... Zondo reveals that Gavin Watson of Bosasa spread largesse to the top ANC leadership to secure government contracts... Seven licensing centres closed down by strikes – license renewals in 20 mins? How so, Minister Mbalula? Battlefield Joburg: Bodies litter the streets after cop's ambush CIT gang last week...

Raging fires in Australia followed now by raging floods... a judgement on Scott Morrison? And there we thought the cold war was over... Perestroika?... Putin dramatically ratchets up tensions, puts Russia's nuclear arsenal on standby... Brazen Putin has exposed the West's complacency... War in Ukraine has exposed the woke world... Lazy, arrogant Biden offers nothing to the free world. War is very often a game changer... Russian forces have still not seized the Presidential Palace in Kyiv... Ukrainians putting up a tough resistance... International pressure ramps up on Russia... "Russia Today" TV Channel closed in SA and elsewhere... UN resolution condemns Russia's invasion of Ukraine and calls on President Vladimir Putin to immediately withdraw his troops from Ukraine - 141 member states, including Brazil (also a Brics country) voted for it – SA abstained... Formula One cancels 2022 Russian Grand Prix, no World Cup Champions Soccer and no Russian or Belarusian athletes will take part in the Paralympics either... Russia dumped out of all international soccer as FIFA confirms blanket suspension Russia, Belarus suspended from World Rugby 'until further notice'... Abramovich bales out of Chelsea FC profitably...

### REINFORCING NATO:



RAF fast jets have taken to the skies as part of NATO's mission to defend Europe, less than 24 hours after Russian forces entered Ukraine. These aircraft are part of pre-planned Enhanced Vigilance Activity, which is a NATO led Operation initiated due to the unfolding events in Ukraine. This activity providing air support ready to defend the region and is a robust response to Russian aggression, contributing to the security of Europe. The RAF's contribution is in the form of additional Typhoon FGR4

aircraft, operating from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire and RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus.

The Typhoons, armed with state-of-the-art Air-to-Air missiles and a full suite of defensive aids, are patrolling NATO airspace over Poland and Romania, once more demonstrating the UK's unwavering commitment to the NATO Alliance. The Typhoons are supported by RAF Voyager Air-to-air refuelling aircraft from RAF Brize Norton, who offer additional fuel for the fighters so enabling greater range and endurance showing the reach of UK air power to support NATO's Defence mission. "RAF Typhoons working in partnership with our allies are continuing to demonstrate our commitment to NATO. We stand ready to defend Europe and the Atlantic region against further aggression. I am incredibly proud of the courage and commitment of our aircrew operating across the region and of all our personnel who are supporting them." Air Vice-Marshal Phil Robinson Air Officer Commanding 11 Group (*RAF News*)

## **RAF CHIEF DIGITAL INFORMATION OFFICER:**



Doctor Arif Mustafa joined as a Senior Civil Servant in February 2022, becoming the RAF's first Chief Digital Information Officer.

This role will see Dr Mustafa help meet the challenge of our Next Generation RAF with data, information, cyberspace, and digital technologies. He will provide specialist resources for digital business; up-skill the workforce; adopt new digital capabilities and improve digital integration across Government. Dr Arif Mustafa took up appointment on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 and will lead efforts to modernise the RAF through the implementation of the RAF Digital Strategy and its ability to transform the way it approaches our use of data as a critical asset. Dr Mustafa joined the Ministry of Defence from career primarily in the Oil and Gas sector. Over his 30 years in the Information Technology profession, he has worked for Shell, BP and recently with the Ma'aden mining company.

His PhD concentrated on the implementation of technological innovation in large organisations, and he has used that experience successfully throughout his time as the CIO for major BP Business Units and Ma'aden CIO. Transformation and innovation have been key tenants of his career and he brings this wealth of proven experience to his role as the RAF Chief Digital Information Officer...

## **AIR COMMODORE SIR WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL RAF:**

Reader Richard Tasker wrote in with an interesting question: "I have just been watching a YouTube video on Japan's Ending the war because of the Atomic bombs, and in it there was a picture of Sir Winston sporting Wings on his chest above his medals. So was he a qualified pilot? Was he a member of the RAF?" The answer is "No" to the first question, and "Yes" to the second



*Image of Churchill in RAF uniform without or with Wings if before or after 1 April 1943.*

Winston Churchill had a very early connection with military aviation. On being appointed First Lord of the Admiralty in 1911, he was keen to pursue the development of this new invention. He began to take flying lessons in 1912 and was immediately hooked. Although he had many hours' instruction (and many crashes), he was not allowed to fly solo, so he never qualified as a pilot. He oversaw the official birth of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) in 1914 before leaving the Admiralty in 1915. The RNAS was later merged on 1 April 1918 with the Army's Royal Flying Corps to create the Royal Air Force (RAF). After keeping the new service supplied with their technical needs as Minister of Munitions in 1917–18, Churchill cemented his close connection with the RAF as Secretary-of-State for Air in 1919–21. As Prime Minister and Minister of Defence from May 1940, he had a direct link to the RAF and its commanders during the critical period of the Battle of Britain and the subsequent need to achieve air superiority in many parts of the world and to take the battle to enemy territory. With the creation of reserve squadrons in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, a similar role to that of an Honorary Colonel in a TA unit was introduced in the rank of Honorary Air Commodore; the latter equates to an Army Brigadier, so is technically one rank senior to a Colonel. In 1939 Churchill was appointed Hon. Air Commodore, No. 615 (County of Surrey) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force. The squadron was based at Kenley, only about ten miles from Chartwell and therefore easy for Churchill to visit. By 1940 it was operating Hurricanes and Spitfires. It was this uniform that Churchill frequently wore during the Second World War. On 1 April 1943, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of the RAF, the Air Council with the King's approval awarded honorary wings (the flying badge of the Royal Air Force) to the Prime Minister. Churchill acknowledged this honour in the following letter to Air Marshal Sir Bertine Sutton, Air Member for Personnel:

*"Dear Air Marshal Sutton,*

*I take it as a high compliment that the Air Council should wish to give one of their honorary air commodores his honorary wings. I value this distinction the more because it comes to me on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force. My memories go back six years earlier, when, in 1912, as First Lord of the Admiralty, I began to cherish the Royal Naval Air Service. I consider that Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Trenchard is the founder of the Royal Air Force. He it was who proposed to me, when I was Air Minister in 1919, that Mesopotamia should be held by air power, thus releasing a number of army divisions, which cost us £40,000,000 a year to maintain in that country. This proved, in a manner patent to all intelligent minds, the immense part which the air would play not only in war but in peace. Since those now distant days, we have had the epic of the Battle of Britain upon which, under Providence, the freedom of the world, perhaps for several generations, was staked. The name of Sir Hugh Dowding is linked with this historic episode. At this moment we may say without vanity that the Royal Air Force - taken for all in all - is "Second to None." At this moment it is the spearpoint of the British offensive against the proud and cruel enemy who boasted that he would "erase" the cities of our native land and hoped to lay all the lands under his toll and thrall. As the world conflict deepens, the war future of the Royal Air Force glows with a still brighter and fiercer light. I am honoured to be accorded a place, albeit out of kindness, in that comradeship of the air which guards the life of our island and carries doom to tyrants, whether they flaunt themselves or burrow deep.*

*Winston S. Churchill"*

Churchill said after WW2: "A Socialist State once thoroughly completed in all its details and aspects... could not afford opposition. Socialism is, in its essence, an attack upon the right of the ordinary man or woman to breathe freely without having a harsh, clumsy tyrannical hand clapped across their mouths and nostrils. But I will go farther. I declare to you, from the bottom of my heart that no Socialist system can be established without a political police. Many of those who are advocating Socialism or voting Socialist today will be horrified at this idea. That is because they are shortsighted, that is because they do not see where their theories are leading them". *Speech June 1946*. As you will see from current developments, the UK is a bit short of Churchills at present...

## DAVID CROSBY OBIT:

We sent a copy of Ramblings with David's Obit as published in RAF News to his daughter Robyn in UK. She wrote back in acknowledgement:

"Thank you so much for Ramblings. I really enjoyed reading it.

I loved the humorous bits, information and of course the very special piece on my father. My brother is away at present so I have copied him into this email so he can see it too.

Best wishes

Robyn "

## IT'S A DOG'S LIFE:

Retired RAF Police Military Working Dog 'Hertz' received the prestigious PDSA Decking Medal – the Victoria Cross for animals – for his life-saving devotion to duty, protecting British and Allied troops while serving in Afghanistan, in 2013. Deployed on Operation HERRICK, Hertz was trained to detect electronic communications equipment such as mobile phones, voice recorders, SIM cards and GPS devices. He was the first dog in British military history trained to detect these devices.



The PDSA Dickin Medal is the highest award any animal can receive whilst serving in military conflict. It is recognised worldwide as the animals' Victoria Cross. Instituted in 1943 by PDSA's founder Maria Dickin CBE, it acknowledges outstanding acts of bravery or devotion to duty displayed by animals serving with the Armed Forces or Civil Defence units in any theatre of war throughout the world. Throughout his time in Afghanistan, Hertz was responsible for finding more than 100 items of contraband, including drugs and Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs), all of which posed a significant threat to the lives of servicemen, women and civilians. "For a Military Working Dog that I have trained and handled to be recognised in this way is fantastic. At no point during the training process or our operational deployment did I expect or even suspect that Hertz would be acknowledged on the global stage by the PDSA. I will forever look back at what we achieved with a massive smile on my face." Warrant Officer Tanner. RAF Police

## ESTONIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY:



ROYAL Air Force Typhoons were invited to support the Estonian Independence Day celebrations in recognition of the UK's close relationship with Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) partner nations. Estonia celebrated its 104<sup>th</sup> Independence Day with festivities consisting of a static parade, which

was hosted by President Alar Karis and led by Lieutenant General Martin Herem, Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces. A formal reception hosting local dignitaries was supported by more than 700 people and 18 units of equipment, including NATO troops and a fly-past of 4 Typhoons from 6 Squadron, RAF Lossiemouth.

### **ANTONOV AN225 MRIYA DESTROYED:**



The largest plane in the world – Ukraine's Antonov-225 cargo plane – was destroyed by Russian strikes outside Kyiv on the fourth day of Moscow's invasion, Ukraine's state-owned Ukroboronprom group said Sunday. "Russian invaders destroyed the flagship of the Ukrainian aviation, the AN-225" at the Antonov airport in Gostomel near Kyiv, the group said in a statement. The aircraft was unique to the world, at 84 meters long (276 feet) it could transport up to 250 metric tons (551,000 pounds) of cargo at a speed of up to 850 kilometers per hour (528 mph). It had been named "Mriya", which means "dream" in Ukrainian. "This was the world's largest aircraft, AN-225 'Mriya'," Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted Sunday. "Russia may have destroyed our 'Mriya'. But they will never be able to destroy our dream of a strong, free and democratic European state. We shall prevail!" Gostomel airport has seen violent clashes since the start of Russia's invasion, launched by President Vladimir Putin Thursday. The Russian army has said it is trying to seize strategic infrastructure. Weapons manufacturer Ukroboronprom estimated that restoring the "Mriya" would cost over US\$3 billion (2.7 billion Euros) and could take over five years.

### **FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE:**

Bill Browder is the founder and CEO of Hermitage Capital Management, who has had firsthand experience of the duplicity, corruption and criminality of Putin's Russia, but has turned a very bad experience into a force for good in the shape of the "Magnitsky Act." Hermitage was the investment adviser to the largest foreign investment fund in Russia until 2005, when he was denied entry to the country and declared a "threat to national security" as a result of his battle against corporate corruption. After his expulsion, the Russian authorities raided his offices, seized Hermitage Fund's investment companies and used them to steal \$230 million of taxes that the companies had previously paid. When Browder's lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky, investigated the crime, he was arrested by the same officers he implicated, tortured for 358 days, and killed in custody at the age of 37 in November 2009. Since then, Browder has spent years fighting for justice for Magnitsky. The Russian government exonerated and even promoted some of the officials involved, so Browder took the case to the US, where his campaigning led to the US Congress adopting the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act in 2012, which imposed visa sanctions and asset freezes on those involved in his detention, ill-treatment and death (as well as in other human rights abuses). The Magnitsky Act, formally known as the Russia and Moldova Jackson - Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012, is a bipartisan bill passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama in December 2012, intending to punish Russian officials responsible for the death of Russian tax lawyer Sergei Magnitsky in a Moscow prison in 2009 and also to grant permanent normal trade relations status to Russia. Since 2016, the bill, which applies

globally, authorizes the U.S. government to sanction those it sees as human rights offenders, freeze their assets, and ban them from entering the U.S.. This law was the first time the US sanctioned Russia in 35 years and became the model for all subsequent US sanctions against Russia. Browder is currently working to have similar legislation passed in Magnitsky's name across the European Union. Ajay, Atul and Rajesh Gupta and Salim Essa were all sanctioned under the Magnitsky Act in October 2019.

### **CHEERS FOR NOW:**

Day 708 and counting... Regular Lunches have recommenced at Wanderers on the first Friday of each month to popular acclaim! The next is this Friday 4 March 2022 (today), 12h30 for 13h00 in the Cigar Bar at Wanderers. Lunch will be followed immediately by the Annual General Meeting. Formal notice of the AGM has been circulated on [bookings@rafoc.org](mailto:bookings@rafoc.org) This will be our first face-to-face AGM since the great lockdown. This is your Club, and it is important for us to hear from our members, and it will be good to see you again, so thank you to those who have booked. PLEASE NOTE: 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 should have notified the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting.

### **TAILPIECE:**

There are many old pilots who simply now boil,  
After many long years of hard flying toil,  
The D-K effect,  
Means SAA is wrecked,  
'Twas a great airline that's now in turmoil.

*The Sherriff of Nottingham Road*

(The Dunning-Kruger effect is the cognitive bias whereby people with low ability at a task overestimate their ability. Stated simply: Stupid people are too stupid to know how stupid they are!)

1. Ladies hostel caught Fire. It took 1 hour to bring the fire under control... and another 3 hours to bring the firemen under control.
2. Wife: If I sleep with your best friend what will be the first thought to come in your mind?  
Husband: that you are a lesbian.
3. Nobody is ever satisfied, poor men wish they were rich, rich men wish they were handsome, bachelors wish they were married & married men wish they were dead!
4. A divorced couple were contesting for possession of the child. The mother said: "I gave birth to him - he's mine" The father said: "I put a coin in the Pepsi machine and a can comes out - the Pepsi belongs to me - not to the machine!!"
5. A girl says to her boyfriend, "One kiss and I'll be yours forever." The guy says 'thanks for the warning'
6. A husband was asked: "Do you talk to your wife after sex?" He replied: "Depends, If I can find a phone"
7. Man to wife on wedding night- "Are you sure I'm the first man you are sleeping with?" "Of course honey, I stayed awake with all the others!"

*Sent in via Karl Jensen*

### **The Only Cow...**

The only cow in a small town in Ireland stopped giving milk. Then the town folk found they could buy a cow in Scotland quite cheaply. So, they brought the cow over from Scotland. It was absolutely wonderful. It produced lots of milk every day & everyone was happy. They bought a bull to mate with the cow to get more cows, so they'd never have to worry about their milk supply again. They put the bull in the pasture with the cow but whenever the bull tried to mount the cow, the cow would move

away. No matter what approach the bull tried, the cow would move away from the bull & he was never able to do the deed. The people were very upset & decided to go to their very wise Vet, tell him what was happening & ask his advice. "Whenever the bull tries to mount our cow, she moves away. If he approaches from the back, she moves forward. When he approaches her from the front, she backs off. If he attempts it from the one side, she walks away to the other side." The Vet rubbed his chin thoughtfully & pondered this before asking, "Did you by chance buy this cow in Scotland?" The people were dumbfounded since no one had ever mentioned that they had brought the cow over from Scotland. "You are truly a wise Vet," they said. "How on earth did you know we got the cow from Scotland?" The Vet replied with a distant look in his eye, "My wife's from Scotland."

### Wrong Question...

A Russian Jew named Jacob was finally allowed to emigrate to Israel. At the Moscow airport, a customs inspector found a statue of Lenin in his luggage and asked, "What is this?" Jacob replied, "Wrong question, comrade. You should have asked, 'Who is this?' This is Comrade Lenin. He laid the foundations of Socialism and created the future prosperity of the Russian people. I am taking it with me as a memory of our dear hero." The Russian customs official sent him on his way. At Tel Aviv airport, the Israeli customs official also asked, "What is this?" "Wrong question, sir. You should be asking 'Who is this?', This, my friend, is Lenin, the bastard who caused me, a Jew, to leave Russia. I take this statue as a reminder to curse him every day." The Israeli official sent him on his way. When he settled in his new home, Jacob placed the statue on a table. The following evening, he invited friends and relatives to dinner. Spotting the statue, one of his cousins asked, "Who is this?" Jacob replied, "Wrong question. You should have asked, 'What is this?' This is five kilograms of solid gold that I managed to bring with me from Russia without having to pay any customs duty or tax."

The Moral: "Politics is when you can tell the same sh\*\*t in different ways to fool different people and come out smelling like a rose."

MATT

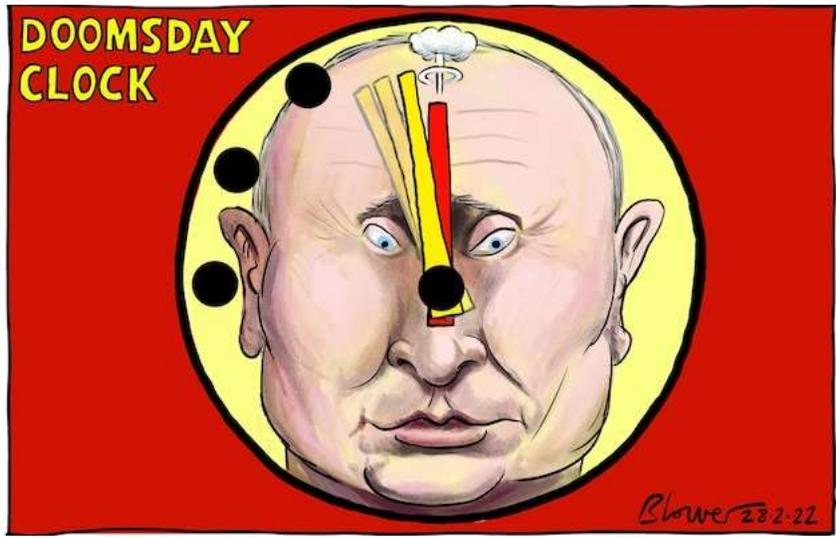


MATT



'At least we can't  
watch the news'

News just in. A pic was taken of South African Airforce planes on the way to assist Ukraine....



THE BEAST FROM THE EAST



MATT

MATT



*I've done the sums and  
we can either fill the car  
with petrol, or buy  
Chelsea Football Club'*



*'On second thoughts,  
keep the roubles,  
I'll take the pen*

## KILROY WAS HERE:

He is engraved in stone in the National War Memorial in Washington, DC- back in a small alcove where very few people have seen it. For the WWII generation, this will bring back memories. For you younger folks, it's a bit of trivia that is a part of our American history. Anyone born in 1913 to about 1950, is familiar with Kilroy. No one knew why he was so well known - but everybody seemed to get into it.

So, who was Kilroy?

In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the real Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article. Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts, had evidence of his identity. 'Kilroy' was a 46-year-old shipyard worker during the war who worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet. He would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark. Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters. One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters and asked him to investigate. It was then he realized what had been going on. The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his check mark on each job he inspected, but added 'KILROY WAS

HERE' in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message. Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks. Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With the war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long hauls to Berlin and Tokyo. To the troops outbound in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that someone named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, U S servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived. Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of the Arc de Triomphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon.) As the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for coming invasions by U.S. troops (and thus presumably were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo! In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. Its' first occupant was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?"

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy yard in Halifax, Massachusetts. *(Sent in via Philip Weyers)*

