



ROYAL AIR FORCE OFFICERS' CLUB

Johannesburg
P.O. Box 69726
BRYANSTON 2021

info@rafoc.org www.rafoc.org

President:	David MacKinnon-Little	
Vice Presidents:	Basil Hersov, Geoff Quick, David Lake	
Chairman:	Bruce Harrison	bruce@jbharrison.co.za Tel: 011 673 0291 Cell: 083 325 0025
Vice Chairman:	Jon Adams	bookings@rafoc.org Tel: 011 678 7702 Cell: 082 450 0616
Hon. Secretary:	Colin Ackroyd	Tel: 012 942 1111 Cell: 082 800 5845
Hon. Treasurer:	Jeff Earle	Tel: 011 616 3189 Cell: 083 652 1002
Committee Members:	Russell Swanborough	Tel: 011 884 2611 Cell: 083 263 2740
	Jean-Michel Girard	Cell: 083 659 1067
	Geoff Fish	Tel: 012 667 2759 Cell: 083 660 9697
Web Master:	Hanke Fourie	Tel: Cell: 082 553 0210
Almoner:	Rob Tannahill	Cell: 082 806 6779
Bank Account:	Nedbank - Melrose Arch	Br: 19 66 05 Account 19 66 278 063

RAFOC REMINISCENCES AND RAMBLINGS - WEEK 228 11th OCTOBER 2024

GREETINGS:

One year on since Hamas attack on Israel... Another mass shooting in E Cape... Mchunu grandstanding fit to bust... SA's dirty gold laundering racket... Eight Cape Town police officers arrested for extortion... Hawks confirm SAA staff under investigation after criminal conviction in the USA... Post Office, SABC, MultiChoice, and Cell C, are technically insolvent... over 1,000 South African companies liquidated this year... Transnet container deal derailed... food poisoning panic hits Limpopo... burst pipe leaves Joburg residents high and dry yet again... Soweto locals close spaza shops after five children allegedly die from eating snacks... Nelson Mandela Bay clinics under siege due to crime...

Putin tears down favourite holiday villa threatened by Ukrainian drones... Putin puppet Medvedev says 'bomb London, sink the island of Anglo-Saxon dogs'... Keir Starmer branded 'rapist-releasing Remoaner' by brutal BoJo... Labour are set for a humiliating defeat in their war on private schools... Britain's biggest exodus of millionaires in the world... Are Starmer's first 100 days the worst for any PM?... Starmer's deranged agenda is condemning Britain to a fate worse than bankruptcy... immigration fury as quarter of Labour voters consider Reform move in shock poll... coverage of Prince Harry's visit to Lesotho sparks fury with GB News viewers... Hurricane Helene leaves vast damage, closely followed by Hurricane Milton – ferocious winds, huge sea-surge, flooding in Florida... Labour tax could be “ the end of the affordable pint”... Naples mayor urged to tear down 'phallic' sculpture... seven things only a sex therapist will tell you...

ST CLEMENT DANES SERVICE MARKS RAuxAF CENTENARY:



On Sunday the 6th October, His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester marked 100 Years of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force at St Clement Danes.

As the Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF) marked its 100th anniversary this year, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester paid tribute today to the thousands of men and women who've served this country as members of the RAuxAF, which has supported RAF operations around the world for a century. Following the St Clement Danes service, His Royal Highness unveiled of a new stained-glass window made to commemorate RAuxAF100. The window is in the 601 Squadron room at the RAF Club and was designed and made by a serving member of the RAF. *(RAF News)*

259 Sqn RAF CATALINA:



A number of Catalinas were based in harbours around the SA coastline for seaward defiance and anti-submarine duties during WW 2. The last of these was No 222 Sqn RAF at Richards Bay (*Lake Msingazi*) which was converted into 35 Sqn SAAF at War's end. Here a Catalina of No259 Squadron RAF takes off from Lake St Lucia. "No.259 Squadron served as an anti-submarine warfare squadron over the Indian Ocean, from its formation in 1943 until the end of the Second World War.

The squadron reformed on 16 February 1943 in Kenya and was equipped with Catalina flying boats. These aircraft remained in use until the squadron was disbanded in April 1945.

The squadron only operated from Kenya for a short period. Two detachments were sent to South Africa during 1943, the first to Congella (*Durban*) in March and the second to Langebaan in June (*this detachment was short-lived and was soon replaced by No.262 Squadron*). By this point most of the squadron had moved to Congella, although its official base and administration stayed in Kipevu, Kenya.

In September 1943 the squadron moved again, this time to Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika. This remained its main base for the rest of the war, although detachments operated from Masirah, Aden and southern Madagascar, extending the area that the squadron could cover.

In March 1945 the squadron began to convert to the Sunderland, but in April this plan was cancelled, the Sunderlands were removed, and on 30 April the squadron was disbanded." (*Facebook Page*)

NEW RADAR TAKES FLIGHT:

An advanced new radar, which will equip Royal Air Force pilots with the ability to locate, identify, and suppress enemy air defences, has taken to the skies for the first time.



The latest prototype of the European Common Radar System (ECRS) Mark 2 has been flown on a UK Typhoon test and evaluation aircraft at BAE Systems' flight test facility in Lancashire. The flight is the latest milestone in the ongoing development programme for the UK Typhoon and will strengthen the aircraft's control of the airspace and provide cutting-edge electronic warfare capabilities making it an even more potent part of the NATO's frontline fleet.

"Evolution of Typhoon's air combat capability is paramount to ensure Typhoon continues to deter potential aggressors, defend our nation and defeat our adversaries wherever we need to fly and fight whether for the UK or in our staunch support to the NATO alliance. This first flight of this ECRS Mk2 prototype new radar in the test aircraft is a positive step towards ensuring this." Air Commodore Nick Lowe, Head Capability Delivery Combat Air and Typhoon Senior Responsible Officer, RAF (*RAF News*)

NEW COLOURS FOR THE SAAF:

Friday's SA Air Force (SAAF) Colour Parade was brought on – literally – by the ravages of age. Brigadier General Donovan Chetty, Director Corporate Staff Services, told *defenceWeb* the Mobile Deployment Wing (MDW) parade was necessitated because the current SAAF Colour has been in service since 1994. Frequency of use along with wear and tear as well as adverse weather conditions while on parade added up to time to replace.

The Colour awarded at MDW, previously Air Force Base (AFB) Swartkop, the oldest operational base in the SAAF, was not new. "It was a newly made version of the old Colour," he said.

The airborne service of the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) has been the proud possessor of a Colour since 1923. The honour, Chetty said, was accorded to the SAAF because of its illustrious history "throughout both world wars and subsequent battles".

Officially, the parade is known as the Unveiling of Colours Parade and the SAAF, Chetty said, is to his knowledge the only service that uses its Colour at parades.

The new SAAF Colour joins those of two other bases – Makhado in Limpopo and Langebaanweg in Western Cape – with new Colours. Regular use along with wear and tear and weather are reasons for replacements. (*DefenceWeb*)

MEMBERS WRITE:

Dave Evans writes from USA: "Thanks for another excellent edition - I identified with the poem far too easily, as well as thoroughly enjoying it. Just a bit of background on the 'explosive' Russian ship in the English channel - this is totally over the top media hype, which the world is increasingly full of these days. It is possible to get 'neat' AN to explode, but it is extremely difficult. AECl made enormous tonnages for many years without ever having anything remotely close to a mishap of that nature. You can make a mining explosive of it by adding a few percent of diesel to it - AECl sold large quantities of that as Anflex. On its own, you have to 'contain' it extremely thoroughly and then either 'kick' it very hard with some explosive as a detonator or get it burning very well. The likelihood of any of that happening to the ship are close enough to zero to be ignored - we've been transporting shiploads of AN around the world for ever, (and still do - this ship is far from unusual...) and if I'm remembering right, two have gone up, when the ships involved first caught fire very comprehensively. That explosion in Beirut a couple of years ago was AN, which had been stored very badly for far too many years and was decomposing...Cheers, Dave"

SA COULD BE DEFENCELESS:



Following this week's Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans (PCDMV) meeting there's been another call for "urgent intervention" in the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) without which South Africa "will be defenceless." To prevent this Democratic Alliance (DA) defence and military veterans spokesman Chris Hattingh wants "a comprehensive review of our military." And, it's not only the SANDF he wants under the microscope. State-owned defence and technology conglomerate, Denel, now the responsibility of Defence and Military Veterans Minister Angie Motshekga

following the demise of the Public Enterprises Department, must also have a fine tooth comb run

over it, he maintains. Pointing to the biggest expenditure item in the defence budget – salaries – at 61% of the R51.8 billion allocated by National Treasury (NT), Hattingh said it goes to “high ranking officials” and does not “primarily benefit soldiers.” This happens, according to him, when the SANDF lacks funding for 62% of its critical commitments, including the “ongoing deployment in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)”.

SA Navy struggles to counter maritime threats amid severe underfunding.

The South African Navy (SA Navy) is in crisis due to years of underfunding, Vice- Admiral Monde Lobese. (*defenceWeb*)

FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN IN SPACE:



Another South African who achieved prominence on the world stage is Mark Shuttleworth, who became a dollar millionaire in 1999 when he sold his Internet security company Thawte Consulting to Verisign for \$575 million — R3.5 billion at the time. Setting aside a budget of \$20 million, Shuttleworth travelled to Russia to negotiate one of the world’s first “space tourism” deals.

In a past interview with *Business Insider*,

Shuttleworth explained that he negotiated and signed separate contracts with everyone involved in the process of getting him to space.

“I bought a spacesuit before I had a clear path to being able to use it,” he said.

“One contract I signed was so I could be tested by the scientific institution that tested cosmonauts,” said Shuttleworth.

“Only at the very end did I do a deal with the group that could actually get me there.”

That company was Space Adventures, which had arranged for American space engineer and investment manager Dennis Tito to travel up to the International Space Station (ISS) on a Russian Soyuz mission in 2001.

At 61 years old, Tito became the world’s first commercial space traveler. A year later, Shuttleworth was the second — and the first African in space.

Although both were labelled space tourists, Tito and Shuttleworth were required to work aboard the ISS. Shuttleworth also trained and qualified as a Russian cosmonaut. This comprised a full year of training, which included learning Russian and spending seven months in Star City, Russia. (*My Broadband*)

Full article at: [The South African who sold his tech company for R3.5 billion and went to space – MyBroadband](#)

ANC RANKED THE 16TH MOST CORRUPT ORGANISATION IN THE WORLD.

Corruption indexes around the world aim to measure the most corrupt businesses, non-profit organisations, and even political parties. South Africa’s own African National Congress (ANC) has found itself among the ranks of untrustworthy organisations. According to the *MyStick Corruption Index*, the ANC ranks as one of the most corrupt organisations, placed at number 16 out of a total of 7,000. A content creator who goes by *coolstorybru_za* shared the story on his social media channels. “MyStick makes use of an in-depth algorithm to assess the corruption level of various organisations, the ANC has been ranked the 13th (now 16th) most corrupt organisation in the world.

The algorithm makes use of various formulas and variables to calculate a corruption score for each organisation. Over 7,000 organisations across the world have been assessed using this algorithm," he said. He went on to say that it is insane that the ANC nearly cracked the top 10. South Africans did not hold back on their response to the video.... (IOL – just in case you had any doubts)

CHEERS FOR NOW:

"Alcoholism charity executive caught drink driving and hiding from police in bush"... Well, it just had to happen – and not in SA either...

We had a very pleasant lunch last Friday. With 22 members and guests present. John Ledger gave us an excellent and informative presentation on Climate Change as he grasped the thorny nettle of "Climate Change – Crisis? Catastrophe? or Con?" John very ably fielded a remarkable number of questions - In fact, question time went on until 15h00 when we called "Time", not because there were no more questions, but as we were reaching the limits of endurance of some of the senior members present...

Next month's Lunch moves to the second Friday, 8 November, closest to Remembrance (Armistice) Day. Colonel Jim Findlay will be our speaker and we will lay wreaths at the Wanderers Wall of Remembrance. Members are most welcome to lay Regimental or private wreaths or flowers at the Wall.

Please also be reminded that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the Alpine 44 Flights, commemorating the 48 aircrew lost in the 6 SAAF Liberators of 31 and 34 Sqns SAAF which crashed in bad weather on 12 October 1944.

We hope you will be able to join us at SAAF Memorial Bays Hill next Sunday 13 October 2024 at 10h00 - Please be seated by 09h50.

TAILPIECE:

A Boer opens a clinic and puts a sign outside GET TREATMENT FOR R50 - IF NOT CURED YOU GET BACK R200

An Indian man thinks this is a great opportunity to earn R200 and goes to the clinic...

Indian: "I have lost my sense of taste"

Boer: "Nurse, bring medicine from box no.22 and put 3 drops in patient's mouth"

Indian: "Urgh.. this is paraffin"

Boer: "Congrats, your sense of taste is restored. Give me R50"

The annoyed Indian goes back after a few days to recover his money...

Indian: "I have lost my memory. I cannot remember anything"

Boer: "Nurse, bring medicine from box no.22 and put 3 drops in his mouth"

Indian (annoyed): "This is paraffin. You gave this to me last time for restoring my taste"

Boer: "Congrats. You got your memory back. Give me R50"

The fuming Indian man pays him, and then comes back a week later determined to get back R200.

Indian: "My eyesight has become very weak"

Boer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so take this R200" Indian (staring at the note): "But this is R50, not R200"

Boer: "Congrats, your eyesight is restored. Give me R50"

You can't beat a Boer!!

What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common? The same middle name...

MATT

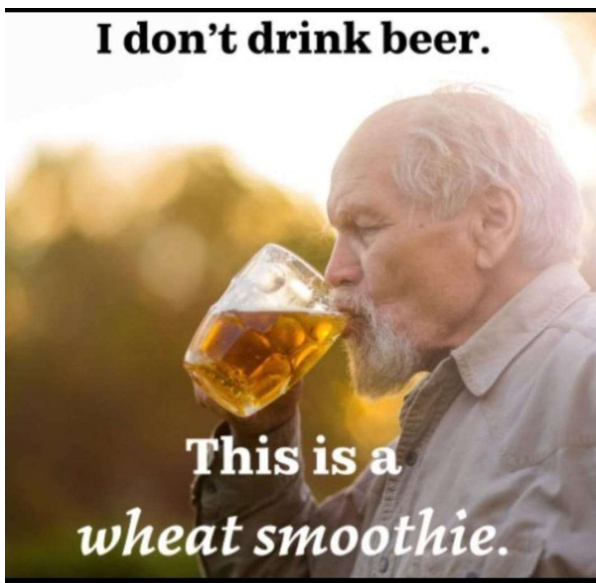


'I'm assuming Sue Gray will have a leaving party in the Downing St garden'

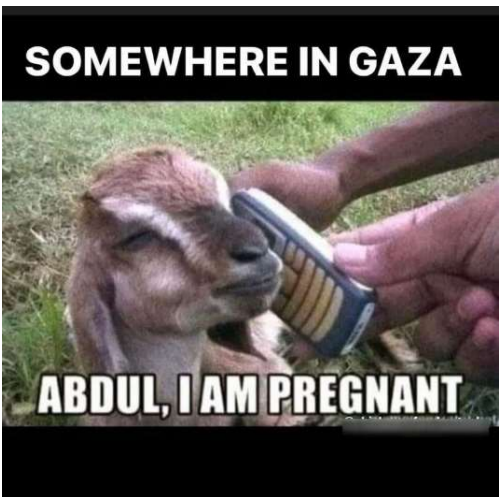
MATT













































'There are three groups on the Labour benches. The hard left, the Blairites and the Swifties'



Any similarity to a RAFOC member is purely coincidence.



THE HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

YEAR	NAME	WHO STARTED IT?	WHO WAS ATTACKED?	WHO WON?
1948	Arab-Israel War			
1948-1967	Fedayeen			
1967	Six Day War			
1967-1970	War of Attrition			
1973	Yom Kippur War			
1971-1982	Palestinian uprising in Lebanon			
1985-2000	Lebanon Conflict			
1987-1993	First Intifada			
2000-2005	Second Intifada			
2006	Lebanon War			
2008	First Gaza War			
2012	Israeli-Gaza Operation			
2014	Second Gaza War			
2021	Israeli-Gaza Crisis			
2023	Israel-Hamas War			Want to guess?...

OPEN MIRACLES:

Karl Jensen shared this message from one of his contacts, a school friend from primary school days, now living in Israel:

“I really don’t think you understand the absolute miracles that we witnessed last night here in Israel. In fact, I am sure you don’t. Let’s break this down...

Israel has three air defense systems, each one of them a technological wonder and that’s not me saying it. That’s Dr. Gold who basically invented the Iron Dome who told me that. The level and sophistication of the Iron Dome is simply unparalleled.

But the Iron Dome only knows how to detonate short range rockets or missiles within a 70 km range, give or take.

Then Israel has the David’s Sling system. That knows how to deal with mid-range missiles up to approximately 300 km.

Then we have the Arrow system that literally detonates missiles that can fly outside of the earth’s atmosphere. That has a range of about 2,400 km!! 🤖

Last night, as Iran rained down ballistic missiles on Israel, all three defense systems were activated and implemented to perfection.

The chances of all of these incredibly complex systems working in unison as flawlessly as they did last night, are basically nonexistent.

If one thing went wrong, if one of those ballistic missiles hit an apartment building, a shopping center, or an army base, we would now be burying hundreds of Israelis.

And all of that is not even the biggest miracle.

A few hours ago, I got a WhatsApp message from a good friend who is a senior executive at Microsoft and who wasn’t exactly a God-fearing Jew. Until yesterday.

Here is what he wrote me.

“If you’re looking for miracles man - last night I started believing. Missiles hit all around me but none of them hit my house or any house, for that matter.”

He elaborated some more and shared info about the missiles that he watched land just meters away from very strategic places in Israel, to say the least.

Each one of those defense systems is, in and of itself, pretty miraculous, but what is even more insane is the low casualty numbers from the rockets and missiles that were NOT intercepted.

Where did those missiles go? I’ll tell you where. They landed in sand, in water, and in “Empty spaces.”

Have you been to Israel? It’s a microscopic country. What empty spaces? Where are these empty spaces? 🤖

How have hundreds of Iranian ballistic missiles all either get detonated by miraculous systems or totally miss their mark and land in empty spaces causing zero casualties and minimal damage?!

How??

Listen, I get it. This thought process begs the question, where was God during the horrible terrorist attack yesterday? Where was He on October 7th? Where was He during the holocaust?

All valid questions that require a very serious nuanced conversation.

But if you know anything about what had to happen last night and throughout this war in general, for such a low number of casualties, you’ll know that what we witnessed last night was the equivalent of God splitting the sea right before our eyes.

Guess what. When God split the sea, there were those who didn’t believe it was a miracle and didn’t jump in. And there are also those who feel the need to explain it naturally. Ok, that’s fine.

You don't want to call yesterday an act of God? That's your choice, but like my Microsoft friend, if you look at these events objectively, you'd have a really hard time seeing those hundreds of deadly missiles land in empty spaces and not see the hand of God.

Last night was an incredible display of the collaboration between two of the powers that protect the Jewish people: The IDF and Hashem.

Last night will go down in history right alongside many of Israel's accomplishments in this war including the beepers and the unprecedented low ratio between combatant and civilian, as a military operation the likes of which the world has never seen. Ever!

Last night will be analyzed by military strategists and experts for generations.

Last night, we witnessed history.

Last night we witnessed open miracles.

Last night, we witnessed God in all His glory watching over His children."

Baruch Hashem Adonai!

DOXFORD ENGINES:



The Doxford 76JCR4 was the last Doxford engine built in Sunderland in 1980. This engine was a part of a series known for their opposed-piston design, which was a significant innovation in marine engineering. The 76JCR4, identified as engine number 477, was specifically built for the bulk carrier Canadian Pioneer, constructed at Port Weller Drydock in Canada. This engine was among the 94 Doxford J engines produced after the Demeterton. Shown here on test in 1980.

The Doxford engines, including the 76JCR4, featured a unique opposed-piston configuration that provided high efficiency and power. These engines had a bore of 760 mm and a stroke of 2,320 mm, with an output typically around 8,000 bhp at 116 rpm. The Doxford 76JCR4 incorporated advanced engineering principles that allowed it to operate efficiently on heavy fuel oil, making it economical for long voyages. The Doxford Engine Works in Sunderland was a hub of innovation and production for these engines, employing hundreds of skilled workers. The 76JCR4 represented the

culmination of decades of engineering development, starting from the first Doxford engine tested in 1914. These engines were renowned for their durability and reliability, powering numerous ships across the world, including cargo liners and tankers.

The construction and assembly of the 76JCR4 involved meticulous engineering processes. The engine's components, such as the pistons, cylinders, and crankshafts, were designed to withstand the harsh marine environment. Maintenance protocols were rigorous, ensuring the engine's longevity and operational readiness.

The legacy of the Doxford 76JCR4 and its predecessors is preserved through various efforts, including museum displays and restoration projects, highlighting their significance in marine engineering history. The Anson Engine Museum and the Doxford Engine Friends Association are notable contributors to preserving this heritage.



Umhlanga's Lighthouse – a fading day

...