



Alf and Marion Whiston will be remembered fondly by the Dickie Fritz stalwarts.

Welcome to "THE SITREP" – your RLI RA-Africa newsletter – Volume 7, May 2019.

Salutation

Greetings all ouens and crows, from various Africa branches, to another edition of "The Sitrep".

Prayer-meeting 02 March 2019

The day was dedicated to the farewell of Alf and Marion Whiston who are heading for the UK and, by now, have landed. Alf is probably best remembered for his renditions on the bag-pipes at countless RLI parades at Dickie Fritz whilst Marion has served the best, and worst, of us with copious amounts of our favourite libation. Your dedicated services will not be forgotten and heartfelt wishes are extended for a long and happy retirement in your new home.



So sombre was the scene, at the troopie statue, that neither Marion, nor Alf, could quell emotions enough to express their gratitude – leaving Neill Swart to read their prepared speech. Neill was careful not to stumble over the words because he had just learnt that Alf is a black-belt in one of the martial arts! That said, Alf entertained us with “Rise O Voices of Rhodesia” as his final swan-song, where not a soul stood at ease.

No particular theme was set for the prayer-meeting in April.

AGM 04 May 2019



Brian Lewis (Chairman), Charlie Warren (QMS), Mark Taunton (Treasurer), Bucks Theron (Secretary) and Gary Huxham (Western Cape)

Saturday 04 May brought with it Brian Lewis' final duty as chairman of the RLIRA. A small audience of \pm 30 members was in attendance to hear Brian's parting shots. Minutes of the AGM will, no doubt, be circulated by the secretary, Bucks Theron, in due course. It is worth noting, however, some of the salient points of Brian's final address.

1. Whilst the income from subs improved year-on-year, it is estimated that Gauteng has approx. 400 members, a fraction of whom are fully paid-up. The implication being that, possible subs of R120 000.00 were not realised – thus placing increasing pressures on the association to support an ever-increasing number of needy recipients.
 - 1.1. COME ON, ouens – subs are R300.00 per annum for full membership. This equates to 15 pints per year, or 1.25 pints per prayer-meeting. Some ouens are floating their guts instead of floating the boat.
2. Neil Swart (Welfare and Entertainment) stands down from the committee and will be a hard act to follow. Neill has, however, pledged to continue his organisation of certain annual events and can be called upon when needed. Do not stray too far from base, Neil – we shall miss your usual humour and dedication.
3. Much of Brian's speech was spent quashing rumours. If stories are spread often enough, by a handful of individuals, whose combined IQ amounts to that of a garden-pea, such rumours become believable and, as a result, the whole veggie garden becomes rotten.
 - 3.1. Bottom line? Follow the old adage of "Engage brain before opening gob." Committee members are there to confirm, or deny, any accusations levelled at the association – communicate before you disseminate. There is no room for discourse in the RLIRA.
4. Welcome to our new chairman, Rudi van Aarde – voted in unopposed. Rudi is not only ex-RLI, he's an ex-cop (PATU) for heaven's sake! We wish him success and long standing in his new role.
5. In conclusion, a standing applause was befitting of our patron, Col Ian Bate – a man who seldom misses a parade or meeting, a man who continues to lead as he led the entire regiment all those years ago, and a man whose respect for the association is unwavering.



With matters AGM concluded, it remained for the revelry and fund-raising to begin. Judson Hall was the lucky recipient of a Gerry Cilliers' knife raffle (hugely supported by Colleen Carter) whilst the 50/50 wheel spun endlessly throughout the afternoon. Jimmy Gallagher sponsored large hunks of beef for Keith Blanshard to apply his exquisite culinary skills whilst "tasty" Lynette served delicious rolls to hungry patrons. All the while, the "Spillage People" made sure feet were tapping – thanks to Andy Dyer and the band.

Farewell Brian – you'll never walk alone.



Rolls of Honour

The rolls for January, February and March were read, by Neil Swart, at the March reunion. Those rolls were published, in "The Sitrep", previously. Here are the rolls of honour for April and May – the May roll was read by the new chairman, Rudi van Aarde.

RLI RoH	April					
KIA	Rank	First Name	Surname	Awards	Commando	DOD
	Tpr	Michael Edward "Mike"	Thornley		4 Tp, 1 Cdo	10-Apr-68
	Tpr	George David	Meyer		Spt Grp	27-Apr-71
	Cpl	Trevor Henry Clifford "Bok"	Wentzel		Spt Grp	27-Apr-71
	L/Cpl	Leonard William Henry "Len"	Moorcroft		Spt Grp	28-Apr-71
	2LT	Norman David	Steane		2 Cdo	02-Apr-75
	Tpr	Edgar Stephen L. "Eddie"	Warnick		Spt Cdo	09-Apr-77
	L/Cpl	Martin	Overbeek		Spt Cdo	04-Apr-79
	Tpr	Michael Anthony "Little Meeces"	Moore		Mortar Tp, Spt Cdo	17-Apr-79

Tpr	Ronald Owen "Pig"	Gildenhuis		4 Tp, 1 Cdo	18-Apr-79
Cpl	Nicolaas Johannes "Nicky"	van Niekerk	BCR	4 Tp, 1 Cdo	18-Apr-79
Tpr	Russell Forbes	Poole		Mortar Tp, Spt Cdo	19-Apr-79
Tpr	Andrew James	Stanley		Spt Cdo	20-Apr-79

KOAS

Tpr	Johannes Evert	van der Heever		Base Grp	30-Apr-68
Lt	Albert Knight "Al"	Tourle	BCR	Ex RLI. 2(Indp) Coy RR	09-Apr-72



RLI RoH
KIA

May	Rank	First Name	Surname	Awards	Commando	DOD
	Capt	Leonard Paul "Len"	Pitch		3 Cdo	17-May-76
	Tpr	George William	Clarke		Spt Cdo	15-May-77
	Tpr	Earl Angus Cecil	MacDonald		Spt Cdo	15-May-77
	Tpr	Christopher John "Bobo"	Edmunds		2 Cdo	30-May-77

Tpr	Andrew Irvine "Andy" "Ziets"	Zietsman		1 Cdo	11-May-78
Tpr	Douglas Sydney "Dogie"	Muir		1 Cdo	12-May-79
Tpr	Michael John "Mike"	Chance		11 Tp, 3 Cdo	15-May-79
Tpr	Kenneth Herman "Ken"	Myburgh		Spt Cdo	16-May-79

KOAS

Tpr	Alan Thomas	Johnston		2 Cdo	13-May-69
Tpr	Bertie	Visser		2 Cdo	11-May-71
Tpr	Vernon	Clinton		Base Grp	08-May-73
L/Cpl	Raymond Edwin	Maguire		1 Cdo	14-May-77
2LT	John William	Walters		2 Cdo	27-May-79

DOAS

WO2	Raynor Laurence "Ray"	Bennett		Attd SchInf	01-May-77
-----	-----------------------	----------------	--	-------------	-----------

Sunset Calls

These extracts have been taken from various postings on social media pages.

Richard "Dick" Stent. Dick passed away in the USA on Friday the 22 March 2019. He served in both Support Commando and then 1 Commando in the late '70's then in the Selous Scouts

Ken Lewis (brother of Brian) passed away on Wednesday 27th February at 1900h, in peace at his home in East London SA . He died from liver cancer. Ken was a former member of Support Cdo.

Ex-Sgt. 3509 Michael Theunissen passed away at 21h50 on the 7 February 2019 at the age of 72. Michael served in 2 Commando from 1964 - 1974 and passed away after a short and sudden illness.

Sad day today, 23 April, Louis Van Zyl passed away after a long battle. Bed-ridden for the few years. RIP RLI trooper Louis Van Zyl.

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the passing of Butch Fourie earlier today, 13 March. 3 CDO 13 Troop. R.I.P Brother.

May they all rest in peace.

The RLI Raiders

The committee has extended its blessing on a new arm of the association that is reaching out to various Moth shell-holes in and around Gauteng. With two raids under their belts >R8 000.00 has been raised for the welfare committee – impressive indeed. Contact has been made with various SANDF units, particularly 32 Battalion and Recce units. The name of the RLI, plus its reputation, is being spread wider.

Just one question – why are raids held on the same day as our RLI reunions at Dickie Fritz? One would think that raids could be conducted on another weekend, thus allowing the normal crowd to enjoy the company of our raiding brothers and, perhaps, join the raiders on their forays.

Advertising

Labour issues

For an independent Chairman, to handle all your – Disciplinary, Grievance or Appeal hearings, and for all your labour and disciplinary issues and queries:

Contact: Stu Grover

083 282 2118

stu@grover.co.za

Assistance with, or representation at, CCMA – MEIBC etc. (99%) success rate.

Established in 1999 - References available.

Special rates for RLI guys.

Overnight Accommodation at Dickie Fritz

Contact Jean on +27 0822168386 or dickiefritzhallbookings@gmail.com

Book early because beds are limited and increasingly popular

Cheers.

Until next time – keep your pecker up – head down – keep well – **PAY YOUR SUBS** and keep supporting the RLIRA.

Ed