



IN-FORMATION

NEWSLETTER OF THE DURBAN BRANCH

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Chairman's Chatter

This is my first newsletter since I have assumed the Chairmanship of the SA Air Force Association Durban Branch. Thank you very much to our previous Chairman, John Boardman, who did so much for us during his 10 year tenure in the chair. John is still my mentor and I consult him on a regular basis and gain much from his experience and wisdom.

I conducted a survey to determine what else the branch would like to do, but it appears that most people are happy with just the monthly lunches. The Officer Commanding Umvoti Mounted Rifles (UMR) and a good friend of mine, Lieutenant Colonel Pat Tittlestad, has agreed that our branch can attend some of their functions if we wish to do so. UMR has an active social program and have regular functions at their headquarters at the Highway Commando. They also attend the horse races annually at Greyville Racecourse, so I will keep you informed if you wish to attend.

The Sunset Call

Since the publication of our previous newsletter it is with great sadness that we report that Ernest Venter and Clyde Harley DFC, have been called to Higher Service. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families and friends.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them

New Members

We welcome Vino Eargambram who has joined. Other members who have shown interest in joining are Mark Fouche, Ian Cary-Smith and Mike Pienaar. We trust that you all will enjoy the camaraderie and we are looking forward to your meaningful participation in our activities.

Fundraising

I wrote to a number of entrepreneurs for assistance wrt to fundraising. Willie O' Driscoll from Green Solutions, one of our members, responded immediately with a plan to raffle a model aircraft. In summary, Willie came up with an entire plan and contacted his colleagues for assistance and we raffled a 25% scale radio controlled Sukhoi Su-29 model aircraft at the various air shows and raised a total of R42 722,98. The draw was done at the Durban Air Show on 14 July 2012. A big thanks to Willie for the concept, and also for sponsoring the printing of the tickets, and also to Michel Leusch from the Flight Pro Model Shop who sold us the aircraft at cost price and who gave us one of his stands at the Durban Air Show to make us more visible. Thanks to Don Bailey from Expanda Signs who sponsored the manufacturing and donation of a gazebo and two banners, and who also made a cash contribution. Other people to thank are Brian Emmenis from Capital Sounds who gave us much publicity at all the air shows, the organisers of the various air shows who gave us free space for our stand. At the Durban Air Show at Virginia Airport 43 Air School donated R1 000 and this started a "donation run" of 30 minutes which was much encouraged by Brian Emmenis, and this raised R11 119,00 in the half hour. All in all, I am very grateful to the people who assisted in this project. Our Vice Chairman, Gavin Farquhar, and two of his children namely Kayleigh and Talvin, assisted at all the air shows which turned out to be a lot of fun. Someone asked me where I got this vision for the fundraising. Let me tell you there was no vision – just panic. Below are some photos of the banners and the gazebo.



Welfare

We are able to meet our welfare commitments at the moment, but any contributions or ideas are still extremely welcome.

Luncheons

Our monthly lunches for the next three months will be held on the dates as tabulated below. Time is 12h00 for 13h00 at the Combined Mess at the Air Force Base. The cost of the lunch is still R50p/p. We have managed to keep the price at R50 despite the increase in the price by the mess.

- 17 August:** Clinton Wyness who will give us a photographic account of some of his interesting travels.
14 Sept. Hopefully Paul Raglan-Smith from "Dewcatchers" who will speak on making "water from air" and wind turbines.
12 Oct: Speaker to be announced.

We look forward to the Lower South Coast Branch joining us at our August lunch.

Contact me, Steve Bekker, at 031 904 3644 or 083 655 6532 or by e-mail at stevejbekker@telkomsa.net by the latest on the Monday preceding the luncheon to make a booking. Also, if you have booked and need to cancel your booking please do so as **promptly** as possible. **NB!** This also applies to members on our "Regulars" list"

July Potjiekos Competition

The SAAFA Durban Branch entered a pot into AFB Durban Annual Potjiekos Competition which also served as our monthly luncheon. We won the award for the "Best Side Dish". We each received a medal from Liberty Life and a tog bag. I held a bowl once when Val Boardman told me to, and I also stirred the onions and garlic. We would have been doomed without my major contribution as this was essential to the success of our pot. John and Val Boardman did all the other irrelevant stuff such as starting the fires at 06h30, peeling and dicing the veggies and actually cooking everything. It was a splendid day and thanks to the Boardmans for their wonderful effort.



The one judge that tasted our unique pumpkin dish was heard by me to say "I can see why they make this – it is delicious!"

Major General Zakes Msimang, the Chief of the Air Force elect, and his lovely wife Afrika were also present for the entire day which was appreciated by all. John and I presented General Msimang with the gift of a SAFA apron that Val Boardman had made for us, as can be seen in the photo below.



The Plaque of Air Corporal Leslie Donovan Case

John Boardman received a call from a Mr Tristan Rasmussen who is an Industrial Property Broker and who found a plaque dedicated to an "Air Corporal Leslie Donovan Case" in a derelict church near Mt Edgecombe where a property is being developed.

John then contacted Col (ret) Graham du Toit with a request if he could find out what had happened wrt Air Corporal Case. Here is the reply by Graham:

*Father: Mr L.J. Case
Natal Estates, Mount Edgecombe, Natal*

Leslie also had an older brother, John William Case, born on 13 September 1924 who served in the SAAF as a radio technician with 26 Squadron SAAF in West Africa and later with 5 Squadron SAAF in Italy. John's Next-of-Kin information is the same as that given by Leslie. John was demobilised on 31 January 1945.

I have attached a copy of the Newspaper Article reporting the crash.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL REPORT

CASE P/8777 Air Corporal (Wireless Operator) Leslie Donovan

60 Squadron South African Air Force

Air Corporal Case age 21 was killed on 17 April 1947 while flying in a Lockheed PV-1 Ventura, Serial Number 6501, Identification Code Letter JS-P. While ferrying SAAF Pilots from Pretoria to Cairo taking fighter pilots to collect Spitfire Aircraft to fly back to the Union, the aircraft crashed at 19h30, 60 miles South West of Khartoum in the Sudan. There were no survivors. All were originally buried at Shugeig in a communal grave. This grave was later exhumed and all the remains were re-located to the Khartoum War Cemetery on 7 February 1949. They all rest in the Khartoum War Cemetery, Khartoum, Sudan, Plot 5, Row C, Collective Grave 10.

CREW:

<i>Major Welgemoed</i>	<i>P/5843 Frederick (Pilot & Aircraft Commander) DFC & Bar</i>
<i>Lieutenant van Rooyen</i>	<i>15154 Hermanus Gerhardus (Co-Pilot)</i>
<i>Air Mechanic Burger</i>	<i>7985 Petrus Andries (Flight Engineer)</i>
<i>Air Corporal Case</i>	<i>P/8777 Leslie Donovan (Wireless Operator)</i>

PASSENGERS:

<i>Major Bosman</i>	<i>P/102696 Andrew Christian (Pilot) DSO; DFC</i>
<i>Captain Liebenberg</i>	<i>102706V Hendrik Christoffel Weideman (Pilot)</i>

<i>Captain Taylor</i>	<i>103704 Trevor Richard John (Pilot) DSO;DFC</i>
<i>Lieutenant Crisp</i>	<i>P/853 Ronald Leslie (Pilot)</i>
<i>Lieutenant Gericke</i>	<i>103937V Jacobus Stephanus (Pilot)</i>
<i>Lieutenant Hirst</i>	<i>103518V Robert Cecil (Pilot)</i>
<i>Lieutenant Kritzinger</i>	<i>328642V Hermanus Johannes (Pilot) DFC</i>
<i>Lieutenant Landman</i>	<i>206572 John Jurie (Pilot)</i>
<i>Lieutenant Nelson</i>	<i>542996 Peter David (Pilot)</i>
<i>Lieutenant Nicolay</i>	<i>103538 Peter DFC (Pilot)</i>
<i>Lieutenant Prinsloo</i>	<i>206113V Norman Peter (Pilot) DFC</i>

In the newspaper article that Graham attached to his e-mail it was mentioned that Air Corporal Case had attested in the Permanent Force a week before the crash.

Does anyone know this family, or descendants of this family, by any chance?

CONCLUSION

Thanks to the Committee for their support over the past 4 months or so.

Take care, and we look forward to seeing you at the next luncheon.

Finest SAAFA greetings,

Steve Bekker

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views of the SA Air Force Association.