

# The Union's Casualties

The Prime Minister, General Smuts, gave the total number of South African casualties in this war at question time in the House of Assembly at Capetown yesterday.

The Minister of Justice, Dr. Colin Steyn, announced that he proposed now to abolish entirely the use of pin-table gambling machines.

**THE PRIME MINISTER**, replying to **MR. J. L. V. LIEBENBERG** (Arik. P., Heilbron), said that casualty figures for the Union forces in this war were: Killed in action, 175 European officers and 866 European other ranks; 38 Coloured other ranks and 36 Natives other ranks.

Missing, 702 European officers and 1,096 European other ranks; 252 Coloured other ranks and 785 Natives.

Wounded, 356 European officers and 3,246 European other ranks; 315 Coloured other ranks and 220 Native other ranks.

Prisoners of war, 796 European officers and 10,391 European other ranks; 475 Coloured ranks and 1,091 Native other ranks.

**THE PRIME MINISTER**, replying to **MR. E. H. LOUW** (H.P., Beauport West), said 8,366 Jewish men and Jewish women had enlisted for military service. About 2,200 Jews had gone on active service outside the Union. In 1936 there were about 33,650 Jewish men over the age of 20 in the Union.

## ARMS FOR TROOPS

Replying to Mr. Louw, the Prime Minister said Coloured troops serving in the Union on guard duties were armed with firearms, but Natives were not.

Asked whether Native and Coloured soldiers in North Africa were equipped with firearms, the Prime Minister said: "No, but they have been armed when considered necessary by the commander in the field."

Replying to **MR. D. T. DU P. VILJOEN** (H.P., Victoria West), the Prime Minister said approximately 45,000 Coloured persons and 70,000 Natives had enlisted in the Union Forces.

The Prime Minister also told Mr. Viljoen that about £6,000,880 had been spent by the Union on the war in the three months which ended on December 31, 1942, but final figures are not yet available.

**THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL**

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## A Tribute To N.M.C. From Air Force

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On a recent trip undertaken by a senior officer of the D.N.E.A.S. staff, he was very pleased to note tremendous interest by the Air Force in the Mid-East in the N.M.C. attached to various Air Squadrons, and in evidence of this, in order to show the views of the Air Force, he brought down several magazines with articles relating to the N.M.C. One outstanding tribute was found in the magazine of the 25th Squadron called "Old Stooges." This reads as follows:

"These soldiers, still imbued with the fighting spirit of their forefathers, who go to war without weapons. These warriors urged to defend their homeland with pick and shovel, perhaps their bare hands, not understanding why they cannot join battle, yet serving with unwavering loyalty. These men who dress as we do, eat the same food, drink the same drink; who, while in foreign lands live on terms of equality with the white man, freed of any repression, yet never taking advantage of their new freedom. These unsung heroes, who, carrying stretchers, not guns, have saved lives and given their own.

"Most do not know the joy of receiving letters from wife or sweetheart, a parcel from home or the thrill in its association with history of travelling in foreign lands. They see daily their counterparts in American uniforms, still not understanding, but not questioning.

"In spite of all they labour on cheerfully without complaint, asking no praise and receiving little. When we again live in peace let us not forget that they were soldiers. South African soldiers. We salute the men of the Native Military Corps."

15-12-48

## Farmers Need Arms

Sir,—Regarding your article about Mr. Erasmus's (Minister of Defence) Rifle Associations or Commandos, you may not know, but prior to the 1914 war there were two or three Rifle Associations in each district and farmers took a great interest in shooting. A Bisley was held every year. And do you know that during the war the South African troops were the only ones who could stop a German charge with rifle fire?

When, in this war, General Smuts stopped all this by calling in all rifles, being afraid of his own people, it was the first time in the history of South Africa that farmers were unarmed.

You sit in your office and do not know what happens in the country districts. The Natives are getting very insolent and have no respect for Europeans. Our real danger is internal. The Communists and Indians are at the back of this, and do you think it is right that we should sit unarmed? In former days even women and boys took an interest in shooting.

S. S. MARITZ (Major).

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 1962

# What Bilingualism Means In The Air Force

**S**IR.—There is shortly to be a recruiting drive in Durban for the Air Force. Mr. Erasmus, our Minister of Defence, says that bilingualism is to be enforced throughout our Defence Force.

Before an English-speaking recruit joins the Air Force it may be as well for him to enquire what exactly is meant by bilingualism.

Later he may find that the fact of having passed the lower and higher taalbond examinations, and having become thoroughly versed in the technicalities of his profession, may avail him nothing.

He may be told that he is denied promotion because he is "not now considered sufficiently proficient in colloquial Afrikaans." This may be done without the victim being given any intimation that he is all the time covertly undergoing a continuous bilingual test.

In days gone by Mr. Pirow tried to enforce strict bilingualism, but under the stress of war both Mr. Pirow and bilingual worries disappeared. Now, with war again threatening, we have Mr. Erasmus playing the same political card, and this time he is backed by a Cabinet unanimous in its extreme racialism except, perhaps, for Mr. Havenga.

D. R. HUNT.

*What Native Recruits Said*

*Murray*  
22-3-47

Sir,—At the pitso of the Basuto nation at Maseru on March 12 his Majesty thanked the Basuto soldiers for their services in the war.

It may be of interest to note that when the Union Native Military Corps was formed in 1940 many recruits stated that they had joined up to fight for the "Grandchild of Queen Victoria," not especially for the Union, which they asserted had done but little for them.

D. R. HUNT,  
Formerly Lieut.-Colonel,  
3rd Battalion, Native Military Corps.

(Other letters on page 20; cols. 3, 4 and 5.)

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## GEORGE MEDAL FOR AFRICAN SOLDIER

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The George Medal, the *London Gazette* announced last night, has been awarded to PRIVATE REUBEN WILLIE, a Bechuana soldier of the High Commission Territories Corps, who on March 4, 1948, accompanied by another African soldier, was patrolling one of the many lonely desert areas of Suez guarding a section of the overhead telephone lines and underground cable, and challenged four native Egyptians carrying sacks containing valuable War Department property. One of the thieves tried to escape and was chased by the other soldier. Refusing bribes offered by the others, Willie was attacked with heavy cudgels, but before losing consciousness fired a shot which seriously wounded one of his assailants. On his return the other soldier found Willie unconscious but still in possession of all the stolen property.

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15-12-48

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S. S. MARITZ (Major).

1936  
 Europeans 1458  
 Natives 558091  
 Asiatics 362  
 Coloured 1081  
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 = 560992  
 In 1921  
 Natives 498781

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## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO BENEFIT

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**REQUESTS BY THE LATE  
MR. T. A. F. HILL**

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KIMBERLEY, Aug. 11.

Two public institutions will benefit under the will of Mr. Thomas Alexander Frederick Hill, of Kimberley, who died last week. The Kimberley Hospital and St. Cyprian's Endowment Fund will each receive £500. The remainder of the estate, the total value of which is still unknown, is divided among his family.—(Reuter.)

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## AGED COUPLES' HOMES

## MORE NATIVES IN BASUTOLAND

### 59,000 Increase Revealed by Census Figures

FICKSBURG, Thursday.  
The preliminary census figures for Basutoland are: Europeans, 1,458; natives, 558,091; Asiatics, 362; coloured, 1,081; total, 560,992.

The last census taken in 1921 gave the native population as 498,781. There is thus an increase of more than 59,000 during the last 15 years.—Reuter.

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## WOMEN'S OLYMPIC



pendent, the officer  
baggage to the pier.

There was considerable confusion  
which was increased by the demands  
of dozens of autograph hunters.

## Miss Else Pirow Now In German Labour Camp



Miss Else Pirow, 18-year-old daughter of Mr. Oswald Pirow, Minister of Commerce and Defence, who arrived in England on June 5 on her way to Bavaria, where she intends to spend a year in a German Labour Camp.

In an interview which has been given wide publicity in England she said, "I know I was born British, but—oh can't you see—my father was a boy in Germany, my grandparents on both sides are German . . . At home we think German, speak German.

"It is nothing to do with father. Politics don't worry me, but though I have never been there I feel Germany is 'home.'

"I came to England on a students' tour two years ago, but though I tried and tried I could find no sympathy, nothing to make me feel I 'belonged.'

"That hurts still. I want to stay in Germany a year at least, and then maybe I shall know where my heart really lies."

NEW, FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1945.

# S A SOUTH AFRICAN DIARY OF THE WAR

Compiled by the South African  
Press Association.

1939

Sept. 4: The Prime Minister, Gen. Hertzog moves a resolution in the House of Assembly to keep South Africa out of the war. Gen. Smuts moves an amendment that relations with Germany be severed and latter is carried by 80 votes to 67. Gen. Hertzog resigns Premiership.

Sept. 5: Gen. Smuts becomes Prime Minister and on 6th the Union is officially at war with Germany.

OCT. 18: Dr. Malan announces that the Nats and section of United Party loyal to Gen. Hertzog will endeavour to effect a complete union of the Afrikaans-speaking people.

NOV. 3: Gen. Hertzog and his followers form a new political body under the name of the Hertzog Group of the United Party.

NOV. 11: Government announces the organisation of Field Force to be recruited on a voluntary basis.

NOV. 28: A postal, telegraphic and telephonic censorship is introduced.

NOV. 30: S.A. Blackshirt plot to sabotage factories and essential services discovered. German le-

gation in Pretoria implicated.

1940

JAN. 5: Blockade of German imports and exports announced.

JAN. 24: Gen. Hertzog's motion in Assembly demanding peace with Germany defeated by 81 votes to 59.

JAN. 27: New party between Nats and followers of Gen. Hertzog formed, its name being Herenigde Nasionale Party of Volksparty.

JUNE 11: South Africa declares war on Italy.

JUNE 18: Gen. Smuts expresses South Africa's determination to stand by Britain despite the events in France.

JULY 15: Governor-General's National War Fund inaugurated.

JULY 29: S.A. troops in Kenya.

AUG. 1: Bombing outrages in Union.

AUG. 2: S.A. air force bombers in action. First pilot lost in African campaign.

AUG 28: S.A. air ascendancy in Abyssinia. Supplementary budget in Assembly. Total defence vote for year £46,000,000.

SEPT. 26. S.A. patrols penetrate into Abyssinia.

OCT 10 : The National Reserve Volunteers formed.

NOV. 16. S.A. armoured cars in action.

DEC. 26. Story told of part played by S.A. troops in defeat of the Italians at El Wak.

(Continued in page 8.)

ROADS, ROADS, ETC.

# A South African Diary of the War

(Continued from page 2)

1941

JAN. 31: Riots in Johannesburg in which 140 soldiers and civilians are injured.

FEB. 7: South Africans capture Gorai, 20 miles inside Abyssinia.

FEB. 23: S.A. troops cross Juba River; capture Jumbo without casualty.

MAR. 1: Government orders all State employees to resign from Ossewabrandwag.

MAR. 9: S.A. planes bomb Harar.

MAR. 29: S.A. troops occupy Dire-dawa.

APRIL 5: S.A. troops enter Addis Ababa.

MAY 12: Amba Alagi falls.

MAY 24: General Smuts given rank of Field Marshal.

JUNE 6: S.A. troops arrive in Egypt.

JULY 31: Cost of living allowances introduced.

OCT. 24: Price control regulations issued.

NOV. 18: Gen. Cunningham launches his big offensive in Libya; S.A. air units take part.

NOV. 21: Battle of Sidi Rezegh rages.

NOV. 24: Reinforcements become involved in battle of Sidi Rezegh and S.A. troops, the first to be deployed, sustain heavy onslaught.

NOV. 25: British and S. Africans capture Gialo.

NOV. 27: Gobar captured, thus terminating the East African campaign.

NOV. 29: Gen. Smuts discloses SA lost 1,200 killed, wounded and missing at Sidi Rezegh.

DEC. 9: S.A. declares war on Japan.

DEC. 31: S.A. 2nd Division captures Bardia and 600 prisoners.

1942.

JAN. 8. Petrol rationing introduced.

JAN 17: S.A.s capture Helfaya and 6,000 prisoners.

JAN. 21: 43 W.O.s and N.C.O.'s and 270 constables of S.A. Police interned. Arrest follows discovery documents found after arrest of Robey Liebbrandt.

JAN. 22: Outbreaks sabotage and terrorism.

FEB. 19: Severe paper restrictions imposed.

FEB. 20: Another war budget. Defence expenditure £80,000,000.

MAY 5: British force including Africans land on Madagascar.

JUNE 22: Tobruk falls and the Germans claim to have captured 28,000 prisoners, including Maj.-Gen. Klopper.

JUNE 27: Gen. Smuts appeals for 7,000 recruits to make good the losses at Tobruk.

JULY 1: Black-out or dim-out regulations enforced.

JULY 18: U-boat destroyed in Mediterranean by S.A. patrol vessels "Protea" and "Southern Maid."

JULY 23: Five German planes shot down by S.A. Fighter Squadron.

AUG. 19: Union casualties at Tobruk contain about 6,000 names, mostly missing.

AUG. 31: Rommel attacks on the fringe of Qattara depression. A S.A. platoon surrounded by 200 Germans breaks its way out.

SEP. 11: Sergt. Q. G. M. Smythe, S.A. forces, wins V.C.

SEPT. 14: Tobruk losses made good 10,000 recruits having responded to appeal.

OCT. 23: 8th Army under Gen. Montgomery launches an offensive in Egypt. First S.A. Division participates.

NOV. 5. Hostilities in Madagascar cease.

NOV. 13: S.A. troops under Gen. Pienaar occupy Tobruk.

DEC. 20: Gen. Dan Pienaar killed in plane crash in Kenya on Dec-19.

DEC. 31: First S.A. Division returns to Union.

1943.

JAN. 1: Basic petrol rationing is reduced from 400 to 200 miles per month.

JAN. 14: German spy-ring disclosures both inside and outside the internment camps.

ENGLAND.

JAN. 18: Clothing restrictions come into force.

APRIL 22: S.A. Kittyhawks and Spitfires, in a big air battle over Gulf of Tunis, shoot down 30 Me.323's.

MAY 12: Sixth Division arrives in Middle East. Organised resistance by enemy in North Africa ceases.

MAY 29: Gen. Smuts issues details of S.A.'s war effort. Stating that the Government had to start from scratch he says the Union Defence Force today numbers 169,000 trained European volunteers, 5,000 volunteers trained for fighting units for home defence and 6,000 auxiliaries of the S.A. Women's Auxiliary services. The strength of the non-European Army Services is 102,000.

4,474 armed fighting vehicles have been produced; 10,000 tons aerial bombs despatched north; 7,885 mortars made and 20,000-000 rounds of small arms ammunition manufactured each month. 30 batteries of guns made in Union are now available for Burma front.

JUNE 1: S.A. casualties in first 3 years of war are given as 22,615, comprising 1,439 killed, 13,350 missing, 3,229 wounded and 4,597 prisoners.

JULY 31: Government secures an overwhelming victory in general election with a majority of 64 over anti-war parties.

AUG. 13: Ministry of Welfare and Demobilisation is constituted to deal among other matters with the question of soldiers rehabilitation and re-establishment.

SEP. 8: Italy capitulates.

SEP. 20: "Dim out" in Cape Town raised. An Italian submarine surrendered at Durban.

SEP. 22: A S.A. Air Force Spitfire squadron brings down 10 German planes in three days, in the Eastern Mediterranean.

DEC. 18: The Appeal Court commutes the death sentence on Robey Liebbrandt to one of life imprisonment.

1944

JAN. 10: Enemy minefield discovered off Cape Agulhas and later enemy mines found in vicinity of Table Bay. On night of Mar. 12, 1942, a German surface raider was within five miles of Cape Town and two days later two ships struck mines within sight of Table Bay.

FEB. 24: Budget introduced defence expenditure being estimated at £102,500,000.

APRIL 9: In their biggest operation since they came to Italy, S.A.A.F. Spitfires recently made a devastating attack on enemy airfield near the Croat town of Banjaluka. Many enemy aircraft were destroyed on ground. On same day S.A. Spitfires destroyed 28 enemy planes on the ground when they attacked a German aerodrome in the Rome area.

MAY 25: Sixth Division reported winning their spurs in the Italian mountain line.

JUNE 6. D. Day

JUNE 8: S. African capture the hilltop town of Paliano on the Eighth Army front in Italy.

JUNE 17: Within 24 hours of the first Allied entry into Rome, columns of Sixth Division swept through city to become the spearhead of the Allied advance towards Florence. The Division in its first big engagement in Italy smashed through strong German anti-tank defences north of Viterbo, and severely battered the elements of a new German Division in a continuous eleven hours' battle.

JULY 13: Gen. Smuts says the Sixth Armoured Division has been foremost in the Allied 200 mile advance in Italy. South African engineers have done no less magnificent work and the S.A.A.F. has played an important part in driving the Luftwaffe out of the Italian skies.

JULY 31: South African Naval Forces now number over 60 ship. The personnel numbers over 7,000.

AUG. 4: Units of Sixth Division first to enter Florence.

AUG. 7: The movement of S.A. troops into Florence was the climax to a most arduous ad-

purchase to pay... This, much already scheduled... trolled... instance... classes... controlled prices...

vance of nearly 200 miles from Rome, during which the Springboks were in almost continuous contact with the enemy. The Brigade of Guards adopts the green and gold flash of Sixth Armoured Division.

AUG. 18: S.A. air crews flying Liberators participate in the invasion of Southern France.

AUG. 23. Men who enlisted in the recent recruiting drive, are flown 4,000 miles from Pretoria to the Middle East.

SEPT. 8: S.A. Beau-fighters sink two Italian luxury liners, the Giulio Cesare and Duilio in an attack on Trieste harbour.

SEPT. 14: Sixth Division now fighting with Fifth Army in Italy.

SEPT. 19: Government announces fixed maximum profits for all types of clothing, and new petrol control measures limiting motor car journeys to 75 miles.

OCT. 5. S.A. forces participate in capture of twin towns of San Benedetto and San Andrea.

OCT. 25: Lieut. Gerrard Ross Norton awarded V.C.

NOV. 7: Nearly 1,300 members of Union Defence Forces been decorated and 2,500 mentioned in dispatches up till October.

DEC. 1. Mr. H. G. Lawrence announces Government's full demobilisation scheme.

DEC. 4: The loss of three well-known Union-Castle liners early in the war is officially disclosed. They are the Warwick, Windsor and Llandaff Castles.

1945

JAN. 3: 300 Demobilisation Committees start work throughout the Union.

JAN. 16: Mr. Churchill states that S.A. casualties from the outbreak of war to Nov. 30, 1944, totalled 28,943, comprising killed and died of wounds or injuries 5,783; missing 599; wounded 11,796; prisoners of war 10,765.

FEB. 4: S.A. Air Force Liberators have dropped more than 250 mines into Danube.

FEB. 28: In Sixth War budget, Defence expenditure is reduced from £101,250,000 to £82,500,000, but a further £6,500,000 is provided for demobilisation scheme.

MAR. 1: 34 people are killed and 90 injured in an explosion at the Grand Magazine, Pretoria.

MAR. 12: First released S.A. prisoners of war reach the Middle East from Odessa.

MAR. 16. More than 1,500 South Africans have been decorated, 2,386 mentioned in despatches, and 330 Commended since the outbreak of war to March 5.

MAR. 26: Gen. Smuts tells the Assembly that many men are volunteering for service in the Far East.

MAR. 30: It is revealed that towards the end of 1942 submarines sank many ships off the South African coast, and that some U-boats were destroyed by Naval and Air Force Units.

APRIL 5: First released S.A. prisoners of war reach England.

APRIL 17: Sixth S.A. Armoured Division carry out the biggest assault by Springboks in the war and capture Monte Sole and Monte Caprara, two Apennine bastions barring the approach to Bologna.

APRIL 22: The V.C. is awarded posthumously to Capt. Edwin Swales of the S.A.A.F. Gen. Smuts reaches San Francisco and in an interview calls for "a true confession of faith."

APRIL 24: The Sixth Division is in with the spearhead of the Allied armies thrusting into the Po Valley.

APRIL 29: The South Africans are reported in a racing advance beyond the River Po against strong resistance.

MAY 8: Mr. Churchill announces Germany's complete capitulation.

# SHUTTER & SHOOT

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