

# Dad's Army objector target for brick-throwing, graffiti <sup>EPH 15/8/88</sup>



MR JAKOBUS NEL  
... 'must be careful'

By BARBARA ORPEN

A BRICK was hurled through the window of a workshop belonging to a Grahamstown businessman, Mr Jakobus Nel, on Thursday night. A student newspaper with graffiti on it was pushed under the door on the same night.

The incident comes in the wake of Mr Nel's appearance in the magistrate's court last week on a charge of failing to report for Dad's Army camps last year.

Mr Nel, 47, who describes himself as being "on the right" of the political spectrum, said he saw the broken window when he arrived at work.

"We went inside and saw shattered pieces of glass all over the place. The brick was found at the other end of the room and must have been hurled through the window with some force," he said.

"My wife then found a newspaper, which had not been there when we left for home the previous night."

The paper, which was the latest edition of the student newspaper, Rhodeo, carried a feature on militarisation and articles on various conscientious objectors.

Scribbled across many of the articles were the words, "Koos Nel" and references to his spending time in jail and to the ANC. The names of Mr Nel's wife, daughter and a friend had also been written across various stories.

"Whoever did this thinks they are being clever by using the student newspaper. They think I will automatically blame students, but I know that students would not do this kind of thing as they are against the same things as I am.

He said he would be reporting the incident to police.

In an interview earlier this week, Mr Nel said he had lived in Grahamstown for about 40 years "on and off".

After leaving school in 1958, he joined the liquor trade "to build up some capital" and then started his own business, selling motor components and repairing vehicles.

Happily married for 19 years, Mr Nel said his family, consisting of his English wife, Pat, and three children, were vitally important to him. "I live for them," he said.

He said he did not belong to any political party at present. He had "fought for the Right" in the past and said he would "fight for the Right" in the future.

## 143 decide not to serve in SADF <sup>EPH 4/8/88</sup>

By BARBARA ORPEN

A TOTAL of 143 young men countrywide publicly announced yesterday that they refused to serve in the South African Defence Force in any capacity.

The announcements were made at Press conferences in Grahamstown, Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg.

In Grahamstown, 10 men, describing themselves as "patriotic South Africans who are committed to working for peace and justice in our land," participated.

The 10 called on the Government to recognise all conscientious objectors and to introduce a non-military alternative to military service.

Chairing the conference in Grahamstown, the very Rev Roy Barker, Dean of the Cathedral, said the fact that some men were not prepared to kill for their country did not mean they were not prepared to die for it.

Reading from his personal statement, Mr Paul Teeton, 22, past president of the National Catholic Federation of Students, said: "Instead of serving in a military force against all human beings, I choose to work for the Kingdom values which are so clearly revealed to us through Scripture and the Church's teachings."

The other nine from Grahamstown were Mr Andrew Roos, Mr Glenn Bownes, Mr Ray Hartley, Mr Peter Hathorn, Mr Daryl McLean, Mr Andre Oosthuizen, Mr Patrick Tandy, Mr Mark Thompson and Mr Paul Wessels.

■ In Pretoria, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, accused the End Conscription Campaign of threatening the security of the State.

GOLD CLOSED AT \$426. | NO MORE — THE END MUST COME SOON

## G'town objector to 'Dad's Army' in court <sup>EPH 10/8/88</sup>

By BARBARA ORPEN

A GRAHAMSTOWN businessman yesterday appeared in the Grahamstown Magistrate's Court on a charge of contravening the Defence Act, for allegedly refusing to report for "Dad's Army" camps last year.

Mr Jakobus Johannes Nel, who represented himself, was not asked to plead and the case was postponed until September 13.

He was charged with contravening Section 126A(1)(b) of the Defence Act.

It was alleged that he had failed to report for military camps during the period from September 27 to November 25, 1987.

At yesterday's proceedings, the prosecutor, Mr M Greenwood, made an application for the dates on the charge sheet to be amended from "September 27 - 29", to "September 27 to November 25".

Asked if he had anything to say about the application, Mr Nel said he did not see why he had to serve in "Dad's Army".

The magistrate, Mr P Daubermann, said that did not have anything to do with the present application. He allowed the charge

sheet to be amended on the grounds that it would not prejudice Mr Nel, as no witnesses had at that stage given evidence.

Mr Greenwood then asked for the case to be postponed as certain witnesses for the State were not available yesterday.

Asked if he had any objections to the postponement, Mr Nel said he did.

He said it was the second time he had appeared in court, and that this was using up time which was important for the duties he had to perform.

He asked for the case to be thrown out "and if they want to summons me again, they can do so".

Mr Daubermann said it was true that Mr Nel had been summonsed to appear on July 19, and that the case had been postponed to yesterday for trial.

However, the prosecutor had indicated the trial would not have been completed yesterday and that it would have had to be postponed anyway.

Granting the postponement, the magistrate said he would not have granted it if the whole case could have been heard yesterday.

B67

# Grocott's Mail

With which is incorporated the Graham's Town Journal

Registered at the GPO as a newspaper

South Africa's  
oldest newspaper.  
Established 1831.  
'Liberty and Progress'

25c

Friday, August 5, 1988 No. 60

22c + 3c GST

## Grahamstown 10 say 'no' to call-up

TEN Grahamstown conscientious objectors were among a group of 143 throughout the country who this week declared their objection to compulsory military service in the SADF and called on the government to introduce non-military alternatives to national service.

The ten, who describe themselves as "patriotic South Africans who are committed to working for peace and justice in our land", said in a statement that the law "does not make adequate provision for conscientious objectors".

"While those of us who are universal religious pacifists can apply for recognition by the board for religious objectors, those who have made the decision principally for moral or political reasons, or who are not universal pacifists, will have to choose between leaving the country, going to jail or evading the call-up for as long as possible.

"We therefore call on the government to recognise all conscientious objectors and to introduce a non-military alternative to military service. This

alternative should be the same length as military service and should include provisions for service in non-governmental welfare organisations."

The ten Grahamstown objectors are:

- Glenn Bownes, 21, recently married and a journalism student at Rhodes.

- Ray Hartley, 23, vice-president of the Rhodes SRC and an MA student in political studies.

- Peter Hathorn, 28, an article clerk who has previously served one year of a two-year prison sentence for refusing to serve in the SADF.

- Daryl Maclean, 23, an MA student in linguistics at Rhodes.

- André Oosthuizen, 24, also a Rhodes student and who spent two years in the SADF in a non-combatant position.

- Andrew Roos, 22, a final year BA student and the top student at St Andrew's College in 1982.

- Patrick Tandy, 23, Rhodes SRC president and BA Honours student.

- Paul Teeton, 22, an economics honours student and former

president of the National Catholic Federation of Students.

- Mark Thompson, 24, a student at St Paul's Anglican Theological College who reached the rank of lance corporal in the air force during his national service.

- Paul Wessels, 20, a psychology student at Rhodes.

The ten joined 48 conscientious objectors in Cape Town, 19 in Durban and 66 in Johannesburg who added their names to the list of those who have objected to compulsory military service.

Addressing a press conference in Grahamstown, Prof Malvern van Wyk Smith said the four issues of conscription, national service, warfare and the ideology of the present South African government were not synonymous.

He said that throughout history, men had been compelled into military service by their rulers, "and the process has never had a very pretty face".

"A psychosis of militarism spread through Europe in the late-19th century as the... great powers, partly in self defence but partly

because of their own growing greed, entered into an arms race and progressively introduced conscription.

"The result was the First World War, the most cataclysmic and one of the most useless wars ever fought.

"In the run-up to the Second World War, it was once again the aggressors, Germany and Italy, who introduced conscription as part of a deliberate policy to militarize the state and to prepare the way for fascist and racist wars of conquest.

"Britain re-introduced conscription only in May 1939 when it became quite clear that all other ways of averting a war of aggression on the part of Germany had failed."

He said conscription "at best has a dubious ancestry and at worst has repeatedly been a major resource for policies of national aggression".

"If conscription has little to recommend it, national service interpreted as national construction or community service has a great deal, and if today's meeting

does not more than get us a little further from a system of racially exclusive, compulsory military training, and a little nearer to a system of non-racial, broadly based and broadly interpreted national service with at least some genuine alternatives to the military option, we will have achieved much."

Prof van Wyk Smith said that while he was overjoyed at the news of a settlement being reached in Angola and Namibia, "my joy would be doubled if I saw similar negotiations and similar accommodations in sight with acknowledged leaders of the black people in South Africa".

He said the fact that large numbers of white South Africans did not share the government's ideology was demonstrated by their large-scale exodus from this country... that South Africa is not

confronted by an aggressive power seeking to conquer it, but that it is rather the other way round, is demonstrated by conscripts being used to occupy a territory which is supposed to be independent, namely Namibia, and to invade other neighbouring states".

"The war in which South Africa is at present engaged, both within and beyond our borders, and whether in Angola or in the townships, is a war resulting directly from a policy of racist repression. No amount of filibuster about Cubans and communists can disguise this simple fact.

"Apartheid remains the root cause of the problem in which South Africa finds itself, and until a political solution to that problem is found, no amount of warfare will alleviate it," he said.

## 143 announce rejection of SADF conscription

Daily Dispatch  
4/8/88

JOHANNESBURG — A group of 143 men, including a large number of young professionals, yesterday announced their intention not to serve in the South African Defence Force.

The men met in four groups, 66 in Johannesburg, 48 in Cape Town, 19 in Durban and 10 in Grahamstown.

At a news conference at the University of the Witwatersrand, the Johannesburg group released what they called a "joint statement of conscience".

Their statement asks the government to "allow all those who object to serving in the SADF on moral, religious or political grounds, the option of alternative service in non-government bodies for a period of equal duration to current military service".

The statement notes that South Africa is losing the skills and resources of many young people because "it does not provide for adequate alternatives to military service".

The conference, for both local and foreign journalists, was chaired by a Wits lecturer, Mr Wilhelm Liebenberg, himself a conscientious objector.

In response to questions, he said the group represented a "broad spectrum of white South Africans" who did not want to serve the SADF in any capacity, neither as combatants nor non-combatants.

Mr Liebenberg said they had come together independently, had reached their decision for individual reasons and were not unified under an established or-

ganisation.

Professionals included in the group were seven doctors, five priests, four lawyers, two nuclear physicists, four engineers, two architects, nine academics, a dentist, three computer programmers and three journalists.

The 143 includes conscripts who have already objected to military service and have been convicted (a recently convicted conscript, David Bruce, is on the list).

It also embraces a number of conscripts who have been classified as religious objectors and are currently providing community service.

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) supported the stance taken by the men saying their declaration was a "courageous and public com-

mitment for a just and better South Africa".

The ECC came under fire from the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, who accused the organisation of threatening the security of the state.

He described the ECC as being "the vanguard of those forces that are intent on wrecking the present dispensation and its renewal".

Gen Malan said evasion of national service was, in terms of the Defence Act, a criminal offence and warned that "action must accordingly be taken against offenders".

"No citizen can decide of his or her own free will, which laws to respect."

Gen Malan said the ECC was, through its actions, placing public se-

curity and the maintenance of public order at risk.

"Any person or organisation disrupting and undermining the responsibility entrusted to the SADF is acting in conflict with the constitution. No self-respecting state can tolerate such subversive action."

He added that the SADF was entrusted by law to safeguard and protect the country and its people.

"The ECC's campaign against this responsibility is a sick attempt to try and create a martyr image."

Gen Malan described the SADF as "a service organisation of the state" which was responsible for national security.

"National security is the top priority for

South Africa and is above political prejudice.

"Moreover, the SADF is representative of the full spectrum of South African society. Its members have divergent political, ethical, moral and religious convictions but they stand shoulder to shoulder in solid camaraderie in the service of South Africa."

Gen Malan said it should also be remembered that South Africa was in the act of political restructuring.

"South Africa is moving in a very real way towards a new dispensation. One example of this is the election on October 26 in which all members of the population will participate to broaden the democratic base." — DDC-Sapa

**Collection Number: AG1977**

**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

©2013

**LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.