PUBLICATION OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN CAPE TOWN, APRIL 1987

Wilkinson case put off 7 times

The trial of P.E conscientious objector, Philip Wilkinson, was postponed for the seventh time. A row erupted at the trial over an attempt by the state to call Wilkinson's defence attorney to give state evidence.

Wilkinson, at his trial on March 23, pleaded not guilty to a charge of failing to report for a military camp on April 28. The charge sheet states that he is a classified religious objector with non-combatancy status.

The argument flared up after the single 'available' state witness, Commandant Bazil Turner, chief administrative officer attatched to Wilkinson's former regiment Piet Retief, failed to prove that he had been called up. He had never seen Wilkinson's call-up when it was purportedly issued. The only available evidence of the callup was contained in a telex said to be from Mr Norman Manoim, Wilkinson's instructing attorney. It stated that Wilkinson was a religious objector and would not to be reporting.

The case was postponed by Magistrate Christo Schutte until May 13 - but "for the last time" time for a camp in December. Wilkinson was released in October with restriction orders preventing him from attending any meeting of more than five people at which the government was criticised. He was also restricted from remaining a member of ECC or the UDF.

Wilkinson applied for exemption from the December camp on the grounds that he had been in detention and had been considered a threat to state security by the Minister of Law and Order. He was granted an exemption.

In January Wilkinson was again picked up by the military police and recharged with failing to report to the April camp.

Over 450 people attended an emotive church service in Port Elizabeth in support of Philip Wilkinson's stand as a contscientious objector.

The service was held in St Augustines Cathedral the night before his trial.

A high-powered contingent of church and political personalities expressed their support for Wilkinson. WHAT WOULD THE EASTER BUNNY SAY?

CHOCOLATE GUNS MADE THEIR APPEARANCE ALONG WITH THE USUAL CANDY FARE THIS EASTER'

SADF 'informal system' for objectors

he said.

Wilkinson, a worker at the P.E Crisis Centre, was arrested by military police at an End Conscription Campaign Rally last April and charged with failing to report for a camp that month.

The case was remanded and he was released on bail. But he was detained under the Emergency regulations for his activities in ECC before he could appear in court again.

During his 111 day detention he received another call-up, this Vigils took place all around the country. In Johannesburg a service was organised by the ECC with the main address given by the Auxiliary Bishop Nvemve.

In Pietermaritzburg, a lunchtime service occurred and in Durban an all night vigil was held.

In Cape Town a vigil took place in St George's Cathedral. It was lead by Rev. Sid Luckett and addressed by conscientious objector Peter Moll and Cape Town ECC chairperson, Ms Paula Hathorn. An "informal system" exists in the SADF which allows objectors "apart from religious objectors" who had moral objections to serving in the townships to perform non-combatant service, revealed Commandant Bazil Turner under cross-examination at Wilkinson's trial.

Wilkinson was to have served as a chef at his camp. Commandant Turner argued that as a chef Wilkinson would never have been allowed into the townships and he had "very definate restrictions on the capacity for which he can be utilised."

However, he then conceded that chefs at the regiment did accompany the troops into the townships to feed them.

On four occasions Commandant Turner refused to answer questions on the grounds that he would be revealing "restricted" or "classified" information or that the questions were "political". He was, however, prepared to say thet the SADF was "protecting the moderated from the radicals in the townships...whatever that implies.



The contents of this publication are restricted in terms of the emergency regulations.

UCT ECC Launched

With a roar of approval from a packed Jameson Hall, and the voice of Jennifer Ferguson singing "I still care about the future", the newest branch of the End Conscription Campaign was lauched at the University of Cape Town.

The launch of the UCT ECC on wednesday 26 March, was addressed by Rev Alan Boesak, the moderator of the Ned Geref Sendingkerk. This brings the number of ECC branches around the country to 14.

Boesak, challenging 2000 said, "there are choices to be made, difficult choices." He saw the significance of ECC's UCT launch being that it "will ensure people on campus will ask the right questions.' and continued, "We don't need you to die on the the border or in our townships," The meeting, taking place in a festive atmosphere of brightly coloured banners, balloons, poetry and music, marked the official launch of ECC at UCT. For the past two years, the Conscription Action Group (CAG) has raised the issue of conscription on campus.

Last year, a decision was taken to collapse CAG, a sub commitee of the SRC, and to start an ECC branch on campus.

UCT ECC hopes to involve a broad range of campus organisations and societies in its activities. Campus ECC's exist at Wits, Pietermaritzburg, Durban and Rhodes universities. Last year the Stellenbosch branch was prohibited from operating at the university by the rector.

Also addressing the meeting was Paula Hathorn, Cape Town ECC chairperson. She spoke about the effects of conscription.

According to Hathorn, a broad range of organisations support the ECC for a number of different reasons. "Some are Christian groupings believing that the war is unjust. Others are political organisations who support us for overtly political reasons. They are opposed to the role of the army in defending apartheid."

"There are also pacifists who believe that there is no place for war at any time. And there are civil rights organisations who are opposed to the right of the individuals being infringed. They are all united in ECC and have a common concern for the future, the role of the SADF and the increased militarisation of society", she explained.

Representatives from a range of student orgaisations, societies and faculty councils sat on the stage in support of the launch.

scribe to the Aida Parker Newsletter.

Last year ECC took Aida Parker to the Media Council after she had published a "bumper" edition attacking the ECC. The Media Council found the allegations to be "unfounded".

Another recommended subscription is to Frontline Fellowship which is involved in taking Bibles to Renamo. Sergeant Brown, from Frontline Fellowship, was asked to leave an ECC public meeting in Sea Point last year after causing a disturbance. He later pointed his gun at one of the marshalls.

The "veterans" believe that ECC is not expanding, with its only growth being "that of ingrowing toenails". They invite readers to write to them to find out how they can "become active in the Psychological War".

"Veterans for Victory is an unusual variant in the propaganda campaign against ECC," commented Paula Hathorn, Cape Town ECC's chairperson. "It is clear that the success of ECC is perceived as a threat by some. I await the next edition of the newsletter with some interest".



Discredited rag still distributed in schools

A NEWSLETTER which has been found by the Media Council to contain a number of "untrue and incorrect" allegations about the End Conscription Campaign, was distributed at two Eastern Cape schools recently. The year-old edition of the Aida

Parker Newsletter was distributed by the South African Defence Force during a cadet lecture at the Alexander Road High School, Port Elizabeth.

After investigation, an SADF spokesman confirmed that the newsletter had been distributed at the school, because it "views national service in an objective and balanced light".

At Grahamstown's St Andrew's College, the cadet master, Mr A B Crankshaw, distributed the newsletter after a "ten minute lecture" in which he claimed the ECC was "Soviet sponsored", according to a matric pupil.

The pupil said Crankshaw insisted that this was not a political view, it was "fact".

However, in November last year the Media Council found the news-

Sash call for military network exposé

IF you're white and you vote, you'll probably be excercising your five-yearly minute's worth of 'democracy' on May 6. But do you remember who's really running the show?

"A vast, faceless bureaucracy, dominated by the police and mililetter had "breached the media code of conduct in a number of respects". As the newsletter did not belong to the Newspaper Press Union, the council could not order Ms Parker "to correct many of the incorrect statements in the publication".

In his judgement, the council's chairman, Judge Diemont, said Ms Parker's claim that the ECC was linked to the Soviet-backed World Peace Council was clearly "misleading and untrue".

This edition of the newsletter had a special notice lifting all copyright and inviting people to propagate the contents.

Grahamstown ECC chair Fiona Adams said distribution of the newsletter was a "serious matter, particularly when it has the implicit blessing of the school authorities".

"Not only has this newsletter been foisted on young and impressionable minds, but it has also been used as an authoritative source in affidavits successfully opposing the release of detained ECC members in the Eastern Cape", she said.

International Communications" last year.

This new Emergency Management System (EMS), as the AIC authors call it, exists as an entirely separate arm of government, with its headquarters in the State Presi-dent's 'Tuynhuis'. This dis-tinguishes it from the NSMS which, according to the Weekly Mail and other newspapers, maintained a distant connection to formal government structures. The crucial cogs in the EMS machine remain the 12 JMCs, 60 sub-JMC's and 448 mini-JMCs which sprawl across the country. These bodies, consisting largely of members of the security forces and the civil service, have to devise responses to any threats to national security. Such responses can range from improving social conditions, detaining political leaders, or issuing "disinformation" pamphlets.

ECC speakers "half-crazed fools"

THE End Conscription Campaign is a "smelly conglomerate of left-wing revolutionary minded nitwits" according to the Veterans for

Victory.

In their recent newsletter, they said ECC members were "unwashed rejects", "mental midgets", "nerds" and "a bunch of weak-kneed, pimply faced youths with bad breath".

"Many ECC members could easily escape army duty because of a terminal stomach complaint. It's called lack of guts. All of them have contracted this deadly malaise from the USSR".

Veterans for Victory is a new organization according to a December article in *Die Afrikaner*, newsletter focuses almost entirely on commenting on ECC members and activities. Previous editions of their newsletter have called for the "banning of ECC and the removal of Communist-leaning Professors and lecturers from our universities".

mouthpiece of the HNP. Their

An article in their newsletter, published in Houghton, describes the ECC City Hall meeting held in December last year. This meeting formed part of the War is No Solution campaign. They describe the speakers, which included Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert, as "half crazed fools". They saw the meeting as a "Soviet Sit-In".

They advise their readers to sub-



Grandstand for SADF 75th Anniversary Parade on Sea Point beachfront, 6 April.

THE STANDS ARE EMPTY AND THE WAR GAME IS OVER FOR THE DAY - WHILE THE REAL WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA ESCALATES DAILY'

tary, with the task of 'delivering good government to the people'," was how the National Security Management System (NSMS) was described at the recent Black Sash National Conference. Their discussion on the NSMS led to the Black Sash descision to take up a major campaign aimed at exposing the system.

The State Security Council, the Joint Management Centres (JMC's) and other "parallel" political structures, dominated by the security forces, was devised to protect South Africa's current political system after the upsurge of widespread black resistance in mid-1984.

The NSMS certainly moves with the times. It has recently been adapted to meet the needs of the State of Emergency, revealed a paper by pro-government "AfricaThe EMS, however, has introduced an important new structure the National Constitutional, Economic and Social Committee which aims at co-ordinating the "reformist" side of the new system.

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Work for peace --- Boraine

As an ex-Member of Parliament, how do you do view the forthcoming election, the first under a "State of Emergency"?

Well, you can appreciate that I'm not terribly excited by the election. I think it's really a question of the National Party trying to sort out its own problems. It's clear that, within the Party, there is a conflict between the right and the "left". It therefore needs some sort of mandate in order to continue in terms of leadership and direction.

The advent of Worrall, Wynand Malan, Lategan and company, I think, has changed that to a degree, but as far as I'm concerned it's still very much a white, family in-fight. And I don't think that we've got the time for it. I think as a result of this election any kind of thought of re-form has been put aside. The whole state of emergency, the growing civil war climate in SA, is totally ignored. So I think that the election in general is not only a waste of very valuable time, but is actually dangerous. It increases polarisation and it causes blacks — that I've talked to at least — to feel even less hopeful and even more cynical, about white South Africans. So I think that it's quite a disaster, right now

In the context of the ongoing militarisation of South Africa, could you comment on, firstly, the network of Joint Monitoring Committees which is being established, and, secondly, the continued presence of troops in the townships.

I think one of the most sinister developments in recent years is the development of JMC's, largely unnoticed by most white South Africans. Where it has been noticed, it has been accepted as a logical necessity to counter 'disturbances' and resistance in townships.

The result is that in many small towns throughout South Africa, they are accepted. They're known about, and people accept them and serve on them, and it's regarded as a normal corollary to safeguarding the security of whites in South



Africa. That, to me, is incredibly worrying and disturbing.

This means that any discussion about "you've got to be sympathetic towards PW Botha because he's got to watch out for his right-wing" and the "military option" is rubbish! This government is so committed to a military option already that there's no thought or idea of Malan or anybody else staging some sort of coup. There's no need to. This government is doing it already. So we are very much more advanced on the road to militarisation in this country than most people imagine.

As far as the troops in the township are concerned, obviously there are those who are taking great comfort in the fact that the number of incidents of unrest or violence whatever term one wants to use has decreased. This is seen as test-

imony to the fact that this government's policy has worked. Well yes, repression does work. It does work in clamping down resistance, there's no question about it. But that resistance doesn't disappear ---it goes underground. So that your last state is worse than your first. A lot more resistance is invisible, and therefore much more dangerous. People have become more and more of the opinion that there is nothing they can do through the legitimate and normal channels, and therefore they must use illegitimate ways which encourage more warfare, more militarisation, more deaths. So I take no comfort whatsoever in the decline of incidents. In my experience again — moving in many townships — the clam-pdown and the repression is severe, and we're going to pay a very heavy price for that. They should get out of the townships.

In the light of this, how do you see the role that ECC can play? I think they've played a very important role already. Not only amongst young whites, because obviously their major aim is to help whites to be more thoughtful and concerned about the options which face them, but again, as I talk to blacks, they single out the ECC as a movement which has given them great courage, and great hope.

This has been said to me on a number of occasions, and was said to me two days ago when I was in Grahamstown. There I actually saw something of the overkill, if you like, in terms of Casspirs and heavily-armed soldiers and so on. Grahamstown is a desperate situation, and you can see all the results of that. I was talking to five young blacks with whom I met quite late at night, probably at great risk to themselves, because they couldn't come to the public meeting which I was addressing. They were ex-tremely encouraged by whites who were committed to a democratic and a non-racial future, and were particularly glad of the work of the ECC.

So I think, firstly, the ECC makes people think, which is very important, and I hope they will go on doing that. Secondly, it also provides a bridge for communication, where there are very, very few bridges left, and very little communication taking place. The only way you can guarantee good communication is by being in solidarity with people — that is clear.

The flip-side of the support that ECC is getting is a lot of repression, as well as attacks made on us by the government and the right-wing generally. Given your particular political experience, how would you see those attacks?

I think the government takes the ECC very seriously. I think anything which may undermine the morale of young men who are supposedly, or supposed to be, very enthusiastic about defending their country, anybody who raises questions which cause people to think again — whatever the final decision is, just to think again — is something which this government doesn't like and will do everything that it can to discourage. So I am not at all surprised at the vicious character of the attacks, and I would anticipate these continuing and intensifying.

What role do you see whites playing in working towards a non-racial, democratic South Africa?

Mary Burton, the Black Sash president, put it very well, and I endorse her words completely. Namely, that one thing whites can do is choose peace rather than war. This means that you're going to have to oppose anything which encourages further polarisation. Any repression brings forth its own response and reaction. People will fight back when they're being hit hard, and they are being hit hard. This means that you only accelerate the move towards militarisation on both sides, not just on the one side.

So I think whites have got to make some very hard, tough decisions about themselves, about their young people, about their parents and vice versa. Dad's Army is now beginning to rear its head and I think a lot of responsible, older whites have also got to start making very tough decisions, which so far have been borne largely by younger whites. I think a second thing is that whites should go out of their way to be in touch, no matter how difficult it is, with the — to use a phrase oppressed majority. It's not easy. It get's more difficult all the time, but they've got to make special efforts to do that. But whites have got to identify with organisations which have clearly stated their commitment to a non-racial democracy, and not simply sit back and let others do that.

I think they also, lastly, have to give far more attention than they have been to 'what it means'? Its not enough to talk about non-racialism. What does that really mean? What does democracy mean? If it means the opposite of so much of what is happening now, then you've got to attack and oppose the undemocratic nature of our situation, in every possible area. And there are organisations which are geared to do this. They don't have to do it in isolation. It fact it's far better to be part of a movement which is clearly on that road. A thing which you touched on was the "Dad's Army" situation. You have in the past been a fairly outspoken critic of the system. Would you mind restating your specific objections? Last year I received the registration papers which I was supposed to complete, and I certainly have no intention of completing them. I never have, I simply filed them. And I have gone on record publicly that I will in no way serve in the Dad's Army. I regard this as a further extension of the repressive force of the state and therefore I can't participate in it.

ELECTIONS IGNORE CONSCRIPT'S PLIGHT

ARE you a voter looking for an anticonscription party? It won't be easy. The impending white general election heralds no strong champions of this cause.

Conscription is everybody's issue yet it has taken a back seat in this election. None of the five contending parties seem to give the issue of conscription into the SADF the attention it deserves.

Most of the five contenders want a strong and powerful defence force some even desire more extreme versions of the present mighty SADF. Only the PFP holds a stand of opposition to the current conscription system, when it chooses to focus on it!

We've tried to ferret out what the five

National Party

In the NP, the song remains the same. We are constantly reassured that both conscription and the use of troops in the townships will ensure "a brighter future" for us all.

Last year's Defence White Paper rejected extending the definition of National Service to include alternative community service. Broadening the scope for conscientous objection was hardly a consideration. The idea of extending conscription to "coloureds" and Indians was cast aside as "a politically sensitive issue, which affects the security of our country."

New Republic Party

The NRP follows closely on the NP security bandwagon. They add only that SADF troops in the townships be led by their own officers rather than policemen. Senior NRP member Vause Raw sums up party feeling: "To deny the need for conscription and to denigrate it would be close to being treasonable in the state in which we find ourselves.

"My party and I believe that the question of serving one's country when it is in danger is not a matter of choice," he stated.

Progressive Federal Party

On the issue of choice the PFP, the NRP'election partners, have a different view. Official PFP policy states that the party is "committed to abolishing military conscription as it is presently instituted, and to creating a non-racial, professional Defence Force to defend South must have its own defence force. We reject an integrated Defence Force such as the government now has," he said.

"The CP is emphasising the Government's glaring injustice towards the White National Serviceman. The Government only compels White boys to undergo military training and not Coloureds and Indians. They get away scotfree."

The CP and HNP have criticized the government for not using troops in the townships more extensively. In a recent speech Cape CP leader Jan Horn said that a CP government would restore "law and order" within 14 days.

In a similar vein, the HNP General Secretary and Sasolburg MP Louis Stofberg said last year: "Why is SA virtually in a permanent state of war? It is because from the outset the Government did not follow the basic prescriptions of great military philosophers like Cart van Clausewitz, namely that if one goes to war, one fights to win".

contending parties have said about national security and defence:



Africa."

Until racially-based conscription is done away with the PFP recognises the right of all conscientious objectors to do alternative service. "Such service ought to be productive and to be for the advantage of all our citizens," states a party policy document.

Troops in the townships have been viewed negatively by the PFP. They are seen as being used against "peaceful political organisations and pressure groups".

CP and HNP

Both the CP and HNP endorse the system of conscription. Prominent CP member and MP for Jeppe, J H van der Merwe, made a call in parliament for an extension of conscription to Coloureds and Indians.

"The CP's fundamental standpoint is well-known, namely that each people

All election comment by Barbara Friedman, 435 Main Road, Observatory

Opinion among the independent candidates varies. While Dennis Worral, Wynand Malan and Esther Lategan have in a joint statement indicated their support for the security forces restoring "law and order", opinions on conscription differ. Worral, in a recent Cape Town speech, spoke out in favour of conscription.

Wynand Malan, meanwhile, has indicated a hesitation with conscription under current conditions saying, "I'd love to see the day when we won't need concription to deal with the problems we encounter at present".

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comment

With the razzamataz and carnival atmosphere of the whites-onl election well under way, white voters are considering their options. They can choose to vote for the government or one of the opposition parties. They may opt to stay away from the polls altogether.

But they cannot ignore the strange silence in the banner bedecked halls and party press statements on many issues crucial to South Africa.

The National Party government has made its choice. To ensure 'national security'. With the stockphrase of 'law and order', government ministers have called for increased security force activity. They have committed themselves to maintaining white privilege and domination through the use of force.

By going onto this war footing in defence of apartheid, the government has forced all South Africans to be part of the conflict it has created. South Africans have no choice in the matter: we are

But all is not gloomy. We don't have to endorse this apartheid war. We can choose to work for a just peace. Making this choice gives us an alternative to the siege into which the government is leading us. The massed ranks of the security forces will not ensure "national security". For as long as apartheid remains we can be confident in stating: THERE CAN BE NO SECURITY WITHOUT JUSTICE.

But what about the conscript forced to participate on the government's side. For him the choice is not a simple one. There are few alternatives to compulsory military service. At present only religious pacifists qualify for alternative national service. They have to carry this out in a government department for a period of one-and-a-half times the length of their remaining military service.

For those who don't satisfy these requirements the options are grim. They might leave the country as many thousands have already chosen to do. They might opt to face criminal charges and a jail sentence of up to 6 years. Some might live the life of a fugitive within South Africa.

There are thousands of young men who choose, many for reasons of conscience, to consider these options. They would like to choose to serve South Africa constructively. But the law ignores their plight. They are denied the right to choose.

The law should change to allow all who in good conscience wish to serve South Africa in a non-military capacity the opportunity to do so. This service should be of the same duration as military service: and be available in welfare, church and community organisations.

It should not be compulsory for South Africans to participate in the war. They should have the right to choose to work for a just peace.

Let conscripts choose,

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NAMIBIA'S interim govern-ment — which calls itself the

a unilateral declaration of indepen-dence, a la Rhodesia. These moves come against the background of the recent offer by Swapo president, Sam Nujoma, to unconditionally sit down to talks

by Tony Weaver

But it appears that South Africa and the interim government have

Namibianisation The interim government has in recent months effectively nat-

NAMIBIA:

Conscription

The setting up of the South West

vice in Namibia for all men over the The SWATF boasts that between 55 and 60 percent of the armed

Is peace around the corner?

now Namibians, raising the spectre of a full-blooded civil war, as op-

And reluctant South African conscripts will be sent to fight a war in a foreign country against an "enemy" who are desperate to live in peace in the land of their birth.

The War Continues In the 21 years of the war, over 12 000 Namibians have died -- one percent of the population — and more than 130 000, or 10 percent of the people, have fled into exile.

The foot-dragging and unwilling ness of the South African auth orities to grant independence has had a terrible effect on the northern

There is no such thing as normal civilian life in the war zones. Es-sential crops are destroyed by armed forces seeking information or retribution, and tales of torture are legion.

The most recent of these was in the still-running Supreme Court terrorism trial of eight Namibians.

unity Police and of the Police's Counter Insurgency Unit (Coin, formerly known as Koevoet), can-didly admitted they routinely tortured prisoners to get information from them.

Ironically, after years of allegations made of torture and atrocitie by Koevoet and the Security Police and contemptuous dismissals of the evidence by the police command, this time round they immediately announced the setting up of a commission of enquiry to probe the court evidence.

Namibia is bleeding. It has bled for over 100 years of colonial rule. And there seems to be no chance that the SA government will budge an inch in the process towards gen-uine independence for the country. Instead, half-baked con-stitutional solutions will continue to be imposed by an unrepresentative government on an unwilling

The SWATF does not conscript men in the Ovambo and Kavango speaking regions — the two main war zones where over 55 percent of the 1,2 million people of Namibia

War notes

1987 HAS SEEN SOME OF THE BLOODIEST CONFLICT DURING THE 21 YEAR WAR IN NAMIBIA – 'AFRICA'S LAST COLONY'. A LEADING AUTHORITY ON THE SUBJECT OUTLINES CURRENT TRENDS AND EVENTS'

SA pilots for hire

The US Central Intellegence Agency (CIA) has hired former South African military pilots to fly supply and transport missions for Nicaraguan

SA mercenary flies for Iraq A South African was amongst mercenary pilots flying long-range raids for fraq against Iran's oil export facilities in the Gulf War, Arab military

SADF recruits Swazis

Swazi youths are enlisting in the SADF because of their country's acute unemployment problems.

Casspir transport

Lonrbo South Africa, a subsidiary of the British multinational giant, has purchased a specially-adapted Casspir armoured vehicle to transport schoolchildren and housewives at its Klipwal gold mine in the Eastern Transvaalat a cost of R168 000.

Armscor goes international

Recent issues of British milliary publication Jane's Defence Weekly car-ried full-colour advertisements for Amiscor products. Amiscor advertis have appeared in the other milliary publications world-wide It is the third International Armiscor advertising campaign since 1982. This advert claimed: "Right from the beginning we understood the advantage of being different. That's why we harnessed the most lethal force of all --- the power



ANDY ORPEN Andy Orpen was tragically killed in an accident on 6 February this year. He was a respected and well-loved member of Cape Town ECC.

neglect the implementation of these principles and ideals in the seemingly less important day to day experiences and inter-actions our own lives ECC mourns the loss of Andy and all that he brought into our work together and our lives. His death leaves a gap that will never be

Andy managed to carry out what he believed in, not only on a 'big scale, but also in his daily life and personal relationships. We admire and hope to carry forward his con

cern to live out in every videals he valued. One of the motivation filled. The greatest tragedy would be if we did not learn from all that Andy could teach us through his example in life and even through his death. There are many things that we could say about Andy, but there is one quality of his in periodar that One of the motivations for Andy's involvement in ECC was the time he spent in the army. Even though he served as non-combatant, he was disturbed and dissatisfied by his work in the SADF. The experience was very difficult for him. could say about Andy, but there is none quality of his in particular that many of us feel to be exceptional. In ECC we uphold ideals of peace, justice and democracy as our vision for this country. We make sacrifices and put great effort into work which we believe contributes to building a future where these is an actioner reality. But, whilst we are store reality. But, whilst we portaint way, many of us stend to

difficult for him. We hope that eventually we will succeed and will end conscription — for Andy and what he had to saf-fer in his hite, for all conscripts and herir families, and for our just and peaceful future. If we do end con-scription, Andy will have contribu-ted to that vectory.



live - saying they have too many volunteers from these areas. Namibians have a different es

planation: They say there is no con-scription in these areas because the SWATF and SADF are scared they would then be recruiting and train-ing potential Swapo guerillas.

The large-scale conscription Namibians into the armed forces has inevitably meant that on the side of the occupation forces, more Namibians are dying in the war zones than South Africans.

Suicidal soldiers

362 National Servicemen attempted suicide during 1986, an increase of nearly 500 percent over the previous year. This means that one soldier in every 200 tried to kill himself.

The figure for the Permanent Force is almost as high. This might seem surprising since life in the Permanent Force is much more comfortable than life in the other sections of the armed forces.

But comfort doesn't seem to be the issue. The SADF has tried to improve conditions for its troops— "Troopie Products" are marketed at cut prices, 'excessive' punishment is regularly condemned and services and sports facilities are provided. The generals are willing to give the troops almost anything they want. Yet the suicide rate continues to rise. Why?

In early 1987 Dr Potgieter, of 1 Military Hospital, revealed that many troops in the SADF are severely affected by traumatic events. They lose touch with reality, their self-image dwindles and they suffer from helpless, 'narcissistic rage'.

The army tended to produce unquestioning, authoritarian personalities with ex-soldiers finding it hard to resolve conflicts, Professor Simbler of the Witwatersrand Graduate School of Business concluded from his survey results in February 1986.

The markedly steep increase in attempted suicides since the early 1980's calls for further explanation.

An ECC spokesperson commented: "In October 1984, troops were first deployed in the townships. Because of this, conscription became a major moral issue in the white community. Military service aquired an overtly political function, previously hidden by the South African government's claims that it was merely defending its borders from outside agressors".

Could this change have brought about the increased suicidal tendency as soldiers found themselves fighting a different kind of war?

Could the declaration of a State of Emergency in June 1986, with the increased military involvement in repression, have triggered off the increased suicides? Only time will tell. Still, it would be fascinating to see the SADF's details of when and where servicemen tried to kill themselves — details now under a blanket of secrecy.



A stressful life for conscripts in the SADF.

Call-up Crises

ADVICE

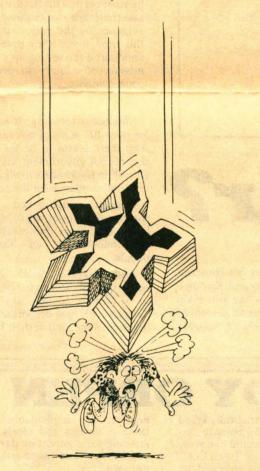
Q: I am reporting for military service soon. I have strong objections to doing township duty. Can I be exempted from such duty.

A: You are entitled to approached your Officer Commanding and ask him to exempt you from township duty. If possible, do this as soon as you report.

The SADF policy seems to be that persons with objections to township duty be catered for and be given other duties.

However, this is not a right. Your Officer Commanding may be unsympathetic and insist that you do township duty.

If you refuse, you may be charged with disobeying a lawful command and court-martialled. On conviction, you can be sentenced to a fine (based on a scale related to your rank) and/or detention for a period of up to two years in detention barracks.



Military measures

Guerilla attacks A total of 228 guerilla attacks occurred during the first 11 months of last year, compared with 136 for the whole of 1985 and 44 in 1984, according to Pretoria University's Institute of Strategic Studies.

Namibian War In the 20 years of the Namibian bush war the security forces shot and killed 10 260 "enemy forces" — mostly Swapo guerillas, according to the outgoing officer commanding the South West Africa Territory Force, Major-General Meiring. He said that in the same period 1 379 civilians had been killed and 605 members of the security forces had died in action.

"Homeland" defence The defence budgets allocated by the four "independent homelands" were as follows:

Boputhatswana: R18,3-m Transkei: R20,277-m Venda: R10-m and Ciskei: R9-m. SADF deaths A total of 115 members of the SADF were killed in military operations and training accidents in 1986, Deputy Minister of Defence Wynand Breytenbach said in reply to a question in parliament. SADF suidides According to Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, 453 SADF members committed suicide or attempted to commit suicide. He said that of the 24 successful suicides, four involved members of the Citizen Force and two of the Commandos and the rest were National Servicemen. Of the 420 attempted suicides, 362 involved National Servicemen, 56 members of the Permanent Force and 11 Commando members. The figure of 362 shows an increase of nearly 500 percent over the previous year. In 1985, 78 National Servicemen attempted suicide

Of the 362 National Servicemen who attempted suicide, 272 took drug overdoses, 58 slashed their wrists, 10 shot themselves, four swallowed glass, four stabbed themselves, three swallowed razor blades, one jumped from a building and one drank poison.

Concientious objection 342 people were granted full religious objection status (category 3) by the Board for Religious Objection, according to figures released in parliament. Of these, 227 were Jehovah's witnesses and 115 belonged to other denominations. 1 059 people have applied to the board for religious objector status between the beginning of 1984 and August 1986.

123 of these applications were subsequently withdrawn. By September 1986, 16 applications had been refused by the board, either because the applicant's religious views did not conform with the board's criteria or because the applications were believed to be politically motivated.

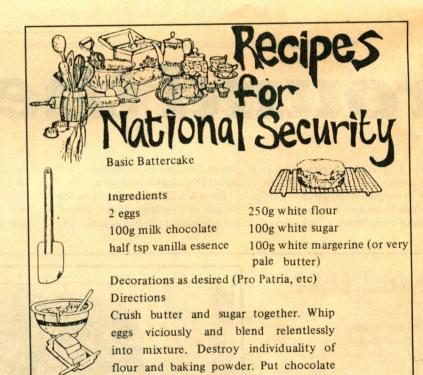
Have you heard?

• that the drum majorettes at Bergvleit High School carry wooden rifles?

• that Gerald Shaw, Cape Times' assistant editor, received Dads' Army call up papers? So did Alex Boraine and many other Southern Suburbs dads.

• that the right wing Aida Parker Newsletter, of media council fame, was a co-sponsor of "National Security Forces Day"?

• that ex-SADF chief Constand Viljoen's twin brother,



Do you have any call-up headaches? CONSCRIPTION ADVICE SERVICE

Our service can help you with information about your legal rights, your alternatives and the Board for Religious Objection. We can also refer you to lawyers, psychologists or ministers of religions.

OUR ADVICE IS FREE. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT! GET IN TOUCH WITH US THROUGH:

Anton 窗 47 6274 (h) or 650 2827 (w) David 窗 65 1031 Judy 窗 650 3538 Neil 窗 64 4843 Abraham Viljoen, is standing for the PFP?

• that Johannesburg's ECC finds that "A civil war is not very relaxing", according to a poster slogan?

• that in the March edition of Frontline, ECC is incorrectly described as a "Sub-Committee of the UDF"?

• about the Durban ECC's recent St Valentine's Day campaign with the slogan "Make love not War"?

• that Ben Schoeman, Stellenbosch ECC chair, is the grandson of ex-Nationalist Transport Minister Ben Schoeman?

• that Bruce Springsteen supports the ECC? Watch the press for details.

in melting-pot. Stir the molten chocolate into the helpless egg-sugar-butter unit, then force in the flour and baking powder till all is moulded to your will.

Torment in 180 degree oven for 50 minutes (or 12 camps of 7 minutes each). Decorate in orange, white and blue, arrange 20 brick-shaped cakes into castle formation.

Comments



The Basic Battercake is easily subverted despite all the efforts of Culinary Intellegence and the Confectionery Branch to prevent this. Agitators tend to gobble it up - thus showing that the military can't have its cake and eat it.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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