

TABLE TALK / TO THE POINT :

MARCH 2010

Last month when I listed some significant anniversaries I, of course, omitted a very important one, namely the release of Nelson Mandela from prison twenty years ago on 11 February 1990. It is strange to think that there are youngsters starting their careers at sea now who were not born then.

It is by the goodness of God that that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things; freedom of speech; freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either. – Mark Twain (1835 – 1910).

NEWS FROM THE FLEET : Recently the Naval Base at Simon's Town chock-a-block with ships including a Task Force of four vessels of the German Navy for Exercise GOOD HOPE IV. The group includes the two frigates, FGS *Brandenberg* (built in 1994) and FGS *Niedersachsen* (1982), the modern 'one stop shop' RAS vessel FGS *Frankfurt Am Main* and the trusty ammunition carrier *Westerwald*, on her forth visit here. They will be conducting joint exercises and carrying out live missile firings at the Overberg Test Range, near Arniston, and six *Tornado* strike aircraft and two *Learjet* tracker aircraft of the Luftwaffe are already there.



SIMON'S TOWN DOCKYARD BASIN SHOWING THE MEKO TYPE FRIGATE FNS *BRANDENBURG* ALONGSIDE WITH FGS *NIEDERSACHSEN* COMING THROUGH THE ENTRANCE, ATTENDED BY THE TUGS *UMALUSI* AND *DE MIST*. ONE OF THE DAMEN-DESIGNED MULTI-ROLE TENDERS IS SEEN ALONGSIDE IN THE STILL WATER BASIN IN THE FOREGROUND– PHOTO : DAVID ERICKSON.

The SAN force participating includes the frigates SAS *Spioenkop* and SAS *Amatola*, the OPV (ex strike craft!) SAS *Isaac Dyobha* and two minehunters, SAS *Umzimkulu* and SAS *Umkomaas*, backed by a large SAAF component.

It is interesting to note that this exercise is the largest conducted by the German Armed Forces outside of NATO. The German ships spent a weekend in Cape Town at the V&A

and were open to visitors on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 February. They will also be open to the public during the Navy Festival at Simon's Town on 5, 6, and 7 March. – *Arné Söderlund - Spindrift/Spunyarn*

P.S. – The stern trawler BETTI, formerly HARVEST BETTINA, was towed out from Simon's Town on 28 February by the Cape Town based tug BATTLEAXE, to be sunk as a target off the coast near Arniston. A second target vessel could not be delivered to the exercise area on the following day due to South Easterly winds gusting to more than 50 knots in the False Bay area.

SAIMENA (CAPE) /SOMMSA ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH 2010 : Richard Armstrong has booked the Pinelands Cricket Club 'A' Field for our annual SAIMENA v SOMMSA cricket match on Sunday 28 May. Colin Flockhart has confirmed that it is a suitable date for the Master Mariners. Proposed starting time is set at 1030 for 1100 hours start. We are aware that it is the first weekend of the school holidays, but didn't have much option as the next available date and venue looked at was Groot Drakenstein in early May. Pinelands start the hockey season after this date after which the cricket fields aren't available.

It would be appreciated if anyone is interested in playing to get in contact with me by e-mail. We're also looking for a scorer! If you know of anyone who is willing to sponsor in anyway, whether it's financially, drinks or memorabilia etc. to please let me know. -

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If all the year were playing holidays,

To sport would be as tedious as to work. – William Shakespeare : Henry IV Part I.

LAWHILL HOUSE : The new Lawhill Maritime Centre at Simon's Town High School, which was built to replace an accommodation block constructed using ISO containers, will be opened on 17 March by Western Cape Premiere Helen Zillie. Hopefully this facility, comprising accommodation and teaching facilities for maritime students, which is situated in a very attractive building on the mountainside at Seaforth, will guide a steady flow of young people into the Maritime Industry in the years to come.

The Law Hill, after which the South African flagged barque was named, overlooks the city of Dundee, in Scotland, and takes its name from the Gaelic word for hill or more likely, from Anglo-Saxon hlāw meaning a grave-mound or hill. It is the basalt plug of an extinct volcano and the summit is 174 metres above sea level. - Wikepaeda

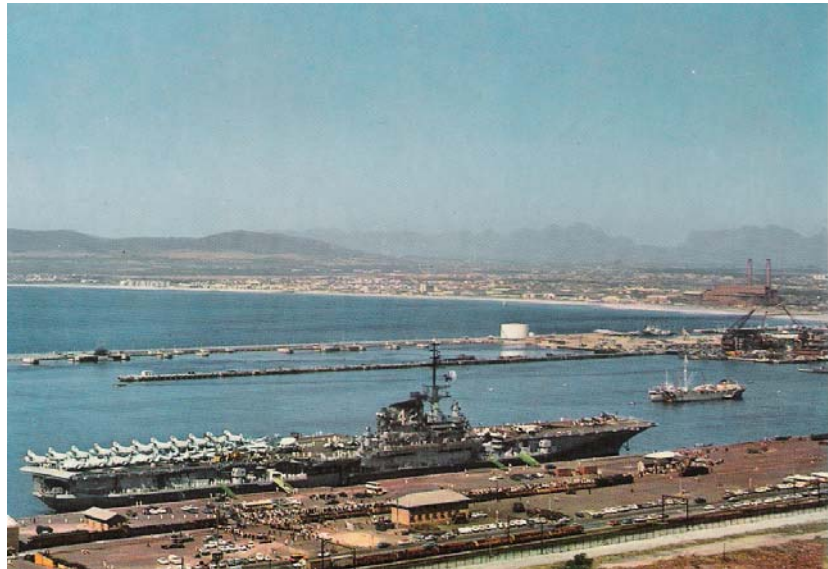
H.M.S. DEFENDER : The fifth of six Type 45 destroyers and 65 % complete at the time of her launch, was set afloat at the BAE Systems Surface Fleet (formerly the Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd.) shipyard at Govan on Trafalgar Day (21 October) last year. DARING, the first of class is now operational and DAUNTLESS, the second, was handed over to the Royal Navy at the end of last year. DIAMOND is on sea trials and DRAGON has started machinery trials alongside at Scotstoun. DUNCAN, the last of the present batch, has been laid down at Govan. – *RINA Warship Technology – January 2010.*

A BLAST FROM THE PAST : - U.S.S. FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT (CVA 42) was the second of three *Midway Class* aircraft carriers and was completed by the New York Navy Yard on 27 October 1945. Orders for three sister ships were cancelled at the end of the War. Ships of this class were to have been named after battles which took place in the Pacific Ocean during World War II but instead CVA 42 was named after the former President of the USA who died just before she was launched in 1945. Known as “Swanky Franky,” or Rosie,” most of her operational career was spent as part of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and in 1952 she took part in Operation Mainbrace, the first major NATO exercise to be held in the North Atlantic.

In 1956 she commissioned after a \$ 48 000 000 modernisation which provided the ship with an angled flight deck, enclosed “hurricane” bow, mirror landing sight and uprated steam catapults to enable her to handle the latest jet fighters and fighter bombers.

During 1966/7 she carried out her only deployment in the Far East, operating “on the line” for ninety five days in Vietnamese waters.

In 1975 she embarked fourteen AV8A aircraft, modified British “*Harrier* “Jump Jets,” to evaluate their capabilities as carrier based fighter and ground attack aircraft.



U.S.S. *FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT* ALONGSIDE IN THE DUNCAN DOCK AT CAPE TOWN DURING HER HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL COURTESY VISIT IN 1967. – PHOTO : ARTHUR ENGLISH COLOUR PRINTS (PTY) LTD.

She was paid off in 1977 was scrapped at Kearney, New Jersey, during the following year.

AMAZING SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES:

1. AVOID CUTTING YOURSELF WHEN SLICING VEGETABLES BY GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO HOLD THE VEGETABLES WHILE YOU CHOP.

2... AVOID ARGUMENTS WITH THE FEMALES ABOUT LIFTING THE TOILET

SEAT BY USING THE SINK.

3. FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE SUFFERERS ~ SIMPLY CUT YOURSELF AND BLEED FOR A FEW MINUTES, THUS REDUCING THE PRESSURE ON YOUR VEINS. REMEMBER TO USE A TIMER.

4. A MOUSE TRAP PLACED ON TOP OF YOUR ALARM CLOCK WILL PREVENT YOU FROM ROLLING OVER AND GOING BACK TO SLEEP AFTER YOU HIT THE SNOOZE BUTTON.

5. IF YOU HAVE A BAD COUGH, TAKE A LARGE DOSE OF LAXATIVES. THEN YOU'LL BE AFRAID TO COUGH.

6. YOU ONLY NEED TWO TOOLS IN LIFE - WD-40 AND DUCT TAPE.. IF IT DOESN'T MOVE AND SHOULD, USE THE WD-40. IF IT SHOULDN'T MOVE AND DOES, USE THE DUCT TAPE.

7. IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT WITH A HAMMER, YOU'VE GOT AN ELECTRICAL PROBLEM.

DAILY THOUGHT:

SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE SLINKIES - NOT REALLY GOOD FOR ANYTHING BUT THEY BRING A SMILE TO YOUR FACE WHEN PUSHED DOWN THE STAIRS