



CAPE SAAACA

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OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER TALK

Notes on the talks at the end of the newsletter.



UPCOMING OCTOBER TALKS:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, the 25TH of October, at 19:00 at the CTH Officers Mess inside the Cape Castle. (Parking inside the grounds behind the Castle off Strand Street)

New member Ian Van Oordt (who amongst other also collects cannons) will be delivering a piece on the development of cannons in general and more specific on the ignition system of guns. This should be of great interest to the “gunners” amongst us. Feel free to bring some Artillery guests!

Members are reminded that strict safety protocol on the handling of any firearm will apply; ALL MOVING PARTS MUST BE REMOVED and displayed separately, unless prior cleared with the Chairman. NO live ammunition will be handled.



OUTSTANDING RE-LICENSING APPLICATIONS DUE 31ST MARCH 2007

We have mailed snail mail reminders to all those affected. You are requested to make urgent work of this as we still have to cope with our considerable work load of the 2007/2008 batch before middle December and only meet once a month. Our concern is that late applications may become serious procrastinated if we receive it on the eleventh hour. Please also take note of the additional application fees that now apply to categorisation and collectability applications.



SAPS CFR 31st OF MARCH 2008 RE-LICENSES APPLICATIONS:

Relevant to those born in the months July/August/Sept.

Please prepare and submit your Collection Field of Interest and Organogram as soon as possible to allow us enough time to process it so that you may be issued the required certified documentation required to be considered as Private Collectors by the CFR SAPS.

The Membership Committee meets once a month and new applications on average takes about three months to evaluate and properly work through to ensure the integrity of the information supplied. As such it will be wise to submit it before the end of December as no guarantees can be given on any applications submitted from January, given the deadline of end March 2008 for this cycle. Contact your Chairman should you need any help to get it done.

Late submissions place huge demands on the membership Committee with great costs and effort to all involved. Take note of the relevant applicable additional categorisation and collectability application fees.



SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

To allow proper control, it may only be submitted via registered mail or direct submission at our Offices. A dated receipt will be issued against which the application status may be monitored.

We suggest that applications first be submitted via E-mail in electronic format to be circulated amongst the Membership Committee for comments to allow possible refinements before printing and submitting hard copies.



2007 AGM

We are fortunate that out going naval Captain John Lamont has offered to host our 2007 AGM at Simonstown with a special naval display offered to Cape SAAACA members. To this end we are scheduling the AGM one week later on Saturday the 10th of November. We have a very special surprise for all attending members and the day promises to be great fun for everyone! For catering purposes it is imperative that we know accurately how many members will attend, so please let us know when you receive your formal AGM notification.



SECRETARIATS NEWS:

This is where we keep you up to date with what happened at our various secretariats. Come on chaps, let us have your monthly news reports!

You will notice that the newsletter format took on a subtle change some time ago. I no longer publish it as SAMCA, but simply as a CAPE SAAACA newsletter, and that I started a section called SECRETARIAT NEWS in which we can report on what is happening in each sub interest group.

I am happy to say that we are experiencing some growth in this area as I get time to develop and help initiate each. Next to follow will be the WWII group and the SAHA historians group. And after that...

FORT KNOKKE MILITIA:

Under the guidance of John Lamont and Willem Steenkamp the interest group specialising in DEIC (VOC) history, the Fort Knokke Militia re-enactment group was formed to promote the formation of a group of enthusiasts who will dress up in period costumes when shooting their muzzle loaders and who will also part take at notable public events.

John and Willem already secured rare period uniforms to model the "militia's" uniforms on. This promises to be great fun and also a fun way to share collecting as a live interest to the public.

We are fortunate that member major Willem Steenkamp (CTH), who also hosts the forthcoming CAPE TOWN MILITARY TATOO, extended an invitation for a number of bodies who wishes to volunteer to partake. But he insisted on a firm commitment from those. All interested parties are invited to contact the Chairman or Willem at 021 424 1967 (o/h). Uniforms and equipment will be available.

CAPE SAAACA WESTERN SHOOTERS:

The Western Shooters enthusiasts meet monthly for fun shoots and competitive 3 gun shoots at the range. Most members go to some length and cost to dress in period costumes to complement the topic of the Wild West.

Interested parties can contact Robert Nothhaft (Big Boar Bob) at 021 851 4405 or roronoma@telkomsa.net.



SEPTEMBER TALK

The evening belonged to the Lautenbachs. – Cyril's wife brought along a German Naval Dagger 2nd Type (3rd Reich period) and Cyril brought a South African rarity (oddity?), the .357 Magnum / .38 Special / 9mm Para Lynx (Rooikat) revolver. As the only person present who had a vague knowledge of German edged weapons, it fell upon the scribe to briefly describe the dagger, while Cyril outlined the history of the Lynx (Rooikat) revolver which only made a brief appearance on the fire-arms market and is therefore extremely scarce.

Of particular interest is the fact that the Lynx was advertised with two cylinders – one to chamber the .357 Magnum / .38 Special cartridges, and another chambered for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge – the former .358in and the latter .355in in diameter! A play of 3 hundreds of an inch, which indicate that the rifling were prominent enough to be able to accommodate the slightly slimmer copper jacket of the 9mm Para and the (mainly) lead bullets of the slightly “oversize” diameter of the .357 Magnum / .38 Special bullets.

The German Naval Dagger, Type 2

When Hitler gained power in 1933, he immediately boosted the Navy to a formidable military force under the aegis of Admiral Erich Raeder. Raeder remained at the helm of the German Navy for the next ten years, when he was replaced by Admiral Karl Dönitz.

Dagger Information – Navy Type 2: This dagger was introduced on 20 April 1938 to coincide with Hitler's birthday. The main change was the replacement of the cresting wave and reed with thin throat ball pommel (the so-called imperial marine dagger or the 1st type) for the Nazi Eagle holding a swastika. Wearing of the Navy dagger was discontinued in December 1944.

The scabbard was fitted with 2 carry rings and had an engraved (the so-called “lightning bolt” pattern) or hammered finish. The cross bands for the hanger rings on the scabbard were either decorated with oak leaves or a twisted rope design. The rings could follow the rope design or the hammered style and or be plain. The scabbard was finished in a number of finishes to include a polished brass with clear lacquer coat, or gold plated finish. The most expensive finish was the fire-gilt finish. All were dipped for a clear lacquer coating.

The 25-cm long blade was normally etched with various naval patterns ranging from ships, anchors or similar naval motifs. Some blades were plain with no etching. A twin fuller ran down the center of the blade. The dagger was locked in the scabbard by a small brass stud that was set in the cross guard, some makers like *Alcoso* had a two piece style button. Note that on some blades and scabbard throats an O, or an N, with some numbers can be found. These are issued by the Navy to its personnel and are therefore government property. Damascus blades on true Third Reich Navy daggers are very rare and rate as one of the most prized common daggers of that period to collect – the so-called “honour” dagger, of which less than a dozen were awarded.

The grip was normally white celluloid over wood base with twisted double stranded brass wire running down the grooves of the grip. Some makers used a solid plastic grip that can range from a pale butter yellow to a deep dark orange. All metal fittings are either brass or alloy-based (late-war period). They were either just plain polished brass, gold plated or fire gilt finished with a clear lacquer coat.

The hangers were based upon dual, silk fronted moiré straps with back velvet fittings. The buckles took the form of Lion's faces and snap fasteners at each end. A small chain was added to the hangers to hold the dagger in a vertical position. With these hangers the very early fittings are made from brass and then gold plated, whereas the late-war fittings are aluminum with an anodized gold finish (of special note: the hanger fittings for wear by Administration Officers are in a silver finish).

A 42 cm silver bullion or aluminum portepeee was authorized for wear - later-made portepeees are made from a rayon material. The base of the ball area has a gray twisted woven string like stuffing. An article describing the dagger in greater detail – for those who are interested – is attached as an annexure to the newsletter.

The dagger under discussion is the 2nd type with the eagle clutching a swastika on the pommel and was manufactured by the Solingen firm of E & F Hörster, and boasts the standard etched naval battle scene on the blade, fouled anchor on the cross guard – all fittings in brass, and with the white celluloid grip. The dagger is fitted with the early-period aluminum wire portepeee, which shows a lot of wear and is extensively frayed. This particular specimen is very common and does therefore not command high prices.

REMINDERS:

Diarise next Saturday 10H00 at the Atlantis Good Hope Military Range for a three gun shoot event. Contact the Chairman by e-mail for directions. (Pistol/Shotgun/Carbine or Revolver/Shotgun/Rifle) combinations. We are also working on a black powder relay, so come on all you black powder shot!

See you at this Thursday's talk at The Castle.

Greetings,

Stephan Fourie

Chairman

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