

**CAPE SAAACA**



**SOUTHERN AFRICA MILITARIA  
COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. Box 15030  
PANORAMA  
7506**

Tel/ Fax: 021-939-7923

E-mail : [warbooks@mweb.co.za](mailto:warbooks@mweb.co.za)

**Next talk : Thursday the 26th of October 2006 at 19H00  
Details below.**

	<p><b>CAPE SAAACA</b> INCORPORATING SAMA, SAHA &amp; CSWSA P O Box 2567, BELLVILLE, 7535, South Africa Telephone: (021) 9461712 Facsimile: (021) 949 0045 <a href="mailto:capesaaaca@sfa.co.za">capesaaaca@sfa.co.za</a> Accreditation NO: 1300077</p>	
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## **URGENT NOTICE RE LICENCING**

The most recent batch of categorization membership certificates were handed out to members at the recent shoot at Atlantis.

The Chairman wished to remind all those whose birthdays fall between April - June and who has to relicence this year, and who has not yet submitted their requests to be categorised and have their collection(s) Fields of Interest approved, not to wait till the last minute to do so, but to submit same as soon as possible.

To that end we structured a "help point" between the member and the formal Membership Committee, whose sole task it is to advise and guide the member to make sense out of the field of interest and organogram issue.

Contact Graeme Smith on 083 301 8985

**Firearm Collector "Good Standing" status and annual compliancy report:**

This still appears to be one of those “misunderstood” issues of the FCA!

It is also a matter of grave concern as a large percentage of the members do not have the required number of “events” to their credit, and faces dire serious consequences for which they can only blame themselves!

In order to remain a private collector, and over and above having had to do the competency certification and to have their collection field of interest approved and themselves categorized as an A/B/C collector, a member also has to very year meet the required good standing criteria as stipulated in the Association’s constitution.

The CAPE SAAACA constitution stipulates that its members must attend 4 (four) “events” per annum. And can be any of the following.

1. Attending any of the monthly talks
2. Attending any of the historical shoots
3. Attending the AGM
4. Serving on the committee(s) in any capacity
5. Submitting qualified and relevant research articles to the CAPE SAAACA archives which will also be published via our web site.

We will still have three talks and two shoots over the next three months, and we suggest that those who still fall short must avail themselves of the opportunity to make sure they have the required four events to their credit.

True, at first it all appears extremely onerous and excessive, but once you managed to jump through the proper hoops, and secured your firearm licenses, the rest becomes very simple, and if we are perfectly honest, nothing more than what any active collector would not have participated on in any case! And to give you further peace of mind, numerous collectors has already successfully renewed their licenses.

**CAPE SAAACA SAMCA talks held every last Thursday of the month at the Castle in Cape Town.**

The topics were not always to everyone's liking. Please help us to make it more interesting by volunteering to do a talk yourself on any topic or subject that you are well informed on. Remember that few people have the knowledge that you the collector have, so share it with us!

We will also schedule to include at future talks EXCO sessions to inform members of FCA related matters and towards aspects concerning their required “field of interest(s)”, and to answer any such questions that members might have from time to time. In order to answer intelligently, we ask that members should direct any questions to the Chairman beforehand to allow them to do their homework to give you a proper answer.

**Historic Shoot held at Atlantis on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Oct:**

The shoot was well attended with the CS Western Shooting crowd turning out in good numbers and full authentic regalia. It was particularly good to notice that numerous wives came along to enjoy the day and camped out under beach umbrellas with picnic baskets. A wide range of types of firearms were used and the heavier black powder rifles added

their deep throated booms and smoke to make the day truly a memorable event. The shooters had the most intricate and innovative fold up chests and cabinets, some even wheeled, that held every conceivable bit of kit imaginable. Truly a festive and most enjoyable event. Afterwards we enjoyed potjiekos made by Hannes Willers who seems to have missed his true calling in life!

### **CAPE SAAACA Web site:**

Our Web site is not functioning at all and we are going to restructure it to be a proper information and communication tool that it should be. Any help in this regard will be welcome.

### **Help needed!**

Although we hold monthly talks at the Castle and the occasional shoot at Atlantis, the “paper war” that the FCA has brought on us, is tying down all available help on the EXCO in order to meet the onerous license issues.

My concern is that we are not able to add value over and above this to make CAPE SAAACA a “fun thing” as well. It is the age old problem of getting the right mix between “able” and “willing”. We have various initiatives we would like to tackle, but we need your help. We need members with the following skills to assist us.

1. Administrative skills
2. Events organization
3. Being available at events to help us with practical arrangements
4. Experienced Range Officers.
5. Membership committee whose task it is to evaluate applications and fields of interest in terms of the FCA and NAACCSA guidelines.
6. People who will deliver a talk on any collector relevant subject or topic. (We have all the technology available you need to do a presentation.)

Please people, without YOUR active participation we cannot serve you properly! It is useless to criticize the few who care enough to serve on the committee or what is being delivered, if you are not prepared to roll up your sleeves and constructively help us. More important, we don't need promises that won't deliver, we need willing bodies that will actually become involved on any of the above points.

### **2006 AGM**

The EXCO are only elected every second year, so this years AGM will not be such a serious affair. We need to report back to our members on all matters concerned and get such mandates as should be directed.

Various rural members have requested us to consider those who have to travel 200km+, and to that end we will hold it at 10H00 on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November. Further details to follow.

Please submit any matters which you would like to include in the agenda to the Chairman along with full explanations/motivation of what you wish to discuss in order for it to be circulated beforehand to allow all members to be properly informed. The cut off date for submissions will be the 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

We do not allow unqualified open ended general points to be added to the agenda on the day as it does not allow for informed decisions by all concerned and would exclude those who various reasons could not attend.

### **2007 dues:**

We will be snail mailing the invoices for the 2007 dues shortly. We are happy to report that we can keep our dues at the current level of R450 per annum for firearm collectors and R250 for general militaria collectors.

All payments need to have been received by not later than the end of December as we then have to “close books” in order to submit our annual good standing compliancy report to the CFR SAPS. Without “good standing” you will loose your private collectors status and subsequently your licenses of your firearm collection.

This will also be the first time we will be able to issue the long promised credit card type membership card with your photograph and “good standing” status on, as our system are now fully in place and compliant with the FCA.

Should your postal address recently have changed, please notify us accordingly as we find a huge amount of snail-mail being RTS with each mail shot. Also make sure that we have 2 colour passport photographs of you on file. No membership card will be issued without that!

## **CAPE SAAACA SAMCA NEWSLETTER NO 7, OCTOBER 2006**

### **SAMCA MEETINGS BREAKDOWN**

The SAMCA data base consists of both firearm collectors and non firearm militaria enthusiasts. Due to a Computer Hard Drive failure in August, the scribe lost his complete SAMCA data base which was irrecoverable. After a long and laborious process of reconstruction the data base has been more or less been duplicated. The Scribe wishes to offer his apologies for any inconvenience caused.

### **JULY TALK**

Our Speaker on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, 2006, was the author of the book “Only my friends call me ‘Crouks’”, **Dennis Croukamp**. He was introduced by the chairperson, Stephan Fourie, who served together with Dennis in the Rhodesian Selous Scouts during the 1970s, a spectacular group of elite soldiers who specialized in unconventional warfare and who achieved immortal fame for their daring exploits during Rhodesia’s epic Bush War.

Dennis served in the Rhodesian Army from 1964 to 1980 – a total of 16 years, which, according to him felt very short because he was “having so much fun”! Dennis’ military service also spanned the halcyon years in Rhodesia’s life and death struggle during the insurgency war from 1965 to 1980. When Dennis started out with his national service, he

originally ended up in No 3 Commando, Rhodesian Light Infantry (the famous RLI). While with the RLI, he was decorated with the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia for valour, quite an achievement for a lance corporal, as he was at the time. Dennis served with the RLI until the early seventies, in which time he was also wounded in the ankle, a wound that took some time to heal properly before he had the full use of his leg again. At this point Dennis had the rank of sergeant.

The essence of the talk centered around Dennis' service with the Selous Scouts, a specialist and elite unit famous for its unconventional means of warfare to bring the war to the enemy in what is in essence a "low-intensity" war with no "Queensbury" rules, no fixed fronts and no innocents. It was a hard war and unique methods had to be employed to wrest the initiative from the insurgents. This was to a large extent achieved by means of "Pseudo gangs" – small sections of Selous operators that made use of "turned terrorists" that masqueraded as insurgent gangs – and in the process gathering information on the whereabouts, strength and movement of the insurgent gangs. This was a very exhausting and perilous undertaking, fraught with danger. He ended his military career with the rank of Warrant Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

Dennis' talk took an unusual format in that it was more of a question and answer session as Dennis preferred it to a formal lecture. Although informal, it actually brought much more first-person experiences to light than what would have been the case otherwise, as shown by the audience's response and appreciation. The talk was followed by an informal "talk" in the NCO/EM's bar and a book-signing session in between by Dennis.

Our thanks to Dennis for a most interesting and entertaining talk - our best wishes and success in regard to the book sales – may a 2<sup>nd</sup> print run a reality in the immediate future!



The next meeting of SAMCA will be held on Thursday, 26 October, at 19:30 at the CTH NCO's & EM's Mess at the Castle.

**Our next talk will be delivered by an Ex Soviet Army officer.**

**Dr Guntars Vaivars**, originally from Latvia in the Baltics, who has a doctorate in physics (chemistry), is currently Research Manager (Academic Projects) and Senior Lecturer on the subject of renewable energy resources at the UWC (the chair being sponsored by ESCOM).

He will speak to us on the history and everyday life in the Soviet Army and what it was like to be a foreign national - albeit under Soviet occupation – in the Soviet Army. He attended a military school of which one day per week was set aside for advanced military training under full military control. While still studying at University he completed his compulsory officer's training, and served in the Soviet Forces as an officer. He initially served in an armoured / motorised infantry unit and later transferred to Moscow to serve in a chemical warfare unit. He, however, felt that it was not his chosen career path, had resigned his commission and followed an academic career.



## COLLECTORS' FAIR

One of our stated aims is to organize a **Militaria/Arms Collectors' Fair** on an annual basis to promote our respective hobbies and to provide a broad-based platform to rub shoulders with collectors, related trade organizations & dealers on a regional and national level. If we want to host a fair in 2007, we need to start planning and organize without delay, as it involves a lot of brain and brawn. We are therefore inviting all and sundry to come forward with ideas, suggestions, support, and above all, volunteers to become involved in the organizing. **Yes, we need YOU!!!**



### SOME PROVISIONAL TALKS FOR 2006/2007 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE & IN RANDOM ORDER):

- **Samurai Swords** – Gary Morris/André Olivier
- **Schutztruppe Edged Weapons & Medals** – Andy Shoredits
- **Boxer Rebellion Medals** – Andy Shoredits
- **German Railway Guns - A Historical Perspective** – Johan van den Berg
- **The Tale of Two Skirmishes, 17<sup>th</sup> September, 1901 (Gen Louis Botha at Blood River Poort and Gen Jan Smuts at Elands River Poort)** - Johan van den Berg
- **German Political Daggers** – Andy Shoredits
- **German Fallschirmjäger in World War Two: A Historical Perspective** – Johan van den Berg
- **Gen Smuts' Campaign in the Northern Cape/Namaqualand during the Anglo-Boer War** – Glenn von Zeil



### IMPORTANT!: We need:

- **proposals for lectures** and more importantly;
- **speakers**, especially on firearm/ammunition-related subjects!
- **to know about fellow collectors or enthusiasts whom we could invite** – please let us have their names and contact details ASAP.



### SAMCA COMMITTEE:

- **Stephan Fourie** (SAAACA/SAMCA Chairperson – email: [stephan@sfa.co.za](mailto:stephan@sfa.co.za)) (The SAAACA Chairman is (constitutionally) automatically Chairperson of SAMCA).
- **Andy Shoredits** (SAMCA Secretary/SAAACA Executive member – Ph: 083-656-5936 & email: [felsnest@global.co.za](mailto:felsnest@global.co.za))
- **Johan van den Berg** (SAMCA Scribe – Ph: 082-579-0386 & email: [warbooks@mweb.co.za](mailto:warbooks@mweb.co.za))

Kind regards

**Johan van den Berg**

(Scribe – Ph: 082-579-0386 / email: [warbooks@mweb.co.za](mailto:warbooks@mweb.co.za))

## **ANNEXURE:**

**Citation for the Awarding of the *Bronze Cross of Rhodesia*, for leadership & conspicuous gallantry, to L-Cpl Dennis Croukamp 723507, 18<sup>th</sup> March 1968\***

## **CITATION**

### ***Corporal Dennis Eric Walter Croukamp***

*On 18th March 1968, Lance Corporal Croukamp was a Section Leader in 13 Troop, 3 Commando, when the Troop, together with a platoon of The 1st Battalion, The Rhodesian African Rifles, was fiercely engaged by a gang of over sixty terrorists in the Zambezi Escarpment of North Mashonaland.*

*The troop numbering only twelve men, was pinned down on exposed ground on the side of a hill feature which the terrorists had used to establish a strong defensive position. Despite the heavy automatic fire at close range, Lance Corporal Croukamp twice crawled forward towards the terrorists' base and engaged them with grenades. This action taken on his own initiative and with complete disregard for his own safety, enabled the Troop to redeploy into better positions.*

*Lance Corporal Croukamp, again on his own initiative, then personally sited the Troop light mortar detachment in a good position, to prevent any terrorist escape along the one flank of the area.*

*Helicopter support was called for but because of the close cover, the pilot was unable to pin-point the enemy. Lance Corporal Croukamp was therefore ordered to indicate the terrorists' position with smoke grenades. This entailed crawling forward across ground which was swept by heavy automatic fire to grenade throwing*

*distance.*

***Throughout the action, which lasted nearly six hours, Lance Corporal Croukamp displayed outstanding leadership for so junior a Non-Commissioned officer and conspicuous gallantry under heavy fire. His courage, determination and personal example were an inspiration to the whole Troop. His prompt action in the initial stages of the engagement undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades.***

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\* Extract from Dennis' book *Only my Friends Call me "Crouks"*, published in April 2006 in Cape Town. The first print run is nearly exhausted, but plans are underway for a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition – copies can be ordered directly from Dennis (contact scribe for details).