

A large naval ship, possibly a minesweeper, is seen in the background, spraying high-pressure jets of water towards several smaller sailboats in the foreground. The scene is set on a calm sea under a clear sky. The water jets create large, white plumes that rise into the air. The sailboats are silhouetted against the bright background. The overall atmosphere is one of a maritime exercise or demonstration.

Unfortunately, as with the last edition, we had a late withdrawal and hence have no "Spotlight" in this edition. Normal services to be resumed shortly!

SAS DRAKENSBURG is currently up the East coast doing a patrol and by all accounts doing well.

The committee recently had a strategic planning session to determine the way forward in order for it to be sustainable and vibrant. Members will be informed in due course of our plan/s of action.

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From the Treasurer

Club support in January was very disappointing with bar sales well below budget. Not sure what the reason for this was, other than members choosing to relocate during the holidays to somewhere where water usage was not an issue. Naturally the Club's profitability took a dive and ended up in the red for the month.

Unfortunately, the forecast for February does not look a whole lot better and we could well end up in the red again, although marginally. We will obviously keep our costs to a minimum.

With one month to go before we close off our financial year, we will still end up with a surplus for the year, so it is not all bad.

Regarding Membership Subscriptions for 2018/2019, we had an enormous response subsequent to the accounts going out and for this we sincerely thank those that have coughed up already.

Members are reminded that subs are due on the 1st March, with 60 days to pay. So, after 30th April 2018, members who have not paid by then will be in default and could forfeit their membership.

Any member who has not received his/her account, please contact the Club Manager or Treasurer urgently.

... 'till next time!

Manager's Report

100 Club Winners (Double Draw)

January 2017

N.R. Neate - R300
G.F. Harrison - R300
D.G. Viljoen - R300
K.B. Wise - R1000

February 2018

J. London - R300
K. Priday - R300
G.J. Kruger - R300
T. Van Zyl - R1000

Crank handle Club

The Crank Handle Club has run 4 successful Kalk Bay Commemorative Runs ending at the Seven Seas Club for lunch. This year the Kalk Bay run was held on 4th February 2018 and ended in Simon's Town where their Members enjoyed lunch in the Club whilst the cars and motorcycles were on display on Jubilee Square.



Tattler, the Chairman and the Club wish the following members a Happy Birthday and a great year ahead!

1 March	Capt	A J	Pembroke
3 March	Mr	D C	Fabre
4 March	Mr	A G	Roberts
7 March	Capt	B	Wallace-Bradley
7 March	Cdr	J P	Bowman
13 March	Lt Cdr	J F	Kriel
20 March	Mr	E	Hardman
20 March	V Adm	J F	Retief
21 March	Mr	M A	Seyffert
28 March	Lt Cdr	I S	Fishley
29 March	Mr	M S	Upson
31 March	Mr	P	Daly

The month of March in military history

March 2, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, a Japanese convoy was attacked by 137 American bombers as the Battle of Bismarck Sea began. The convoy included eight destroyers and eight transports carrying 7,000 Japanese soldiers heading toward New Guinea. Four destroyers and all eight transports were sunk, resulting in 3,500 Japanese drowned, ending Japanese efforts to send reinforcements to New Guinea.

March 2 1965 - Operation Rolling Thunder, the bombing campaign was designed to interdict North Vietnamese transportation routes in the southern part of North Vietnam and slow infiltration of personnel and supplies into South Vietnam. The first Rolling Thunder mission took place on March 2, 1965, when 100 U.S. Air Force and Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) planes struck the Xom Bang ammunition dump 100 miles southeast of Hanoi. From 1965 to 1968, about 643,000 tons of bombs were dropped on North Vietnam, and a total of nearly 900 U.S. aircraft were lost during Operation Rolling Thunder. The operation continued, with occasional suspensions, until President Johnson, under increasing domestic political pressure, halted it on October 31, 1968.

March 3 1776 - First amphibious landing operation. Continental naval squadron under Commodore Esek Hopkins lands Sailors and Marines on New Providence Island in the Bahamas, capturing urgently-needed ordnance and gunpowder.

March 3 1938 - Sir Neville Henderson, British Ambassador to Germany, presents a proposal to Adolf Hitler for an international consortium to rule much of Africa in which Germany would be assigned a leading role in exchange for a German promise never to resort to war to change her frontiers, Adolf Hitler rejects the British offer.

March 5, 1946 - The "Iron Curtain" speech was delivered by Winston Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Churchill used the term to describe the boundary in Europe between

free countries of the West and nations of Eastern Europe under Soviet Russia's control.

March 6, 1836 - Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna. The Mexicans had begun the siege of the Texas fort on February 23rd, ending it with the killing of the last defender. "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texans who went on to defeat Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto in April.

March 8, 1863 - During the American Civil War, Confederate Colonel John Mosby, leader of Mosby's Rangers, captured Union General E.H. Stoughton at his headquarters in Fairfax County Courthouse, Virginia.

March 8 1917 - The Russian Revolution Starts.

March 9, 1945 - the firebombing of Tokyo killed 84,000 Japanese and destroyed about one-fourth of the buildings in the Japanese Capital. Under the command of Maj. Gen. Curtis LeMay, the 279 Superfortresses dropped large numbers of incendiary bombs on the city. 14 Superfortresses were shot down during the operation.

March 10 1705 - A French squadron of 14 ships, under Rear Admiral Jean-Bernard Desjeans, blockading Gibraltar engaged by a combined British, Dutch and Portugese fleet, under Sir John Leake, off Marbella. HMS Revenge (70), Sir Thomas Dilkes, took Arrogant (60) and two more French line-of-battle ships were taken and two driven ashore where they were burnt.

March 11, 1941 - During World War II, the Lend-Lease program began allowing Britain to receive American weapons, machines, raw materials, training and repair services. Ships, planes, guns and shells, along with food, clothing and metals went to the embattled British while American warships began patrolling the North Atlantic and U.S troops were stationed in Greenland and Iceland. "We must be the great arsenal of democracy," President Roosevelt declared concerning the fight against Hitler's Germany. The initial appropriation was \$7 Billion, but by 1946 the figure reached \$50 Billion in aid from the U.S. to its Allies.

March 12, 1938 - Nazis invaded Austria, then absorbed the country into Hitler's Reich.

March 12, 1999 - Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic became full-fledged members of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) less than ten years after exchanging communist rule for democracy and ending their Cold War military alliances with Soviet Russia.

March 13, 1943 - A plot to kill Hitler by German army officers failed as a bomb planted aboard his plane failed to explode due to a faulty detonator.

March 14, 1940 - Hitler and Mussolini meet and agree to fight together in war against France and Britain.

March 14 1945 - At the end of the war, South Africa received three Loch Class frigates: HMSAS Good Hope, HMSAS Natal and HMSAS Transvaal. HMSAS Natal achieved a war record when she sank the German submarine U714 whilst still on trials off St Abb's Head on 14 March 1945.

March 14, 1951 - During the Korean War United Nations Forces recaptured Seoul. Seoul changed hands for the fourth time, following the success of "Operation Ripper". Under General Matthew Ridgeway, the United Nations forces drove the enemy from Seoul and marched into the capital unopposed. By March 31, the Eighth Army resumed its old position along the 38th Parallel.

March 15, 44 B.C. - Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate chamber in Rome by Brutus and fellow conspirators. After first trying to defend himself against the murderous onslaught, Caesar saw Brutus with a knife and asked "Et tu, Brute?" (You too, Brutus?) Caesar then gave up the struggle and was stabbed to death.

March 16, 1968 - During the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre occurred as American soldiers of Charlie Company murdered 504 Vietnamese men, women, and children. Twenty-five U.S. Army officers were later charged with complicity in the massacre and subsequent cover-up, but only one was convicted, and later pardoned by President Richard Nixon.

March 18, 1965 - Soviet cosmonaut known as Lt. Col. Alexei Leonov becomes First Man to walk in space.

March 19, 2003 - The United States launched an attack against Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein from power. The attack commenced with aerial strikes against military sites, followed the next day by an invasion of southern Iraq by U.S. and British ground troops. The troops made rapid progress northward and conquered the country's capital, Baghdad, just 21 days later, ending the rule of Saddam.

March 21, 1918 - During World War I, the Second Battle of the Somme began as German General Erich von Ludendorff launched an all-out drive to win the war. The battle began with a five-hour artillery barrage followed by a rush of German troops. The offensive lasted until April 6th and resulted in the Germans gaining about 35 miles of territory. Allied and German casualty figures for both battles approached 500,000.

March 26, 1979 - The Camp David Accord ended 30 years of warfare between Israel and Egypt. Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed the treaty of mutual recognition and peace, fostered by U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

March 31, 1991 - The Soviet Republic of Georgia, birthplace of Josef Stalin, voted to declare its independence from Soviet Russia, after similar votes by Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. Following the vote in Georgia, Russian troops were dispatched from Moscow under a state of emergency.

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WWII Admirals

For your interests, we look at four of the key naval "players" during the 1939-45 major conflict

Andrew Browne Cunningham

Admiral of the Fleet Andrew Browne Cunningham, 1st Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope, KT, GCB, OM, DSO & Two Bars (7 January 1883 – 12 June 1963) was a senior officer of the British Royal Navy during the Second World War. He was widely known by his nickname, "ABC". Cunningham was born in Rathmines in the south side of Dublin on 7 January 1883. After starting his schooling in Dublin and Edinburgh, he enrolled at Stubbington House School, at the age of ten, beginning his association with the Royal Navy. After passing out of Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1898, he progressed rapidly in rank. He commanded a destroyer during the First World War and through most

of the interwar period. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and two Bars, for his performance during this time, specifically for his actions in the Dardanelles and in the Baltics.

In the Second World War, as Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet, Cunningham led British naval forces to victory in several critical Mediterranean naval battles. These included the attack on Taranto in 1940, the first completely all-aircraft naval attack in history, and the Battle of Cape Matapan in 1941. Cunningham controlled the defence of the Mediterranean supply lines through Alexandria, Gibraltar, and the key chokepoint of Malta. He also directed naval support for the various major Allied landings in the Western Mediterranean littoral. In 1943, Cunningham was promoted to First Sea Lord, the professional head of the Royal Navy, a position he held until his retirement in 1946. He was ennobled as Baron Cunningham of Hyndhope in 1945 and made Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope the following year. After his retirement, Cunningham enjoyed several ceremonial positions, including Lord High Steward at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. He died on 12 June 1963, aged 80.

Karl Donitz

Karl Donitz (16 September 1891 – 24 December 1980) was a German admiral who played a major role in the naval history of World War II. Dönitz briefly succeeded Adolf Hitler as the head of state of Germany.

He began his career in the Imperial German Navy before World War I. In 1918, while he was in command of UB-68, the submarine was sunk by British forces and Dönitz was taken prisoner. While in a prisoner of war camp, he formulated what he later called Rudeltaktik ("pack tactic", commonly called "wolfpack"). At the start of World War II, he was the senior submarine officer in the Kriegsmarine. In January 1943, Dönitz achieved the rank of Großadmiral (grand admiral) and replaced Grand Admiral Erich Raeder as Commander-in-Chief of the Navy.

On 30 April 1945, after the death of Adolf Hitler and in accordance with Hitler's last will and testament, Dönitz was named Hitler's successor as head of state, with the title of President of Germany and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. On 7 May 1945, he ordered Alfred Jodl, Chief of Operations Staff of the OKW, to sign the German instruments of surrender in Reims, France. Dönitz remained as head of the Flensburg Government, as it became known, until it was dissolved by the Allied powers on 23 May. At the Nuremberg trials, he was convicted of war crimes and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment; after his release, he lived quietly in a village near Hamburg until his death in 1980.

Chester William Nimitz

Chester William Nimitz, Sr. (February 24, 1885 – February 20, 1966) was a fleet admiral of the United States Navy. He played a major role in the naval history of World War II as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CinCPac) and Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas (CinCPOA), commanding Allied air, land, and sea forces during World War II.

Nimitz was the leading US Navy authority on submarines. Qualified in submarines during his early years, he later oversaw the conversion of these vessels' propulsion from gasoline to diesel, and then later was key in acquiring approval to build the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus, whose propulsion system later completely superseded diesel-powered submarines in the US. He also, beginning in 1917, was the Navy's leading developer of underway replenishment techniques, the tool which during the Pacific war would allow the US fleet to operate away from port almost indefinitely. The chief of the Navy's Bureau of Navigation in 1939, Nimitz served as Chief

of Naval Operations (CNO) from 1945 until 1947. He was the United States' last surviving officer who served in the rank of fleet admiral.

Isoroku Yamamoto

Isoroku Yamamoto (April 4, 1884 – April 18, 1943) was a Japanese Marshal Admiral of the Navy and the commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet during World War II until his death. Yamamoto held several important posts in the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN), and undertook many of its changes and reorganizations, especially its development of naval aviation. He was the commander-in-chief during the decisive early years of the Pacific War and therefore responsible for major battles, such as Pearl Harbour and Midway. He died when American code breakers identified his flight plans and his plane was shot down. His death was a major blow to Japanese military morale during World War II.



DID YOU KNOW?

At the start of the Second World War in 1939, the Royal Navy was the largest in the world, with over 1,400 vessels, including:

- *7 aircraft carriers - with 5 more under construction
- *15 battleships and battlecruisers - with 5 more under construction
- *66 cruisers - with 23 more under construction
- *184 destroyers - with 52 under construction
- *45 escort and patrol vessels - with 9 under construction and one on order
- *60 submarines - with 9 under construction



DID YOU KNOW?

Ides of March

Date When Celebrated : March 15th

The Ides of March is the first day of the Roman New Year. It also marks the first day of spring in the Roman calendar. On this day in history, Julius Caesar was warned by soothsayers to "beware of the Ides of March". Apparently, he did not heed the warning strongly enough as he was stabbed by Marcus Brutus on the Ides of March in 44 BC.

FEATURED OFFICER

James Johnson

Vice-Admiral James 'Johnny' Johnson SSA SM DSC (10 February 1918 – 2 October 1990) was a former Chief of the South African Navy (1 April 1972 to 30 September 1977). He was nicknamed "Flam" after his wartime red beard - "Vlambaard" in Afrikaans.

Early career

He trained at the General Botha Training college from 1933 to 1934 and joined the P&O Line after leaving General Botha. He was commissioned in 1938 and joined HMS York in 1939. After his ship was sunk in Suda Bay, Crete, he joined HMS Jed, which took part in the Battle of the Atlantic from 1942 to 1943. During this time he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for Gallantry. He also served as Commanding Officer of HMS Verbena (K85) and HMS Rosebay(K286)

SA Navy career

After the war he transferred to the South African Navy in 1946 as a Lieutenant Commander. He held various commands, including SAS Bloemfontein, SAS Transvaal, SAS Good Hope (F432) and the Navy Gymnasium. He commanded the Rothesay class frigate SAS President Pretorius when she was delivered from Britain in 1964, in the rank of Captain. He was promoted to Commodore in 1966.

1969 he was promoted to Flag Rank and appointed Chief of Naval Staff.

He was appointed Chief of the South African Navy in 1972 and was the last chief to occupy Admiralty House before Naval Headquarters moved to Pretoria.

Awards and decorations

Distinguished Service Cross

The citation in the London Gazette reads:

“For outstanding courage, enterprise and devotion to duty in action with enemy submarines while serving in H.M.S. Jed Lieutenant James Johnson, R.N.R. ”

List

Star of South Africa (SSA)
Southern Cross Medal (SM)
Southern Cross Medal (SM)
Good Service Medal, Gold (30 Years)
Good Service Medal, Silver (20 Years)
Union Medal
Distinguished Service Cross (United Kingdom) (DSC)
1939–45 Star
Africa Star
Atlantic Star
Pacific Star
War Medal 1939–1945

A Winter's Tale

Late fall and the Indians on a remote reservation in North Dakota asked their new chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild.

Since he was a chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared.

But, being a practical leader, after several days, he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, 'Is the coming winter going to be cold?'

'It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold,' the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later, he called the National Weather Service again. 'Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?'

'Yes,' the man at National Weather Service again replied, 'it's going to be a very cold winter.'

The chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

Two weeks later, the chief called the National Weather Service again. 'Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?'

'Absolutely,' the man replied. 'It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters we've ever seen.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied, 'The Indians are collecting a shitload of firewood.'

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Breeding Bulls

My wife and I went to the Agricultural Show and one of the first exhibits we stopped at was the breeding bulls.

We went up to the first pen and there was a sign attached that said: 'THIS BULL MATED 50 TIMES LAST YEAR'. My wife playfully nudged me in the ribsSmiled and said, 'He mated 50 times last year, that's almost once a week.'

We walked to the second pen which had a sign attached that said: 'THIS BULL MATED 150 TIMES LAST YEAR'. My wife gave me a healthy jab and said, 'WOW~~That's more than twice! a week!You could learn a lot from him.'

We walked to the third pen and it had a sign attached that said, in capital letters: 'THIS BULL MATED 365 TIMES LAST YEAR'. My wife was so excited that her elbow nearly broke my ribs, and said: 'That's once a day ..You could REALLY learn something from this one.'

I looked at her and said: 'Go over and ask him if it was with the same cow.'

My condition has been upgraded from critical to stable and I should eventually make a full recovery.



As I complete this we have had some good unseasonal rain. May we get more....

Look after yourselves!