

# The Seven Seas Tattler Issue 2.3 - August 2018



Welcome to your August edition of Tattler.

Comments and submissions are always welcome ([jonathanagolding@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanagolding@gmail.com))

## **From our Chairman**

On the SAN front, the Chinese visited Simon's Town at the beginning of July and the navy is currently gearing themselves up for Ex ATLASUR with Brazil and Uruguay at the end of August and Ex IBSAMAR with the Brazilians and Indian navies mid-September.

The Club had a very successful Pub night with Shelly and Allen. As a result, two more dances have been arranged for the 18 Aug with Brian Ireton being the host DJ (the same guy who DJed for New Year's Eve) and the Shelly and Alan again on the 22 Sep. I urge you to support these events.

The Committee has decided to introduce a second monthly Happy Hour on the fourth Tuesday of the month without the trimmings of the other happy hour but just drinks at half price from 1700 to 1800. Please support this initiative.

The Committee is currently finalizing the format for the celebration of the Club's 150-year celebrations and we will let you know in due course of what is planned. In the meantime, diarize 20 Oct 18 for the event.

## "One hundred and Fifty not out"

Tattler recognises this massive milestone!

Various "stuff" is being planned but we can provide some specifics!

The main event is to be held on 20.10.2018

The event will kick off mid-afternoon with a beer garden, snacks, music and potjies being prepared by various chefs. As the evening moves on, our members and guests will be able to partake in the potjiekos (great choice of a variety of offerings). Later there will be dancing to a live band. We hope to have several special guests present.

We can also announce that we will be having special golf shirts, with a resplendent 150 Seven Seas badge prepared. We are also looking into a variety of other mementos including wine, wine glasses and more.

More will be announced in the weeks that follow.....

The Club introduced a second monthly "Happy Hour" on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> July. The intention is to have such on the fourth Tuesday of each month. It is billed as a "no frills" event (no food provided, just half-price drinks between 17h00 and 18h00). To kick off, the committee donated an attendance prize. The evening went reasonably well and we encourage you to diarise this and come down to the club to support the initiative.

### **From the Treasurer**

At last some good news! Results for the month of June were really pleasing, with support for the test rugby featured on the "big screen" and for the party with Shelley and Alan, contributing significantly to the bottom line. In fact, after 3 months of negative returns, we are now back in the black. Expenditure for the month was kept to a minimum and fortunately no maintenance items of consequence were required.

Looking ahead, it seems we are not going to quite make our sales budget for July, but again we will endeavour to keep expenditure to a minimum. Unfortunately, we don't have much control over the costs we get landed with from the City of Cape Town, who have just nailed us for an additional fixed monthly charge of R400 for access to water. (The more you save, the more you pay).

We are also hoping that we will get good support again for the rugby (semi-final Lions vs Waratahs and SA vs Argentina) and also for the party on the 18<sup>th</sup> August, to keep the tills ticking over. I have been told that this party is a disco party catering mainly for us seniors, featuring hits from the 50's and 60's, with lyrics provided (as if we don't know them??) and a cheapskate supper. So, it will be great to have a good turnout and see if we oldies still have it.

That's all for now.... see you at the Club!

## From the Club Manager

Good day Members of the Seven Seas Club,

The Club will be hosting a Dance with sing along (for those who would like to exercise the old vocal cords) as well as a traditional German supper. This function will take place in the Club on Saturday the 18th of August 2018. Please open the attachment for access to the official invitation. Brian Ireton (Tuff Daddy) who was so popular at the New Year's Eve function will once again provide the music.

Please remember this function is limited to 50 guests only so please book and pay by 6th August to secure your table. Bookings may be made telephonically (021 7862989), e mail [sevensseasclub@telkomsa.net](mailto:sevensseasclub@telkomsa.net) or at the Bar (list and tickets available).

Yours aye,  
Glen Marlow

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*Dance & Sing-a-long to*  
*"Tuff Daddy"*  
(featuring hits from the 50's to 80's)  
*Saturday 18th August 2018 @19h30*  
Bring family and friends  
**BOOKING ESSENTIAL** (Tables of 6 or 8)  
Pay by 6th August secures your table  
*Lucky Ticket Draws*  
R70pp (Including a simple German style meal)

## **Birthdays and New Members**

### **Birthdays**

Tattler and the Club wish the following members a very Happy Birthday and hope they all have a year of great health and much happiness!

3<sup>rd</sup> August - *Peter Le Roux*

7<sup>th</sup> August - *Brett Duncan*

8<sup>th</sup> August - *Steven Haselum*

10<sup>th</sup> August - *Pam Luyt*

12<sup>th</sup> August - *Brad Morris*

13<sup>th</sup> August - *Kevin Packer*

26<sup>th</sup> August - *Herb Farrow*

26<sup>th</sup> August - *Anthony Swedwick*

27<sup>th</sup> August - *John Winter*

27<sup>th</sup> August - *Graham Mountfield*

28<sup>th</sup> August - *Mike Bagley*

### **New Members**

Adv Errol Norman Keeton. Married to Jacqueline and resides in Newlands. Errol who is now retired has enjoyed membership of the Bloemfontein Club as well as the Ramblers Club in Bloemfontein. He was a keen yachtsman in his early years and has a keen interest in all matters maritime.

Mr Brett Duncan. Married to Juanita and resides in Westcliff, Johannesburg. Brett, who is the son of a past member of the Club, the late Cedric Duncan, works for Standard Bank. Brett has an active interest in Naval History and enjoys scuba diving as well as deep sea fishing.

Mr Thomas Roos. Married to Izolda and resides in Lake Michelle Noordhoek. Tom is currently employed by Paramount Advanced Technologies. He operates in the maritime industry providing specialist connectivity solutions.

The Seven Seas Club welcomes Errol, Brett and Tom together with their families in the Club and we look forward to a continued social interaction with them.

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## Naval News

Pickets charge as tiny naval training boats meet HMS Queen Elizabeth off Dartmouth.

29/06/2018



The size truly takes your breath away. Yes, it's the majestic sight of four picket boats from Britannia Royal Naval College leading the nation's future flagship off the coast Dartmouth, spiritual home of the Royal Navy's officer corps.

The RN's leaders of tomorrow were invited to take their training craft out into the Channel to meet up with HMS Queen Elizabeth as she completed her latest spell of trials and sailed back home to Portsmouth.

When the leviathan's Commanding Officer Captain Jerry Kyd – formerly in charge of the college – signalled Dartmouth to let it know he was passing, trainee officers hit the water to greet the carrier.

Four picket boats and two rigid inflatable boats headed out into the Channel under the direction of Lt Cdr Mike Garner, BRNC's navigation training officer.

"The picket boats were crewed by a mix of warfare officers undertaking their foundation course and some who are destined for a career in Naval aviation – one day they could find themselves serving on this fantastic warship," he said.

"It was a great experience for them all to see HMS Queen Elizabeth at sea and get a taste of where their future may lie."

## Tunisian Navy commissions new vessels

Written by Guy Martin, Friday, 06 July 2018



The Tunisian Navy has commissioned two new vessels into service: its second Multi Service Offshore Patrol Vessel from Damen and a third locally manufactured patrol boat.

The vessels were commissioned at the port of La Goulette on 25 June by President Beji Caid Essebsi, according to the Tunisian Presidency, to coincide with the 62nd anniversary of the national army. The ceremony included demonstrations by the Tunisian Navy which saw boarding operations by Navy RHIBs and the deployment of sailors onto a vessel by UH-60 helicopter.

The second Multi Service Offshore Patrol Vessel (MOPV) 1400, named Syphax (P611), was taken into service along with the Kerkouane (P212) patrol boat.

Tunisia ordered four MSOPV 1400 vessels from Damen in 2016, with the first of class, Jugurtha (P610), delivered in March this year. The vessels are being constructed at Damen's shipyard in Galati in Romania, with Syphax being completed on 2 May. The other two vessels on order (Hannon and Sophonisbe) will be delivered by the end of 2018, according to Minister of National Defence Abdul-Karim al-Zubaidi. Hannon, began sea trials on the Black Sea on 26 June.

The MSOPV 140s have a length of 72 metres, a beam of 12.7 metres and a draft of 3.75 metres. The vessels displace approximately 1 284 tonnes and are powered by two Caterpillar engines delivering a total of 7 060 kW, giving a top speed of 20 knot.

### *Tunisia receives another locally built patrol vessel*

The MSOPV is Damen's second generation offshore patrol vessel design and incorporates Damen's Sea Axe hull shape for superior seakeeping - the new OPV is fuel efficient and capable of speeds up to 25/26 knots, Damen said.

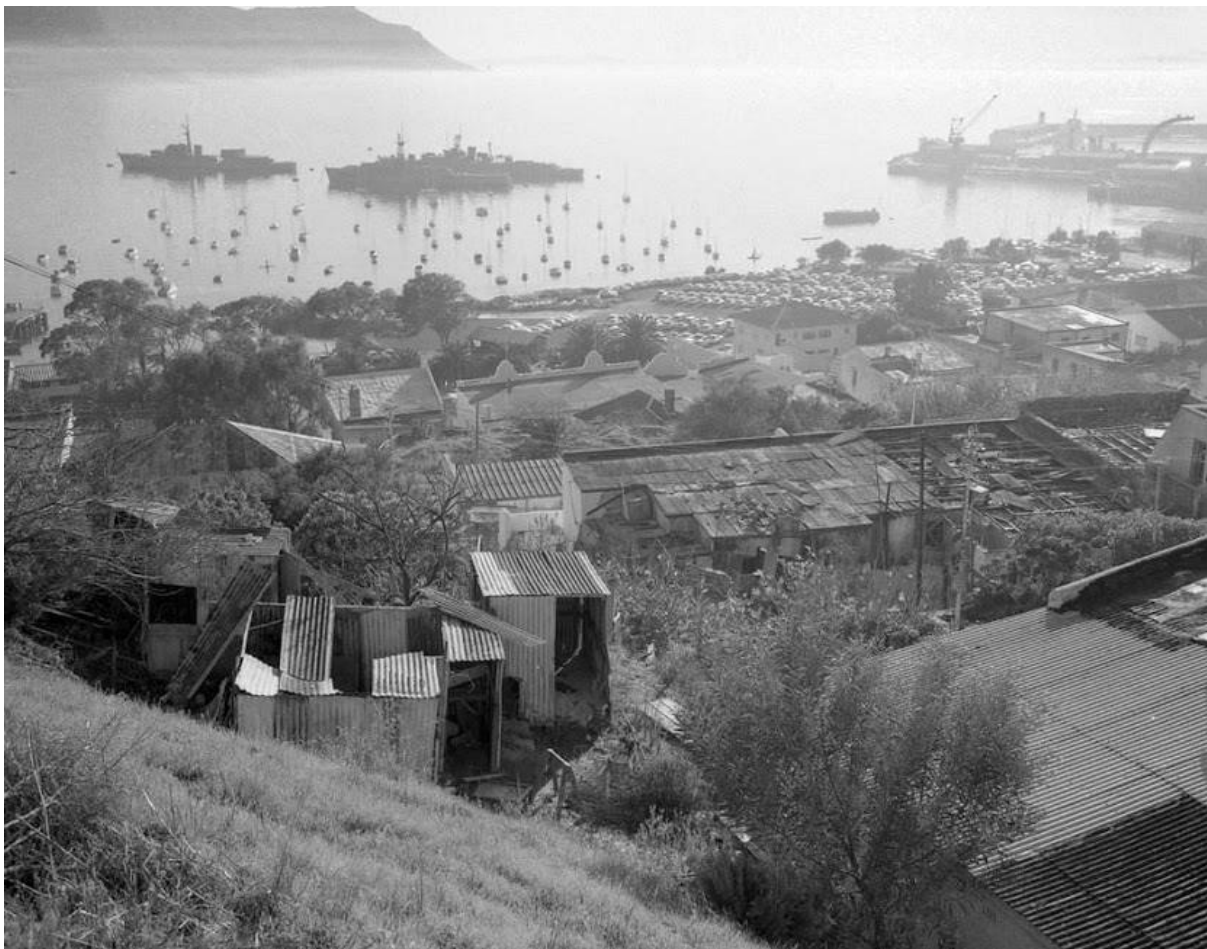
A Multi-Mission Bay can be equipped with dedicated mission modules and a nine metre RHIB (rigid-hulled inflatable boat), which can be launched over a dedicated slipway through the rear of the

vessel while the OPV is sailing. The Multi-Mission Hangar is capable of storing a helicopter and an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

The Kerkouane was locally built by the Societe de Construction Industrielle et Navale (SCIN) in partnership with the ministry of defence and was launched on 8 May this year. The first of class, Istiqlal (P201), was launched in August 2015 and the second, Utique (P211) was launched in March this year.

The 80-ton vessels are 26.5 metres long and 5.8 metres wide. They are powered by two Rolls-Royce engines, each of which produces 3 200 horsepower, giving a top speed of 25 knots and a range of 600 nautical miles. Armament includes a 20 mm cannon and two machineguns. Accommodation is for a crew of 12 sailors. The vessels are fitted with a thermal imaging camera.

### **Can you name the ships?**



Thanks to Glen Marlow for the photograph, estimated to be around 50 to 60 years old. Tattler requests those with the knowledge (and eyesight!) to identify the ships. Winner gets a free beer or two courtesy of our Chairman!



## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MARTELLO TOWER**

*In our 150th year we look at a Simon's Town landmark*

By Terry Korsten

In the year 1794, during the Napoleonic War, the British Fleet was engaged in blockading the French port of Toulon. A requirement arose to establish a safe anchorage in the Bay of Fiorenzo, Corsica for use by the Fleet. However, the shores of the Bay were well fortified. On 8th February two British ships, Fortitude (74 guns) and Juno (32 guns) arrived at the entrance of the Bay intent on destroying these fortifications. On the western extremity of the Bay on Cape Mortella stood a large circular tower armed with two guns and a garrison of two grenadiers and twenty seamen.

During the attack of some two and a half hours the garrison put up such a spirited defence that the ships had to withdraw, having suffered 6 dead and 56 wounded, as well as being severely damaged. The same evening a body of troops under the command of Major General David Dundas was landed and the following morning an attack was launched from the landward side and victory was only gained when the attacking troops contrived to smoke out the gallant defenders by setting fire to faggots piled against the tower.

The Prince of Wales Tower in Halifax, Nova Scotia was begun in 1796 but only completed in 1798. The towers on the East Coast of Britain were built in 1805 and numbered one hundred and three towers.

This remarkable achievement of such a small number of men with only two medium sized guns, in repelling an attack by two heavily armed warships, immediately established a reputation, out of all proportion to its importance, for this type of fortification. Admiral Sir John Jervis, aboard HMS Victory wrote "and I hope to see such works erected on every part of the Coast likely for an enemy to make a decent on". A model of this tower was made in the same year and is now preserved in the Military College at Woolwich and is inscribed: "Model of a Martello Tower in the Isle of Corsica sent to the Repository by Admiral Sir John Jervis."

This is the first time the name "Martello" appears, a corruption of Cape Mortella.

When the British occupied the Cape in September 1795, they did so to forestall any similar French action. The occupying troops were under the command of Major General James Craig, who was appointed Acting Governor of the Cape and who set about improving the coastal fortifications of Simon's Bay. He constructed, as part of these improvements, a large powder magazine capable of containing 980 barrels of gunpowder, (being the reserve ammunition for the Royal Naval Ships) in the near vicinity of the Southern Battery built by the Dutch and known as the 'Boeselaar Battery'.

To protect this magazine as well as the rear of the Battery, he completed the construction of the Simon's Town tower in early 1796. Therefore, it is certain that this tower is the oldest surviving Corsican designed Martello Tower in the world as the one on the island of Corsica encountered by the two British ships on 8th February 1794, was demolished by the evacuating British troops on 26 October 1796. Both the powder magazine and the tower still stand in the East Naval Dockyard in Simon's Town.



*Martello Tower Simon's Town late 1800s*



***Featured Battle - Operation Pedestal - August 1942***



Operation Pedestal (Italian: Battaglia di Mezzo Agosto, "Battle of mid-August"), known in Malta as the Santa Marija Convoy (Maltese: Il-Konvoj ta' Santa Marija), was a British operation to carry supplies to the island of Malta in August 1942, during the Second World War. Malta was a base from which British ships, submarines and aircraft attacked Axis convoys to the Axis forces in Libya and Egypt, during the North African Campaign (1940–1943). From 1940 to 1942, the Axis conducted the Siege of Malta, with air and naval forces. Despite many losses, enough supplies were delivered by the British for the population and military forces on Malta to resist, although it ceased to be an offensive base for much of 1942. The most crucial supply item in Operation Pedestal was fuel, carried by SS Ohio, an American tanker with a British crew. The convoy sailed from Britain on 3 August 1942 and passed through the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean on the night of 9/10 August.



The Axis attempt to prevent the fifty ships of the convoy reaching Malta, using bombers, German E-boats, Italian MAS and MS boats, minefields and submarine ambushes, was the last Axis Mediterranean victory. While a costly tactical defeat for the Allies, it was also one of the greatest British strategic victories of the war. More than 500 Merchant and Royal Navy sailors and airmen were killed and only five of the 14 merchant ships reached Grand Harbour. The arrival of Ohio justified the decision to hazard so many warships; its cargo of aviation fuel revitalised the Maltese air offensive against Axis shipping. Submarines returned to Malta and Supermarine Spitfires flown from the aircraft carrier HMS Furious enabled a maximum effort to be made against Axis ships. Italian convoys had to detour further away from the island, lengthening the journey and increasing the time during which air and naval attacks could be mounted. The Siege of Malta was broken by the Allied re-conquest of Egypt and Libya after the Second Battle of El Alamein (23 October – 11 November) and by Operation Torch (8–16 November) in the western Mediterranean, which enabled land-based aircraft to escort merchant ships to the island.



In recognition of their fortitude during the siege and air attacks during all of the Mediterranean campaign, Malta was awarded the George Cross in the months immediately preceding this operation. Vice-Admiral Syfret was appointed as a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath for his "bravery and dauntless resolution in fighting an important convoy through to Malta in the face of relentless attacks by day and night from enemy submarines, aircraft, and surface forces." The master of the tanker Ohio, Dudley Mason, was awarded the George Cross for showing "skill and courage of the highest order and it was due to his determination that, in spite of the most persistent enemy opposition, the vessel, with her valuable cargo, eventually reached Malta and was safely berthed."

Several other officers, crew members and commanders of both the Royal and Merchant Navies, including the commander of HMS Ledbury, Roger Hill, received military awards ranging from the Distinguished Service Order and Conspicuous Gallantry Medal to Mentioned in Despatches, for the bravery shown in ferrying the merchantmen to Malta. The Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Junior Third Officer Frederick August Larsen, Jr. and to Cadet-Midshipman, US Merchant Marine Academy, Francis A. Dales for "Heroism beyond the call of duty".

## Beijing Hotel Brochure - Translated as only they can

A friend went to Beijing recently and was given this brochure by the Hotel. It is precious. She is keeping it and reading it whenever she feels depressed. Obviously, it has been translated directly, word for word from Mandarin to English....

### Getting There:

Our representative will make you wait at the airport. The bus to the hotel runs along the lake shore. Soon you will feel pleasure in passing water. You will know that you are getting near the hotel, because you will go round the bend. The manager will await you in the entrance hall. He always tries to have intercourse with all new guests.

### The hotel:

This is a family hotel, so children are very welcome. We of course are always pleased to accept adultery. Highly skilled nurses are available in the evenings to put down your children. Guests are invited to conjugate in the bar and expose themselves to others. But please note that ladies are not allowed to have babies in the bar.

We organize social games, so no guest is ever left alone to play with them self.

### The Restaurant:

Our menus have been carefully chosen to be ordinary and unexciting. At dinner, our quartet will circulate from table to table, and fiddle with you.

### Your Room:

Every room has excellent facilities for your private parts. In winter, every room is on heat. Each room has a balcony offering views of outstanding obscenity! ... You will not be disturbed by traffic noise, since the road between the hotel and the lake is used only by pederasts.

### Bed:

Your bed has been made in accordance with local tradition. If you have any other ideas please ring for the chambermaid. Please take advantage of her. She will be very pleased to squash your shirts, blouses and underwear. If asked, she will also squeeze your trousers.

### Above all:

When you leave us at the end of your holiday, you will have no hope. You will struggle to forget it."

Thinking you, Your Management

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**The Star, Johannesburg**

"The situation is absolutely under control," Transport Minister Ephraem Magagula told the Swaziland parliament in Mbabane. "Our nation's merchant navy is perfectly safe. We just don't know where it is, that's all."

Replying to an MP's question, Minister Magagula admitted that the landlocked country had completely lost track of its only ship, the 'Swazimar': "We believe it is in a sea somewhere. At one time, we sent a team of men to look for it, but there was a problem with drink and they failed to find it, and so, technically, yes, we've lost it a bit. But I categorically reject all suggestions of incompetence on the part of this government.

"The Swazimar is a big ship painted in the sort of nice bright colours you can see at night. Mark my words, it will turn up. The right honourable gentleman opposite is a very naughty man, and he will laugh on the other side of his face when my ship comes in."

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***For us oldies***

A drunken man walks into a biker bar, sits down at the bar and orders a drink.

Looking around, he sees three men sitting at a corner table.

He gets up, staggers to the table, leans over, looks the biggest, meanest, biker in the face and says:

'I went by your grandma's house today and I saw her in the hallway buck-naked.

Man, she is one fine looking woman!'

The biker looks at him and doesn't say a word.

His buddies are confused, because he is one bad biker and would fight at the drop of a hat.

The drunk leans on the table again and says:

'I got it on with your grandma and she is good, the best I ever had!'

The biker's buddies are starting to get really mad but the biker still says nothing.

The drunk leans on the table one more time and says, 'I'll tell you something else, boy, your grandma liked it!'

At this point the biker stands up, takes the drunk by the shoulders looks him square in the eyes and says.....

'Grandpa;..... Go home!

***To close, a story for our two fantastic barmen, Theo and Frans:***

I went to see a psychiatrist and said: "I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy."

"Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the shrink. "Come talk to me three times a week, and we should be able to get rid of those fears."

"How much do you charge?" "300 rand per visit," replied the doctor.

"I'll sleep on it", I said.

Six months later, the doctor met me on the street. "Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?" he asked.

"Well, 300 bucks a visit, three times a week, for a year, is almost R50 000

A bartender cured me for R10.00. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought myself a new truck".

"Is that so?" With a bit of an attitude, he said, "and how, may I ask, did a bartender cure you?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed. Ain't nobody under there now".

FORGET THE SHRINKS...  
HAVE A DRINK & TALK TO A BARTENDER!  
IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TO GET A SECOND OPINION!