

The Seven Seas Tattler Issue 5.05 – October 2021



Good day to all you great members of the Seven Seas Club. Welcome to October!

We hope and trust that this version of Tattler provides some interest, a little learning, some good memories and a laugh or two. As usual we invite comments, constructive criticism and contributions. My email as follows: (jonathanagolding@gmail.com).

Tattler wonders whether our member's wives recognise their status as de facto members of the club. Please be aware that this status enables you to visit the club (with or without your spouses) at any time, bring guests, arrange some fun (e.g. a game of bridge or another card game). You are all more than welcome at our club and we hope to see you enjoying our facilities!

Please remember that advertising within Tattler is available. For members this is free and our rates are very accommodating for others. Advertising can bring a few Rands into the club coffers so we urge you to spread the word!

Tattler – We received the following feedback on the September edition of Tattler from Vic Neilson.

Good Evening Jonathan

Thank you for another thoroughly good Tattler - a mix of sadness for those who have crossed the bar and amazement at those who came through moments in history when they should not have survived. I also came to the sudden realisation as I browsed through the 1921 events that it is only 15 years until somebody is reading about the year of my birth. Hoo boy!!

The link to HMS Belfast herewith may be of interest.
(See story of the HMS Belfast elsewhere in this edition.)

Yours aye
Vic Neilson

From the Chair

It is happening more frequently of late that members are bringing guests into the Club not appropriately dressed. The wearing of T-shirts being the common transgressor.

The Committee has decided that a "fine" be introduced, that defaulting members buy a Club Shirt for their guest to wear whilst in the Club and before they are served any beverages.

This will help us generate additional funds into the Club and reduce our holding stock in the Club.

Please see this in the spirit it is intended and not as a "punishment".

The Committee has also decided to go on a fundraising/member recruitment drive to improve our financial standing, which has taken a knock as a result of the effects of the pandemic.

Each committee member will approach a member of the Club to partner up with them to be part of a brainstorming session, to determine ways to raise additional funding for the Club.. Members raising ideas must be prepared to "drive" the initiative with the assistance of the Committee and Club Manager.

Any member interested are kindly requested to approach any member of the committee about their willingness to participate. The proposed date for the work session is Sat 9 Oct 21, time TBA.

See you at the Club

Regards

Kevin Wise

From the Treasurers Abacus

At the end of August, the Club was half way through the financial year and, financially speaking, things are as tight as expected. Ongoing battles to recover part of the salaries paid to the staff during lockdown from the State/UIF funded TERS program and an under-budget income from both rental from our downstairs facility and fundraising have resulted in the Club being R6,663.00 worse than budget.

While the TERS battle may still be won, our rental and fundraising shortfalls must be reversed. This is particularly true of the second half of the financial year as this was budgeted to deliver a much better result than the first half. Please support your Club in any fundraising activities undertaken and let the committee know if you have any ideas that have not been tried yet. Please also keep spreading the word about our downstairs facilities that are still available to rent. (3 Offices remain unused and need to be taken soon in order for us to stand any chance of meeting overall budget)

On the positive side, despite the July closure due to lockdown, our bar turnover has exceeded budget and helped to significantly reduce what would otherwise have been a much worse half year result. Please continue to support your Club in this most convivial of ways.

See you in the Club

Doug Law-Brown

Club Managers Report

We wish to welcome the following new members

Capt John Gower (Ret) who resides in Tokai. John is a retired Submariner and is the current Chairman of the Naval Officers Association of Southern Africa (NOASA).

Lt (SAN) Liesa van Blommestein married to Willem van Blommestein and resides in Simon's Town. Liesa is an Engineer in the South African Navy and is currently employed in the Naval Engineering Section (NES).

S Lt Christopher Murray who resides in Highway Road Fish Hoek is an Engineer in the South African Navy and is currently employed in the Naval Engineering Section (NES).

Mr John Winchester Anderson who resides in Crofters Valley, Noordhoek. John is an Accountant and is the Financial Director of various Companies. He is a keen sailor and holds a Commercial Skippers Ticket.

Congratulation to our 100 Club Winners for September 2021

Mrs A Stannard (70) : R300
R Adm (JG) A.E. Rudman (Ret) (47): R300
Cdr O. Pfuhl (Ret) (59) : R300
Mr P Dines (57) : R1000

The Club thanks Mrs Stannard for the donation of her prize money

We wish the following a very happy birthday!

Tattler - For our usual bit of fun, we have inserted shared birthdays in parenthesis.

Mr S.C Metcalfe – 03 October (1941 - Chubby Checker, singer, musician)

Ms. E. Mansell – 04 October (1941 - Jackie Collins, author)

Mr J.M. Halhead – 5 October (1829 - Chester A. Arthur, 21st U.S. President (1881-1885))

Cdr J. Martin (Ret) – 8 October (1890 - "Eddie" Rickenbacker, WWI flying ace)

Mr D.F. Oettle – 9 October (1940 - John Lennon, singer, songwriter, musician, member of the "Beatles")

Mr S.G. Drayton – 9 October (1948 - Jackson Browne, singer, songwriter)

R Adm (JG) P. Fougstedt (Ret) – 15 October (1924 - Lee Iacocca, Chrysler auto executive, led turnaround of company)

Capt G.R. Marlow (Ret) – 15 October (1920 - Mario Puzo, novelist, wrote "The Godfather")

Mr A. Fitzpatrick – 21 October (1833 - Alfred Nobel, chemist, engineer, established Nobel Prizes)

Capt K.D. Hobson SAAF (Ret) – 24 October (1881 - Pablo Picasso, the greatest artist of the 20th century)

Capt S. Wright (Ret) – 25 October (1888 - Richard E. Byrd, aviator, Antarctic explorer)

Movie Nights - Club President R Adm (JG) A.E. Rudman SAN (Rtd) has submitted the following

“Our very sincere thanks to Sandy le Roux for providing such delicious soups for our movie nights during the winter time. Your support is very much appreciated!

Since the inception of our movie nights in 2017 (a very slow start!) the theme has been mainly movies of a naval/maritime/military nature.

I have received requests for a variation on the theme, to include more ‘feel good’ movies. To this end, members are invited to suggest their favourite movies that they may wish to watch again on the big screen. We will do our best to source these movies, and will screen them on alternate movie nights.

Please send your requests directly to me at andrerudman@mweb.co.za.

See you at the next movie night!”

Tattler - The following was received from Alan Collingridge:

It includes a tribute to fellow member, Maj Gen Paul Rast who passed away some months ago. It also includes club member Prof Gert Kruger.

In Alan's own words, in an email to Paul's daughter, Christina:

"I made up a slide presentation to our Hiking Group a couple of months back at my birthday braai which included a tribute to your Father.

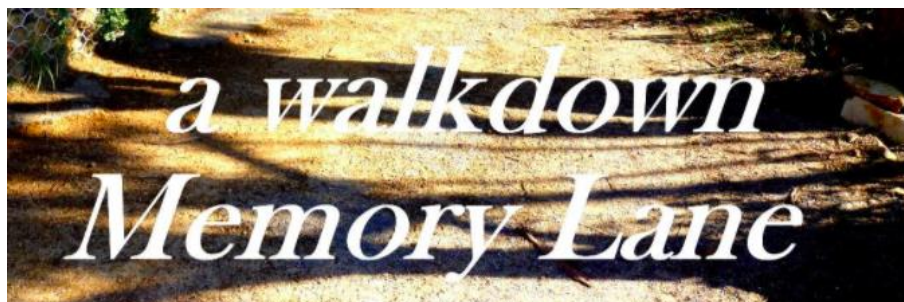
The sketches are Paul's that he sent to Angela Stannard a friend and local artist, over a period on birthdays and special occasions.

I hope you enjoy the pictures including our memory lane which features Paul – we all have happy memories of him."

Christina's response included: *"This tribute is so wonderful and absolutely beautiful! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHARING THIS!!! It is so nice to be able to participate in this part of our dad's life, which was very important and dear to him. I am deeply touched by all these beautiful memories, there is love and friendship in every single picture. To see him so happy amongst his friends on Christmas 2020/ Dirk's 90th birthday gives me a lot of consolation and peace of mind.*

And I am even in one of the pictures - I took part in the seven seas club hat party, which took place shortly after his 80th birthday, I am the lady with the violet wig :-). "

The presentation includes some great photographs. Click on the image below.



Tattler Classifieds

Free advertising within Tattler for club members. Very reasonable rates for non-members. Contact jonathanagolding@gmail.com.

-9888 10 Year Guarantee on Torch-on Systems

Personal Supervision Skilled Reliable staff

GOURLEY'S ROOFMATIX
Est. 1930
3rd Generation Specialists in:

roofing • waterproofing
up to a standard, not down to a price

5-10 Year Guarantee
on Torch-on waterproofing systems & new installations
Members: Waterproofing & Roofing Association Cape
Legal & Registered: VAT No: 4150236653

Sean: 082 417 7616
Email: Roofmatix.fishhoek@gmail.com
www.gourleysroofmatix.co.za

The following was submitted by our Club Manager, Glen on behalf of David Holmes and The SA Legion.

The SA Legion has accommodation available for retirees at Rosedale, its independent living retirement facility in Rosebank. Bachelor and one-bedroom flats are available and one meal a day is provided. Further information is available from David Holmes david@salegion.co.za or 0216899771.

Contact details:

David Holmes
Branch Manager
SA Legion Cape Town
Rosedale, Lower Nursery Road,
Rosebank.
Telephone 021 6899771
www.salegion.co.za

Navy News

Tattler - Maritime News? well not really, but this is big news and it is current!

By Tom Butler/ Source <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk>

Daniel Craig appointed honorary Commander of the Royal Navy



Daniel Craig has now reached the rank of the fictional James Bond (Royal Navy).

Sixteen years after being mocked by the tabloids for wearing a lifejacket when he was announced as James Bond, Daniel Craig has come full circle.

The Royal Navy has appointed the No Time To Die actor as an honorary Commander of the Royal Navy, matching the on-screen rank of James Bond himself.

Posing for photographs in Navy blues, Commander Craig said: "I am truly privileged and honoured to be appointed the rank of Honorary Commander in the senior service," and says he is keen to support service families in his new role.

The Royal Navy's warship HMS Dragon plays a critical role in Craig's fifth and final Bond film, which arrives in UK cinemas on 30 September.

Talking about Craig's appointment, First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Tony Radakin said: "I am delighted to welcome honorary Commander Daniel Craig to the Royal Navy. "Our honorary officers act as ambassadors and advocates for the Service, sharing their time and expertise to spread the message about what our global, modern, and ready Royal Navy is doing around the world."

No Time To Die comes to cinemas shortly.

Watch the trailer right here by clicking on James Bond's Aston Martin DB5!



Feature : Remarkable Courageous Teenagers During the War

Source: <https://listverse.com/>

Masha Bruskina

Seventeen-year-old Masha Bruskina was a member of the Minsk resistance. She volunteered at a hospital that took care of injured soldiers from the Red Army. Bruskina did more than care for the wounded. She helped soldiers escape by getting them civilian clothes and false identity papers.

One of her patients reported her to the Germans. Bruskina was captured and tortured for several days, but she refused to give up the names of other members of her group. She was sentenced to be publicly hanged.



Bruskina was paraded through the streets, but she walked calmly to her death. When she was placed on the stool, she turned her back to the crowd. This angered the executioners as they wanted her to stand with her face to the crowd. They tried to force her to turn around, but they were unsuccessful.

They kicked the stool away from her. Bruskina's body hung for three days before the Germans allowed the town to bury her.

Truus Oversteegen

Truus Oversteegen's entire family disagreed with Nazi ideology, so they helped Jewish people and political refugees illegally cross the border between Germany and the Netherlands.

Sixteen-year-old Truus (pictured right) was eager to do more. When a member of the Dutch resistance asked her to join, she jumped at the chance.



Oversteegen started with simple missions—distributing illegal newspapers, handing out leaflets, and procuring aid for refugees. But Oversteegen soon took on more serious jobs.

She entered concentration camps, provided false papers, and extracted Jewish children. Oversteegen and her fellow resistance members then found hiding places for the children. Oversteegen was asked to join the armed resistance, and she accepted. She was given military training and taught how to shoot.

Her first job was to flirt with German soldiers and lead them into the woods. There, they would be shot by fellow resistance members. Soon Oversteegen was shooting soldiers and blowing up bridges. Her actions angered the Germans, who offered 50,000 guilders (more than \$150,000 today) for her capture. She was never caught.

Adolfo Kaminsky

Adolfo Kaminsky dropped out of school at 13 to help support his family. He worked for a clothes dyer—similar to a modern-day dry cleaner. Kaminsky spent hours learning how to remove stains from fabric, and he developed a love of chemistry. He started to read chemistry books and perform experiments at home. He also spent weekends working for a chemist at a dairy.

The Nazis invaded his country when he was 16. Kaminsky and his family narrowly avoided a stay at a concentration camp. They had to go underground to survive.



Photo credit: spiegel.de

Kaminsky's father sent him to pick up false papers from a Jewish resistance group. When Kaminsky arrived, he was told that the group was struggling to remove a blue dye from the documents. He told them to use lactic acid, a trick he had learned at the dairy. It worked, and Kaminsky was asked to join the resistance.

By his 19th birthday, Kaminsky had saved the lives of thousands of people by making false documents: ID cards that did not say Jew, foreign passports, and train tickets. He never took a cent for his work. He just wanted to help disadvantaged people. Kaminsky continued his work after World War II by supplying fake documents to needy people all over the world.

Feature – The HMS Belfast

From: BBC, History Magazine and historyextrs.com

Tattler – We thank Vic Neilson for his contribution to a story on the HMS Belfast.



Over 75 years ago, HMS *Belfast*, the Second World War Royal Navy cruiser, led the fleet responsible for supporting the British and Canadian assaults on Gold and Juno beaches on D-Day.

HMS *Belfast* was almost continuously in action over the five weeks after D-Day and fired thousands of rounds from her guns in support of Allied troops fighting their way inland.

She first opened fire at 5.27am on 6 June 1944.

Ted Cordery was Leading Seaman Torpedoman on board HMS Belfast, when the Allies launched the invasion of France. He recounted watching landing craft pass the ship, knowing the dangerous task the troops they carried would face once they landed on the beaches.

'I remember feeling so sorry for those men on the landing craft, because they were loaded up with guns and material packs. Like the army do, they tend to load their men up. A lot of them were probably very sea sick, because the flat bottom boats were very bumpy.'

I was looking at them as we were passing and thinking, some of those men are probably having a terrible time now and when they're dropped off they've got to start fighting! It's asking a lot isn't it.'

HMS Belfast came under occasional fire from German artillery and dive-bombers, but was unscathed as she continued to bombard German positions. She was targeted by German aircraft, but their bombing run missed.



She also played a medical role on D-Day, taking on board casualties from 1pm. As one of the larger warships present, HMS Belfast had a fully equipped sick bay staffed by surgeons, which you can look around today.



Today, this iconic warship is moored on the River Thames and open to visit.





HMS Belfast at her London berth, painted in Admiralty pattern Disruptive Camouflage

History



United Kingdom

Name	HMS <i>Belfast</i>
Ordered	21 September 1936
Builder	Harland and Wolff shipyard, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Yard number	1000
Laid down	10 December 1936
Launched	17 March 1938
Completed	3 August 1939
Commissioned	5 August 1939
Decommissioned	24 August 1963
Identification	Pennant number C35
Motto	<i>Pro Tanto Quid Retribuamus</i> (Latin: For so much, how shall we repay?)
Honours and awards	Arctic 1943 North Cape 1943 Normandy 1944 Korea 1950–52
Status	Museum ship since 21 October 1971

General characteristics

Class and type	Town-class light cruiser
Displacement	11,550 tons
Length	613 ft 6 in (186.99 m) overall
Beam	63 ft 4 in (19.3 m)
Draught	18 ft 3 in (5.56 m) forward 19 ft 9 in (6.02 m) aft
Installed power	80,000 shp (60,000 kW)
Propulsion	4 × Admiralty oil-fired 3-drum boilers 4 × Parsons single reduction geared steam turbines
Speed	32 knots (59 km/h)
Complement	781–881 (as flagship, 1939)
Armament	1939: 12 × 6-inch (152 mm) Mk XXIII guns (4×63) 12 × 4-inch (102 mm) Mk XVI dual purpose guns (6×62) 16 × 2-pounder (40 mm) anti-aircraft guns (2×68) 8 × 0.5-inch (13 mm) AA machine guns (2×64) 6 × 21-inch (533 mm) torpedo tubes (2×63)

Armour	Main belt: 4.5 inches (114 mm) Main turrets: Up to 4 inches (102 mm) Decks over magazines: 3 inches (76 mm) Decks over machinery: 2 inches (51 mm) Bulkheads: 2.5 inches (63.5 mm)[2][3]
Aircraft carried	2 × Supermarine Walrus (disembarked June 1943)
Aviation facilities	2 Vó hangars 1 Vó catapult (removed 1945)

Pirates – Some fun facts to end off our series of Pirate Stories.

Compiled by Colette Patience/ Source: <https://bestlifeonline.com/pirate-facts/>

Because of movies like *Treasure Island* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, many of us have a certain image of pirates: They spend their entire lives at sea, they speak with intense accents, and they make each other walk the plank as punishment. In reality, these seafaring lawbreakers—who date back to ancient times—often have wives and children back at home, are contributing members of their local economies, and do not grunt "arrrr" nearly as much as you previously believed.

The pirates we know from modern movies may have a signature style, but that onscreen fashion isn't exactly accurate. As historian Daphne Palmer Geanacopoulos, author of the book *The Pirate Next Door*, told Georgetown University, "Only Johnny Depp looked like Jack Sparrow [in Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean*]. Pirates wore typical maritime clothing of the day, with pirate captains and those with more money donning more expensive outfits."

Pirates did wear patches, but not because they were all missing an eye. In order to help their eyes adjust more quickly between the bright ship deck and the dark belowdecks, pirates would patch one eye so it was always adjusted for the darkness, according to E. Bruce Goldstein's *Sensation and Perception*.

There are a few other fictitious-sounding details about pirates that are accurate. For example, battling pirates lost limbs from time to time and some of them would have replaced their absent appendages with a hook or a wooden peg, according to National Geographic. According to the Smithsonian Institute, "members of the crew ... received compensation for the loss of body parts in action—an early form of worker's compensation."

When pirates accessorized with earrings, they weren't just trying to be fashionable. According to National Geographic, sailors believed that applying pressure to the earlobe would ward off seasickness. In many cases, the pirates would accomplish this by popping on an earring.

Pirates had a sophisticated mail system and a retirement plan. "Pirates had extensive networks on land that kept them in touch with the outside world," Geanacopoulos told Georgetown. "They had a mail system of sorts (ships ferrying letters back and forth) that enabled them to communicate with relatives, and even a commuter service to take 'retiring' pirates from their famous haunts like Madagascar to more mundane lives in America."

For as long as there have been ships, there have been criminals who have taken to the sea. For example, historians have found evidence of pirates in the Mediterranean as far back as 1353 B.C. During that time, the Egyptian pharaoh Akhenaten complained of pirates who had raided his coastal cities and ports. The tyrants also threatened the trading routes of ancient Greece and looted cargoes of grain and olive oil from Roman ships, according to Royal Museums Greenwich. There is a certain time span that is most famously associated with piracy. Usually referred to as the "Golden Age of Piracy," the period between 1650 and 1720 is when these seafaring lawbreakers saw the height of their fame, according to National Geographic.

During this time, infamous pirates such as Blackbeard, Calico Jack Rackham, and Henry Morgan made names for themselves.

Pirates may have been searching for gold, silver, jewels, and rum while plundering ships, but they were also on the lookout for something that was just as valuable: maps. For instance, National Geographic describes one particular stolen Spanish atlas from 1680 as "extremely valuable pirate booty" that "overjoyed" pirates when they seized it, according to their detailed journals.

The manuscript was filled with precious navigational information including maps, charts, and descriptions of different places. It was so valuable that pirate Bartholomew Sharpe printed a colourful English version of it and presented it to the king of England—a gift that may have saved him from execution.

According to National Geographic, some members of pirate crews were literate and were essential for reading navigational charts. Books were even sometimes part of the booty taken from ships that the pirates pilfered.

Pirates didn't have refrigerators on their ships, and needed a special menu suitable for life at sea. That means that they brought food onboard that wouldn't rot right away and relied on cured meats and fermented vegetables. They might have also kept animals that could provide the crew with milk, eggs, and, ultimately, fresh meat.

According to the Smithsonian Institute, "Captains were elected by popular vote and could be removed if their performances fell short."

While pirates are known for being a raucous bunch, they did follow a strict set of rules—namely, the pirate code. While the exact details of the pirate code varied from ship to ship, most included an outline for disciplinary practices and how they would divide their stolen goods.

The codes also included some surprising rules of conduct. For example, in 1722, Captain Bartholomew "Black Bart" Roberts' drafted a code that established that "the lights and candles [are] to be put out at eight o'clock at night; if any of the crew, after that hour still remained inclined for drinking, they were to do it on the open deck." In other words, no staying up past 8 p.m.

Merchant sailors were treated and paid poorly—and sometimes the pirate's life proved to be the fairer deal. "Sailors were so badly treated in many of these merchant vessels by the captains and owners. "They were given lousy rations, cheated out of their pay at the end of journeys, often fed spoiled food and placed on vessels that intentionally didn't have enough provisions on board." So, in some ways, becoming a pirate was a way to stick it to the man.

Pirates often spent months and even years at sea with only occasional stops at ports that offered entertainment. But the sailors still needed to keep themselves occupied on their ships, which is why they often had bands onboard to play shanties and perform theater. Black Bart Roberts' code included the following rule regarding the band: "The musicians shall have rest on the Sabbath Day only, by right, on all other days, by favour only."

Because pirates lived on ships, keeping a large pet like a dog or a monkey could be difficult. A much more sensible and strategic option was a parrot. "Back home, people would pay good money for parrots and other exotic creatures, and sailors could easily buy them in many Caribbean ports," Angus Konstam, historian and author of *The History of Pirates*, told *Atlas Obscura*. "Some were kept, but most were sold when the ship reached home. They were colourful, they could be taught to talk—always entertaining—and they fetched a good price in the bird markets of London."

While pirates did indeed fly banners from their ships to warn others of their criminal intents, the symbols on the flags weren't necessarily the skull and crossbones we think of today. According to National Geographic, "Black Bart had himself holding an hourglass with the devil. Captain Low had a blood-red

skeleton standing at the ready. And Christopher Moody's flag was so colourful, it became known as the bloody red." As pirates would approach enemy ships, they would wave a friendly flag. At the last minute, they would pull up the Jolly Roger, a sign that they were ready to attack.

When they weren't attacking other ships or keeping watch, pirates needed to get some sleep. And while higher-ranking officers were usually lucky enough to enjoy private quarters, the rest of the crew slept in hammocks below deck. Hammocks were ideal since they would rock and sway with the ship, making for an easier night's rest.

While you might assume that the illegal activity pirates engaged in hurt the economies around them, it was actually the opposite, Geanacopoulos told Georgetown. Pirates would spend the gains from their various plunders at the ports each time they docked, meaning those towns would benefit in the same way that cruise port towns today benefit from visitors' cash flow. Piracy also offered opportunities for poor men who otherwise might not have had employment.

Pirates may have been lawbreakers, which surely meant that many were social outcasts, but others were accepted members of their communities. Geanacopoulos told Georgetown that "some, like Captain Kidd, who helped found Trinity Episcopal Church and even paid for a family pew (though there is no record that he actually used it), were fairly prominent members of Colonial society." Some of these men were married and had children before or during their time as pirates while others waited until they were retired to settle down and start a family. Apparently, even when the famous Captain Kidd was sentenced to be hanged for his piracy-related crimes, he "told those around him to send his love to his wife and daughters," Geanacopoulos told Georgetown. "He said his greatest regret '...was the thought of his wife's sorrow at his shameful death.'"

One of the most notoriously chilling acts associated with pirates is the fact that they would maroon troublesome crewmembers on a deserted island. Unfortunately, it's fairly accurate. If someone onboard was causing issues, they would be deposited on an uninhabited island and left to die, according to National Geographic. And just like in the movies, they would often be given a gun with a single shot so that they could end things quickly.

Julius Caesar didn't become Emperor of Rome without surviving a few dicey situations. In fact, when he was 25-years-old, he was taken prisoner by pirates and held captive for 38 days. The pirates demanded ransom for Caesar's release and, according to Britannica, "when [they] told him that they had set his ransom at the sum of 20 talents, he laughed at them for not knowing who it was they had captured and suggested that 50 talents would be a more appropriate amount." On top of that, "Caesar made himself at home among the pirates, bossing them around and shushing them when he wanted to sleep. He made them listen to the speeches and poems that he was composing in his unanticipated downtime and berated them as illiterates if they weren't sufficiently impressed." When the pirates were eventually paid, they kept true to their word and let him go. However, Caesar wasn't about to forgive and forget. When he got home, he had his forces find and kill his captors.

Some plunders were more successful than others—that includes one score by Captain Henry Avery and his crew, who once made off with a haul of money, jewels, gold, silver, and ivory that would be worth more than \$200 million today. It was the equivalent of what they would have made over the course of 20 years if they worked on a typical merchant vessel.

Black Sam Bellamy might have been a pirate, but he considered himself the "Robin Hood of the Sea." According to the New England Historical Society, "Black Sam Bellamy became the wealthiest pirate in history not because of greed but because of anger—anger at the English system that exploited poor country boys and sailors like him." Along with his crew being a democracy and there being no record of the pirate ever killing a captive, "in a famous speech attributed to Bellamy, he scorned the wealthy merchants he plundered: 'They rob the poor under the cover of law, forsooth, and we plunder the rich under the protection of our own courage.'"

One of the most powerful pirates in history was a woman who commanded more than 300 ships. Ching Shih (1775-1844) was a prominent pirate in middle Qing China who terrorized the China Sea in the early 19th century. She was a Cantonese prostitute who married Zheng Yi, a notorious Cantonese-Chinese pirate. Madame Ching took over what was known as the Red Flag Fleet when he died. According to historian Rebecca Simon, "In 1810, the Chinese government promised amnesty and pardon to all Chinese pirates. At this point [Madame Ching] amassed so much wealth that she decided the time was right to end her career as a pirate queen. She took the government's offer and kept her loot. She used her wealth to open a gambling house, which she operated until death in 1844 at the age of 69."

Blackbeard, who sailed the seas in the 1700s, was notoriously vicious and apparently didn't hesitate to use extreme violence when he deemed it necessary. According to National Geographic, "Tales of his cruelty are legendary. Blackbeard even shot one of his lieutenants so that 'he wouldn't forget who he was.'"

When Captain Kidd was captured (and before he was hanged in 1701), he claimed to have left behind a buried treasure). In 2015, hundreds of years later, a group of archaeologists reportedly believe they have located a part of the missing riches. Off the coast of Madagascar in the area of Saint Marie Island, divers found a 121-pound bar of silver, which may be just a small part of the pirate's booty.

Pirates haven't only existed across history, they've also existed around the world, pretty much everywhere there's access to water. Today, pirates are most common in the waters around Indonesia, Somalia, and Nigeria.

That's a wrap!

Editorial

Rugby Dynasties

Feature - The Morkel "boys"

Source: *From World Rugby Museum*

Many families have contributed outstandingly to the history and development of international rugby. If Ireland holds a record for the number of brothers who have played in the emerald green at the highest level, one family stands supreme in its overall contribution to rugby in their country.

The Morkel family played a huge part in the early years of South African rugby, either side of the 1st World War.



1906 Springboks, featuring Andrew, Douglas and William Morkel

The family originally came from Somerset West, a town situated 30 miles from Cape Town in the Western Cape. Although most of the family played their rugby for Somerset West and Western Province, some members moved to Johannesburg and played their representative rugby for Transvaal. In all, 10 members

of the extended Morkel family played for the Springboks between 1903 and 1928. No other major rugby-playing country has produced so many rugby internationals from one family.

Andrew (AO) Morkel was the first Springbok from the family when he was chosen to play on the wing in the 1st test against the British Isles in August 1903. It was to be his only test match and one of the two matches he played for South Africa. Three members of the Morkel clan were chosen for the first Springboks tour of the UK in 1906-07. The two brothers, Sommy (WS) and Duggie (DFT) joined Andrew in the touring party and had outstanding tours, playing in 4 and 2 tests respectively. Andrew was less fortunate as he played in only one match on tour against Cumberland after being injured in a practice game at Richmond before the first match.

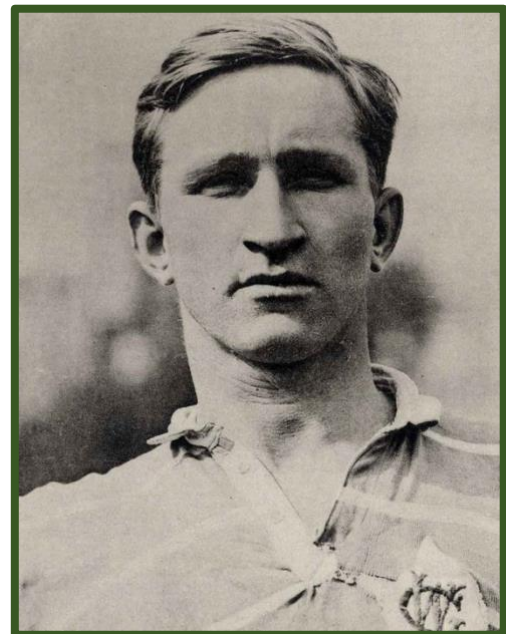
Duggie Morkel toured the UK twice with the Springboks in 1906-07 and 1912-13 and earned a formidable reputation for his prodigious long-range kicking feats. Overall, he scored 38 points in 9 tests including crucial penalty goals against Wales and England on the 1912-13 tour which ensured that the Springboks went home undefeated in their five test matches. He also set a South African scoring record on that tour with 13 points including two tries against France. Boy (WH) Morkel made his first appearance for South Africa in the 3rd and final test of the 1910 series against the British Isles. A tough forward, he was to play in all the Springbok internationals on the 1912-13 tour to the UK and the 1921 tour to New Zealand. For the 1921 tour, Boy was recalled to the Springbok side at the age of 35 and, when the captain AJ Pienaar was regarded as not sufficiently fit to make the test side, he captained the team in all three tests.

Jacky Morkel

The brothers Gerhard (PG) and **Jackie (JWH) Morkel** played in the backs in all five international matches on the 1912-13 tour to the UK alongside Boy Morkel. A hard running centre, Jackie had an outstanding tour and scored 4 tries in the 5 internationals. Although Jackie never played again for the Springboks and died of dysentery in May 1916 while serving in German East Africa, Gerhard earned further distinction at full back on the first Springbok tour of New Zealand in 1921. In the three tests, he cemented his reputation as one of the finest full backs in the first 50 years of international rugby, and he scored the vital drop goal in the second half to give the Springboks a 9-5 victory in the 2nd test.

Astonishingly there were five Morkels in that 1921 touring party to New Zealand where Henry (HW), Royal (JA) and Harry (HJ) Morkel joined Gerhard and Boy as capped Springboks. There were at least three Morkels playing in each of the three test matches in a thrilling drawn test series which is now chiefly remembered for the drama of the 0-0 draw in the third test played in appalling conditions in driving rain at Athletic Park, Wellington. If Henry Morkel was merely a powerful winger with a high knee action, Royal was a huge man who weighed more than 19 stone (230 lbs) and was regarded as almost unstoppable if he secured the ball close to the opponent's line.

The final Springbok in this remarkable dynasty was Pieter (PK) Morkel who was chosen as a winger against New Zealand in 1928. He was brought in to the test side for the 4th and final test in and won his only cap in the 5-13 defeat to the All Blacks at Newlands.



About the Author - A professional musician and arts administrator, Richard Steele has had a life-long love of sport. He has been on the committee of the World Rugby Museum at Twickenham since 2005.

Greatest Sports Person, ever?

If Tattler asks you who you believe was/is the greatest sportsman or woman, how will you answer. Usain Bolt? Mohammed Ali? Mark Spitz? Roger Federer? Pele? Jack Nicklaus?

How about Babe Zaharias? For those unfamiliar with this name, here is a revelation!

Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias (/zə'hɑːriəs/; née Didrikson; June 26, 1911 – September 27, 1956) was an American athlete who excelled in golf, basketball, baseball and track and field. She won two gold medals in track and field at the 1932 Summer Olympics, before turning to professional golf and winning 10 LPGA major championships. She is widely regarded as one of the greatest female athletes of all time.

Though best known for her athletic gifts, Didrikson had many talents. She also competed in sewing. An excellent seamstress, she made many of her clothes, including her golfing outfits. She claimed to have won the sewing championship at the 1931 State Fair of Texas in Dallas; she did win the South Texas State Fair in Beaumont, embellishing the story many years later in 1953.

She attended Beaumont High School. Never a strong student, she was forced to repeat the eighth grade and was a year older than her classmates. She eventually dropped out without graduating after she moved to Dallas to play basketball.

She was a singer and a harmonica player and recorded several songs on the Mercury Records label. Her biggest seller was "I Felt a Little Teardrop" with "Detour" on the flip side.

Already famous as Babe Didrikson, she married George Zaharias (1908–1984), a professional wrestler, in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 23, 1938. Thereafter, she was largely known as Babe Didrikson Zaharias or Babe Zaharias. The two met while playing golf. George Zaharias, a Greek American, was a native of Pueblo, Colorado. Called the "Crying Greek from Cripple Creek", Zaharias also did some part-time acting, appearing in the 1952 movie *Pat and Mike*.

Athletic achievements

Didrikson gained world fame in track and field and All-American status in basketball. She played organized baseball and softball and was an expert diver, roller-skater, and bowler.

AAU champion

Didrikson's first job after high school was as a secretary for the Employers' Casualty Insurance Company of Dallas, though she was employed only in order to play basketball as an amateur on the company's "industrial team", the Golden Cyclones. As a side note, the competition was then governed by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). Despite leading the team to an AAU Basketball Championship in 1931, Didrikson had first achieved wider attention as a track and field athlete.

Representing her company in the 1932 AAU Championships, she competed in eight out of ten events, winning five outright, and tying for first in a sixth. Didrikson's performances were enough to win the team championship, despite her being the sole member of her team.



Babe Zaharias c. 1938

1932 Olympics

Didrikson set four world records, winning two gold medals and one silver medal for track and field in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. In the 80-meter hurdles, she equaled the world record of 11.8 seconds in her opening heat. In the final, she broke her record with an 11.7 clocking, taking gold. In the javelin, she also won gold with an Olympic record throw of 43.69 meters. In the high jump, she took silver with a world record-tying leap of 1.657 metres (5.44 ft).

Fellow American Jean Shiley also jumped 1.657 metres, and the pair tied in a jump-off when the bar was raised to 1.67 metres (5.5 ft). Shiley was awarded the gold after Didrikson was ruled to have used an improper technique. Didrikson is the only track and field athlete, male or female, to win individual Olympic medals in separate running, throwing and jumping events.



Golf - George and Babe Zaharias c. 1955

By 1935, Didrikson began to play golf, a latecomer to the sport in which she became best known. Shortly thereafter, she was denied amateur status, and so, in January 1938, she competed in the Los Angeles Open, a PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) tournament.

No other woman competed against men in this tournament until Annika Sörenstam, Suzy Whaley, Michelle Wie and Brittany Lincicome almost six decades later. She shot 81 and 84, and missed the cut. In the tournament, she was teamed with George Zaharias. They were married eleven months later, and settled in Tampa, Florida, on the premises of a golf course that they purchased in 1951.



Didrikson became America's first female golf celebrity and the leading player of the 1940s and early 1950s. In order to regain amateur status in the sport, she could compete in no other sports for three years. She gained back her amateur status in 1942. In 1945, she had participated in three more PGA Tour events, missing the second cut of the first of them, and making the cut of the other two; as of 2018, she remains the only woman to have achieved this. Zaharias won the 1946 U.S. Women's Amateur and the 1947 British Ladies Amateur – the first American to do so – and three Women's Western Opens. Having formally turned professional in 1947, Didrikson dominated the Women's Professional Golf Association and later the Ladies Professional Golf Association. She was a founding member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association, in 1950. Serious illness ended her career in the mid-1950s.

Zaharias won a tournament named after her, the Babe Zaharias Open of her hometown of Beaumont, Texas. She won the 1947 Titleholders Championship and the 1948 U.S. Women's Open for her fourth and fifth major championships. She won 17 straight women's amateur victories, a feat never equaled by anyone. By 1950, she had won every golf title available. Totaling both her amateur and professional victories, Zaharias won a total of 82 golf tournaments.

Charles McGrath of The New York Times wrote of Zaharias, "Except perhaps for Arnold Palmer, no golfer has ever been more beloved by the gallery."

Writing about her in 1939, Time magazine described her as:

"... (F)amed woman athlete, 1932 Olympic Games track & field star, expert basketball player, golfer, javelin thrower, hurdler, high jumper, swimmer, baseball pitcher, football halfback, billiards, tumbler, boxer, wrestler, fencer, weight lifter, adagio dancer."
They left out tennis and diving, among others.

Tattler - we have had articles on drones. In the air and on the water. How about under the water!

Meet the Orca, the The Echo Voyager which has a range of 6,500 nautical miles on one fuel module, can reach depths of 11,000 feet, and can operate independently for months.

Click on the image to the right, to see it in action.



Tattler - This picture popped up in my Facebook memories.

A shot of a life-time by Tracy-Lee Wise!





Navy Marine Mammals

From dolphins to killer whales and sea lions, the U.S. Navy has employed a host of marine mammals in operations around the world. The bottlenose dolphin pictured here was participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Arabian Gulf while wearing an acoustic tracking device on its fin.

Unusual and weird musical instruments

***Tattler* - Heard of the Yabahar?**

The Yaybahar is an acoustic musical instrument invented by a Turkish musician Gorkem Sen (Turkish: Görkem Şen), who describes it as a "real-time acoustic string synthesizer." In its online review Classic FM called yaybahar a "genius monstrosity" that makes "thoroughly bizarre, terrifying and delightful noises." Journal of Music describes the sound of yaybahar as "completely enthralling.



Click on the image above to enjoy these "delightful" noises.

50 years ago - October 1971

General

9 October - An attempted coup d'etat by a unit of the Argentine Army failed after less than a day when the rebels received no support from the rest of the military in their attempt to overthrow President Alejandro Lanusse. The coup plotters seized a radio station in Buenos Aires and the cities of Azul and Olavarría all of which were recaptured by the Argentine Army. Colonel Manuel Alejandro Garcia, leader of the rebels, surrendered to General Joaquin Aguilar Pinedo after government troops re-entered Azul. No shot were fired during the coup attempt

11 October - Salyut 1, the first manned space station in human history, burned up upon re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, slightly less than six months after its original launch, as the mission was terminated by the Soviet Union space program

18 October - Soviet Union Premier Alexei Kosygin was mugged while visiting Ottawa as the guest of Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Geza Matrai, an unarmed Hungarian immigrant and resident of Toronto, broke through a ring of Soviet and Canadian security guards, shouted "Freedom for Hungary!", and tried to wrestle Kosygin to the ground before he was stopped

24 October - The first unofficial world anthem, "United Nations Hymn", made its debut at the celebration of the 26th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Created at the request of UN Secretary General U Thant, with spoken words by poet W. H. Auden and orchestral music by Pablo Casals rather than an attempt to synchronize lyrics with a melody, the work was created for the occasion, and there has been no effort to create an official song for the UN.

26 October - A gap in the air defense of the United States was revealed when a Cuban Antonov An-24 airliner landed at the New Orleans international airport after having flown from Havana without being detected. The 19 persons on the plane, who flew in without authorization, had chartered the flight to participate in a conference of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists.

28 October - The British House of Commons voted 356–244 in favour of joining the European Economic Community.

31 October - Women voted in Switzerland for the first time as elections were held for the 200 seats of the National Council, the first since the February 7 referendum allowing women's suffrage. At least three women were elected to the lower house of the Council, including attorney Elisabeth Blunschy in the Canton of Schwyz— one of several counties that did not permit women to vote for the upper house of the Council.

Sport

3 October - François Cevert of France won the United States Grand Prix, his only Formula One Grand Prix season victory. Jackie Stewart of Scotland, who had already clinched more points than any of his opponents in six races than by the his closest competitor (Ronnie Peterson of Sweden) would have for the entire 11-race schedule, had already clinched the championship by August 1.

11 October USA beats Romania 3-2 in 60th Davis Cup Tennis

24 October The 1971 Men's Hockey World Cup was the inaugural tournament of the Hockey World Cup men's field hockey tournament. It was held from 15–24 October 1971. Pakistan defeated the host team with a 1–0 victory to lift the trophy

Music

Album	Artist	Album	Artist
Teaser and the Firecat	Cat Stevens	Gather Me	Melanie
Would You Take Another Chance On Me?	Jerry Lee Lewis	Greatest Hits, Volume Two	B.J. Thomas
Coat of Many Colors	Dolly Parton	Focus II (Moving Waves)	Focus
The Morning After	The J. Geils Band	Jesse Frederick	Jesse Frederick
200 Motels	Frank Zappa	The King of Rock and Roll	Little Richard
Twins	Ornette Coleman	Liquid Acrobat as Regards the Air	Incredible String Band
Distant Light	The Hollies	Live at PJ's	Kool & the Gang
In Search of Space	Hawkwind	The Marblehead Messenger	Seatrain
Message from the Country	The Move	Memories	John Mayall
Other Voices	The Doors	No Roses	Shirley Collins and the Albion Country Band
Restrictions	Cactus	Pawn Hearts	Van der Graaf Generator
Elvis sings The Wonderful World of Christmas	Elvis Presley	Rainbow Bridge	Jimi Hendrix
American Pie	Don McLean	Reflection	Pentangle
Grateful Dead	Grateful Dead	R.E.O. Speedwagon	REO Speedwagon
Rough and Ready	The Jeff Beck Group	Roots	Curtis Mayfield
Fearless	Family	Rotten to the Core	Crabby Appleton
Meaty Beaty Big and Bouncy	The Who	Stoney & Meatloaf	Stoney & Meat Loaf
Meddle	Pink Floyd	To You, With Love	Donny Osmond
Bloodrock U.S.A.	Bloodrock	Tupelo Honey	Van Morrison
Country Anthem	Hoyt Axton	UFO 2: Flying	UFO
Fog on the Tyne	Lindisfarne		
Frisco Mabel Joy	Mickey Newbury		

Movies



The French Connection

"The French Connection" is routinely included, along with "Bullitt," "Diva" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark," on the short list of movies with the greatest chase scenes of all time. What is not always remembered is what a good movie it is apart from the chase scene. It featured a great early Gene Hackman performance that won an Academy Award, and it also won Oscars for best picture, direction, screenplay and editing. The movie is all surface, movement, violence and suspense. Only one of the characters really emerges into three dimensions: Popeye Doyle Gene Hackman, a New York narc who is vicious, obsessed and a little mad. The other characters don't emerge because there's no time for them to emerge. Things are happening too fast.

The story line hardly matters. It involves a \$32 million shipment of high-grade heroin smuggled from Marseilles to New York hidden in a Lincoln Continental. A complicated deal is set up between the French people, an American money man and the Mafia. Doyle, a tough cop with a shaky reputation who busts a lot of street junkies, needs a big win to keep his career together. He stumbles on the heroin deal and pursues it with a single-minded ferocity that is frankly amoral. He isn't after the smugglers because they're breaking the law; he's after them because his job consumes him.

Director William Friedkin constructed "The French Connection" so surely that it left audiences stunned. It is literally true. In a sense, the whole movie is a chase. It opens with a shot of a French detective keeping the Continental under surveillance, and from then on the smugglers and the law officers are endlessly circling and sniffing each other. It's just that the chase speeds up sometimes, as in the celebrated car-train sequence.

The movie was shot during a cold and gray New York winter, and it has a doomed, gritty look. The landscape is a waste land, and the characters are hardly alive. They move out of habit and compulsion, long after ordinary human feelings have lost the power to move them. Doyle himself is a bad cop, by ordinary standards; he harasses and brutalizes people, he is a racist, he endangers innocent people during the chase scene (which is a high-speed ego trip). But he survives. He wins, too, but that hardly matters. "The French Connection" is as amoral as its hero, as violent, as obsessed and as frightening.

The key to the chase is that it occurs in an ordinary time and place. No rules are suspended; Popeye's car is racing down streets where ordinary traffic and pedestrians can be found, and his desperation is such that we believe, at times, he is capable of running down bystanders just to win the contest. Actual locations were employed. Lenses were chosen to play with distance, so that the car sometimes seemed closer to hazards than it was. But essentially, the chase looked very real because its many different parts were real: A car threads through city streets, chasing an elevated train.

The other key element in the film, of course, is Hackman. He was already well known in 1971, after performances in such films as "Bonnie and Clyde," "Downhill Racer" and "I Never Sang for My Father." But it's probably "The French Connection" that launched his long career as a leading character star-- a man with the unique ability to make almost any dialogue plausible. As Popeye Doyle, he generated an almost frightening single-mindedness, a cold determination to win at all costs, which elevated the stakes in the story from a simple police cat-and-mouse chase into the acting-out of Popeye's pathology.

And, 100 years ago

8 October - The British Laird Line passenger ship SS Rowan was rammed from astern by the U.S. ship West Camak in fog in the North Channel. While passengers were mustered on deck, another UK ship, Clan



Malcolm, coming to aid in the rescue, rammed the Rowan from starboard, causing it to sink with the loss of 22 of the 97 people on board.

17 October - The Blue Boy, the most famous of the paintings of British artist Thomas Gainsborough, was sold at auction to an American art dealer, Joseph Duveen, by the Duke of Westminster. Duveen bid £170,000 (roughly \$809,000 at the exchange rate then of \$4.76 to a British Pound, and equivalent to \$12,030,000 in 2021). He also bought the Joshua Reynolds painting Sarah Siddons as the Tragic Muse for an additional £30,000 after the Duke of Westminster had declined to sell The Blue Boy by itself for £150,000.

31 October - The International Women's Sports Federation (Fédération Sportive Féminine Internationale or FSFI) was founded in Paris at a convention attended by delegates from France, the UK, the U.S., Italy and Czechoslovakia. Alice Milliat of France after the International Olympic Committee had refused to include track and field events for women in the 1924 Olympics.

Tattler – Laughs



Clementine, Sir Winston's wife, was talking to a street sweeper for a while. "What did you talk about for so long?" asked Sir Winston. She smiled, "Many years ago he was madly in love with me." Churchill smiled ironically, "So you could have been the wife of a street sweeper today. " "Oh no, my love ", Clementine replied, "If I had married him, he would have been the prime minister today.

He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?"

He said "No," but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me.

Then the police dispatcher said "All patrols are busy. You should lock your doors and an officer will be along when one is available"

George said, "Okay."

He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then he phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I just shot and killed them both. The dogs are eating them right now." and he hung up.

Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team, a helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a paramedic, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence, and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them !"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available !"

(True Story)

Tattler - I LOVE IT! Don't mess with old people.



Little Bruce and Jenny are only 10 years old, but they know they are in love. One day they decide that they want to get married, so Bruce goes to Jenny's father to ask him for her hand. Bruce bravely walks up to him and says, "Mr. Smith, me and Jenny are in love and I want to ask you for her hand in marriage." Thinking that this was just the cutest thing, Mr. Smith replies, "Well Bruce, you are only 10. Where will you two live?" Without even taking a moment to think about it, Bruce replies, "In Jenny's room. It's bigger than mine and we can both fit there nicely." Mr. Smith says with a huge grin, "Okay, then how will you live? You're not old enough to get a job. You'll need to support Jenny." Again, Bruce instantly replies, "Our allowance, Jenny makes five bucks a week and I make 10 bucks a week. That's about 60 bucks a month, so that should do us just fine." Mr. Smith is impressed Bruce has put so much thought into this. "Well Bruce, it seems like you have everything figured out. I just have one more question. What will you do if the two of you should have little children of your own?" Bruce just shrugs his shoulders and says, "Well, we've been lucky so far." Mr. Smith no longer thinks the little shit is adorable.

Tattler - That's it for another month. Keep well and safe!