

"Contemplating shadows under a different sun"

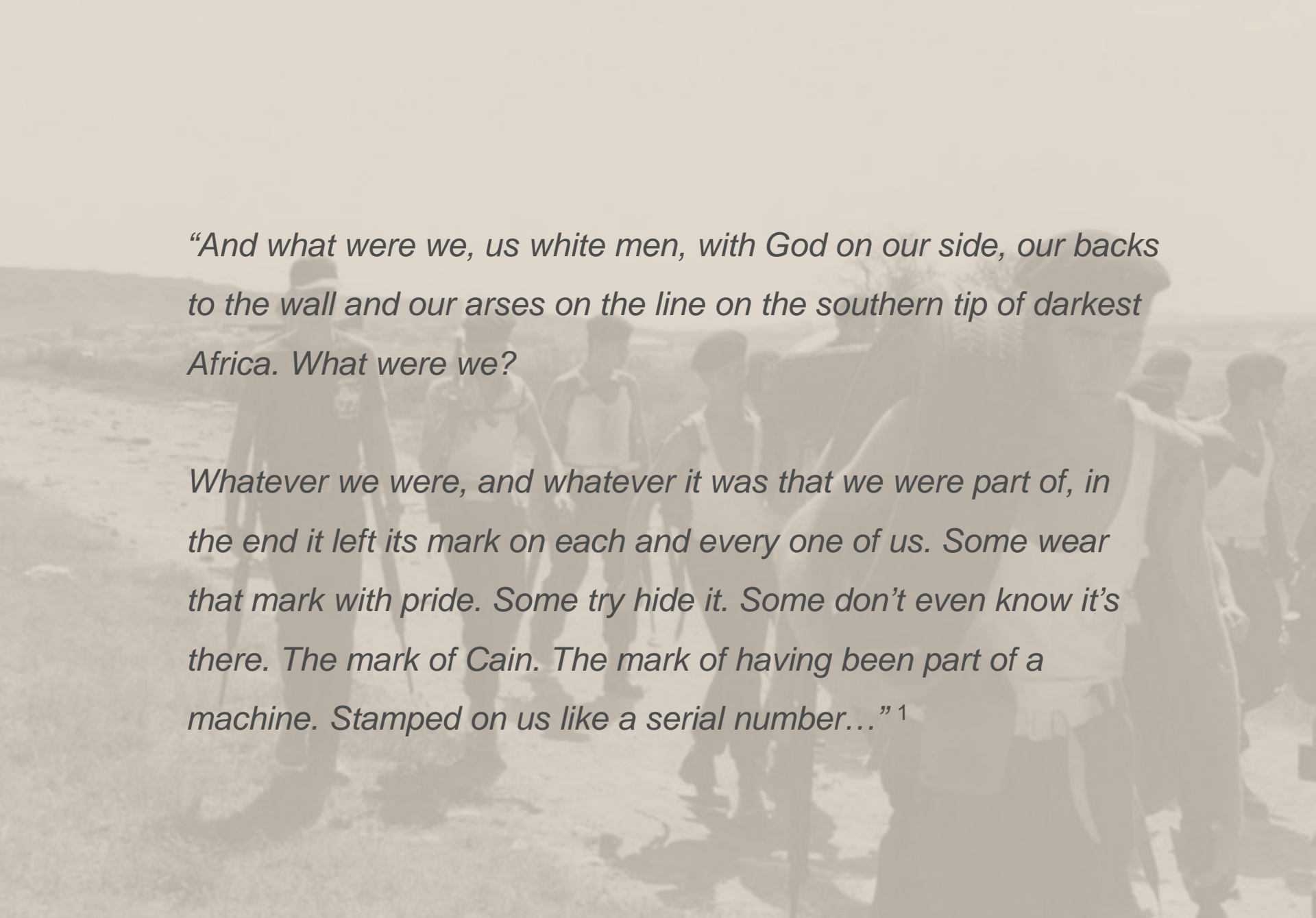
An examination of a personal photographic archive of a militarised childhood and subsequent induction into the South African Defence Force of the 1980s



WE CALL FOR AN END TO CONSCRIPTION

YOUNG MEN ARE CONSCRIPTED
TO MAINTAIN THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION
OF NAMIBIA & TO WAGE UNJUST WAR
AGAINST FOREIGN COUNTRIES

by Stephen Symons
PhD Candidate (UCT)



“And what were we, us white men, with God on our side, our backs to the wall and our arses on the line on the southern tip of darkest Africa. What were we?”

Whatever we were, and whatever it was that we were part of, in the end it left its mark on each and every one of us. Some wear that mark with pride. Some try hide it. Some don't even know it's there. The mark of Cain. The mark of having been part of a machine. Stamped on us like a serial number...”¹

¹ Coetzee, G. and Barnes, H. (2009). *Johnny Boskak is feeling funny, and other plays*. Scottsville, South Africa: University of Kwa-Zulu Natal Press, p.88.

SLIDE 1



My brother aged about 7 years old wearing SADF pattern 70s webbing and holding an R1 rifle (1970s)



Personal photo with neighbourhood friends (1974)

Junior Action



Tommy Gun
51401 - 7
The famous favourite for close hand to hand combat, the Tommy Gun will clear the most stubborn enemy from his hiding places. Fires 12 safety bullets from its detachable magazine.



F.N. Rifle
51400 - 4
Standard equipment of the British Army, the F.N. Rifle is a long range hand hitting automatic weapon. The F.N. Rifle comes complete with a flexible safety harness, and five safety bullets from its detachable magazine.



Interstellar Stun Gun
51398-2
No Force Commander would be caught without his Interstellar Stun Gun. This new space gun features a warning siren and emits bright beams with powerful action.

New for '79



Repeater Rifle
51397-9
The big action repeater gun that fires up to 50 load and clicks about each time it is loaded. It is great fun for the action minded kid.

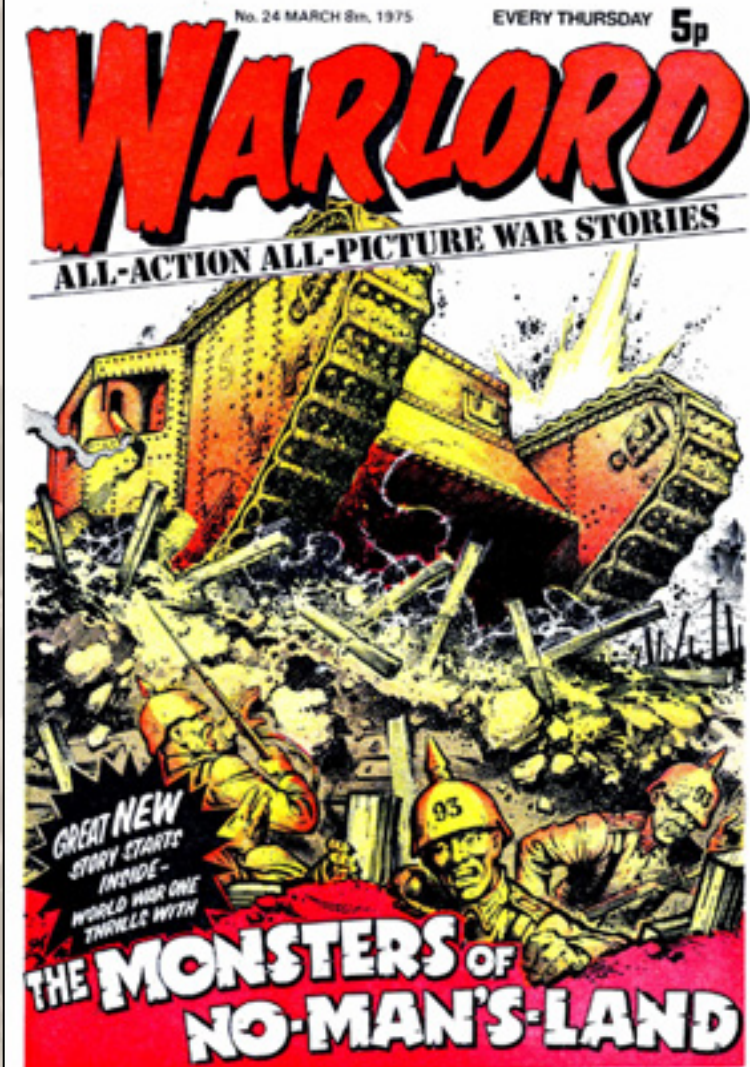
New for '79



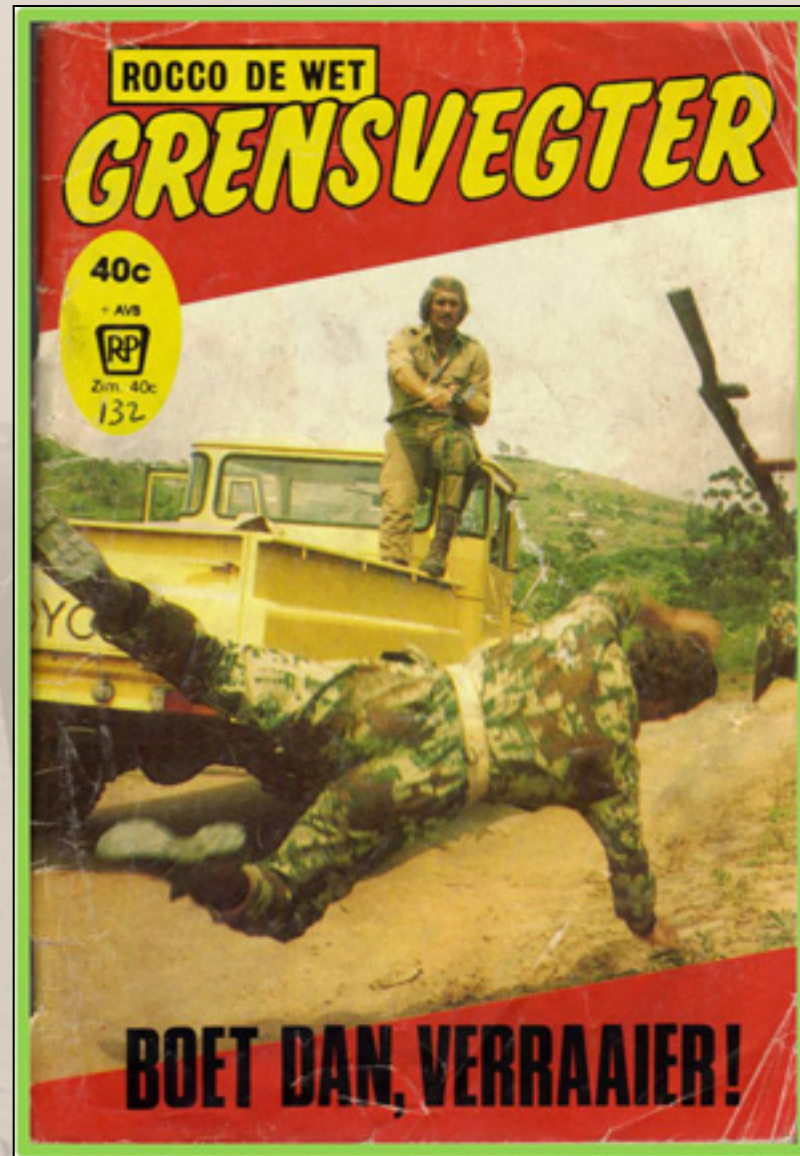
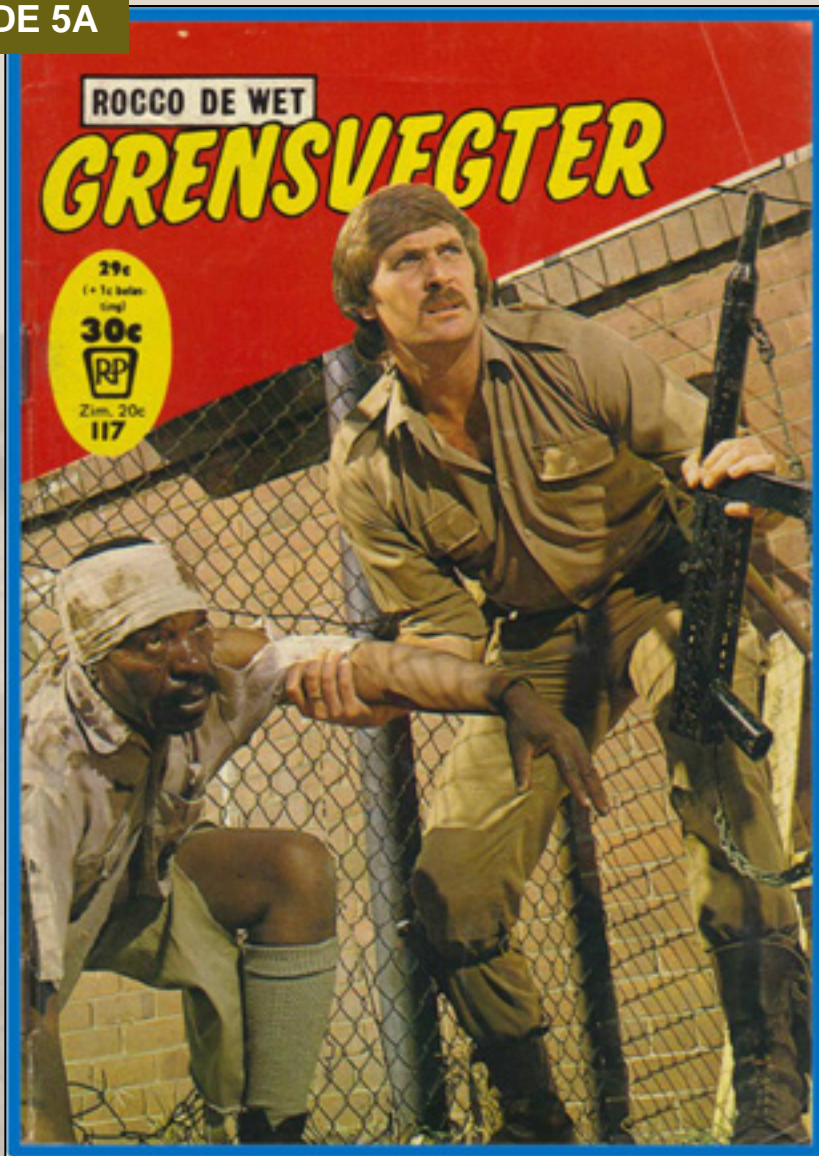
Toys guns, SAAF Mirage Airfix plastic model kit and Matchbox WW2 plastic soldiers



Action Man doll modelled on a WW2 US soldier (1966 – 1996)



UK weekly war comics Battle & Warlord (1970s – 1980s)



Rocco De Wet – Grensvegter photo comic books (1980s)



Krygshelde – War Heroes comic strip from Rapport Newspaper (1980s)



'n Film deur Regardt van den Bergh

Boetie op

Manoeuvres

**Arnold Vosloo
Ian Roberts
Janie du Plessis**



Boetie op Manoeuvres (1985)



SAAF Airshow (1970s)

A. WEERMAG—S.A. DEFENCE FORCE

LEES WENDE INSTRUKSIES NOLUNG
 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

SP SYBONS
 22 WATT SYBRAND ROAD
 SYBRAND PARK
 MURRAY
 7700

1985-08-12

8248800 SA

**KENWISSING VAN TOEWYSING VIR NATIONALE DIENSPLEK
 NOTIFICATION OF ALLOTMENT FOR NATIONAL SERVICE**

NIEMAN KENNEDIG TOEWYSING VOOR NATIONALE DIENST
 NOBODY WILL BE NOTIFIED

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Defence Act, 1957, you have been allotted to:
 - 6 SA INFANTRY BATTALION**
 2. **INFANTRY CORPS**
 3. **FUNCTIONAL GROUP**
 4. **DURATION OF SERVICE**
 2 JULY 1986 TO 1 JULY 1988
 5. **PLACE OF SERVICE**
 GRAHAMSTOWN
- Indien u van toewysing is, is dit slegs 'n kennisgewing en beteken dit nie dat u aan die diensteplaas toegewys is nie. Indien u van toewysing is, is dit slegs 'n kennisgewing en beteken dit nie dat u aan die diensteplaas toegewys is nie. Indien u van toewysing is, is dit slegs 'n kennisgewing en beteken dit nie dat u aan die diensteplaas toegewys is nie.
- If you are notified of an allotment, this is only a notification and does not mean that you have been allotted to a particular unit. If you are notified of an allotment, this is only a notification and does not mean that you have been allotted to a particular unit. If you are notified of an allotment, this is only a notification and does not mean that you have been allotted to a particular unit.
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Call-up papers and school cadet uniform for Pinelands High (1980s)

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The Secondary School Cadets system was established in the mid 70s and fell under the auspices of the SADF.



“I didn’t play rugby. That’s what everyone else did. I wasn’t being a rebel; I was just reclusive enough to never need to run around in packs. Instead I became a marksman, and it was at high school, while standing next to my shooting coach at a regional Bisley (that’s a shooting competition) that I watched young Afrikaans kids in Cadet uniforms march in ranks down the hill towards their positions on the shooting range. ‘There go the Hitler youth’, my coach said to me.”³

³. Source: <https://justkickingstones.wordpress.com/tag/school-cadets/>



School Cadets – Rondebosch High (1980s)



Back Row :Greg Jamison; Charl Van Zyl; Shane Thompson; French Meyer; Brad Le Roux.
Front Row : Mr Engelbrecht; Edmund Meyer; Lt. Derrick Swart; Sarel Smith; Mr Loffie Marias.



Conscript photos from SA Army Basic Training in the SADF (1980s)



SA Navy conscripts: Bierman Company, SAS Saldanha (1990)



“Beach party”, SA Navy conscripts: Bierman Company,
SAS Saldanha (1990)



“Route march”, SA Navy Conscripts, Bierman Company,
SAS Saldana Naval Base, Feb. 1990



“Route march”, SA Navy Conscripts, Bierman Company, SAS Saldana Naval Base, Feb. 1990



SA Navy Conscripts, Bierman Company, SAS Saldana Naval Base, Feb. 1990



SAS Simonstown, Marine Naval Base inspection



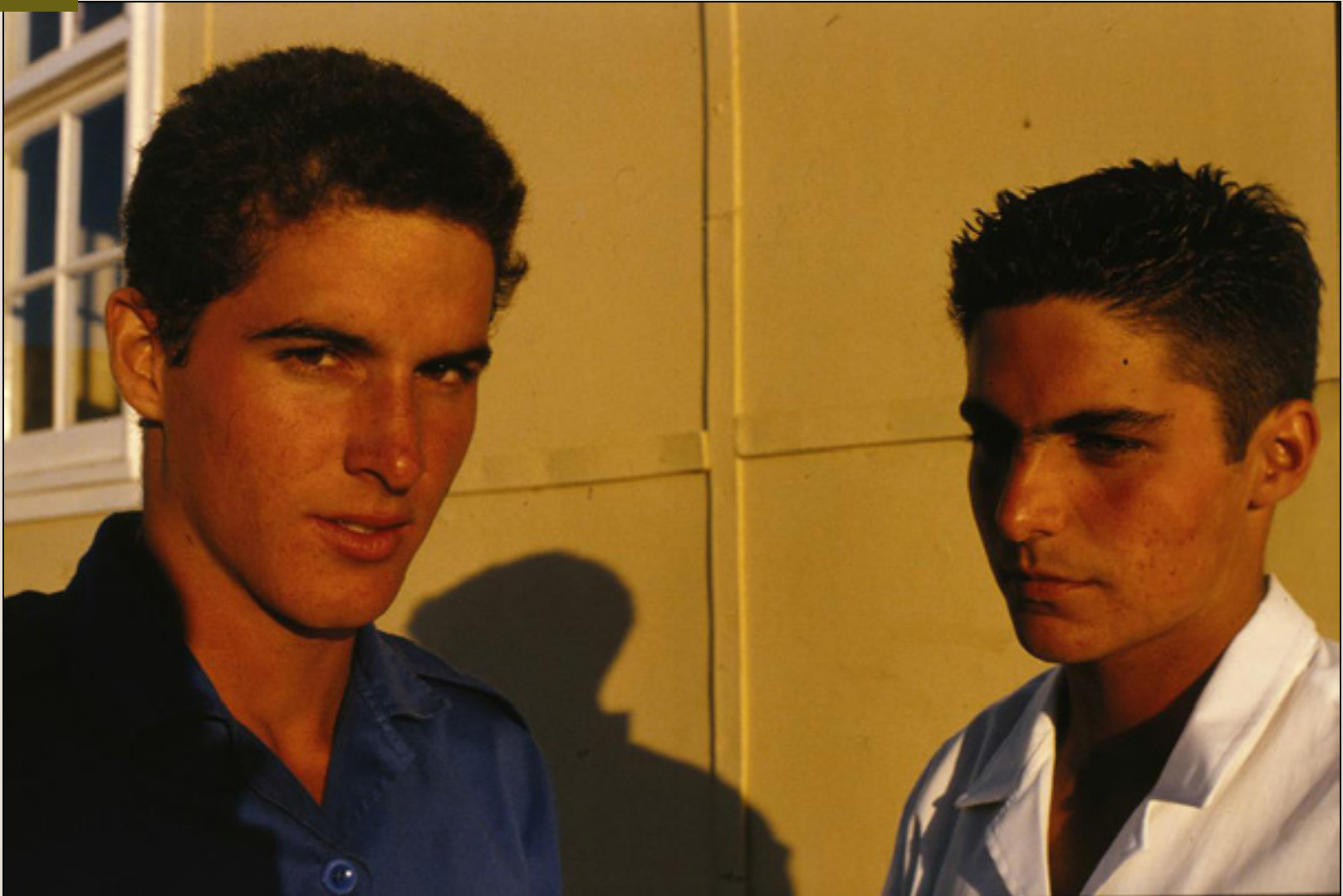
SA Navy Conscripts, Bierman Company, SAS Saldana Naval Base, Feb. 1990



SA Navy Conscripts, Bierman Company, SAS Saldana Naval Base, Feb. 1990



SA Navy Conscripts, Bierman Company, SAS Saldana Naval Base, Feb. 1990



SA Navy Conscripts, Bierman Company, SAS Saldana Naval Base, Feb. 1990



SA Navy Conscripts, Bierman Company, SAS Saldana Naval Base, Feb. 1990

SMS die woord "Troepie" na 42220 vir n R30 donasie



Enige skenkings of donasies is welkom
 kontak ons by troepietrommel@gmail.com
 GRENSOORLOG / BORDER WA...
 Closed Group

Joined Message Notifications

Discussion Members Events Photos Files

Write Post Add Photo / Video Ask Question Add File

Write something...

RECENT ACTIVITY

Johann Smith
 October 24 at 8:53am Cape Town

Daar word dikwels gevra of ons jeug vandag nog die bal kan dra en ek dink ons het dit nou gesien dat... kom die tyd dan kom die man ek is geweldig trots op wat die jong mense reg gekry het met die #freesmusfial campaign. Ek moes myself keer of ek het gejoin SALUUT

See Translation

Like Comment

12 people like this.

View previous comments 4 of 75

Jan Barnard Johan dit is so jammer dat mense wat so baie vir hul eie kan doen vandag verlies om uit te reik na die waf jou elke dag in die rug steek. As jy dit as n containing sien wat sedert 94 in die land op die manier van die studente barbataame gebeur is die toekoms nog meer duister as wat baie dink.

MEMBERS 31,225 Members (203 new)

Add People to Group

Message Invite by Email

DESCRIPTION
 Sonder n ogroep instruksie tree ons aan!

CREATE NEW GROUPS

Groups make it easier than ever to share with friends, family and teammates. Create Group

RECENT GROUP PHOTOS See All



SWA / Angolan Border War 1966-...
 Closed Group

Joined Message Notifications

Discussion Members Events Photos Files

Write Post Add Photo / Video Ask Question Add File

Write something...

MEMBERS 20,380 Members (201 new)

Add People to Group

Message Invite by Email

DESCRIPTION
 SWA & Angola Border War is a closed group...

CREATE NEW GROUPS

Groups make it easier than ever to share with friends, family and teammates. Create Group

RECENT GROUP PHOTOS See All

RECENT ACTIVITY

Graham Du Toit
 5 hrs

FOR THEM THE LAST POST HAS SOUNDED

On 26 October 2015, let us pause for a minute to remember the following young men from our Generation who answered the Final Roll Call.
 26 Oct 1973: 70409073N Signaler Petrus Johannes Pienaar from 2 Signal Regiment collapsed and died from heat exhaustion during Basic Training. He was 18. See More

31 Likes 14 Comments

Like Comment

Wouter De Vos
 14 hrs BlackBerry Smartphones App

Who here when they watch a movie about the SADF becomes critical when it comes to uniform, weapons etc?

RECENT ACTIVITY

SADF Facebook Groups

The image is a screenshot of a Facebook group page. At the top, the navigation bar shows the Facebook logo, the group name 'NRCC - Nutria Reenactors & Collectors Club', a search icon, and user information for 'Stephen'. Below the navigation bar is a large cover photo of a group of about 12 people in military-style uniforms, some kneeling and some standing, holding rifles. The group name and 'Public Group' status are overlaid on the bottom left of the cover photo, and a 'Join Group' button is on the bottom right. Below the cover photo are tabs for 'Discussion', 'Members', 'Events', 'Photos', and 'Files', along with a search box for the group. A 'Join this group to post and comment' button is prominently displayed. The main content area features a 'Pinned Post' by Alex Mathey, dated March 27, 2015, who uploaded a file named 'NRCC APPLICATION.pdf'. The post includes a download button and a 'History (2)' link. Below the pinned post is a 'Recent Activity' section with a post by Richard Haydon from January 8 at 1:57pm, which includes a photo of a brown leather bag and some orange items. On the right side of the page, there are several widgets: 'MEMBERS' showing 153 members with a row of profile pictures; 'DESCRIPTION' with the text 'DO NOT JOIN THIS GROUP TO ASK QUES...' and a 'See More' link; 'CREATE NEW GROUPS' with a 'Create Group' button; 'RECENT GROUP PHOTOS' with three photo thumbnails and a 'See All' link; and 'SUGGESTED GROUPS' with a 'See All' link and a thumbnail for a group named 'RUSHVEL'.

NRCC – Re-actment Cluc



Morné van Zyl

January 4 at 11:18am · Alberton

Botha jy n\$&!%! jou maatjies nê !? Right 1, 2, 3 ... !!!

See Translation



Like Comment

242 people like this.

3 shares

View 21 more comments



Mark Landman Eina maar lekker

See Translation

Like Reply · January 5 at 1:34am



Jan Jansen van Rensburg Hart maar lekker om nou daaroor te praat

See Translation

Like Reply · January 6 at 5:10pm



Leon Fritz Wil vn ons ou manne st di mt vndg se taalbes doen. Vndg poep hie as hie nt h 1/2we mut don. Ons ht gewet vn afk@k

See Translation

Like Reply · January 6 at 5:33pm



Write a comment...



Adriaan Anderson

December 25, 2015 at 9:12pm



Carel M Korff

January 6 at 8:26pm

Wie van julle was op skool in die driepelton of skoolorkes? Uitstekende voorbereiding vir diensplig: dissipline, saamwerk, uitvoering van bevele! Newcastle H/skool het in die 70ger jare gereed Natal verleenwoordig by SA's!

Foto: Jaco Steenberg.

See Translation



Like Comment

404 people like this.

1 share

View previous comments

3 of 102



Oloff Theunissen Nogal waar. Ook in die 70's in Pretoria Noord we dril peleton gewees.

See Translation

Like Reply · January 8 at 4:32pm



Frans Hillege I was in Florida park high school CadeT band. Drum major in 1979.

Like Reply · January 8 at 10:32pm



Etienne Fourie Jim Fouché Hoërskool Kadetorkes.. 1979-1983. (Beuel en Trompet)

See Translation

Like Reply · January 8 at 11:17pm · Edited



Write a comment...



Carl Munnar shared his post

Sydney Butler · HTS Oudtshoorn · February 9, 2009 · 🌐

Kadet Orkes 1979
— with Tegniese Hoer Skool Oudtshoorn

Sydney Butler · HTS Oudtshoorn · February 9, 2009 · 🌐

Kadet Orkes 1979 — with Bowie, Trino Halbich, J Kuhn, Tegniese Hoer Skool Oudtshoorn, Douglas Butler and J Basson.

👍 Like ➦ Share

2 people like this.

1 share 5 comments

Alan Brand My goodness Sydney what a stunning pic
February 28, 2009 at 7:34am · Like

Sydney Butler If i am correct we won the cadette band comp that year
March 1, 2009 at 9:13pm · Like

Dottie Brink Dot what lovely memories
December 3, 2012 at 1:59pm · Like

Kobus Basson Dit was darem lekker tye. Veral bydie Muskadel fees.
September 22, 2013 at 7:34am · Like 1

Sydney Butler Kobus dis waar ek geleer drink Het Daar Muskadel fees en toe moes ons nog die Muskadelle sa komposisie begelei by die landbou skool ook
Dink Transman
September 22, 2013 at 7:34am · Like

Kadet Orkes (1979)

A group of soldiers is marching across a dry, open landscape under a bright sky. The soldiers are dressed in simple, utilitarian clothing, including tank tops and trousers. Many are carrying rifles and other equipment. The scene is captured in a high-contrast, almost monochromatic style, emphasizing the harsh environment and the physical exertion of the march. The shadows cast by the soldiers are long and dark, indicating a low sun position.

Thank you

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