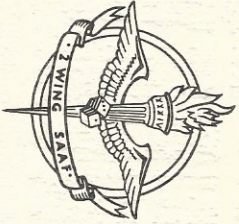




10/11

26





1944 — 1987
POLAND

The Polish Association in South Africa,
the Polish Air Force Association,
the Polish Combatants' Association -
in co-operation with the S.A.A.F. Association,
have the honour to invite

Hon. Col. 31 st. Sgna. Jack L van Eysen, DFC.

to be present on
Saturday, 5th September 1987,
at the ceremonies to commemorate the
43rd anniversary of the Warsaw Rising
and of the Relief Flights in 1944

11.00 - Religious service at the
Katyn Memorial, James and Ethel Gray
Park, Melrose Estate, Johannesburg
(see map enclosed), followed by
wreathlaying.

12.00 - Official function and reception at the
Fairmount Bowling Club,
George Avenue,
Fairmount Extension.

R.S.V.P. by 31.8.87
Warsaw Flights Committee,
P.O. Box 9484,
Johannesburg 2000.
or telephone:
011 - 783-1130
or 011 - 948-9257

Die Poolse Vereniging in Suid-Afrika,
die Poolse Lugmag Vereniging,
die Poolse Vegeenheids Vereniging -
in samewerking met S.A. Lugmag Vereniging
het die eer om

uit te nooi om teenwoordig te wees op
Saterdag, 5 September 1987,
by die seremonies ter herdenking van die
43ste verjaarsdag van die Warskoue Opstand
en Voorraadvlugte in 1944

11.00 - Erediens by die
Katyn Gedenkteken, James and Ethel
Gray Park, Melrose Estate,
Johannesburg (kaart ingesluit),
gevolg deur 'n kranslegging.

12.00 - Amptelike funksie en onthaling by die
Fairmount Bowling Club,
Georgelaan
Fairmount Extension.

R.S.V.P. op 31.8.87
Warskoue Vlugtekomitee,
Posbus 9484,
Johannesburg 2000.
of telefoon:
011 - 783-1130
of 011 - 948-9257



WARSZAWA 1944

5 September 1987.

Representative of the Polish Community together with members of the SADF attended the 43rd. Commemorative Ceremony at the Katyn monument.

In August and September 1944 Liberator Aircraft of 31 and 34 Squadrons of the SAAF 2 wing piloted by SAAF, RAF, Polish and other Allied air force personnel flew from Foggia, Italy to Warsaw with Arms, ammunition and rations for the Polish Home Army. They flew 2815km. there and back in Liberator aircraft to drop supplies from a height of 90-150 metre at an air speed of 260 km. per Hr. German night-fighters, Anti-Aircraft guns and searchlights tried to intercept the "Mercy Flights" Despite this 88% of the SAAF's Liberators reached Warsaw.

Sadly 44 crew members lost their lives. Several awards for exceptional bravery were awarded to members of the two squadrons including the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). Sir John Slessor, Air Marshal of the Mediterranean Air Force, personally Commended the men for their bravery. Sir Winston Churchill referred to the flights as "a story of the utmost Gallantry and self sacrifice on the part of the Air crews who participated"

The Monument serves to remind us of all the Airmen who lost their lives during this hazardous journey to get the emergency supplies through to the Polish Army during the Warsaw Uprising and also the thousands of Polish partisans who were killed by the Germans during the suppression.

The compiler of this Album dedicates this work to the unknown Fighters who died in the Polish WARSAW rebellion in 1944.

Photographed and Compiled

by

Stefan Mathews AMI (Mech) E

Member of the Polish Asso. in RSA.

TELEGRAMME TO WARSAW

FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE WE SEND YOU BEST WISHES AND PRAYERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNVEILING OF THE COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE BY CARDINAL GLEMP IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE GALLANT AIRMEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE OPERATION TO RE-SUPPLY THE BELEAGURED WARSAW IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OF 1944.

WE REGRET THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY BECAUSE POLISH VISUMS WERE NOT GRANTED TO US. WE ARE, HOWEVER, WITH YOU IN SPIRIT AND WE WILL HOLD A CEREMONY AT THE SAAF MEMORIAL IN PRETORIA ON 1 AUGUST WHERE WE WILL LAY THE WREATHS WHICH WE WOULD HAVE LAID IN WARSAW TO REMEMBER THE 40 SAAF AIRMEN OF 31 AND 34 SQUADRONS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES TRYING TO BRING RELIEF TO THE POLISH HOME ARMY AND THE BRAVE CITIZENS OF WARSAW IN 1944.

THE CONTRIBUTION FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION AND EX 2 WING MEMBERS TOWARDS THE ERECTION OF THE COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE WILL BE FORWARDED.

FROM : COMMANDANT KRUGER (OFFICER COMMANDING 31 SQN SAAF)
AND COLONEL JACK VAN EYSEN (VETERAN OF THE WARSAW
OPERATION AND HONORARY COLONEL OF 31 SQN)



In Memory of Unknown SOLDIERS
1939-1945



OBCHODY LOTÓW NAD WARSZAWĄ.

Doroczne obchody Lotów nad Warszawa odbyły się w sobotę 5 września.

Uroczystość pod Pomnikiem Katyńskim zgromadziła licznych uczestników, łącznie z dużą grupą dygnitarzy cywilnych i wojskowych z burmistrzem Johannesburga Radnym Ormond Fenn oraz szefem Lotnictwa, Gen.Dennis Earp'em na czele. Attaché Lotniczy Stanów Zjednoczonych, pplk.L.Swantner, ponownie brał udział w tej uroczystości, zaś 31 Eskadra z Hoedspruit była reprezentowana przez 9 oficerów z żonami, którzy przybyli helikopterem transportowym, który wylądował pod samym pomnikiem.

Nabożeństwo poprowadził Brig. A.W.van den Aardweg, Szef Służby Duszpasterskiej Lotnictwa. Nasi harcerze i harcerki znów wystąpili licznie i pełniąc różne przydzielone im funkcje, bardzo przyczynili się do usprawnienia przebiegu uroczystości, za co należy im się szczególne podziękowanie.

Jak zwykle, defilada trzech samolotów nad Pomnikiem w czasie minuty milczenia między captrzykiem a pobudką, zaimponowała wszystkim swą precyzją i uczyniła duże wrażenie. 25 organizacji złożyło wieniec pod Pomnikiem.

Cześć druga uroczystości - przyjęcie w Fairmount Bowling Club, cieszyła się dużą frekwencją. Pani Jaga van de Put dokonała cudów, przekształcając skromną salę klubową w pięknie udekorowaną salę przyjęć, ozdobioną sztandarami, pamiątkami, obrazami, zielenią i kwiatami, co w sumie stworzyło podniosłą i godną atmosferę przyjęcia.

Prezes Komitetu Organizacyjnego Zygmunt Fudakowski powitał zebranych, poczym krótko lecz serdecznie przemówił burmistrz Johannesburga. Głównym mówcą był Generał Dennis Earp, Szef Lotnictwa Południowo-Afrykańskiego.

Z kolei plk.Jack van Eyssen odczytał listy od swych kolegów z W.Brytanii, którzy byli obecni w dniu 1 sierpnia b.r. na odsłonięciu tablicy pamiątkowej w kościele św.Anny na Krakowskim Przedmieściu w Warszawie. Tablica jest ku czci poległych lotników alianckich, którzy niesli pomoc walczącej w Powstaniu Warszawie w 1944 r. Plk.van Eyssen wraz z dowódcą 31 Eskadry pplk.P.Krugerem, miał reprezentować na tej uroczystości lotników poł. afrykańskich, lecz rząd Polski Ludowej nie udzielił tym oficerom wizy, uniemożliwiając im wzięcie udziału. Tablica w kościele św.Anny została ufundowana z ofiar zebranych wśród wielu krajów alianckich.

Następnie gen.Earp, w imieniu nieobecnego z powodu choroby plk.Jim Williams, wręczył Prezesowi Zjednoczenia, Edwardowi de Virion, piękny obraz olejny przedstawiający samolot bombowy typu "Liberator" w locie nad płonąca Warszawą. Obraz ten będzie zawieszony w Klubie Polskim.

Na zakończenie jeden z uczestników operacji lotów nad Warszawą, Nigel Crawford, odegrał na pianinie "Warsaw Concerto", oraz hymny narodowe południowo-afrykański i polski, poczym nastąpiła bardzo udana cześć towarzyska.



Gen. Wladyslaw Siekorski
POLISH ARMY



Gen. Wladyslaw Anders
POLISH DIVISION



Kazimierz Sosnkowski.

Gen. Kazimierz Sosnkowski
POLISH ARMY



Polish 303 Squadron Northolt
England 1943

SAAF men refused visas to honour fallen comrades

DEON LAMPRECHT

COLONEL JACK VAN EYSSEN's Liberator bomber was one of 11 South African Airforce aircraft shot down over Warsaw by German anti-aircraft gunners in 1944.

Unlike 40 other SAAF airmen who failed to return from those nightly mercy missions, he managed to bale out and reach the safety of the Russian lines.

But politics now prevents him from returning to Warsaw to pay tribute to his fallen comrades of 31 Squadron.

The Primate of Poland, Cardinal Glemp, will today unveil a plaque in the Church of St Anne, Warsaw, to commemorate the Allied airmen who died while dropping supplies to the besieged city.

Colonel van Eyssen and the Officer Commanding 31 Squadron, Commandant Polla Kruger, were to represent the SAAF at the Warsaw ceremony,

but when they got to Bonn this week they were refused visas by the Polish Government.

So they are returning to South Africa.

A SAAF statement in Pretoria said: "By not granting visas to the South Africans the Polish Government has denied them the opportunity to honour those 40 SAAF members who offered their lives for the Polish patriots and who now lie in the cemetery in Krakau in Poland."

The wreaths destined for Warsaw will now be laid at the SAAF memorial at Bays Hill, Pretoria, today. A similar ceremony will be held by the Polish Combatants Association and the Polish community at the Katyn Memorial, Johannesburg.

The 31 Squadron now operate Alouette and Puma helicopters, based at Hoedspruit.



Brig.A.W.van den Aardweg SSAS,SM
Chaplain Service





MEMORIAL Service at Bays Hill
Pretoria 1st.Aug.1987



Hon.Col.Jac L.van Eyssen L/H.
Comdt.Polla Kruger 31st.Squadron SAAF.
1st.Aug.1987 Pretoria



The modern TROJAN horse



The Mayor of Johannesburg
Councillor Ormond Fenn



Maj.Gen.J.Kriel SM

Mr.J.L.Van Eyssen and their wives



Comrades in Arms
Maj.Gen.R.Badenhorst SM.
Brig.D.P.Lamprecht



Celebrant, Brig. A. W. van den Ardweg SSAS, SM
and SAAF staff



Lt.Col.L.Swanter and frends



The future of Polish Nation



The Congregation and distinguished
guests



Mr. and Mrs. Z. J. Fudacowski
Chairman on L/H.



Polish and Foreign guests



Respect From the Mayor of Johannesburg
Councillor Ormond Fenn



Representing the Minister of
defence Mr.J.L.van Eyssen D.F.C



SADF.Lt.Gen.D.J.Earp SAAS,SD,SM



SA, Army Maj. Gen. R. Badenhorst SM,



SAAir Force Maj.Gen.Kriel SM,



Polish Government-in-Exile
Mr.A.Jasiukowich



Polish Combatants Association
Prof. S. Smoleniec





United States Air Attache
Lt.Col.L.Swantner



SAAF.Association Mr.D.E.Ackerman



31 squadron SAA Comdt. Polla Kruger



34 Squadron SAA Maj.A.B.Smith



RAF. Association Mr. AP. Mclean



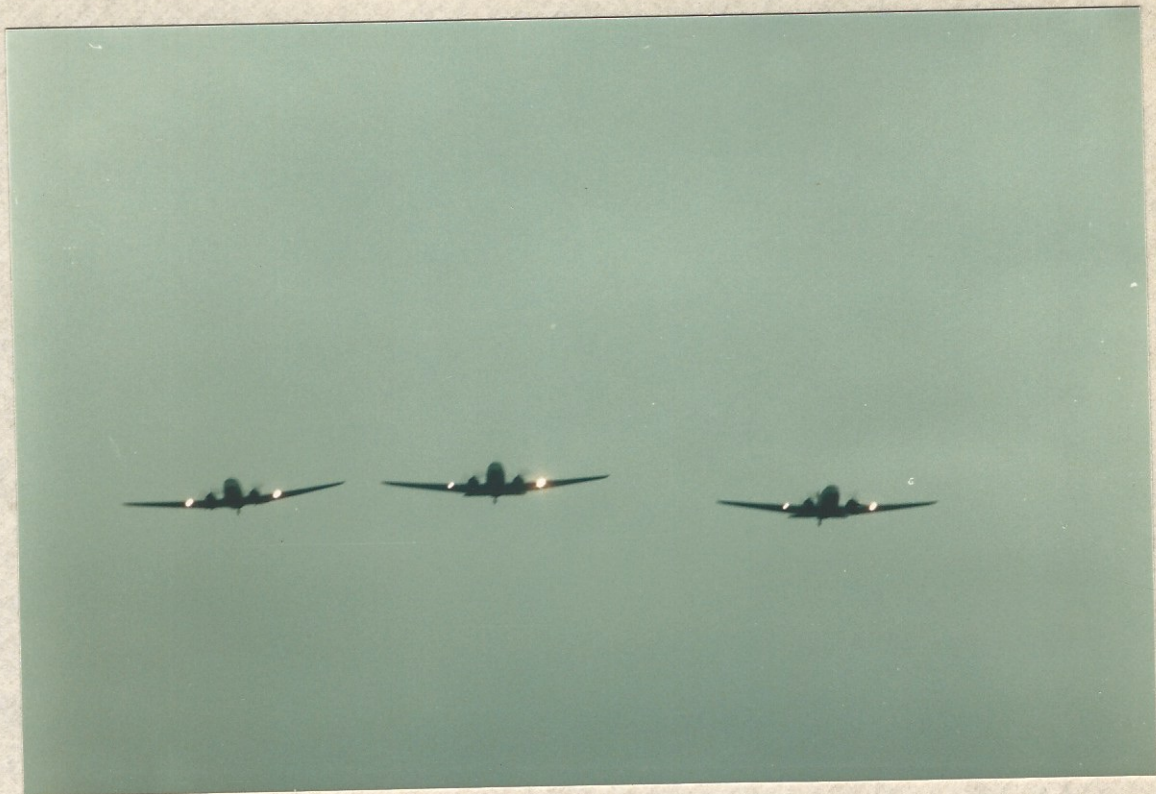
Belgian Ex-Servicemen Col. C. Huyghe



M.O.T.H. Mr. K.H.R. Harris



SA.Irish Regiment Maj.K.W.Andersen



Flypast of 3 DC.3 Aircraft
during 1 min.silence



Polish Association and Government-in-
Exile wreath.



The Mayors' address by the guest
speaker, Lt. Gen. D. J. Earp SSAS, SD, SM.



Presentation on behalf of No.2 Wing
SAA painting of Liberator Aircraft
by Lt.Gen.DJ.Earp



Portrait of the lone journey
of the LIBERATOR.



Thanks speech by Mr. E. de Virion
on behalf of Polish Association
Johannesburg RSA.



WARSAW - Concerto and National Anthems
Maj. Nigel Crowford



Moment of silence by Mrs and Gen. Earp
Johanneburg Mayor Councillor Fenn,
and Mr, Mrs, van Essen



Moment of silence by distinguished
guests.



Mr.E.de Virion and USA,Col.L.Swantner



Lost-Found after 43 years encounter
again Mr.Bilingham and Mr.Denis Glendening
of Port Elisabeth Cape Province RSA.



Old soldiers never die but
Comerads stay alive.



Wing Cmdr.G.K.Ranoszek and Mr.B.Nasiadek



Col.C.Huyghe and Mr.D.Morris ex-UK.Vice Consul



Mr. H. Coenen, Col. C. Huyghe Mrs. Earp, Gen. Earp
and Fred Austin.



HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

After the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910, the need for a national flag grew progressively stronger. After prolonged discussions the design for the flag as it exists today was accepted, and on Union Day, May 31, 1928, it was officially raised for the first time alongside the Union Jack above the Parliament, in front of the Union Buildings and throughout the country.

In 1957 this flag officially became the only national flag of the Union of South Africa, and on the establishment of the Republic of South Africa on May 31, 1961, it became the National Flag of the Republic.

The design of the flag is based on the orange, white and blue Dutch "Prinsevlag", which was in use at the time of Van Riebeeck's arrival at the Cape. The central cluster of flags represents the former colonies and boer republics from which the Union was formed in 1910.

In arranging this cluster, every effort was made to give each flag equal treatment. So, although the Union Jack is nearest the flagstaff, it is flying in the opposite direction to the main flag. The Free State flag hangs vertically in the centre and the Transvaal Vierkleur, while placed furthest from the flagstaff, is the only one spread in the same direction as the main flag.

GESKIEDENIS VAN DIE NASIONALE VLAG

Na die totstandkoming van die Unie van Suid-Afrika in 1910, het die behoefte aan 'n eie nasionale vlag al hoe sterker geword. Na langdurige beraad is 'n ontwerp van 'n vlag, soos dit vandag nog bestaan, uiteindelik aanvaar en op Uniedag, 31 Mei 1928, is dit amptelik vir die eerste keer langs die Union Jack bo die Parlementsgebou, voor die Uniegebou en landswyd gehys.

In 1957 is hierdie vlag finaal as enigste nasionale vlag van die Unie van Suid-Afrika erken, en met Republiekwording op 31 Mei 1961 het dit die Nasionale Vlag van die Republiek geword.

Die ontwerp van die vlag is gebaseer op die oranje, wit en blou Nederlandse "Prinsevlag" wat ten tye van Van Riebeeck se aankoms aan die Kaap nog in gebruik was. Die groep vlaggies in die middel van die Nasionale Vlag verteenwoordig die voormalige kolonies en boererepublieke wat in 1910 die Unie van Suid-Afrika gevorm het.

Met die rangskikking van die sentrale vlaggies, is verseker dat geeneen voorkeur geniet nie. Dus, alhoewel die Union Jack naaste aan die vlagpaal is, wapper hy in die teenoorgestelde rigting as die hoofvlag. Die Vrystaatvlag is sentraal en hang vertikaal en die Transvaalse Vierkleur, alhoewel hy die verste van die vlagpaal geplaas is, is die enigste wat in dieselfde rigting as die hoofvlag wapper.

