

SWISS CLUB NATAL

SOUTH AFRICA



SWISS CLUB NATAL
P.O. BOX 393
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3200

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JULY 1994

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 1994

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It was for the first time that the weather played disrupting tricks for the annual beach breakfast. This function had to be postponed to one week later and Elisabeth and Heidi were just about trained to enter a "World Cup potato peeling competition", after preparing twice potatoes for Rösti. Thank you again Röbi and Elisabeth for organizing and keeping this event so popular.

The Car Rally was a great success thanks to the hard work put in by the organisers Reto and Haydon. This was a super day at and around Midmar Dam. The Rally proved to be great fun especially when it come to comparing the answers to the tricky questions.

THE GOOD NEWS IS : We received confirmation from Dawn Harris, that Swissair will issue a Barter Credit to our Club. The ticket will be the equivalent of ZAR 3000.-
Our sincere thanks to Swissair for this generous sponsorship. We are asking our club members, please do support **SWISSAIR**.

CONGRATULATIONS :

At the beach breakfast "Granny Elisabeth" proudly presented the latest Swiss Club addition, her lovely grand daughter BRANDIE. Congratulations and best wishes to Laura and Roland.
To Bernadette and Remo Hüsser, congratulations to your beautiful daughter TATIANA. With only three month Tatiana completed her first Car Rally in a very competitive time.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. AUGUST | 1 August Dinner Durban / Pietermaritzburg |
| 7. AUGUST | Swiss National Day Celebration at Hammersdale |
| 10. SEPTEMBER | Jass Evening |

For further details on the forthcoming events, please refer to this bulletin. Looking forward to seeing you on 1 August.

With best regards,



WALTI

SWISS NATIONAL DAY

Dear Members,

1 August is approaching rapidly. Once again, your Committee has arranged suitable celebrations to mark the event.

Our OFFICIAL CELEBRATION will take place at:

HAMMARSDALE SHOOTING RANGE
SUNDAY 7 AUGUST (From 11:00)

Once again we have organised plenty of entertainment for all, young, old and in-between.

- Rütli shoot and Open shoot (air guns)
- Bottle fishing
- Sack Race
- Tug-o-war

ALSO: Braaivleis and Music

As usual, sausages (Cervelats, Bratwürste and Landjäger) will be on sale at lunch time, and again later in the afternoon, we have increased our orders to cater for all those who want so don't miss out.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS, GLASSES, TABLES AND CHAIRS!

Prize-giving is once again going to be held at 3:30 pm. For those wishing to participate in the events this means: please don't come too late.

NEWSFLASH : Swissair have kindly donated another barter ticket for this year valid until mid 1995! Bring your money and buy lots of tickets! The draw is to be held at the AGM in March 1995.

DINNER ON MONDAY 1 AUGUST

For Monday, 1 August, we have arranged two dinners as social get-togethers.

The Durban crowd will be able to feast themselves yet again at the Marine Parade Holiday Inn. For further details about this supper, please phone Anni Deubelbeiss, tel (031) 724 977, before Thursday the 21. July.

In Maritzburg the dinner will be at "Da Vincis". For further details and bookings contact Reto Frei at (0331) 429157(W) or (0331) 471113(H) no later than Wednesday, 27. July.

We look forward to seeing ALL of you at these great events!

Your secretary

Reto

P.S. For those who have never been to Hammarsdale, herewith brief directions on how to get there: Take the N3 "Hammarsdale" off-ramp and turn right (from PMB) or left (from Durban). Drive up the road approximately 300m and you will see an old army tank. Turn right, down the dirt road towards the clubhouse - and your'e there!

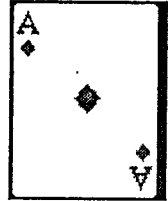
Jass Evening 1994

Dear Members,

Our Durbanites have arranged a very special event for **everyone** interested in playing Jass.

The Date: Saturday 10 September 1994

The Venue: The "Brasserie", Pinetown



Those who would like to make use of the restaurant to eat, **should** be there by 6 pm so the games can get underway at 7.00 **sharp**.

In order for the restaurant to make preparations and also for the games to be arranged, **it is** essential that you book telephonically **with** Anni Deubelbeiss soonest possible.

Her telephone number in Durban is (031) 724977 for bookings and/or directions.

There will be no charge for participating, **but** nevertheless lovely prizes to be won.



We are hoping for a fun-filled evening and **look** forward to seeing lots of people!

Have fun and "**guet Jass**"

André

Sun, 2 July 1994

EDITORS..... CORNER.

I missed the shoot February 5th, my Doctor tells me I have an over worked heart & must slow down & take it easy I know all my life since a boy I have always tried to cram more than 24 hours into one day, so I was confined to the flat for a full week including 5th Feb.,. I hate to miss our monthly shoot the short drive to & from the range is a pleasure as Hans-Petar is such good company & we get on well, at the range I meet up with all my good old friends of many years & I have such an enjoyable day ending with good harmony at Colorado, so I am looking forward to the next shoot.

When you read this Mike & Dee Robertson will for a few months have been the proud parents of a baby boy DAVID best wishes from the Club to all three.

5TH March. OBLIGATORISCH SHOOT. Such a pleasure to go to Hammarsdale again in company with Hans-Peter, a hot sunny day with a light breeze, present 15, missing Andre as it was Pam's birthday congratulations Pam from us all, also Rene probably doing his shooting with a camera at Mkuze. Back again Noel & Mark & our new member Rolfe Klein & a visitor Tony Fuchs all seemed to enjoy themselves. Mike took over Andre's job & Clerk Of The Range & as before did a damn good job. This is such a long shoot it makes extra work for our ever hard working Shoot Master Fritz Kuhn, I must say there is a wonderful "Esprit De Corps." Among all who shoot at Hammarvale everyone helps even our visitor Tony picking up empty ammo pkts & doppies. Top Scores (All Cards) Phil & Bob each 101 (some score!) Albert 97, Jeanne Piere 95, Walti 90, Nic 89, Fritz Kuhn 89, Hans-Peter 87, & Rolfe 85. Pretty good shooting. We were late getting to Colorado that's why only 10 of us including Tony & Rolfe, Usual harmony ended another good day.

SAT. 19TH. March. The 40TH A.G.M., of Swiss Club. Natal, thanks to Rene & Norma George for taking us with them to Holiday Inn. Thanks to Anni, Walti & Andre for sorting out the bookings & Anni for collecting the dinner payments. Good attendance for the meeting 65 with 77 for dinner also present our friend Consul Alphons Frey who brought with him Dr. Ribi from Switzerland, good to see Max Hirsch Koebi Buechler, & Tito Luder.

A very good meeting no hassles, no complaints, with good humour all a credit to Walti. An excellent financial

report from Haydon Mitchell. Presentation of medals trophies & cups etc., well organised by always hard working Fritz Kuhn, the recognition floating trophy went (with a ton of other cups) to ever willing Phil Stevens. Your committee remains the same apart from the addition of Phil Stevens as an adviser who replaces Silvia Richner who has returned to Switzerland. Thanks to Andre for such a fine detailed A.G.M. document issued to all.

Thanks to Thomas Bosch for very good hot & cold buffet (& Röstli) great variety of everything meats, salads, cheeses, sweets, etc.,.

Another old friend Dawn Adams of Swissair draw the winning ticket No 316, held by Haydon Mitchell a very popular win, Haydon assures me he is off to Switzerland as soon as possible. A fine start to the year for our Club.

Sorry to report Hans & Edeltraut Borner are already in the Transvaal on firms transfer we shall miss them & Hans often came shooting. Good Luck & lets hope they will return to Natal, glad they made the A.G.M., before leaving.

Thanks again to Hans-Peter on Saturday 2nd April in mild & cloudy weather for Einzelwettschiessen, Easter long week-end resulted in only 7 shooting, Guggy earning his beer scoring, & little Thomas Wyss an interested visitor. Phil, Rene & others away for weekend. Top scores only two medals Bob 86 & Hans-Peter 82. We few all enjoyed our afternoon & all including Thomas for Colorado Club members had an unexpected get together at Holiday Inn Sunday 1st May for a talk by Minister Bodenmüller who is in S.Africa in connection with the Election. I did not think his talk would be of much interest to me as I have more chance of going to Heaven than seeing Switzerland again, but I really enjoyed every minute & judging by the questions (particularly on pensions) am sure all members were glad they attended. I was pleased to meet again the Luders, Buchlers, Hans Rudi & Emmie, Alf Sifrig, & Felix Tomer back with us again, also to meet for the first time a charming couple Mr. & Mrs Ruysenaar-Ganz. Thanks to President Walti who I expect organised the gathering.

MID MAY. Priscilla Planzer will be leaving us for about a year to see more of the first world. I am sure all who know this lovely girl will wish her all the Best

& a wonderful time.

SAT. 7TH MAY. With Hans-Peter on a mild sunny day for ST. GALLER SHOOT, PHIL, BOB, HANS-PETER, & JEANNE - PIERRE Started with checking the rifles. The best turn out ever 22 to shoot including Marcel, s girl friend with a good 71. Strangers Hans-Rudi with Michael, Marcel, Felix Tomer, & Toni Fuchs a regular visitor. Top scores Albert 88, Bob 87, Nic 86, Walti & Hans-Peter 85, Mike 83, Phil & Rene 82, & Jeanne-Pierre an unlucky 79. Thanks to Doctors Wyss & Morisberger for fixing my bleeding knee in such a professional manner. It was quite cold when we left for a good gathering & usual harmony at Colorado.

MAY 22ND. Rene & Norma George were taking us to Winklespruit for our Club's ever popular 10TH beach break -fast. By 8.15 am it was blowing a gale & pouring with rain, at 9am a slight improvement but still very miserable, but we decided to go for the drive & maybe some other Swiss were just as crazy then we could have a beer & a chat if nothing else. At the pic-nic area we were the only very lonely car. We had hot coffee & waited till 10am but were still the only car. What bad luck particularly after so many months of glorious weather & Monday 23rd a lovely day again but cold. Robi & Anni must have done a lot of work for nothing. First time this function has been washed out, so better luck next year We spent a super day with Rene & Norma & had our own champagne breakfast (but missed Anni's & Heidi's Rosti & Anni's super bread). The weather cleared some what in the afternoon but I think it was too late for any others to make the trek to Winklespruit. I have since heard the beach breakfast was held the followi ng sunday but Rene & Norma were away for the week-end & Aggi & I had bowling committments.

Had a card from Max Hofer he is home in Altdorf for a spell, Maureen will be joining him later.

Watching "Comrades" on T.V., it was good to see a Swiss Peter Camenzind come in 4TH for a gold medal. I wonder if it was one of our P.M.B., members who gave him the Swiss flag to carry into the stadium at the finish.

SAT. 4TH June with Hans-Peter in mild sun for Inter-Town Shoot. Only 10 shooting as several Hammarsdale Regulars were spending the week-end in the Drakensberg climbing the Rhino Horn (I hope one of them will give us a write up.) This shoot possible 80 & I think 67 for a medal, Christopher came in from the cold after a long absence

4.

with a score of 70. other top scorers, Hans-Peter 72, Mike 71, Bob 69, & Phil 68. Finished early for full house at Colorado in time to watch on T.V., the second half of the first Rugby Test. Had a chat between beers with old friend Fritz Kaufmann, we have known each other in Swiss Club for more years than we care to remember Jeanne-Pierre is now one of our regulars & hope Christopher will join us again. Fritz Kuhn will be with us for next shoot before flying off to Switzerland.

SUN. JUNE 26. Again with kind friends to the Club's Annual Car Rally/Quiz- in very different weather to Winklespruit on May 22nd. After an excellent breakfast at Crossways with so many fellow members the Rally got underway about 10.30am and ended at Midmar about 2p.m. Quite a super route & many Quiz questions, Reto told me we had about 20 cars & 60/70 members taking part. We passed several cars going in the opposite direction so some of us got lost along the line. The countryside was so dry & brown & yet the farm dams & rivers were not short of water. I so enjoyed seeing the Polo Ponies one ridden & one led by their grooms returning to their farms after a game at Lions River Polo Club, reminded me of my youth playing in Egypt just before the War. We said Good Morning to all the Horisbergers by a little bridge (Quiz 2 or 4 pillars) over a fine little river, at least both our cars were going in the same direction. At Midmar (plenty water) for Braai & Prize Giving, the Floating Cup won by Eddie Rutishauser & team, Well Done! lots of prizes including one for our Senior Citizens team who came well in the first half. Everyone I spoke to had a wonderful day so a big Thank You from Us all to Reto (assisted by Haydon) for such excellent organisation & tricky questions. The day went so quickly I missed saying Hallo to some of you, how good to see old members Ronnie & Karin Waldburger & Graham & Anne Cleveland. We had quite a chat with Roje, Anni told me Hans was in the car not too well I went to see him & he really had a bad dose of flu.

THANKS AGAIN RETO.

GUGGY.

We thank KURT SCHEURER for his contribution of "Swiss History in Natal" to our Bulletin.

SWISS COMMUNITY IN NATAL

- 1931 Dr.E. Waldburger arrives to take up position as Chief Chemist with Hind Bros & Co. Ltd. Durban.
- 1933 Edouard Droz arrives in Durban to open a watch and jewellery business together with his brother Andre Droz.
- 1936 C. Serrem and W. Scherzer arriving in Durban. Later in the year they open the Anglo-Swiss Confectionery Ltd. Arrival of Max Hirsch and Paul Naegeli. Paul will be Chef at the Edward Hotel.
Eugen Geiser arrives in Pietermaritzburg. He opens later the firm E. Geiser Electrical Contracting in P.M.B.
- 1937 1st Swiss National Day celebration on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. L. Zimmermann in Cato Ridge. The 1st of August celebration in Cato Ridge have since become a traditional day for the Swiss in Natal. On this beautiful spot in Natal we think every year of our home country in the heart of Europe.
- 1947 P.Wunder arrives in Durban.
- 1948 F.Waldburger arrives in Durban.
- 1949 Foundation of the Swiss Committee in Durban. The Swiss Committee will organise all Swiss functions, the 1st of August celebrations and improve and foster the National Traditions.
Foundation Members: P.Wunder, J.Droz, A.Droz, M.Hirsch, G. Padrutt, Dr.E.Waldburger, I.Waldburger, F.Waldburger.
- 1954 Mr.O.Berchtold Consul General of Switzerland visits the Swiss Colony in Natal on the 1st of August at Cato Ridge
Foundation of the Swiss Rifle Club Durban on the 19th November 1954. Monthly Shootings with Swiss Rifles will be held at the Athlone Rifle Range in Durban.
Swiss Rifle Club Durban President: P.Wunder 1954-1957
- 1955 E.Ege arrives in South Africa and works for Rand Earth Works Ltd.
- 1956 Swiss Rifle Club Durban and Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg starting Intertown Cup between Cape Town-Durban-Johannesb. Paul Wunder and Karl Schmutz.
- 1957 Willi Scherzer becomes Consular Agent of Switzerland in Durban.
- 1958 Swiss Rifle Club Durban President: F.Hofer
Radio Weltschützenfest.
- 1959 Swiss Rifle Club Durban President: E.Vogel 1959-1962

3rd Annual General Meeting of the
Swiss Rifle Club Turbon + District at
the Balmoral Hotel on the 1st of March 1957

The Chairman Mr. P. Wunder opened the meeting welcoming everybody and especially Mr. A. Sifrig who has just re-joined the Club after a year's absence in Switzerland.

The Chairman shortly outlines the agenda of the evening and asks Mr. W. Müller to read the Minutes of the A.G.M 1956. These are accepted and Mr. W. Müller is presented with the book "The Portrait of Southern Africa" in appreciation of all the work he has done as Secretary in the past two years. Mr. W. Müller is leaving for Switzerland shortly.

Mr. P. Wunder now gives a detailed report of the activities of the club during the past year. A copy of this report has been given to each member and the Chairman has been thanked for the big amount of work he has put in this report.

The Treasurer Mr. F. Waldburger gives his financial report which reads as follows:

Balance b/f from 1955	21-18-5
Income 1956	136-13-6
% ₃	<u>157 11-11</u>

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% ₃	<u>152 11-11</u>

b/f 152-11-11
 less an Expenditure of 53-12-4 which
 leaves a Credit Balance of £104-19-7

That means that we had a good financial year but we have to keep in mind that we have to import soon 10000 rounds of ammunition which will cost us approx. £ 145.-.-.

The auditors Mr. W. Scherzer and Mr. C. Götz checked our financial books and accepted them.

Mr. F. Tschanz presents his report of the ammunition which states that we used 4198 rounds of ammunition during the year and that our stock still amounts to 3797 rounds of ammunition which will last us approx. for 9 months. This report has been accepted by the assembly.

Mr. E. Vogel presents his report as "Schützenmeister" which is accepted.

The Chairman thanks then Mr. E. Vogel for all the work he has put in as a "Schützenmeister" during the last two years and asks him to present the four cups and the medals.

The four cups are:

The Le Jura Cup	won by Walter Juchli
The Alphorn Cup	won by Christian Kleiss
The Nestlé Cup	won by Hans Rieder
The Sants Cup	won by Fritz Mehrli

After a short interval two new members were admitted to the Club. They are Mr. P. Herzog and Mr. J. Petrig.

Then Mr. C. Serrem takes the Chair for the election of the new committee. Mr. E. Vogel and Mr. F. Wehrli have resigned from the committee. The remaining committee members were reelected for another year. As Mr. W. Müller is leaving for Switzerland the post of the Secretary has fallen vacant. None of the members present were prepared to fill out this position. Mr. F. Wolcburger declared himself willing to act as Secretary as well as treasurer for the coming year. Mr. Hans Riebler was elected as the new "Schützenmeister" and Mr. A. Sifrig as a new Committee Member. Mr. F. Wehrli was elected as second auditor in place of Mr. W. Scherzer. Mr. O. Götz was re-elected as auditor for the coming year.

As our nett profit for the passed year amounts to about £ 37.- and the new ammunition will cost approx. £ 145.- it was proposed that the following functions might be held during the coming year to raise some funds:

1. A Dance
2. Skillevenings
3. Jassabend:

It was agreed that it will be left to the new Committee to go into further details in this connection on their next meeting.

At 10.30 pm the Chairman closed the meeting.

The Chairman:

J. W. M. M. M.

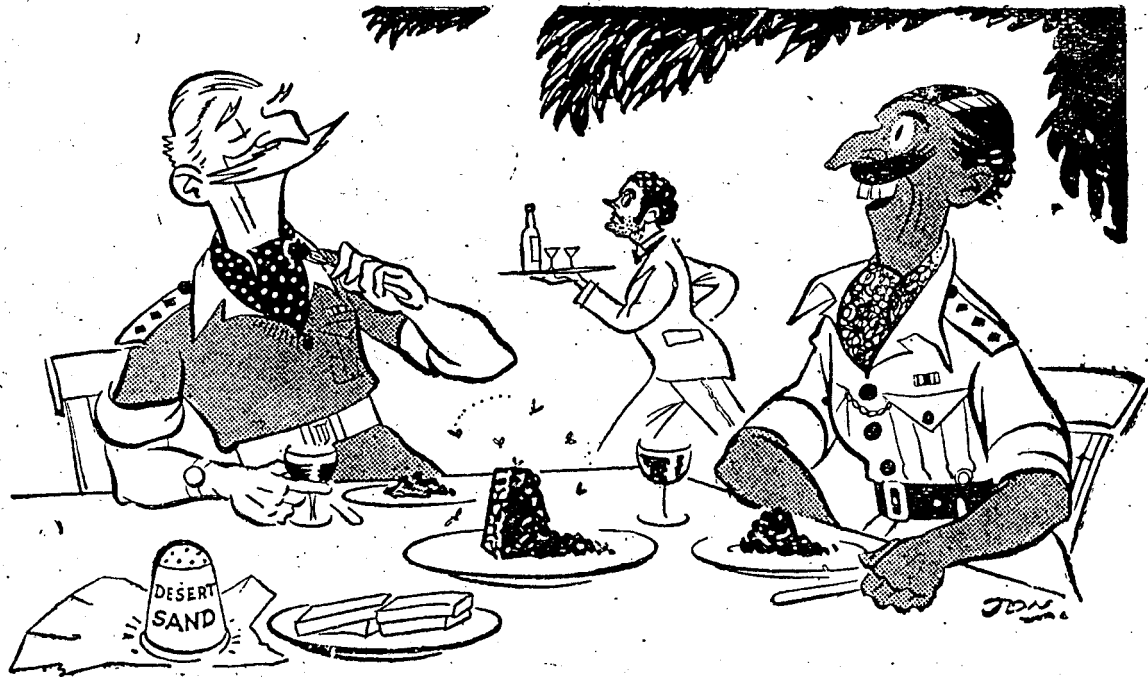
The Secretary:

F. W. M. M. M.

2ND DESERT CAMPAIGN 1941.

THE SIEGE OF TOBRUK PART 8.

After the sad day of the Heinkel I decided I would take an afternoon off, which I could easily do as the timber from the cinema stage had helped to clear every vehicle waiting outside my workshop for repairs, every truck lorry etc., we had in Tobruk was on the road, only a matter of a short time before some more bomb happy vehicles would be in again for repairs. I told Topper & Lofty I was taking "PI" our bomb happy bicycle with the almost square front wheel for a couple of hours to have a swim, scrub my body & do some washing at a little deserted beach near the harbour entrance. I set off in Tobruk dress but was wearing my cavalry side cap & my steel helmet clanging away on the handle bars. Across my back my rifle & in front of my battle dress 3 pouches of 10 rounds each, left side water bottle with the usual trickle of water, right side haversack with sea water soap & my clothes to be washed, I must have looked like a mobile Christmas tree. I had to pass above the harbour & saw that Stuka dive bombers were having a raid, I took shelter in a bombed building & had a good view through a big round hole in the wall where a window must have been, the Ack Ack of The Tobruk Fire-works Display were giving the Stukas a hard time, & I was glad to see two of them end their dives in the sea. At the far corner H.M.S. Ladybird a very small Royal Naval ship bombed & sunked bow down in the harbour but with her full stern out of the sea on which was mounted a 3.7 inch ack-ack gun every time there was a raid on the harbour 3 or 4 sailors would row out to the ship & man the gun whose rapid fire helped to keep the Stukas up & during the siege claimed a couple of victims. H.M.S. Ladybird down but not out. On the far side of the harbour bow high & dry on the beach & stern in the water was the burnt out hulk of the S.S. Marco Polo, one time pride of Italy's ocean going liners. Beyond the sand hills on top of which were a couple of deserted sheds (from which in a couple of months time I was to remove the timber trusses from under the eyes of the Germans), in the distance the sand & rocks of the Western Desert seemed to go on for ever it all looked so peaceful, only the occasional puff of sand told me Rommel's tanks were swanning around. Raid over I made my way to the little beach, naked I washed my clothes with the sea water soap & they were soon drying on the rocks in the sun, then I scrubbed myself from



"Pass the sand, old man!"

& lay in the sun before having a good swim. For a little while it seemed that Tobruk was at peace. I noticed a small cargo ship (maybe only 5 or 6 thousand tons) with a mine sweeper escort some distance behind, the foredeck of the cargo ship was packed with soldiers & by the uniforms I could see they were mostly Germans with a few Italians prisoners captured on the perimeter battles & on their way to P.O.W. camps in Egypt (& some Italians to South Africa), we never kept P.O.W.-s for long as they were of course a drain on our very limited water & food supplies. The ship was about 200 metres from me when there was a hell of an explosion at midships, the bow & stern were suddenly pointing to the sky forming a vee with middle of the ship already under water, I reckon that ship sank in 3 minutes I could not believe what I had seen. In those days I was a very strong swimmer & was soon at the area of the sinking, quite a bit of debris wood, rope, oil drums etc., & I was swimming around with several dead bodies but no survivors. (After the Heikel tragedy a couple of days previously it was certainly my week for dead bodies). I swam around but could not find any survivors anywhere then I noticed a navy launch arriving at the scene of the sinking to look for anyone alive, after a while they came to me to see if I wanted a lift back to the beach, I declined saying I needed the exercise, they told me they had 3 half drowned Germans, perhaps they were the only survivors. A twist of fate that the ship had struck a German sea mine dropped by parachute into the harbour by the Luftwaffe the previous night. A pity the British guards & crew were also killed. Some months later I was to see another ship sunk in almost the identical manner & believe it or not the same spot in the harbour as once again I was having a swim, a wash & brush up & doing my washing.

GUGGY.

SWISS CLUB NATAL

P.O. BOX 393, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3200, SOUTH AFRICA
FAX: (0331) 452938



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

SURNAME:			
FIRST NAME(S):			
DATE OF BIRTH:	(DD/MM/YY)		
NATIONALITY:			
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:			
POSTAL ADDRESS:			
TELEPHONE NO:	PRIV.	BUS:	
NAME OF WIFE:		DATE OF BIRTH:	
NAMES OF CHILDREN:		DATE OF BIRTH:	
		DATE OF BIRTH:	
		DATE OF BIRTH:	
		DATE OF BIRTH:	
		DATE OF BIRTH:	
DATE:	SIGNATURE:		

FOR SECRETARIAL USE:

NEW: ALTERATION:

COMMITTEE MEETING DATED:

SING:	FAM:	HON:	NON:	COMP:	CLUB:	VOTES:

COMPUTER UPDATE: DATE:

SECRETARY:

PRESIDENT: