

# SWISS CLUB NATAL

## SOUTH AFRICA



SWISS CLUB NATAL  
P.O. BOX 393  
PIETERMARITZBURG  
3200

APRIL 1995

FAX 0331-452938

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 1995

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Many thanks for attending and contributing to a successful Annual General Meeting. As you may have noted, there were some changes in your committee for 1995.

On behalf of all our members I would like to express my gratitude to our outgoing and popular president Walter Grab for all his dedicated service he has given to our club. We shall be pleased to share with yourself and your family members still many happy hours before your actual transference to your new home and working station in East London.

Once again, many thanks to all the members present at the AGM for vesting trust and confidence in myself. I shall render service to your club to the best of my ability and this indeed will not be a difficult task, considering the talented members the club committee has for 1995.

Also congratulations to Robert Wyss and Thomas Amman who were volunteering and were elected to serve as Advisors on the committee.

It was a very special honour to have our Consul General Alphons Frey the last time in his official capacity in our midst. Many thanks to Alphons for spending a joyfull evening with us and for sponsoring us the Aperitiv.

I would like to take this opportunity, and convey on behalf of the members of the Swiss Club Natal our thanks and deep appreciations for your tireless and dedicated service you have given during your official posting to the Swiss Community residing within the Consular District of Johannesburg. We wish you the very best in personal well being, good health and much happiness during your retirement.

Our Treasurer Haydon Mitchell was the lucky winner of the Swissair ticket the second time in a row. All the best Haydon, and have a jolly good trip. Many thanks also to Dawn Harris for her assistance with the draw aswell our sincerest thanks to Swissair for the generous sponsorship.

We have been informed at a recent meeting of the Hammersdale Shooting Association that the owner of the privat farm, on which the shooting range was located, had indicated his intention to close down the range, because of building development plans in the vicinity of present shooting range. However, the owner has given the clubs the permission to use the range for at least one more year. Kindly take note that even in absence of the SADF, strict control and safety standards are in place and anybody transgressing them will be prosecuted.

**THE SHOOTING ON THE RANGE IS ONLY PERMITTED DURING OUR ALLOCATED TIME AND UNDER CONTROL OF OUR SHOOTING MASTER.**

Our popular members Elisabeth and Roebi Gerhard hosted the Family Breakfast at Winkelspruit on Sunday the 9th April. Elisabeth prepared and served me, in spite of being late, the most delicious "Roesti" for lunch. The members present said that they had a lovely and sunny morning, but unfortunately about 14h00 dark clouds started to cover the sky and soon heavy rain showers forced everybody to hastily pack up its belongings. Many thanks to Elisabeth and Roebi aswell the back-up team to organise this event. Your hard work to prepare all the boiled potatoes etc. are much appreciated.

## SOCIAL PROGRAMME 1995

Car Rally, Midmar Dam	11. June
1. August Dinner Dbn/PMB	01. Aug
National Day Celebration at Hammersdale	06. Aug
Mountain Weekend (Cathedral Peak)	16./17. Sept
Price Jass Evening	23. Sept
Bowling Competition/Family outing to THE OAKS	18./19. Nov
Christmas Family Day Hammersdale	03. Dec

JASSEN: We meet every second Friday of each month at 19h30 at the GERMAN CLUB Durban-Westville. Every Member is wellcome.

A number of club members have recently indicated interest to participate on a mountain hiking trip to the Drakensberg in the Cathedral Peak area. It was suggested that this outing be organised also for club members with less energetic interests eg.

- Keen and experienced mountaineers (sleep over in tent or cave)
- Leisurely contour hiking (sleep over in hotel, tent or cave)
- Spend a weekend away in mountain hotel and enjoy good food, horse riding, jassen, bowling etc., approx. cost R200.00/pers./day

Further on request by many members it was felt, that the once so popular Bowling Competition should be again organised, provided a suitable venue was found. Your committee proposes to combine this event with a family outing to THE OAKS in Byrne Valley.

We see this as an one day outing or whole weekend stay-over.

Cost per person to stay over night R125.00 to R155.00/day (Three meals incl)

THE OAKS is set in approx. 300 acres, is only 15 Km from Richmond and 110 Km from Durban (1 hour and 15 minutes away).

It is situated at an altitude of 1080 metres in the beautiful Byrne Valley, the gem of the low Natal Midlands. It offers many recreational facilities for young and old.

Car lifts can be organised for the one with transport problems.

PLEASE INDICATE TO YOUR COMMITTEE FOR THE AFORESAID EVENTS YOUR PREFERENCES AND INTERESTS.  
COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED FORMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS.

SHOOTING PROGRAMME 1995

St. Galler  
Inter-Town (Nachschiesen not permitted)  
Nachschiesen  
Nachschiesen & Club Shoot  
Interclub (Natal Carb. & C-Company)  
Fun Shoot  
Johannesburg Shoot  
Handicap Shoot

06. May  
03. June  
01. July  
05. Aug  
02. Sept  
03. Oct  
28./29. Oct  
04. Nov

The Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg has invited our Club to a shooting weekend at their range on the 28./29. October. We would like to participate with two teams, so please come to our practices in Hammersdale to exercise our skills in time. Any Members who are interested in participating or providing back-up support, please contact our Shooting Master Fritz Kuhn Phone N 0331-451923 or B 0331-422990


REMAINDER : All keen marksmen please come and support Fritz Kuhn and Phil Stevens on the 6th May from 10h00 onwards to carry out some repairs on our targets. They are in a bad shape and need attention. Lunch sausages and Broetli will be provided by the club to the workers which are there before 11h00. But please no cheating !

We have got again the proper targets, traditionally used for the Ruetli Shoot at our Swiss National Day Celebration. Albert Schmid has organised sponsorship for the printing of 5000 No Ruetli Targets by Messrs. ABB Industries. I would like on behalf of all members of the Swiss Club Natal express my sincerest appreciation to you Albert for organising this, but most of all to Messr. ABB for their generosity to provide our club with this targets.

We should be pleased to see many of you at the aforesaid Social and Shooting functions,

Kind Regards

your President



Hanspeter Graber

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**MOUNTAIN WEEKEND (CATHEDRAL PEAK)**

16/17th September

Please indicate your preference and give the completed form to a committee member at the next function,  
or send it to:

**SWISS CLUB NATAL**

P. O. BOX 393

Pietermaritzburg

3200

Name :

Number people participating

Children up to 12 Years

Youth 13 Years onwards

Adult

No. :

No. :

No. :

Interested in : (tick box)

High Alpine Hike fitness, experience & good all weather clothing & equipm. is a prerequisite			Leisurely Contour Hiking suitable all weather proof clothing & equipm. required			Mountain Hotel Weekend Stay-over Approx. R200.00/pers./day		
Sleep over Options			Sleep over Options					
Hotel	Tent	Cave	Hotel	Tent	Cave			

Anybody young or old which needs a lift please let us know we will organise somewhere a vacant seat.

**BOWLING COMPETITION AND FAMILY OUTING**  
 18/19th November

Please indicate your preferences and give the completed form to a committee member at the next function,  
 or send it to:

**SWISS CLUB NATAL**  
 P. O. BOX 363  
 Pietermaritzburg  
 3200

Name :

Number people participating

Children up to 12 Years

Youth 13 Years onwards

Adult

No. :

No. :

No. :

Interested in : (tick box)

BOWLING		JASSEN		OTHER Please specify eg. Golf Table Tennis etc.	
2 Days Stay-over Approx. R125.00 to R165.00 per pers. & day (3meals)	1 Day Visit only with Lunch at Hotel	2 Days Stay-over Approx. R125.00 to R165.00 per pers. & day (3meals)	1 Day Visit only with Lunch at Hotel	2 Days Stay-over Approx. R125.00 to R165.00 per pers. & day (3meals)	1 Day Visit only with Lunch at Hotel

Anybody young or old which needs a lift please let us know we will organise somewhere a vacant seat.

OBITUARY

THE SUDDEN TRAGIC DEATH OF PAT SLEVIN IN A ROAD ACCIDENT AT THE CAPE ON 19TH FEBRUARY MUST HAVE BEEN AS BIG A SHOCK TO ALL MEMBERS WHO KNEW HIM AS IT WAS TO AGGIE & MYSELF AS A GREAT CLUB MEMBER & PERSONAL FRIEND.

ALL OUR THOUGHT AT THE MOMENT ARE WITH LYDIA WHO MUST BE GOING THROUGH A VERY HARD TIME. PAT & LYDIA MEMBERS OF SWISS CLUB NATAL FOR SO MANY YEARS, EVEN RECENT YEARS IN THE CAPE THEIR HEARTS WERE ALWAYS IN OUR CLUB. IN THE PAST BOTH SERVED ON OUR CLUB COMMITTEE LYDIA FOR SOME YEARS AS TREASURER. PAT WAS ALWAYS THERE DOING SOMETHING FOR THE CLUB, WITH SCREWDRIVER IN HAND OR A SONG OR DANCE. ALWAYS SUCH A HAPPY SMILING CHAP FRIEND TO ALL, YOUNG & OLD. OUR THOUGHTS & HAPPY MEMORIES OF PAT WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US, BUT A LIGHT HAS GONE OUT IN SWISS CLUB NATAL.

GUGGY.



## EDITORS CORNER.

Bowls saw to it that I missed 5TH NOV., Handicap Shoot. Jeanne-Piere told me about a dozen present & the results 1st Nic., 2nd Hans-Peter. 3rd Jeanne Piere, No shoot in January but I hope to be at Hammarsdale for Feb.

Sun. 4th Dec., Perfect day for Christmas Family Shoot & 40TH Year of Swiss Club, Forty years on & pf the original 15 Foundation Members 4 are still members, Felix Moser, Alf Sifrig, Oscar Goetz, & Paul Wunder (in Cape Town).

I had hoped for a bigger turn out about 45 cars. How nice to see Max Hirsch, Tito Luder, George & Mila Dawson, Karl Steiner. Hans -Rudi gave me news of the Enders who nearly made it, such a pity Pam was not too well.

The usual lovely Family day started with an aperitive all round on Mr. Feigenwinter of the Consulate. Everyone seemed to be walking around with plates of Swiss sausages. Anni as usual had a busy day in the Club House corner.

After prize giving our good President presented all listed Members with a 40TH Birthday gift, a fine Swiss manicure penknife. I am sure everyone had a really enjoyable day. Thanks to all who made it possible.

Had a nice letter from Lydia she & Pat really enjoyed themselves with our nine Club Members at the Inter-Club Shoot in Stellenbosch recently.

We had Christmas greetings & New Year Wishes from Priscilla & brother Michael together in Unterwasser at the Hotel where Michael works. I think they are really enjoying themselves. Good Luck to these two fine youngsters.

I had another card from Unterwasser this time from all the Planzers signed by Hans-Rudi, Emmie, Michael & Priscilla altogether a real family gathering. Swiss Club Natal is always well represented in Switzerland.

I am sorry I missed the shoot 4th Feb., I just forgot! somehow the 1st Sat in Feb., crept up on me when I was not looking. I had to phone Hans-Peter & explain also I had a bowling game having forgotten the shoot. Jean-Pierre has since told me they had a good turn out & the usual enjoyable shoot.

Had yet another card from Priscilla she really is a darling. They had a get together at the home of Felix Thoma & family where she met up with Daniel Grab & Roje Frei. Natal Club Switzerland.

Sat. 18th Feb. The 41st A.G.M. of our Club . ( & I think my 30th.) held again at Holiday Inn Durban. I think I

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was the last to sign the register at No. 64. not a bad turn out to a meeting as usual went well. First election of new Committee, our excellent President for last four years Walti Grab stood down for a well-earned & complete break. Hans-Peter Graber our new President I know well & can assure you all he is made in the same mould as our previous Presidents, dependable & solid as a rock. The rest of the Committee remain the same with two new Advisers Thomas Ammann, & Bob Wyss, welcome Thomas, welcome back Bob.

Fritz Kuhn sorted out the prize giving in record time.

Nestle & Championship Cups to Bob Wyss.

St Gallen Cup. Albert Schmid.

Recognition Trophy. ( For services to the Club) Walti Grab.

Honorary Membership to The Grabs, The Gerhards, The Kaufmanns

The Sifrigs, for so many years of excellent service to our Club.

Medals & Cards to most of those who shoot at Hammersdale. What a wonderful surprise Felix Thoma joined us with a radiant Rita, everyone so pleased to see her again. I do hope I managed to say Hullo to all my friends

Our friend Mrs Dawn Harris of Swissair picked out the winning Swissair Ticket, the impossible happend last years winner Haydon Mitchell did it again, no wonder he works so hard for us as Treasurer, he gets a free trip to Switzerland every year!! Haydon have as good a time as you had last year. Thanks again to Anni Deubelbeiss for the dinner bookings & money collection.

Our very popular but departing Consul Alfons Frey gave us all a drink & his usual humorous speech, he will be in South Africa for about a year after retiring so I am sure & hope we will see more of him. Good Luck to Alfons Frey & thanks for your many visits to Natal.

The flag competition took some sorting out all good designs made it hard for the selectors I think it was Hans-Peter's Graber the winner.

Every-one at the meeting received a beautifully produced document giving minutes of 40th A.G.M., what to expect for the 41st A.G.M., Presidents report, Financial Statement Shooting Results & Membership Statistics, etc., Thanks Andre, & I hope you heard as many complimentary remarks as I did.

A good A.G.M., enjoyed by all.

Father Dominic Muheim who has for so many years being out in the bush at Maryhelp Mission, Ixopo area, now has a nice posting to St. Joseph's Mission Richmond, the Byrne Valley (including The Oaks) are now in his new parish.

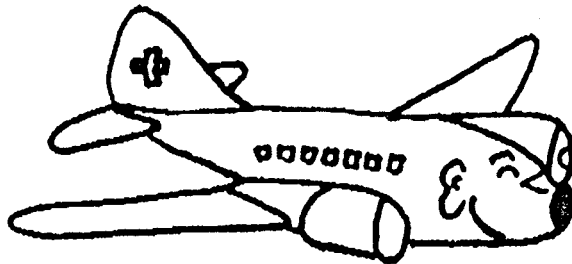
Sat. 4th March. with my good friend Hans-Peter to Feldsch iessen, on a hot sunny day. The usual regulars & others made a total of 17, I was so pleased to see Nic. & Fritz Kaufmann & back shooting with us Tony Fuchs, Marcel & Sharon, Phil & Hans Deubelbeiss both had Flu., but did not stop them from shooting. Good scores & medals for Albert, Bob, Phil, Hans-Peter, Nic, & Fritz Kuhn. We missed Felix Thoma, I expect having Rita with him he was probably touring around somewhere. Good turn out & harmony at Colorado

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*Guggu*

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SWISS ABROAD CAN NOW CAST THEIR VOTE

AT HOME ON FEDERAL AND COUNTY MATTERS?

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TO REGISTER WITH THE ENCLOSED FORM.

*Politische Rechte der  
Auslandschweizerinnen und Auslandschweizer*

Mitbestimmen, wenn es um die  
freiwillige AHV/IV oder um die  
Beziehungen zur Europäischen  
Union und zur UNO geht!

Seit dem 1. Juli 1992 dürfen Auslandschweizerinnen und Auslandschweizer brieflich an eidgenössischen Abstimmungen und Wahlen teilnehmen. Rund 52'000 Landsleute in aller Welt nehmen dieses Recht bereits wahr; es sollten jedoch noch viel mehr sein, damit die Fünfte Schweiz in der schweizerischen Politik das Gewicht bekommt, das ihr zusteht.

Füllen Sie deshalb diesen Talon aus und senden Sie ihn an die für Sie zuständige schweizerische Vertretung (Botschaft oder Konsulat).

So können Sie mitbestimmen, wenn es dereinst etwa um den Beitritt der Schweiz zur Europäischen Union oder zur UNO gehen sollte; und diejenigen Parteien und Politiker wählen, die sich für die Beibehaltung der freiwilligen AHV/IV und andere Anliegen der Fünften Schweiz stark gemacht haben.

1995 können Sie zum ersten Mal brieflich an Nationalratswahlen teilnehmen. Nutzen Sie die Chance, indem Sie den Talon ausfüllen und an Ihre Botschaft oder Ihr Konsulat schicken.

# Meldung als stimmberechtigte(r) Auslandschweizer(in)

(bitte gut leserlich in Blockschrift ausfüllen und an Ihre Vertretung schicken)

Empfänger

An die Schweizerische Vertretung in \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Absender

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Vorname \_\_\_\_\_

Mädchenname \_\_\_\_\_

Genaue Adresse im Ausland \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Geburtsdatum \_\_\_\_\_

Geburtsort \_\_\_\_\_

Zivilstand \_\_\_\_\_

seit \_\_\_\_\_

Heimatort(e) \_\_\_\_\_

Heimatkanton(e) \_\_\_\_\_

Postleitzahl \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Vorname des Vaters \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name/Vorname der Mutter \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ich wünsche, gestützt auf das Bundesgesetz vom 19. Dezember 1975 und die Verordnung vom 16. Oktober 1991 über die politischen Rechte der Auslandschweizer, das Stimm- und Wahlrecht in eidgenössischen Angelegenheiten auszuüben und eidgenössische Volksinitiativen und Referendumsbegehren zu unterschreiben.

Als Stimmgemeinde wähle ich:

Postleitzahl/Ort \_\_\_\_\_

Kanton \_\_\_\_\_

\* weil ich das Bürgerrecht dieser Gemeinde besitze

\* weil ich dort von 19..... bis 19..... gewohnt habe

(\* Nichtzutreffendes bitte streichen)

Ort/Datum \_\_\_\_\_

Unterschrift \_\_\_\_\_

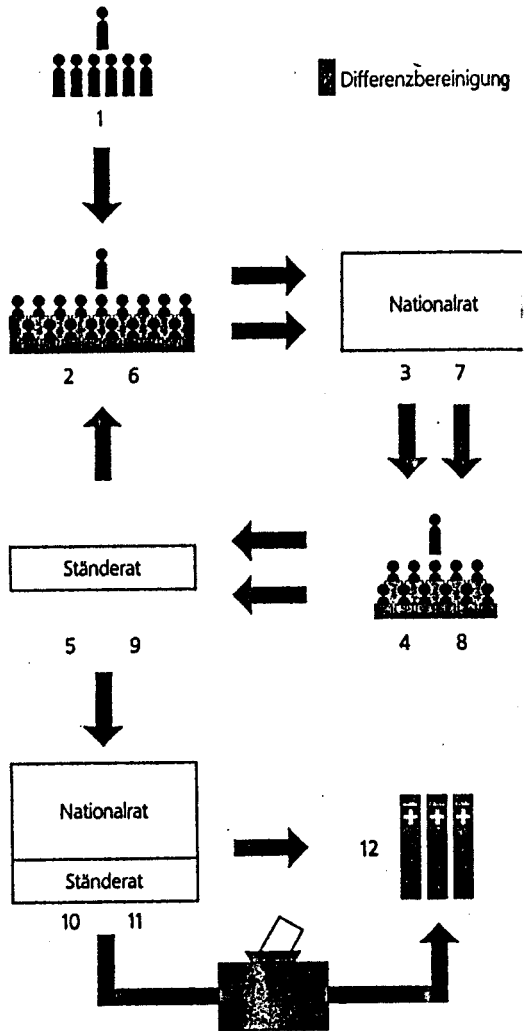
# THESE DAYS THERE IS MUCH TALKING ABOUT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

## IN SOUTH AFRICA.

### DID YOU KNOW HOW THE SWISS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM WORKS ?

#### Die Entstehung eines Bundesgesetzes

1. Nach einem Vernehmlassungsverfahren bei den Kantonen, Parteien und interessierten Kreisen, erarbeitet der Bundesrat einen Gesetzesentwurf.
2. Die Kommission des *Erstrates* (z. B. der Nationalrat) prüft den Entwurf und stellt dem Nationalrat Anträge.
3. *Tritt* der Nationalrat auf die *Vorlage ein*, so behandelt er zunächst die einzelnen Bestimmungen und führt dann die *Gesamtabstimmung* durch.
4. Danach prüft die Kommission des *Zweiterates* (in unserem Beispiel der Ständerat) den Gesetzesentwurf und stellt Anträge.
5. *Tritt* der Ständerat auf die *Vorlage ein*, so behandelt er zunächst die einzelnen Bestimmungen und führt dann die *Gesamtabstimmung* durch.
6. Sind sich die beiden Räte zum Beispiel in zwei Punkten uneinig, so wird hin- und herverhandelt (*Differenzbereinigung*) bis eine Einigung erzielt ist. Die Kommission des Nationalrates schlägt z. B. vor, auf die eine der Differenzen zu verzichten und dafür an der andern festzuhalten.
7. Der Nationalrat beschliesst entsprechend dem Vorschlag seiner Kommission.
8. Die Kommission des Ständerates kann dann z. B. vorschlagen, dem Nationalrat zu folgen.
9. Der Ständerat beschliesst entsprechend seiner Kommission.
10. Die beiden Räte führen getrennt eine *Schlussabstimmung* durch.
11. Das Gesetz untersteht dem *fakultativen Referendum* (50000 Unterschriften innert 90 Tagen).
12. Ist das Gesetz angenommen, gegebenenfalls in der *Volksabstimmung*, so wird es veröffentlicht und in Kraft gesetzt.





2ND. DESERT CAMPAIGN.

THE SIEGE OF TOBRUK. 1941. PART. 10.

The Siege must have been in its 5th Month when we had the biggest upheaval of the entire Siege. Mr Menzies a good friend of Churchill had resigned, the new Prime Minister of Australia was a Mr Fadden who on taking office demanded from Churchill the withdrawal of the 9TH Australian Div., from Tobruk, about 15,000 men over half the besieged garrison. The reason, bombed & shelled continuously, declined in health resistance, & if Tobruk surrendered the loss of Australias crack Division. I don't know if the British Army is any different, but no one seemed to think we could perhaps be in the same boat, but there was no suggestion that we should also be withdrawn. General Auchinleck Commander of the Desert Campaign was so angry at the thought of the Aussies being withdrawn from Tobruk that he wanted to resign, which is understandable as the move would be quite a Military & Naval Operation. To move 15,000 Aussies by sea to Alex., the ships returning with another 15,000 men to replace them, all under the noses of the Germans who if they knew of the Operation would probably torpedo & bomb the entire convoy, this would have to be one of the best kept secrets of the War.

From what I have read Churchill was also somewhat angry with the Australian ultimatum & tried his hardest to get the P.M., & Australian Government to change their minds, but I am sure he knew the real reason for the return of the Aussie 9th & 6th Divisions to their homeland was the fact that it was obvious that the Japanese with their huge army, navy, & airforce would at any moment be in the War against us, then Australia would be in a very vulnerable position, in fact Japan would without a declaration of War attack the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbour with disastrous results on 7th Dec., (two days before the siege ended), the 9th & 6th Divs., were by then back home, but as you see the Aussies cut it pretty fine.

Our friends of the 9th had a good rest & later went on to fight the Japs in Burma & Malaya. End of 1944 when British & Australian troops recaptured Singapore from the Japanese all our troops found of our old friends of the Siege the 9th Australian Div., were a few walking skeletons in Changi P.O.W., camp.. Sometimes I think the Japs could have taught the Nazi S/S. a thing or two about cruelty.

The Aussies would have to be taken out of Tobruk during moonless nights, 15,000 men would take more than one moonless period in fact I think it took 3 or 4 periods over several weeks. The 450 mile run between Alex., & Tobruk had several names Tobruk Ferry, Bomb Alley, & The Spud Run (as most ships brought us potatoes the only vegetable that would last for a few days in the heat.) So many ships had been lost on the Spud Run that H.Q., decided that only Naval Ships would do the trip in future As a matter of interest during the 8 months of the Siege the convoys supplied us with over 34,000 men, 72 tanks, 92 guns & 35,000 tons of various stores, food, ammo, spares, clothes etc., & removed wounded & Italian & German P.O.W.S supplying Tobruk cost the Navy in Ships sunk, 2 Destroyers 23 other Ships & 18 badly damaged, 9 Merchant Vessels & 2 Hospital Ships. Grim figures for keeping us going as "the thorn in the enemies side" for 242 Days. The first Aussies to leave were 1500 (only a 10th of the total to be evacuated), a Naval Vessel happened to be in Tobruk at the time, after disembarking the Aussies at Alex., the ship did a quick turn about & brought us the first replacements, 15,000 men of the Polish Infantry Brigade. All Ships worked this way bringing new troops immediately on the return journey, on this system Tobruk Garrison was never really depleted. The new Troops apart from the Poles were made up of British Regiments & an Indian Regiment. The Move was a well kept secret for it was not until all 15,000 Aussies were in Egypt that the Germans knew of the change about, & only managed to attack the last small convoy returning to Tobruk in which the Destroyer Hero was damaged & the Mine Layer Laetona was sunk, only about 40 men were lost, the only casualties of the entire operation.

Guggy



"I see, old Ponsonby is still dining and wining in a good cause."