



MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

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D-DAY 1944

With ongoing conflict in many parts of the World and Russia seemingly wanting to "stir the pot" in Europe it is probably a good idea to remember D-Day and the liberation of Europe all those years ago.



One of a set of eleven stamps issued by Royal Mail to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Issued 2019

06 June 1944 was the historic invasion of Normandy, France, during World War II. Code-named Operation Overlord, it remains the largest amphibious invasion in history. This massive operation successfully established a second major front against Nazi Germany leading to the liberation of Europe.



Six stamps issued in three vertical se-tenant pairs depicting the landings

The invasion took place across five specific sectors: Utah; Omaha; Gold; Juno and Sword with more than 150 000 Allied troops (primarily American, British and Canadian) crossing via 5 000 ships and 13 000 aircraft.

American forces faced close to disastrous resistance at Omaha Beach with an estimated 4 415 deaths on the first day alone with total casualties wounded and missing) exceeding 10 000

Sadly, it is highly likely that America will not come to rescue NATO this time as President Trump tries to extricate himself from his Iran debacle!

Stamps provide a fascinating insight into history and a record that cannot be disputed – there are many "stamp stories" that are waiting to be told and we are waiting to hear from you!

ANYTING GOES

Whilst it was agreed that members could show what they like at our meetings, there has been a suggestion that, for June, we should also incorporate a theme depicting "Winter" to celebrate the season! Tony will be supplying Rolls and Hot Soup so do come along to enjoy a morning of fun!



Pieter Swanepoel receiving the "Mug of the Month" for May from Aubrey Bowles

Pieter Swanepoel was the proud winner of the "Mug of the Month" for May for his wonderful exhibit of Lighthouses.

BIRTHDAYS

07 Gordon Bennett

10 Russell Bowton

We wish you a very happy day with many more yet to come!

Gordon Bennett is our "bird man" and has a vast collection of birds on stamps Russell Bowton collects Gt Britain and is also responsible for the Maritzburg Circuit Books

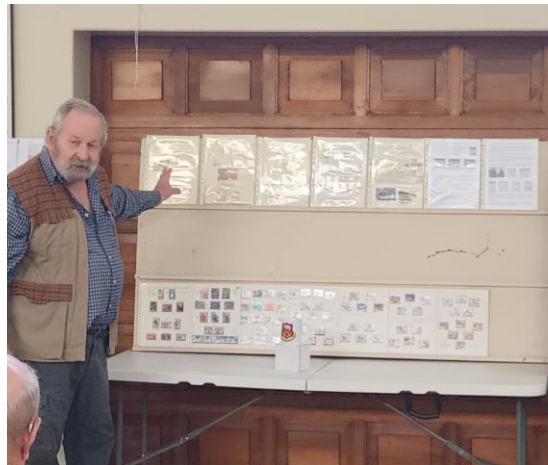
SEEN AT THE MEETING

Once again there was an interesting display by some of our members at the May meeting and we do hope that more members will participate in this exciting and entertaining part of the meeting!

Show and Tell also provides an opportunity for members to show an item of interest and to learn more about stamps that might be puzzling.



Aubrey Bowles presenting an exhibit concerning the 1914-18 German East Africa Campaign and an envelope showing important German Military information



Gordon Gove, who travels all the way from Westville to attend the meetings, showed a letter from an Austrian philatelist written to his mate followed by Europe during and After WW2 and the interesting history behind the stamps of Czechoslovakia; Ukraine; Lithuania; Poland and Japan

Pieter Sanepoel showed "Lighthouses – Beacon of Hope" and won the Mug of the Month. Well done, Pieter!



Tony Koch showed a selection of St Helena stamps



Christine Prodgor, one of our new members, showed the first 20 years of GT Britain Christmas Stamps which were all very interesting

It's quite amazing what we collect and what can be found on postage stamps

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Philatelic Federation are busy with the reproduction of the Union of South Africa Handbook and have received a substantial donation from one of the members of Federation

GET WELL SOON

Fred de Jager one of the stalwart members of the MPS and a fabulous engraver of our cups, which he does at no charge, as well as assisting with the catering for each of our meetings for many years, was involved in a traffic accident at the beginning of the month and is still in ICU in the Midlands Hospital in Pietermaritzburg. Our thoughts are with his wife Val, our Catering Officer, and we pray for his recovery soon.

**THE EAST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN
1914-1918
GERMAN MILITARY MAIL**



German Askaris on parade in Tanga

In the East Africa Campaign 1914-18, German forces led by Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck fought British and Allied forces in Tanganyika and Mozambique.

The British campaign was led by General Jan Smuts. Unfortunately, the South African Defence Force was severely impacted and vastly reduced in numbers due to illness such as malaria

The British Commander-in-Chief who took over from General Smuts was South African General Jacob van Deventer who led the Allied forces from May 1917 until the final German surrender in November 1918

When the Allied force, including the Indian Expeditionary Force began occupying German East Africa in 1916 they established Feld Post Offices and military personnel "On Active Service" enjoyed free franking services which allowed them to send mail without paying postage.

Due to stamp shortages in captured towns, British/South African and Indian Forces frequently used captured German postal stationery which allowed them free postage.

An example of the German Military "canceller" is shown on the right

The German word "frankiert" means stamped; post-paid or pre-paid

The wording states:

Imperial Post Director

German East Africa

Mit 7 ½ H means pre-paid with the appropriate currency.



An example of a letter posted from Tanganyika is shown below.



Envelope addressed to Pietermaritzburg

To prevent military intelligence leaks, all outgoing mail was opened, reviewed and sealed. It was then stamped by an assigned censor clerk

Censor marks usually appeared as boxed, unboxed or circular handstamps and contained the censors' unique identifying number such as 3323

Censor number 3323 was a British censor as evidenced by the crown. The location of the Censor was in the town of Kigoma which is now a city and lake port in the Kigoma-Ujiji District in Tanzania on the north-eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika and close to the border with Burundi

Covers bearing complete World War 1 colonial censor markings from late 1916 onwards are highly sought after and explicit "Passed by Censor" stamps from British or South African military units command a high premium.

According to available information, it appears that Lieutenant Colonel Alfred James Tomlinson was an officer from the British South Africa Police (BSAP) who was seconded to command forces during the East African campaign.

He was appointed Commanding Officer of the Rhodesia Native Regiment (RNR) which was raised to bolster the Imperial forces fighting German Askaris

During 1916 he led his regiment into German East Africa under Brigadier General Edward Northey. He commanded high-intensity bush operations until he was invalided out in 1917

He had family living in Pietermaritzburg

NB: The author would appreciate any comments or further information regarding the above article and, more, especially, the envelope
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