

DANGEROUS DIVISIONS

GRAHAM LYNN
COGGIN

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DISCLAIMER

Sections and parts of this novel have been based on historical fact, used fictionally. Where this has occurred, it is because the events and personages concerned have already been written about in newspapers and books of history and as such their names, and events with which they have been associated, have been in the public domain for some seventy years. Readers should not try to make literal connections between the characters of this work of fiction and their actions with persons living and or persons deceased, because this is not intended by the Author and is coincidental. Where well known and famous people have been portrayed as important protagonists in certain relevant scenarios to the fictional story, this is merely to strengthen the story line. That the particular scenarios may not have been recorded in official historical records does not mean that the particular scenario described did not in fact happen. During those very dangerous days of World War II, senior military officers had huge responsibilities and the nuances of their day-to-day activities were many and varied. It would not have been possible for a daily chronicle of every nuance and activity to be recorded by each senior officer or official. Therefore, any scene described by the Author could have, on balance, quite plausibly, taken place.

It is also not the intention of the Author to write about the characters pejoratively. Where this appears to be the case, this could be because history has cast them in this light. Nonetheless, where these characters have been responsible for dysfunctional and even murderous intentions and activities, their roles have been portrayed as they were recorded in newspapers of the time and history books.

Actual names as history has recorded them have been used in many cases where they were germane to the scenario being

described. Where fictional names have been used for characters and these match the names of readers, this does not mean of course that these characters are the same ones as are reading this novel in this present century or time. Any likeness to characters in this novel is therefore purely coincidental, as there are infinite numbers of names which can be used, and on the balance of probability someone reading any story or novel, such as this one, is likely to find his or her name there at some stage.

Furthermore, where any particular religious, or cultural connotation or practice is mentioned this is not done to devalue any other religion or culture, but again merely to strengthen that particular story line. This also applies to race and gender.

GRATIAE

The direct and indirect assistance of many kind and extremely knowledgeable and clever people is gratefully acknowledged, and if I have not mentioned other names here, which I should have, I sincerely apologise. Some of my friends mentioned here have played an enormously important role in helping me to write this novel, and to them I wish to pay a special tribute. Others might actually wonder what actual role they played at all. The answer is that a sagacious novel writer elicits ideas through discussion, debate and listening to presentations so it's not always obvious to the speaker or presenter that what he or she says is being stored in the memory bank of the writer's brain.

In alphabetical order I wish to list these many friends and advisors as follows:

Mrs Gayl Boon
Mr Bill Brady
Mr Bryan Britton.
Mr Ivan Bruce
Dr John Buchan
Mr David Butler
Mr Tom Calvert
Mrs Angie Cashmore
Mr Ken Gillings
Mr Tom Hadley
Mrs Christine Hardy
Mr Brian Luckraft
Dr Richard Steele

At the intellectual level special acknowledgement is accorded to my fellow authors; Bill Brady, Chairman of The Durban Branch of the South African Military History Society of South Africa, Bryan

Britton who pioneered for us the concept of Free E-Book publishing thus facilitating a wider readership, whilst at the same time enabling us to widen the boundaries of knowledge, and finally but not least, David Butler, a dedicated researcher who communicated important knowledge to us all over a protracted period and still does.

At the sociological and psychological level special thanks are due to the following wonderful friends who continue to look after my wellbeing and health. Without their support I would not have been able to carry on writing, following the passing on to higher service of my wife, Dr Jo Coggin: Tom Calvert, Gayl Boon, Ivan Bruce, Christine Hardy, Kathleen Potter and Richard Steele.

*Dedicated to the Memory of Thora Helen
(née Strachan) and Kenneth Coggin*

POSITIONING STATEMENT

This is a novel.

It is not an accurate record of the history of World War II although recorded history has been used from time to time to lend credence to the novel. Readers are requested to carry out their own research using the information and ideas expressed, for these ideas may be used as mnemonics for further research. In this way non-historians will be able to expand their own knowledge about World War II. The ideas expressed or the historical anecdotes can therefore be said to be didactic.

Dedicated and knowledgeable historians however, will immediately realise which passages are figments of the Author's creative mind or are in fact historically correct.

For all that, readers will enjoy reading about these events, both true and fictional.

Dear readers, I know you'll all enjoy reading this novel.

Graham L Coggin

TIME FRAME & AUTHOR'S NOTES

Dear reader:

For your own enjoyment of this story, kindly read this time frame.

This story is set in the early years of World War II of 1939-1945.

It is therefore important for readers who might not remember those years very well, or young readers who might know nothing of those years and events at all, to understand which technologies were available at the time. By today's standards the technologies available were very rudimentary. Many things we take for granted here in the early 21st Century were not available at all in South Africa during World War II.

For example:

Radio was in its infancy; indeed not all households even possessed a common radio receiver.

Landline telephones were few and far between. Certainly there were no cell-phones. In many rural areas no telephonic communication was available at all. It was nonetheless possible in some areas to send a telegram of a few words, transmitted by landline or telex from a local Post Office.

The road network consisted mostly of gravel roads. Macadamised tar roads were few and far between. There were no freeways, highways or motorways.

Cinemas or 'bioscopes' were few and far between - usually town-halls were used for the purpose, save for large cities.

There were no computers or electronic calculators. Most firms

owned adding machines and cash tills, but all were rudimentary by 21st Century standards.

There was hardly any private home refrigeration and not much in tea rooms. Large hotels and restaurants, though, did have refrigeration. Ice manufacturing plants, where these existed, did good business selling to establishments with no refrigeration.

Food rationing was enforced by law. Coupons were needed to buy bread (only rough brown, no white), eggs, meat, fish, butter, and milk. Beer and cold drinks were moderately well supplied, but glass bottles were scarce, as were glasses in the hotels and bars.

Petrol rationing was also in force and strictly controlled by law through a coupon system.

Clothing was in very short supply.

Tyres were unobtainable except for military purposes.

There were no helicopters or jet aircraft. Private flying was virtually unknown.

Motor cars used low compression engines and were powered by low grade petrol. Trucks used dieseline, mostly, but some were powered by petrol. Some private vehicles were powered by charcoal burners producing gas. Because of the low grade fuel used, engines required a complete de-coking operation every ten thousand miles.

Tractors for agriculture were fuelled by power paraffin after the engines had been started on petrol.

Very few country areas had electricity. Paraffin lamps were in general use but paraffin 'fridges were in limited use. (A lit fabric

wick heated up the refrigerating gas in order to expand it in the piping system.)

There were no forklift trucks as we know them today. There were basic cranes in existence, however.

Most inland travel was effected by steam train. South African Railways and Harbours (SAR&H) road buses carrying a few passengers did exist in areas where there was no rail link.

There was no television.

There were no ATMs or electronic banking.

In the rural areas, cooking stoves were mostly fuelled by wood or coal. Even in cities, few homes possessed electric stoves. Many people used gas for heating and cooking in cities.

In country villages, if petrol bowsers existed at all, these were of the hand- pump variety.

Recorded music was played on a gramophone, using vinyl records revolving at 78 revolutions per minute (rpm). Indeed not too many people even owned a gramophone. There were certainly no CDs, DVDs or tapes and high fidelity sound systems had not yet been invented.

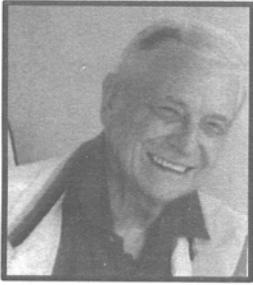
Ballpoint pens were not yet in production.

Medical science was rudimentary by to-day's standards. There was no penicillin in South Africa until late in the war years. Anaesthetics were available however.

In other words, not quite biblical times as technology was advancing rapidly (the atomic bomb was invented during this war)

but it was not yet the 21st Century by any stretch of the imagination.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



For most of his working life the Author was engaged as an internal Management Consultant, specialising in and implementing scientific management techniques such as short and long term mathematical planning, productivity measurement of men and machines, strategic planning, business process re-engineering, management training and project management. He has also held general management positions.

He took up writing following his retirement from active business life in 1993 and is a published author in a number of genres, which include novels, corporate and family histories, a technical monograph, dissertations and two theses. He has written numerous technical papers, a few of which are mentioned in this publication.

This work is a novel based on fact and predicated on events which took place in and around Durban during World War II between 1939 and 1942.

Published Books:

A Practical Guide to Business Process and Methods Re-Engineering in South Africa

Dangerous Fragrance

Dangerous Are Our Liaisons

Methods Engineering, Applied Statistical Theory and Operations Research as Aids to Business Administration

Amalgamated Beverage Industries - ABI -Over Sixty Years as a Bottler of Coca-Cola

The History of the Tom Cook Family in the Republic of South Africa

The Use of Work Measurement and its Role in Activity Based Costing

Technical Papers:

A Likely Scenario for the New South Africa.

A Work Study Approach to the Reaping and Handling of Wattle Bark and Wattle Timber.

Corporate Governance.

Facility Study - Durban Coca-Cola Production, Distribution, Marketing & Sales Region - 1975

Opportunity Cost, Theory of Constraints and Economic Value Added.

Pitfalls of Drinking Contaminated Water (a paper co-authored with Dr J M Coggin).

Queuing Theory - Number of Channels.

Strategies for ABI into the 1990s- A Scenario Plan.

The New South Africa and its Relationship with the New World Order 1989.

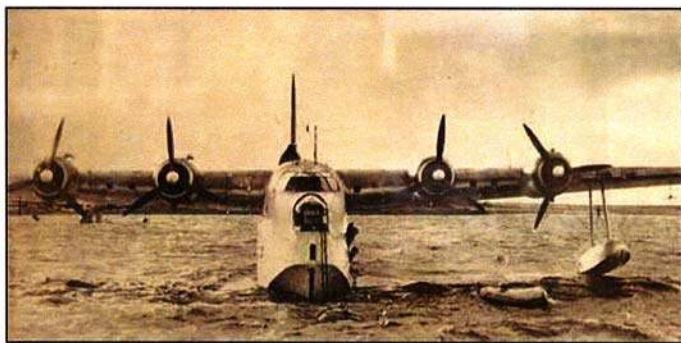
Factors making Durban vulnerable to attack from Germany and Japan from 1939 to 1942.



THE SILBURN MOLE
POINT AND ROYAL NATAL YACHT CLUBS



THE ESPLANADE, 1993



FIXED WING SEAPLANE: THE FLYING BOAT

INTRODUCTION

Introduction of Historical Interest - Essential Reading for an Understanding of the Plots which will unfold in this Novel.

Few people today are interested in history. We live in a highly technical age where life as we know it flashes by almost at the speed of light. There is simply no time, seemingly, to waste on reading history. In any case, for history to be interesting it has to be relevant. People need to be able to relate to what they have learned, read or are currently reading, otherwise the topic is excruciatingly boring. Equally, people need to know how history will affect their own lives or circumstances at this very moment. Yet even then if these precepts are given true expression there are many who believe issues are too transient and urgent to analyse and dwell on past history. Right? No - wrong!

Sir Winston Churchill, that great English statesman and Prime Minister of Great Britain, during those dark deadly days of World War II, believed that unless one knew from whence one came, it was not possible to know where one was going. Certainly, too, people old enough to know acknowledge that history is always repeated. Time without number mistakes are made; the very mistakes made by many others before. Indeed, the present world is in a state of turmoil because of this, although not necessarily solely, of course.

In South Africa, the history of the Apartheid Era is constantly discussed or visualised. Songs have been written around this history; films and plays have been shown around this history; this history is taught in schools; political rallies are attended in order to remember those brave people who died during this black period in their quest for a universal franchise and the establishment of a

democracy.

However difficult and dark this period was, it was not the only defining event which ultimately led to South Africa becoming a democracy, in the opinion of the Author.

So, although the first line of this Introduction propounds the view that few people today are interested in history, there are, nonetheless, those who still are interested in an acutely selective part of history, particularly the apartheid era and its extirpation followed by the establishment of South Africa's first democratic Government in 1994. These people, possibly, believe that for South Africans this is as much history as they need to know. Anything outside this has no relevance and is therefore not noteworthy.

The defining event in the opinion of this Author was in fact World War II which took place between 1939- 1945 and the defeat of Germany and in particular the development of the nuclear bomb; two of which were dropped on Japan leading to her surrender. At no other time in previous history had the world seen such profound development of destructive weaponry as was produced during this war.

Had this not been so, the democracy in which we live at this present time would never have come into being. It would not have been possible to read this Introduction because those readers doing so would not have been around during the present era, nor would the Author of this chronicle, which would never have been written.

Many South Africans of all racial groups paid the ultimate sacrifice during World War II. Reportedly 38 000 South Africans died in battle; most notably in the North African Libyan campaign and the thrust into Italy.

Adolf Hitler's Nazi armies had already occupied Austria; had already invaded and occupied Czechoslovakia and invaded Poland by the time South Africa entered the war. Great Britain declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939, following

Germany's invasion of Poland. On 6th September 1939, South Africa declared war on Germany too, after General J C Smuts won a debate against General Hertzog in parliament by just 13 votes (80:67), to enter the war on the side of Great Britain. This action split the country right down the middle, as there were many Nazi sympathisers in South Africa.

Nazi Germany had by this time already implemented laws stripping Jews in Germany of their citizenship, through the Nuremberg statutes of September 1935. So began the most hideous outrages on German Jews, culminating in their being sent to the concentration death camps of Auschwitz, Belsen, Buchenwald and many others. By the end of the war, records indicated that six million Jews had perished in these camps.

On 29th April 1945, a few days prior to the celebration of unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany on 8th May 1945- VE Day, Clare Booth Luce, a United States Congresswoman and writer, who visited Buchenwald with British Members of Parliament, following the invasion and occupation of Germany by Allied troops after 6th June 1944, was moved to write: "I have seen at Buchenwald how thousands of political prisoners of the Nazis have been beaten, gassed, burnt and slowly, very slowly, allowed to starve to death. At Buchenwald I have seen crematories, rows upon rows of burning ovens still full of splintered and charred human bones and skulls and blackened corpses. I have seen cartloads of horribly emaciated corpses, starved and tortured bodies, piled like kindling wood in a courtyard outside the crematorium and waiting to be fired when the Americans came. I have seen rooms where men have been beaten and strung up by the

neck to die for some small breach of camp discipline. I have spoken to prisoners left there by our people because they are still too weak to be moved and have heard from their own starved lips what they endured, how they were made to slave twelve and sixteen hours a day in underground factories making German weapons, eating a bowl of thin potato soup and a handful of bread a day until they died. It was the policy - the Nazi policy - to work them and starve them and then throw them into the furnaces when they could no longer struggle to their feet. Dead men carry no tales. Well, 51 000 dead at Buchenwald are talking now - and they are telling the people of the Democracies that they will have died in vain unless we know and believe what excruciating sufferings they endured".

Dear modern reader, this quoted extract is not a figment of this Author's creative imagination. This is an extract taken directly from a report in the Sunday Times Newspaper in 1945 and indeed a report written up in many newspapers around the world during that period. The Sunday Times of South Africa, on April 22nd 1945 also published the following: "It is difficult to write with restraint of the revolting disclosures, authenticated beyond all shadow of doubt, that came last week from Buchenwald, infamous laboratory of human vivisection, where thousands of anti-Nazi Germans and people of other nationalities were systematically and cruelly done to death".

Had the Nazis together with their Axis allies of Japan and Italy succeeded in conquering the world, which they so nearly did, you dear reader would not be reading this today.

Few alive today know that Nazi Germany came within a whisker of developing an atomic bomb. Few alive today even know that Nazi Germany, even by the end of the war, was streets ahead in the development of flying bombs and rockets armed with warheads. These had already been used to bomb London. Nazi Germany had

already flown jet fighters operationally. They were faster than any Allied 'planes, notwithstanding that the jet engine was invented by an Englishman, Sir Frank Whittle, as far back as 1930! Germany had Panzer Tiger tanks so powerful they were almost indestructible, and possessed enormous battleships capable of sinking a ship 20 miles away. These were accompanied by submarine wolf packs which sank many thousands of tons of merchant shipping.

It is unlikely that all young South Africans happy in this new democracy, established in 1994, know all this history.

By February 1940, it was already known that in order to govern the African Colonial Empire she was about to conquer, the Nazi German Government had begun to train public servants at the Faculty of the Science of Foreign Affairs at the University of Berlin. Many African languages were taught there. Nazi Germany had expansive plans for South Africa in particular. The mineral wealth of South Africa and indeed the entire African continent was a major lure to Germany. Plans had long been laid to control the entire world economy through South Africa's gold and diamonds and also through Arabian oil and of course through the use of South Africa's iron ore, chrome, cobalt, platinum, titanium, uranium for enrichment of nuclear power and copper from the Rhodesias et al.

In respect of the oil Nazi Germany had strong support from certain influential members of the Muslim community, notably Mufti Haj Amin el Husseini of Jerusalem, who was rabidly anti-British and anti-Jewish. He was, during 1940, to foment insurrection against the British in Palestine, as a result of which he fled to Germany through Switzerland in order to escape being captured by the British and indicted for his insurgency. He became a strong ally of Hitler in exchange for a promise from Hitler that he would annihilate the Jews of Palestine after Germany had won the war.

To add to the threat of German colonisation of South Africa, and indeed the whole of Africa, Germany possessed an Axis ally which had already occupied parts of North Africa. This ally was II Duce Benito Mussolini's Fascist Italy, which together with Japan in 1940 became the German Tripartite Axis. The idea was that Germany would control all Europe and the USSR, the Baltic States, the Arctic, Antarctic and South

Africa, and all oil producing countries in the Middle East, while Italy would control North-East Africa and other parts of Africa, and Japan, the whole of South-East Asia, India, China, Korea and all the islands of the Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand at the very least. Mediterranean countries too were all under threat from Italy.

The Fascist Italians, from as far back as late 1935 to early 1936, had conquered the tiny impoverished army of the Lion of Judah-Haile Selassie-and had occupied his Abyssinian (now Ethiopian) empire. They occupied Italian Somaliland and British Somaliland on the East coast of Africa and parts of Northern Kenya. They also occupied the Anglo-Egyptian condominium of Sudan. From these bases the Nazi Germans were exercising a huge influence over Muslim leaders and therefore Arabian oil through the Mufti of Jerusalem and Rashid Ali in Iraq. As a consequence, the German Axis powers already had a huge foothold in Africa between 1939 and 1942 and some influence over oil-rich Arabian countries. Germany and Italy already enjoyed dominance of nearly the entire Mediterranean Sea. In North Africa, Germany's Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was conquering all before him up to October 1942, and was rapidly advancing on Egypt (a British Mandate at the time) and the Suez Canal and of course gateway to the Arab states and their oil. When South Africa opted by a few votes in parliament to help Britain in this World War and ipso facto to thwart Germany's designs on Africa, history records that Hitler

laughed derisively, as South Africa had no army to speak of at all. Adding to South Africa's risk was the fact that undercover German agents and other Nazi sympathisers in South Africa commenced their sabotage operations and spying activities immediately war broke out, as they were already well prepared. The Ossewa Brandwag movement was very much against South Africa joining Great Britain's war and was thus sympathetic to the Nazi cause. It is also noteworthy to record that there never was conscription in South Africa. All the servicemen joined the South African forces as volunteers.

These were men from all walks of life, all nationalities and of every ethnic background.

In Europe, by 1940, Nazi Germany was pounding London, and other cities in England with bombers and fighters. She was also preparing to invade Britain - Operation Sea Lion - from France. Plans had already been established to enslave the people of Britain. In the Pacific, Japan attacked the American Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on 7th December 1941, sinking or damaging almost the entire Pacific fleet. This action forced the United States of America into the war, where hitherto she had been sustaining a stance of neutrality. This action brought America into the world conflict, and without her involvement the British Empire would never have been able to resist the Axis onslaught. Certainly, the whole of Africa and South Africa would have been occupied by Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany by mid-1942. Japan also had designs on South Africa and indeed after her capture of Singapore, a British island and military base, Japanese submarines supplied by accompanying refuelling and revictualing ships harassed and sank shipping in the Mozambique Channel in 1942. She also had designs on occupying the major port of Madagascar by invitation from the Vichy Government which had occupational troops in Madagascar. This port was within easy sailing distance from Durban. The Japanese too had a marked propensity for inflicting

the most horrifying tortures on POWs, women and children. Had they invaded and occupied South Africa ahead of the Nazis no one would have been spared. As for the Nazis, the South African population would have been subjected to the most hideous atrocities as were the Jews of Europe. All except rabid Nazi sympathisers - roughly half of the White population and surely the entire non-White groups of South Africa would have been enslaved, or placed in death camps and made to work the mines without remuneration and very little sustenance. Fortunately the British, South African and Indian divisions in Kenya under the command of General Cunningham, expelled the Italians from Abyssinia, forcing those not killed or captured to flee and join Rommel's army in North Africa after February 1941. By mid-1943 Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy had been expelled from Africa by the Allied armies which included servicemen from South Africa.

This is how close South Africa came to occupation by the Axis powers. The Apartheid regime would have seemed a picnic by comparison, as egregious and hideous as it nonetheless was.

Italy capitulated on 8th September 1943; Nazi Germany was forced to surrender unconditionally on 8th May 1945 and Japan on 15th August 1945. Nations in Africa were now free to press for the expulsion of other colonial powers such as Great Britain, Portugal, Belgium and France, but in South Africa the Nationalist Government with its Apartheid policies and its Nazi sympathies, led by Dr D F Malan, surprisingly beat Field Marshall J C Smuts at the polls in 1948. This era lasted forty six years.

The events which take place in this story, involving the protagonist and to a greater or lesser degree, many other individuals, all revolve around this core introduction.

Historical facts have been used fictionally and in many ways readers will find the information didactic . Certain events and

issues can be used as mnemonics for round-the-dinner-table discussions.

This is a story for readers with a sense of history and who enjoy a yarn with a military setting interwoven with the clandestine activities of enemy spies; set in a period of grave danger for all who lived in Africa at the time.

Please enjoy the story which will now unfold around this central theme with its forceful if not surprising denouement.

