

### GROMOR MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

In our current political mess, we often forget about some of the really great South Africans that have been produced in this country of ours. One of these was Group Captain Sailor Malan.

It was in 1940 at the peak of the Battle of Britain when the telephone jangled in 74 Squadron's hut. Sailor Malan grabbed the handset, listened, put it down gently and ordered "Let's go!". Shipping was being attacked off Dover by a strong enemy force. Sailors squadron of 12 Spitfires were airborne within minutes. They came out of the sun, half attending to the Stukas dive bombing the shipping and half taking on the Me 109's covering them.

As the Messerschmitt's dived onto the Spitfires after the Stukas, Sailor banked in a tight turn and slipped behind one, giving him a 2 second burst from his Browning machine guns!

In the Biggen Hill Ops Room, the ladies of the Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) personnel were monitoring the Luftwaffe incursions, by moving blocks representing the shipping, RAF and Luftwaffe planes as the battle over the channel unfolded. Listening to the men over their radios, they heard; "welcome into my sights Hun" as the firing button was pressed. "I say your stupid dirty bastard; you've just stained my Spitfire windscreen with your leaking oil". On another frequency they heard the lament "Bloody Hell, I'm hit! Fritz will make me miss my date tonight!".

For the pilots of Tiger squadron came Sailor's calm voice; "Reform, reform, we've done our job boys; let's get back home for tea!"

After tea and a hurried bite to eat whilst new ammunition belts were rolled into the magazine and the fuel topped up, they were in the air again. Sailor Malan's squadron went out three times that day destroying 38 enemy aircraft, a record for any squadron.

Sailor Malan was born on 30 October 1910 on the farm Groenfontein a few kilometres from Wellington and christened Adolph Gysbert Malan. Following schooling, he joined the training ship General Botha in Simonstown and went into sea for 9 years. At the outbreak of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War he joined the RAF and became the first pilot to engage the enemy at night, downing two German HEIII bombers while flying solo. Following this, he convinced the air Ministry to sight the machine guns of the Spitfires in, at an angle to intersect at around 200m. The effect on enemy aircraft was devastating; later he proved that removing two machine guns and replacing them with a cannon on each wing would make the firepower of the Spitfire even more lethal. (I recently learned from a Norwegian relation that the Messerschmitt was considerably faster than the Spitfire!)

He took on Werner Molders, the top Luftwaffe pilot in a "dog fight", resulting in a badly wounded Molder's having to struggle home!

Frankly, this man was in the same class as Vera Lynn singing "Till we meet again", "White Cliffs of Dover" and Churchill's words in stirring the nation to new heights, that caused the Luftwaffe to come to grief in English skies. (Incidentally Churchill was the godfather of the Malan's son Johnathan)

After the Battle of Britain, Malan was promoted to wing commander in charge of three squadrons based at Biggin Hill. Invited to America, he was given the task of teaching "their" cousins, of the tactics that had made Britain so successful in the air. After lectures to a group of the USA's top fighter pilots, Sailor suggested a practical demonstration. He told 6 pilots to take off a minute before him and then to intercept him in the air. Sailor was in the air for just five minutes, but what was revealed on the "camera guns" startled the yanks. He had shot them all down!

On 1 October 1942 sailor was promoted the Group captain. At 32 he was the youngest ever to achieve this rank. Flying escort on DDay he went on a solo sortie, shooting up German gun positions, the last of his record of 55 "confirmed" kills.

After the war he returned to S.A and joined his old friend Harry Oppenheim, who had served as a captain in the Tank Corps. In his later days he farmed on Benfontein just outside Kimberly. It was at this time that he started and played a leading role in the Torch Commando, which opposed the apartheid regime. Comprised mainly of "whites", the Torch Commando is reputed to have had a membership of 250 000 strong at one stage. Protesters would walk sedately carrying burning torches, but causing no disruption!

Because of this stance, the Nationalist Government of the day denied Sailor a Military funeral when he died of Parkinson's disease at the age of 52. The City of Kimberly instead arranged a huge civil ceremony in his honour. Squadron Leader Munro Park commented; "He was almost perfect!"

### **GMO's**

80% of the urban population is probably anti GMO's. I will stick my neck out and say that this is ignorance! Being pro GM crops, I enjoy reading Wynand vd Walt's Famers Weekly articles. I quote from one of these "Researchers at Purdue Univ investigating the effects of growing only non - GM crops, found that maize, soya bean and cotton yields would be reduced by 11,2%, 5,2% and 18,6% respectively, were there no GM varieties and that compensating these losses would require the conversion of 102 000ha of forest area to crop land - imagine the increase in greenhouse gas emission! Furthermore, grain prices like maize and soya, could go up by as much as 28% and 22% respectively".

Some 90% of SA maize, 95% of soya beans and 99% of cotton are GM, which make them able to demonstrate resistance to stalkborer and bollworm etc. Furthermore, with some being able to demonstrate herbicide tolerance, it facilitates conservation agriculture and insect resistance which in turn reduces fungal toxins on grains. At this stage GMO's certainly demonstrate more positives than negatives.

### **WHAT TO PLANT AS WINTER APPROACHES?**

1. Tomatoes, peppers and Brinjals are probably the safest.
2. In sunny sub-tropical areas traditional summer vegetables may be planted in winter, e.g. lettuce, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, peas, potatoes, sweet potatoes and salads.

Apply and work into the soil before planting.

300g GROMOR LIME

150g GROMOR ACCELERATOR ORGANIC FERTILIZER PELLETS.

**WHEN WE MOVE TO THE NEW SITE (sometime in the coming year!!) the "state of the art" bag filling equipment being installed at the new site necessitates the replacement of 50dm<sup>3</sup> bags with 60dm<sup>3</sup> bags.**

**GROMOR CHICKEN LITTER** - Orders are increasing steadily. Don't be caught short.

Regards,  
GROMOR (PTY) LTD

### **R. HAGEN**

PS: On elderly man was on the operating table about to be operated on by his son, a famous surgeon. "Don't be nervous son – just do your best and if things don't work out, just remember that your mother will be coming to live with you!"

PPS: Patient to Doctor. I broke my arm in two places!  
Doctor to Patient. You must stop going to those places!

PPPS: Patient to Doctor: "How can I live to a 100years"?  
Doctor: "Do you smoke?" Patient: "No"  
Doctor: "Do you drink too much?" Patient "No"  
Doctor: "Do you eat too much?" Patient "No"  
Doctor: "Do you have affairs with promiscuous women?" "No"  
Doctor: "Then why would you want to live to a hundred years?"