

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

Vol. 5 No. 9.

August 1962.

NEWSLETTER.EDITORIAL.

At the Annual General Meeting held in August, 1961, a decision was taken that this Newsletter would be discontinued, and replaced by a printed "South African Numismatic Journal". For reasons beyond our control, however, it has unfortunately not yet been possible to start printing the Journal, and in view of the long delay it has been decided to produce this, we hope, the final Number of the "Newsletter". There can be no argument that a scientific society worthy of the name should achieve a printed Journal, but we will perhaps be forgiven a pang of regret at the passing of this, the pioneer numismatic journal in South Africa.

'Way back in August 1948, a newly admitted member of the Society had the temerity to suggest that we should have some sort of publication, to record the work of the Society and its members, to act as a medium for the collection and dissemination of information on South African numismatics, and to act as a link with our country members. Inevitably, the editorial pen was immediately tossed to the presumptuous recruit, who has sought vainly ever since for an opportunity to pass it on! Since 1948, this Newsletter has appeared at irregular, and sometimes lengthy, intervals, on forty-three occasions. It has never had any literary pretensions, but the impatient letters of enquiry for the next number which have been received during our past eighteen months of silence would seem to testify that our distant members at least look forward to its arrival. We think we can claim too, that the 300-odd pages thus far inflicted on our members, contain much information of particular South African numismatic interest, which has not been recorded elsewhere. Where it may perhaps have fallen short of its object, is in the recording of original research work done by members of the Society. But that deficiency cannot be laid at the Editor's door. Rather is it because our members have not yet graduated to original research, or have failed to overcome their reluctance to put pen to paper. Let us all make a good resolution now that we are celebrating the 21st birthday of our Society - let us pull together to make the "South African Numismatic Journal" something of which we can all be proud - a publication worthy of a "Learned Society". So please press on with that original research, and let us have the reports of it.

The Editor may have grumbled occasionally, but this Newsletter has been fun! Thank the many of you who have supported, encouraged, contributed, complimented or just forborne to criticise! I for one have enjoyed my share in writing it, and will miss its informality. Vale "Newsletter", Salve "South African Numismatic Journal".

OBITUARY.

We record with deep sorrow the passing of the following members who have crossed the Great Divide since publication of the last Newsletter in November, 1960:-

(i) Mr. C. Wilmot, of East London, a Past President of the Society. Mr. Wilmot had for years devoted himself to the task of building up an immense collection of modern minor coins of the world - with particular emphasis on the British Commonwealth. A man of modest means, he inspired all who came in contact with him with his enthusiasm and perseverance in the hunt, his eagerness to learn, his humility, his generosity to fellow-collectors, and his keenness to pass on his knowledge to beginners. He recruited actively for the Society and was the driving force amongst the strong section of the Society which he built up on the Border. We were able to assist in the disposal of his collection for the benefit of his widow, whose grief we share.

(ii) Mr. G.B. da Graca, of Salisbury.

Gaspar da Graca had visited Cape Town on several occasions. Though interested particularly in the coins of Portuguese Africa - of which he had a profound knowledge - he had that wider intelligent interest in "what the other man collects" which makes the true numismatist. With his widow and children we mourn his tragic passing.

(iii) Lt. General Sir Gordon Jolly, K.C.I.E., of Somerset West.

Sir Gordon had spent his military career in the Indian Medical Service, where he had made a special study of the complexities of the coins of the Indian States. A learned man, a master of his subject, our only regret is that his state of health and his medical commitments prevented us from benefitting more from his immense knowledge. To Lady Jolly and his children we extend our sympathy.

(iv) Mr. Wayte Raymond, of New York.

Well known for his various most useful numismatic works, particularly on modern coins of the world, Mr. Wayte Raymond was one of the leading professional numismatists of the U.S.A. He had been a member of the Society for a number of years, and will be sadly missed - particularly as an important link between ourselves and our colleagues in the Americas.

THE MASTERS OF THE MINT.

At the end of October, 1961, we had farewell to Mr. J.P. Roux, who retired from the post of Master of the Mint which he had held so well since the War. "J.P." was held in affection and high esteem by all of us. An Engineer by profession, he had moved from mining, to control, during the

War/.. ..

War, of the S.A. Mint's small-arms ammunition section - from which post he was promoted to succeed Mr. J.T. Becklake as Director. No mint-master could have been more helpful to collectors nor done more to further the cause of numismatics. He is a Past President not only of our Society, but also of the Transvaal Numismatic Society, and has inspired collectors all over South Africa with his enthusiasm and encouragement in the cause of numismatics in our Country. He remained at the helm long enough to see his dream of decimalization become a reality, and to take the leading part in the enormous task of getting the cents rolling on D-day. At our last Annual General Meeting we were glad to elect J.P. an Honorary Life Member of our Society in recognition of his great service to Numismatics in South Africa. We hope that between his family, his farm, his aloes and his numismatics he and his grand wife Valerie will now be able to enjoy life together for very many happy years.

To his successor as Director of the South African Mint, Mr. A.J. Malan, we offer our congratulations and good wishes on his appointment. He has written that every member of the Society will always be most welcome at the Mint, and at Mint House, and we look forward to making his personal acquaintance. He can be assured that the support and assistance of the Society will be his for the asking should the opportunity to invoke it arise.

LT. COL. J. L. KNOBEL.

We regret to inform his many friends that Honorary Life Member Louis Knobel suffered a stroke several months ago and has had to give up his work. He has improved sufficiently to be able to get around his flat a bit, but has unfortunately been left with a serious speech defect. This set-back has inevitably delayed work on his eagerly awaited book on South African Tokens. We express our sincere sympathy, and wish him a speedy recovery.

SOCIETY NEWS.

We cannot attempt adequately to record all that has happened in the eighteen months since the last Newsletter. Suffice it to say that the Society has continued to prosper and to attract additional recruits. Under the Presidency of Dr. F.K. Mitchell, regular monthly meetings have continued to be held, at first in members homes, but latterly in the Lecture Hall of the South African Museum, Cape Town, where thanks to the Director and Staff, we now meet on the fourth Monday of each month (except December), at 8 p.m. We look forward to a grand turnout on August 27th., when we hold the 22nd Annual General Meeting and celebrate our coming-of-age. Mr. H.K. Kelly will be installed as our incoming President, and Past-President and first Honorary Secretary/Treasurer Victor des Vages will read the minutes of the Inaugural Meeting, held on the 29th of August, 1941.

During the year subcommittees under the chairmanship of Dr. F.K. Mitchell and Mr. J.M. Day have been actively engaged in the disposal of the collections of our two late members Mr. K.L.M. Alexander and Mr. C. Wilmot respectively. Though disposal of the former's collection is not yet quite complete, we are pleased to say that in each case we have been able to

assist/.. ..

assist the widow in the realisation of a satisfactory sum.

Helped by a small profit on the sale of Cape Town Pier Tokens mentioned elsewhere - a job well done by Mr. H.K. Kelly - our finances are in a satisfactory state and we feel confident that we can proceed with our plans to print our Journal in future.

We give advance notice that all being well we hope to emulate our colleagues of the Transvaal, and to arrange the Second South African Numismatic Convention, in Cape Town, probably during the second week of January, 1964.

Bill Hibbard, past Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, is gallivanting around England, lucky man, and having a wonderful time meeting medal collector friends and chinwagging at Baldwins, Spinks, Seaby's and Glendining's. He writes cheerfully, but cagily, and we look forward eagerly to hearing his report - and helping him unpack(!!) - in November.

THE UNION JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE 5-SHILLING PIECE : 1960.

by F. K. MITCHELL.

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the Union of the four Colonies, Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony and Transvaal, in 1910, a special commemorative design was adopted for all 5-shilling pieces struck in 1960.

In place of the bust of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the obverse of this commemorative piece shows the Union Buildings, which were designed by Sir Herbert Baker and erected on Meintje's Kop to provide government offices in Pretoria, the Administrative Capital of the Union of South Africa. In the central foreground is the 1914-'18 War Memorial to South Africa's sons who fell in the 1st World War. Around, is the Union motto, in Afrikaans and English "Eendrag maak Mag x Unity is Strength". Above the building is the date of Union, "1910", below "1960".

Below the building, on the right, and in the angle between the building and the War Memorial, are the initials "H.M." of Hilda Mason (Mrs. Axelson) who modelled the design for the coin.

For the reverse, an enlargement of the shield of the reverse of the 2-shilling piece was employed, which shows in its quarters the main motifs of the arms of the four Colonies. Around, "SUID-AFRIKA" and "SOUTH AFRICA" with the date "1960" above, and "5s." below.

In the event, this coin probably achieves the object of being politically non-controversial, but from an artistic point of view, it is the least attractive South African coin yet to be struck. The long narrow design of the Union Buildings leaves wide expanses of bare flan above and below it, and the reverse shield suffers through its enlargement.

The stickler for detail will be interested to know that the designer's initials, H.M., were omitted from the master die, but were hand-cut on the 22 working dies used to strike the 421,624 coins. As a result, minor variations in the size and position of these initials, and in the presence or absence of stops after the letters, can be detected. We have positively

identified/.. ..

identified eight or ten of these "Varieties" in Cape Town - no doubt 22 exist. If the coin itself had been more attractive, it would have been fun to try to hunt for all twenty-two.

THE LAST COINAGE OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THE DECIMAL COINAGE OF 1961.

by: F. K. MITCHELL.

The suggestion that South Africa should change from the Pound - shilling and pence system to a decimal system, had been discussed from time to time, but had been shelved repeatedly for one reason or another. Eventually, the Governor-General appointed a Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. N. Diederichs on the 8th of August, 1956 to report on:-

- (1) "The decimal coinage system which it regards as the most appropriate for the Union".
- (2) The method of introduction which it regarded as least expensive and least disruptive of the economy.
- (3) The estimated cost of the changeover.
- (4) The basis on which compensation should be paid.
- (5) Other practical aspects of the changeover.

The "Report of the Decimal Coinage Commission" was signed on the 1st August, 1958, and was published by the Government Printer, Pretoria. (This most interesting document contains a wealth of numismatic information and should find a place in the library of every South African numismatist).

The recommendations of the Commission were accepted by Parliament, and the "Decimal Coinage Act (Act No.61 of 1959)" was passed during the 1959 session of Parliament. Designs of the obverse and reverse of the new Union coins to be issued from and after "Decimal Day" were gazetted in Proclamation No.52 of 1960, on 11th March, 1960, it being specified "that the dimensions of the said coins shall be identical with those of the corresponding coins that are in circulation on the said date". "Decimal Day" was subsequently fixed for Tuesday 14th February, 1961.

In brief, the Decimal Coinage Act provided that the Union of South Africa would drop the pounds, shillings and pence system and adopt a decimal system based on the "Rand", which was to be the exact equivalent of the previous ten-shillings or half-pound, and to equal one hundred cents. The previous 5-shilling, 2s., 1s., 6d. and 3d. coins were to continue in circulation alongside the new silver coins, (which were to be of identical dimensions and silver content (500 fine silver)), as 50 cents, 20c., 10c., 5c. and 2½ cents respectively. The 2s.6d., or half-crown, would continue to circulate at a value of 25 cents until withdrawn, but no 25 cent coin would be included in the new coinage. The bronze coins, penny, half-penny and farthing were to be withdrawn as rapidly as possible on the basis of 12 pence = 10 cents, and cent and ½ cent pieces, of a different design and of a yellow alloy, although of identical dimensions to the penny and half-penny, were to be struck in large numbers

to/.. ..

to replace them. No quarter cent coin would be struck. The existing banknotes would continue to circulate on the basis £1.0.0. = Rand 2-00, and would gradually be replaced by new Rand notes of similar design. Finally, provision was made to continue the striking (though not for general circulation) of gold coins similar in dimensions and gold value to the Pound and $\frac{1}{2}$ Pound which had been struck in small numbers in each year since 1952 - the two coins concerned being One Rand and Two Rand pieces respectively.

Time was short, as considerable quantities of cent and half-cent pieces would be required if chaos was to be avoided on and after D-day. It had been decided to replace the bust of Queen Elizabeth II on the obverse of all the coins by the bust of Johann van Riebeeck, Commander of the first Dutch settlers who arrived at the Cape on 6th April, 1652 to found the European settlement. A nationwide contest was organised by the Mint to find a suitable relief of van Riebeeck. The winning design, which was modelled from the portrait of Jan van Riebeeck which hangs in the Houses of Parliament, was submitted by Mr. W. Myburgh of Pretoria. The winning design for the Voortrekker ox-wagon proposed for the reverse of the cent was the work of Hilda Mason. These new designs were accepted, minor modifications were made to the reverse designs of the other coins of the previous series, and the Mint staff went to work with a will to prepare the necessary dies. Eventually, on the 20th September, 1960, the first of the new cent pieces were struck with due ceremony, in the presence of Mr. J.P. Roux, Director of the Mint, Dr. E.H.D. Arndt, Chairman of the Decimalization Board (both of whom had served as Members of the Commission) and Dr. Barry Wiehahn, Professional Adviser to the Board. In the weeks that followed, silver coins of the decimal series were also struck in small numbers, though the Mint concentrated on the primary objective of having a sufficient supply of cents and half cents ready for D-day.

It should be noted that while a considerable number of decimal pieces were struck during the last quarter of 1960, they were all dated 1961, and were not officially issued until after D-day, 14th February, 1961. It is also significant and interesting to record that the first of these coins were struck before the national referendum of October, 1960 on which South Africa's decision to become a Republic was based, and that the Republic was officially established on the 31st May, 1961, three and a half months after the introduction of the Decimal Coinage into the Union of South Africa.

The new series consists of nine coins - all of which show, on the obverse, Willem Myburgh's bust of Jan van Riebeeck, facing half-right, with wavy hair reaching to the shoulders around, our National Motto in English and Afrikaans - "UNITY IS STRENGTH x EENDRAG MAAK MAG". Afrikaans and English take precedence on the left on alternate denominations. The following is a brief description of the individual coins:-

<u>2 Rand:</u>	obv:	bust of van Riebeeck, Afrikaans inscription on left.
(Gold)	rev:	C.L. Steynberg's Springbok and inscription, identical to £1 of 1960, except for date, 1961 and "2R" in place of "£1".

1 Rand/.. ..

<u>1 Rand:</u> (Gold)	obv:	as last, but English inscription to left.
	rev:	as above, identical to 1960, but date "1961" and "1 R" in place of "£ $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
<u>50 cents:</u> (500 fine silver)	obv:	as last, but Afrikaans inscription to left.
	rev:	as above, identical to 1959, but date "1961" and "50c" in place of "5s".
<u>20 cents:</u> (500 fine silver)	obv:	as last, but English inscription to left.
	rev:	4-quartered shield, identical to 2-shilling of 1960, but English inscription to left, date "1961" and value "20c" in place of "2s".
<u>10 cents:</u> (500 fine silver)	obv:	as last, but Afrikaans inscription to left.
	rev:	Kruger Gray's figure of Hope and her anchor, identical to shilling of 1960, but the sun to right of Hope's shoulder omitted, Afrikaans inscription to left, date "1961" and value "10c" in place of "1s".
<u>5 cents:</u> (500 fine silver)	obv:	as last, but English inscription to left.
	rev:	Kruger Gray's Giant Protea, identical to sixpence of 1960, but five bundles of faggots only around protea, in place of six, and protea slightly above centre. English inscription to left, date "1961" and value "5c" in place of "6d".
<u>2$\frac{1}{2}$ cents:</u> (500 fine silver)	obv:	as last, but Afrikaans inscription to left.
	rev:	Kruger Gray's Giant Protea, fractionally smaller though otherwise identical to that on the 5 cent. Three faggots which appeared on the 1960 3 ^d have been omitted. Afrikaans inscription "SUID-AFRIKA" to left, date "1961" above, and value "2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c" below. (N.B. The protea differs from that of the former 3 ^d piece).
<u>One Cent:</u> (Yellow, brass-like, bronze)	obv:	as last, but English inscription to left.
	rev:	Voortrekker tented waggon, left - shaft or "disselboom" detached and lying between the wheels. Rocky ground with aloe in foreground, with initials "H.M." of designer Hilda Mason at foot of aloe. Left "SOUTH AFRICA", right "SUID-AFRIKA" above, date "1961", below, between two stars, value "1c".

Half-cent/.. ..

Half-cent: obv: as last, but Afrikaans inscription
 to left.

(Yellow, brass- rev: Kruger Gray's "2-sparrow" design
like bronze). from the farthing of 1960, but some-
 what enlarged, and surrounding circle
 omitted. Left "SUID-~~A~~FRIKA" right
 "SOUTH AFRICA". Above date "1961",
 below, between Two stars, value " $\frac{1}{2}$ c".

ON THE PROBLEM OF A MORE HANDY COINAGE IN
SOUTH AFRICA.

by: E. HEINRICH.

Recently we read in the press that various changes in our coinage are being contemplated, particularly the replacement of our 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -cent (tickey) by either a 2-cent or 3-cent coin, a physical change in our bronze coins, the demonetisation of the Half-crown, and the introduction of a handier 50-cent piece. This should interest us all and the writer makes some suggestions which might be useful.

As modern coinage is only token money we should not feel bound by the intrinsic value of our present coins, though tradition plays a big part in it. Most of us will agree that our brass coins are too big and the present colour causes confusion with silver coins of similar size, especially in artificial light. It has been suggested that they should be holed, as minor coins are in East Africa or Rhodesia (where they are smaller also). The writer proposes a complete change in size, shape and metal as will be seen in the following table. The Tickey may have lost its usefulness for buying a newspaper, but it is still needed for 'phone-box and parking meter. Should it be necessary to replace it, then, please, let us have a 2-cent coin, a clean fraction of 10. The attached table provides for such a 2-cent piece.

What the writer would like to see in circulation and filling the gap between our 20-cent piece and one-Rand-note is a handy 50-cent piece. We could follow the German example of 1933 when the big 5-Reichmark piece was replaced by a much smaller coin containing the same amount of fine silver, in a correspondingly much better alloy. (Improved from 500/1000 to 900/1000). Other German silver coins were changed from 500/1000 to 625/1000, which wears much better than the 500/1000 and should be recommended as an alloy for our South African silver coins which should keep their present size and weight. The following table provides for the same silver content for the suggested smaller 50-cent piece as we have now in the big "Crown" piece, but it could equally well be struck in the 625/1000 alloy recommended for the smaller silver. Simultaneously with the introduction of this new 50-cent piece, the "Half-crown" would have to be demonetised to avoid confusion, though the new coin as recommended would be slightly larger than the Half-crown.

The following table will compare our present coins with those proposed by the writer:-

VALUE CENTS.	<u>PRESENT.</u>			<u>PROPOSED.</u>		
	Metal. Arg/Cu.	Size. (1/32 inch)	Weight. (oz)	Metal. Arg/Cu.	Size. (1/32 inch)	Weight. (oz)
50	500/500	49	1	833/167	42	3/5
25	"	40	1/2	625/375		
20	"	36	2/5	"	36	2/5
10	"	30	1/5	"	30	1/5
5	"	24	1/10	"	24	1/10
2 1/2	"	20	1/20			
2				(Copper or	33	1/4
1	Brass	39	1/3	(Bronze	27	1/8
1/2		32	1/5	(scalloped	21	1/16

In making these suggestions, special attention has been given to the question of size, as it is essential to avoid confusion with coins at present in circulation or with those of neighbouring states. The proposed scalloped edge on the bronze coins should simplify differentiation from the silver coins of similar diameter.

CAPE TOWN PIER TOKENS.

by
F. K. MITCHELL.

During September, 1961, a long forgotten canvas bag in a cupboard in the offices of the City Treasurer was found to contain what were obviously Cape Town Municipal token coins of a bygone day. Officials and Councillors at the City Hall knew nothing of their history, but by devious means the news percolated through to our Society, and the Council graciously agreed to hand them over to us - on condition that we promised they would not find their way back to the City coffers via the parking meters!!

Then the hunt for information was on! When and where were these tokens used? Why were they unknown to us? Where did the "City Catering Department" need a series of six tokens, ranging from half-a-crown to a penny? Various vague suggestions seemed to point to the Pier - long since far removed from the sea by Cape Town's Foreshore reclamation scheme. Many of us remembered the Pier, round which we had rowed and swum and fished in the days of long ago. And we remembered the concerts on the Pier, the coloured lights, and the restaurant the City used to run on it. But when were tokens used there?

After much inquiry I found old Mr. V.E. Robinson of Sea Point. He remembered the Pier and he remembered the tokens!! Back in about 1911 or 1912, he told me, there was a shortage of change, and the City Council had the tokens struck. When you went on to the Pier, he said, you produced a 10-shilling or a pound note and bought tokens from a cashier. With them you paid for your tea and scones, or your cigarettes. You used them as tips, and if there were any over you put them in your pocket and used them next time you took your girl to see the moon rise over Table Bay. He thought the Pier had been built about 1910, so it was still a novelty and a great

attraction/... ..

attraction - a good place for a Sunday afternoon outing in those days of poor roads and little transport. He thought these tokens had been used for two or three years - until about the start of the Great War.

That then seems to be their story. But it is strange to think that even Lt. Col. Knobel, the Token King, had never seen the 2/6d or 2/-, and had been unable to establish their history.

The set consists of six pieces in somewhat brassy looking nickel-like metal. Most are rather stained. All bear on the obverse, between two concentric circles - the outer dotted, the inner a continuous line - "THE CITY OF CAPETOWN x". Within the inner circle, the value. On the reverse, between identical circles, "CATERING DEPARTMENT x", and again the value within the inner circle. All the pieces have milled edges and are circular, except the penny, which is octagonal, and plain edged - the outer dotted "circle" above described also being octagonal to conform with the edge of the piece.

The values are as follows:-

					Weight (Grams)
"2/6"	:	Circular	:	32 mm. Thickness 1.8 mm.	10.055
"2/-"	:	Circular	:	29 mm. " 1.7 mm.	7.985
"1/-"	:	Circular	:	23.7 mm. " 1.5 mm.	4.525
"6d"	:	Circular	:	20 mm. " 1.3 mm.	2.975
"3d"	:	Circular	:	16.7 mm. " 1.7 mm.	2.040
"1d"	:	Octagonal	:	29.4 mm. " 1.3 mm.	8.330

(NOTE: Some shillings, and a very few 2/6 and 6d. pieces are still available - at 25 cents for as near to a set as can be managed when your order arrives. Applications and remittances to the Editor. Post Free. Any profit to Society funds).

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER D. A. HALL, D.S.C. & BAR.
SOUTH AFRICAN NAVAL FORCES (V)).

by H.K. Kelly.

According to official records, the award of the Distinguished Service Cross was made to South Africans on 37 occasions during the Second World War. The majority of the recipients were serving in, or had been seconded to, the Royal Navy.

There was however, one exception, Lieutenant-Commander David Alfred ("Stoker") HALL, D.S.C. & Bar, S.A.N.F.(V) - the only South African Naval Commander to sink a German U-boat.

Trained in the "General Botha", Hall had served as an Officer in the employ of the Clan Line before the Second World War. Volunteering for full-time service on the 3rd May, 1940, he became senior officer of a group of S.A.N.F. escort vessels taking convoys from Durban to Kilindini, Mombasa, in

East/.. ..

East Africa. Later, he was appointed Commanding Officer of the anti-submarine vessel, H.M.S.A.S. "Southern Maid" which won glory for South Africa in the Mediterranean by successfully running the gauntlet between Alexandria and Tobruk in 1941. This ship, incidentally, was to receive special mention in the Admiralty's Official Account, "The Mediterranean Fleet".

The following is an extract from the Official Documentary Memorandum - TOBRUK CONVOY - recording how Lieutenant D.A. ("Stoker") Hall won his first Distinguished Service Cross as Commander of H.M.S.A.S. "Southern Maid":-

"The retention of Tobruk by Imperial Forces is imperative despite the fact of it being cut off in three directions by an enemy occupying positions in the Desert. The only way to keep this Garrison supplied is by way of the sea On Saturday, 24th May, 1941, a small convoy consisting of: S.S. HELKA, a 3,000 ton water, benzine and store carrier, escorted by H.M.S. GRIMSBY and H.M.S.A.S. SOUTHERN MAID, was approaching Tobruk. There was a terrific sandstorm raging over the coast making conditions aboard most unpleasant, but it had one advantage - that of providing cover from raiding J.U. 88's The inevitable was to happen however; at 1340 hours they were attacked by J.U.88's, the S.S. HELKA being the principal target. Despite the fact that several bombs exploded within 25 yards of her and others fell close to H.M.S. GRIMSBY, neither ship suffered damage or casualties, but H.M.S.A.S. SOUTHERN MAID was machine-gunned from a height of 500 feet and fortunately, no casualties were reported. Two hours later a large formation of planes - escorted by a strong fighter force attacked H.M.S.A.S. SOUTHERN MAID was now in the midst of it all, but zig-zagging at full speed across the bow of the convoy and keeping up a continuous fire from every gun she possessed, she drew the attackers off on to herself. Several enemy planes were hit and one was seen to crash, but S.S. HELKA had been hit by 2 bombs forward of her bridge and split in two. H.M.S. GRIMSBY also received serious damage developing a dangerous list to port, but she too, had shot down 2 of the enemy. During the 20 minutes of battle, H.M.S.A.S. SOUTHERN MAID had expended 1,750 rounds of 20 m.m. ammunition besides a quantity of smaller calibre thus testifying her stubbornness and courage against severe odds. By 1710 hours, H.M.S.A.S. SOUTHERN MAID had embarked 160 survivors from S.S.HELKA including a number of wounded, and steamed away at full speed in a N.E. direction She was loaded to 6 times her normal capacity but reached Mersa Matruh the following morning. On the 1st June, 1941, Lt. Hall was once again engaged on similar duties with his ship when she was attacked at 1220 hours by 2 J.U.88's and 4 M.E.109's from a height of 50 feet. Her decks were raked fore and aft by this hail of fire but her men manning the guns showed commendable steadiness and returned a steady fire - one of her Breda shells was seen to burst directly on the leading plane which went straight into the sea The convoy steamed on and reached Tobruk on schedule -- 750 tons of bulk

petrol/.. ..

petrol was delivered to the Garrison and this was chronicled as the most satisfying event of the week. And so it went on until, on the 9th September, 1941, the announcement of the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Lieutenant D.A. Hall, appeared in the London Gazette: 'For Courage, Resolution and Devotion to Duty in the face of enemy air attacks ..'"

After enjoying a well earned leave, Hall returned to Active Service and joined the forces responsible for clearing the way for the innumerable convoys then running between England and the Middle East. Eventually, in 1944, he crossed to the U.S.A. to bring back 200 landing craft to the Middle East for participation in the invasion of France.

On the 14th March, 1945, Lt-Commander Hall, with a full South African crew, was selected to take delivery of the LOCH-CLASS Frigate, H.M.S.A.S. "NATAL". Four hours after his departure from Newcastle-on-Tyne - only 6 days after being commissioned - the "Natal" received an urgent signal and rushed to the area off St. ABB'S HEAD, where she succeeded in sinking the German U-boat, U.766. On the 24th July, 1945, a Bar to Hall's D.S.C. was Gazetted - several of his Officers and Ratings also being decorated for the part they had played in this almost unique maiden voyage "Kill".

After service in the Western Approaches with the 8th Escort Group in the Atlantic, Hall was posted to the Far East, where he took part in the Allied Occupation of Malaya and Singapore. H.M.S.A.S. "Natal" served as Guard ship, as well as clearing mines in the Japanese Island base of Sabang in Sumatra.

After the War "Stoker" Hall was selected to represent the S.A.N.Volunteer Reserve in the S.A.Contingent which attended the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. He received the 1953 Coronation Medal.

It is sad to record that this outstanding South African - the only one to earn both the D.S.C. and a Bar whilst serving in South African ships with wholly South African crews - passed away on the 19th September, 1958.

He has left behind him a record of Naval Service that will not easily be surpassed and should serve as an inspiration to our young Navy. His memory will live on in the History of South Africa's many Brave Sons, and I am proud to be the guardian of his unique group.

His Medals are:-

Distinguished Service Cross, and Bar.

1939-45 Star.

Atlantic Star.

Africa Star.

War Medal 1939-45.

Africa Service Medal.

Coronation 1953, Elizabeth II.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN COINAGE : 1960 AND 1961.

by F.K. Mitchell.

Production: Through the courtesy of the Director of the South African Mint, Pretoria, we are able to record the following official figures of South African coin production:-

(a) 1960 (£. s. d. system)

Denomination.	Proof.	Other.	Total.
Pound	2,050	1,061	3,111
$\frac{1}{2}$ Pound	2,050	952	3,002
5 shillings.	3,460	418,164	421,624
2.6d.	3,460	12,068	15,528
2s.	3,460	1,950,551	1,954,011
1s.	3,460	2,186,491	2,189,951
6d.	3,460	1,586,463	1,589,923
3d.	3,460	17,904	21,364
1d.	3,460	5,102,809	5,106,269
$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	3,460	2,548,334	2,551,794
$\frac{1}{4}$ d.	3,460	1,019,131	1,022,591

Proof sets (included in above figures):-

"Long" sets, £1 to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. : 1,600

"Short" sets, 5/- to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. : 1,860

Two gold-coin sets, £1 & $\frac{1}{2}$: 450

"Selected" 5/- (also included in above figures):- 22,367.

(b) 1961 (Decimal System)

Denomination.	Proof.	Other.	Total.
2 Rand	3,932	3,014	6,946
1 Rand	3,932	4,246	8,178
50 cents	7,530	47,216	54,746
20 cents	7,530	2,954,388	2,961,918
10 cents	7,530	1,236,180	1,243,710
5 cents	7,530	1,478,638	1,486,168
$2\frac{1}{2}$ cents	7,530	291,560	299,090
1 cent	7,530	52,266,329	52,273,859
$\frac{1}{2}$ cent	7,530	39,188,768	39,196,298

N.B. Some of the above, though dated 1961, were struck during 1960.

Proof sets (included in above figures):-

"Long" Sets, R2 to $\frac{1}{2}$ c. (9 coins) : 3,139

"Short" Sets, 50c to $\frac{1}{2}$ c (7 coins) : 4,391

Two Gold-coin sets, R2 & R1 : 793

"Selected" 50c pieces (also included in above figures): 15,956.

NOTE: As in previous years since 1953, the gold coins in the "Two gold-coin sets" of 1960 and 1961 were struck in yellow gold (?Gold/silver alloy), while gold coins in the "long" sets and other non-proof gold coins were struck in red gold (?Gold/copper alloy).

The gold coins in the 1962 "Two gold-coin sets" recently received in Cape Town, are in red gold, identical to those in the "Long" sets.

THE QUEEN'S MEDAL FOR BRAVERY (SOUTH AFRICA).

(WOLTEMLADE MEDAL).

by F. K. Mitchell.

It will be recalled that in the April 1955 number of this Newsletter (Vol.4 No.10, Page 154), I described the South African Queen's Medal for Bravery and gave brief details of one gold and thirty-five silver medals which had been awarded up to that date - the last having been awarded to L.R. Nilsen on the 27th March, 1953.

With the declaration of the Republic, and the subsequent severance by South Africa of her links with the British Commonwealth, I addressed an enquiry to the Prime Minister's Office, and feel that the following extracts from the reply will be of general interest:-

" I wish to inform you that no award of the abovementioned medal has been made subsequent to the award to Mr. L.R. Nilsen in 1953 Consideration will be given as soon as possible to the institution of a civil award for bravery to replace this medal".

Sgd: Secretary to the Prime Minister.

The "final score", then, remains at one gold medal to Francis Drake (1944) and 35 silver. I have not been able to establish whether or not Nilsen's medal bore the head of King George VI or Queen Elizabeth II, but the other 35 were almost certainly of George VI. Unnamed specimens of the medal bearing the head of Queen Elizabeth II may be seen in the S.A. National War Museum, Johannesburg (gold and silver) and in the Transvaal and Mint Museums. A point yet to be established is whether or not medals of King George VI were struck with the amended titles after the partition of India.

NEW BOOKS:-

- (i) "More Military and Police Devices from South Africa 1790-1962", by Dr. H.H. Curson, F.R.C.V.S.

This is a companion volume to Dr. Curson's "Regimental Devices in South Africa 1783-1954", and contains details and illustrations of many badges and devices which have come to light since publication of the earlier volume, which is now out of print. This book is essential to the collector of South African Military Badges. (Limited edition, available from Dr. H.H. Curson, 16, Myrtle Street, Pretoria. Price R4-00 (£2.0.0d), post free but add commission on cheques).

- (ii) "Notes on the Coinage of the South African Republic" by J.T. Becklake.

This useful illustrated article, first published in the "Numismatic Chronicle" in 1934, and long unobtainable, has again been reprinted. (Orders with cash to Mr. J.T. Becklake, 210, Lunnon Road, Pretoria, 50 cents).

Hon. Editor,
Dr. F.K. Mitchell,
P.O. Box 1073,
CAPE TOWN.