

THE UNION DEFENCE FORCES' BUILDINGS OF CAPE TOWN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939–45

by **Cdr W.M. Bissett***

Recently the Cape Provincial Institute of Architects has compiled and published catalogues of the buildings of Cape Town. There can be no doubt that the Second World War was the "finest hour" in the Mother City's history. The Cape Fortress Location List contains details of all the buildings and sites occupied by the Union Defence Forces and certain British units in the Cape Command during this hectic period. During the War the information was classified as secret.

Only six copies of the Location List were made and they had been completed by 4 August 1944. The Location list was prepared by the 'Q'

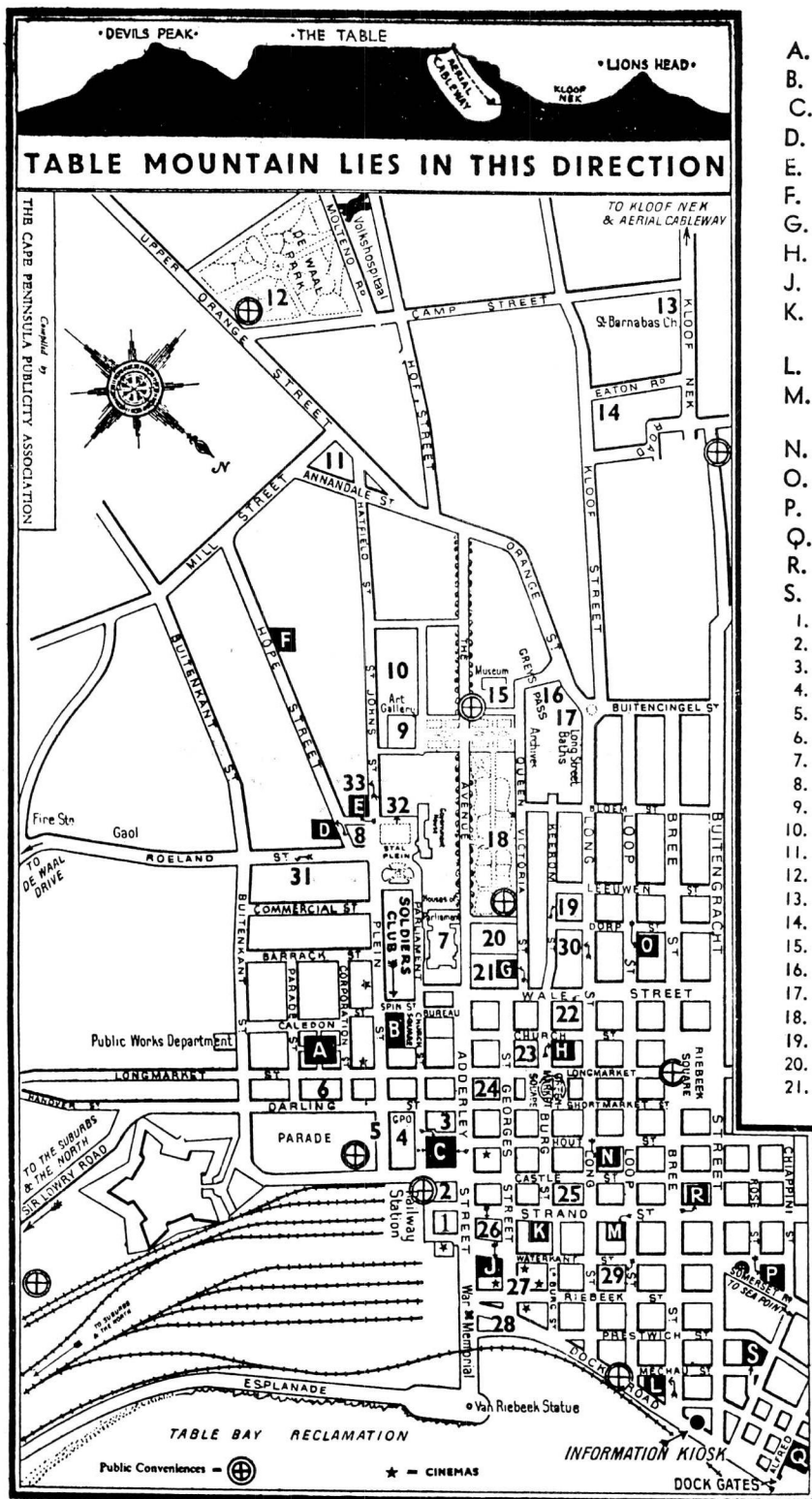
Section at the Castle and updated from time to time.

Since the information concerning the units occupying the buildings in Cape Town may be of considerable interest to the Cape Provincial Institute of Architects, the National Monuments Council and others and has not been published before, it is provided below. There has also been great interest in the Table Bay Docks and its buildings so details concerning these have also been included.

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Building	Street	Unit(s) based there: 4 August 1944
The Castle	Castle Street	Cape Fortress Headquarters Union Defence Experimental Station Intercom Women's Auxiliary Army Services Headquarters Combined Operations 1 Heavy Battery SA Corps of Signals DCRE Air Force Liaison Officer Cape Peninsula Rifles guards Military Police Corps Trigonometrical Survey Pigeon Services Headquarters Recruiting Huts Red Cross Society Dental Clinic Medical Huts South African Women's Auxiliary Services Staff Officer Cadets RAF Police
New Drill Hall	Tennant Street	6 'Q' Stores Assistant Director of Medical Services, FP&Q Assistant Director of Medical Services (Hygiene Section) Physical Training Officer

Map No. 1. CENTRAL CAPE TOWN



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- A. MAYOR'S GARDEN CANTEN
- B. SOLDIERS' CLUB
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- E. UNION JACK CLUB
- F. ZIONIST HALL CANTEN
- G. CATHEDRAL HALL
- H. METHODIST CHURCH HALL
- J. GOOD CHEER CLUB
- K. MERCHANT NAVY WELCOME CLUB
- L. CHINESE SAILORS' CLUB
- M. LOYALIST WAR WORKERS' CANTEN
- N. Y.M.C.A.
- O. SALVATION ARMY REST-ROOMS
- P. ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL
- Q. SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE
- R. AMERICAN CLUB
- S. INDIAN SEAMEN'S CLUB.
- 1. VISITORS' INFORMATION BUREAU
- 2. RAILWAY STATION
- 3. STANDARD BANK
- 4. GENERAL POST OFFICE
- 5. BUS TERMINUS & FRUIT MARKET
- 6. CITY HALL
- 7. HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
- 8. ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (R.C.)
- 9. NATIONAL ART GALLERY
- 10. SYNAGOGUE.
- 11. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- 12. DE WAAL PARK
- 13. ST. BARNABAS CHURCH
- 14. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
- 15. MUSEUM
- 16. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
- 17. LONG STREET BATHS
- 18. MUNICIPAL GARDENS
- 19. NEDERLANDSCHE CLUB
- 20. PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 21. ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL
- 22. BAPTIST CHURCH
- 23. MICHAELIS ART GALLERY
- 24. BARCLAYS BANK
- 25. KOOPMANS-DE WET MUSEUM
- 26. THOS. COOK & SON
- 27. CINEMAS:—PLAZA, COLOSSEUM, ALHAMBRA, ROYAL
- 28. COLOURED SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE
- 29. DEN NORSKE FORENING
- 30. GREEK SAILORS' CLUB
- 31. BRITISH TEMPLE
- 32. DE GOEDE HOOP TEMPLE
- 33. DE GOEDE TROUW TEMPLE

DON'T TALK ABOUT SHIPS OR SHIPPING!

YOU ENTER THE CITY FROM THE DOCKS AT THIS POINT

Building	Street	Unit(s) based there: 4 August 1944
		12 Medical Depot 24 Coast Defence Corps 21 Fortress Signals 25 Fortress Signals Repository Store Chaplains Information Officer
Grand Parade	Castle Street	11 Motor Transport Depot
CL 10 Colosseum	St George's Street	17 Lines of Communication
Boston House	Strand Street	Movement Control Imperial Movement Control Deputy Assistant Provost Marshal Air Force Embarkation
Robb Motors	Strand Street	61 Coast Defence Corps and Special Signals Services
Williams Hunt	172 Longmarket Street	Sub Supply Depot
	19 Loop Street	Director of War Supplies
National Mutual Buildings	Church Square	Assistant Director of Medical Services SA Women's Auxiliary Services
Geneva House	Church Square	Director of Coast Artillery
Old Mutual Buildings	Darling Street	Director and Assistant Director of Fortification and Coastal Works SA Naval Forces
Old Supreme Court	Adderley Street	Chief Stores Inspector Branch Pay Office Women's Auxiliary Army Services Medical and Recruiting Women's Auxiliary Defence Corps Chaplains Court Martials SA Women's Auxiliary Services Headquarters War Graves Commission Estates and Negotiations SA Naval Forces (Records) Director of Military Intelligence Information and Education Bureau
Marks Buildings	Parliament Street	Secretary for Defence Estates Negotiations Sessional GHQ Chief of the General Staff
Old General Post Office	Adderley Street	Officers' Club Signals Club

Building	Street	Unit(s) based there: 4 August 1944
		Ellison House
		Welfare Organisation
		Indian and Malay Corps
		Defence Liaison Officer
		Occupational Therapy Centre
		Naval Provost Marshal
		Free French Club
Trafalgar Place	Adderley Street	Central Recruiting Depot
New General Post Office	Parliament Street	Directorate of Military Intelligence, IC Section Chief Censor
Good Hope Hall	Plein Street	Government Printer
Labour Bureau	Corporation Street	Essential Services Protection Corps
Union House	Queen Victoria Street	Director of War Supplies
Old Training College	Queen Victoria Street	Naval Signals Assistant Director of SF 105 Maintenance Company
Davis Building	Barrack Street	6 'Q' Stores
Railway Station	Adderley Street	Garrison Provost Company, Military Police Corps, Movement Control
Cape Times Building	St George's Street	Director of Civil Supplies
Stuttafords Buildings	St George's Street	Tel Manager
University Buildings	Gardens	Orange Street Headquarters, SA Naval Forces
Paddock	The Avenue	Coast Artillery Barracks
Italian Legation	Orange Street	Coast Artillery officers' mess
Dryfe House	Orange Street	Women's Auxiliary Defence Corps Barracks
Hotel Edward	Mill Street	Royal Naval Barracks
Helmsley Hotel	Hof Street	Women's Royal Naval Service Barracks
Lansdowne Villa	Annandale Street	Women's Auxiliary Military Police Corps
German Club	Hope Street	61 Coast Defence Corps and Special Signals Services
CL 13 North Gate	Dock Area	SA Naval Forces
Norman Kennedy Site		
Union Castle Company		
North Dockyard		
Fishmarket		
Irvin and Johnson		
Fire Cubicles		
New Basin		
Docks Stores		
Seaward House		

Building	Street	Unit(s) based there: 4 August 1944
Imperial Cold Storage Buildings		
Farbers Buildings		
Power Station		
CH 6 Foreshore		
HMSAS UNITIE		
CL 8 Gantry	Dock Area	2 Motor Boat Flight
HMSAS BONAVENTURE	Dock Area	Royal Navy later SA Naval Forces
CPR Operations Unit	Dock Area	Cape Peninsula Rifles
Non-European Docks Barracks	Dock Area	1 Heavy Battery Non-European Army Services later SA Naval Forces
CL 11 South Arm	Dock Area	11 Motor Transport Company later 1 Heavy Battery Non-European Army Services
Docks Battery	Dock Area	1 Heavy Battery
Inner Basin	Dock Area	2 Motor Boat Flight
Reclaimed Ground	Dock Area	Q and T Stores, SA Naval Forces Magazine
CL 1 Yacht Club	Dock Area	SA Naval Forces later 11 Motor Transport Depot
North Quay Buildings	Dock Area	SA Naval Forces (HMSAS BONAVENTURE II)
North Quay	Dock Area	T Services Store later Movement Control
Chiappini Street	Dock Area	Non-European Army Services Barracks
CL 9 New Mole, CL 88 and CL 89 New Mole	Dock Area	17 Lines of Communication later SA Naval Forces

BOEKBESPREKINGS/BOOK REVIEWS

Kol (dr) Jan Ploeger*

Kmdt C.J. Nöthling (red), *Ultima Ratio Regum (The last argument of kings) (Artilleriegeskiedenis van Suid-Afrika) (Artillery History of South Africa) Militêre Informasieburo, SAW/Military Information Bureau, SADF, Publikasie no 8/Publication no 8, Pretoria, 1987, pp 432 met afbeeldings.*

Op velerlei wyses is verlede jaar aandag aan die 75ste bestaansjaar van die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag gewy. Binne die bestek van hierdie bespreking mag daar sekerlik in die verband na die inhoud van *Militaria* (1987, 17/2) verwys word. Onder die omvattende titel *History of the South African Defence Force 1912–1987/ Kroniek van die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag 1912–1987*, is die belangstellende leser 'n oorsig in voëlvlug van die vroeëre Unieverdedigingsmag en die huidige Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag voorgelê.

Elkeen wat hierdie geskiedenis met sy hoogtes en laagtepunte, sy tydperke van vrede en oorlog, van uitbreiding en inkrimping ken, sal onder die indruk kom van 'n indrukwekkende vooruitgang en 'n toenemende militêre slaankrag wat, soos die voormalige Hoof van die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag, genl C. Viljoen, dit so duidelik gestel het, in diens staan van ons eie voortbestaan en die vrye wêreld. Dit is een van die uitstaande kenmerke van die SAW en sy voorganger die UVM.

En met sy blik op die toekoms gerig het die huidige Hoof van die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag, genl J.J. Geldenhuys, die noodsaak beklemtoon om die krygsgeskiedenis te ontleed met die oog op die uitken van tekortkominge sowel as suksesse. Dan kan, wat die toekoms betref, die mees gewenste resultate tov die toekomstige bloei van die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag en die suksesvolle aanwending van ons militêre organisasie en sy slaankrag, verwag word. Dit is slegs 'n gedeelte van die aanloop tot die inhoud van 'n omvattende publikasie, waarin die ontwikkelingsgang van die artillerie, na sy vestiging aan die suidpunt van ons land, in woord en beeld weergegee is. In die woorde van die lt-genl F.E.C. van den Berg is die inhoud van die huidige eendragtige spanpoging 'n roemryke geskiedenis wat meer as drie eeue omspan. En terself-

dertyd het dieselfde generaal die geslagte van vandag en môre 'n belangrike taak gegee, tw om te verseker dat die artillerie-verhaal van die toekoms ook 'n roemryke geskiedenis sal vorm.

Oorgaande na die inhoud van hierdie eerste omvattende artilleriegeskiedenis van ons land van 1652 tot onlangs, moet die volgende belangrike punte beklemtoon word: (a) Die feit dat 'n groot aantal medewerkers daarin geslaag het om van die 21 hoofstukke 'n hegte eenheid te vorm. Die onderdele van hierdie eenheid is logies afgebaken en niks is in die verband oor die hoof gesien nie. (b) Die onderskeie skrywers-medewerkers het, behalwe van sekondêre bronne ook – waar dit moontlik was – met vrag en welslae in die slegs hier en daar ontgonne skatte van die SAW-argief gedelf. (c) Hulle het daarin geslaag om 'n verstaanbare oorsig van 'n uiters belangrike onderwerp aan leke en vakkundiges voor te lê. (d) Daar is met vakkennis en insig gesorg om die teks op 'n aanvullende wyse doeltreffend deur middel van passende illustrasies toe te lig.

Die omvangryke inhoud van die werk laat 'n sketsmatige volledige behandeling nie toe nie. Die leser word dus gevra om met die volgende op- en aanmerkings tevrede te wees. In die tyd van die VOC is kanonne op bastions en op ander strategiese posisies naby die Kaapse kasteel opgestel. Forte, batterye, linies en skanse het verrys om 'n landing van vyandelike magte te betwis en om diefstalle vanuit die binneland te belet. Artillerie het deel van die koloniese seinstelsel gevorm, die artillerie is georganiseer en die beroepsopleiding is in die 18 de eeu ter hand geneem, terwyl die binnelandse verdediging aan die kommando-organisasie toevertrou is.

Tydens die Britse opmars 1795 is tevergeefs pogings deur artilleriste aangewend om teenstand te bied. Die nuwe heersers het die bestaande kusverdediging opgeknop en 'n eie koloniale artillerie-organisasie in die lewe geroep. In verband met die binnelandse beveiliging het die artillerie, weens gebrek aan teikens, 'n ondergeskikte rol gespeel. Ten spyte van die omstandigheid het, vanaf 1857, op Britse lees geskoeide vrywilliger-artillerie eenhede ontstaan.