

A133/014  
NEWS LETTER April 1976.

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WE DEPARTED FROM CAPE TOWN ABOARD THE R.S.A. ON THE 7TH APRIL IN BEAUTIFUL WEATHER. FORTUNATELY IT STAYED REASONABLE GOOD ALL THE WAY TO MARION ISLAND, EVEN SO THE STOMACHS STILL TOOK THEIR TURN TO REJECT THE MOTION OF THE SHIP.

IT WAS LATE IN THE EVENING WHEN OUT OF THE DARKNESS THE LIGHTS OF MARION RADIATED FROM THE CLIFF-TOP IN TRANSVAAL COVE. THE NEXT MORNING CAME HIGH SEAS OR GALE FORCE WINDS WE WERE TOLD TO "JIOOMP" ONTO THE RAFT BY CAPTIAN FUNK AND TRANSPORTED TO THE ISLAND WHICH WAS TO BE OUR HOME FOR THE COMING YEAR.

BEFORE WE LAND ON MARION I WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO MARION'S THIRTY THIRD RELIEF.

JOHN PILEY WHO WAS ON SANAE BASE TILL FEBRUARY LAST YEAR WITH SANAE 15, IS THE LEADER WHO WILL ALSO DO THE PROGRAMMES OF RADIO TECHNICIAN, GEO-MAGNETIST AND IONOSPHERIST. UNDER HIM IS JOHAN VENTER THE DEPUTY LEADER AND MEDICAL ORDERLY WHO COMES FROM THE "DRY COUNTRY" (S.W.A.) TONY WILLIAMS A RAW YORKSHIREMAN WHO IS SENDING A SECOND TERM OF OFFICE ON MARION, WHAT A SUCKER FOR PUNISHMENT. HIS FIRST TERM WAS FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS. HE IS AN ORNTHOLOGIST. TALKING ABOUT A SUCKER FOR PUNISHMENT, THIS DUDLEY ROWSWELL WHO WAS ON GOUGH 1972/73, SANAE 1974-75 AND NOT HAVING ENOUGH IS HERE NOW AS SENIOR METEOROLOGICAL TECHNICIAN FOR THE YEAR, GOOD LUCK PAL. OTHERS INCLUDED IN THE MET TEAM ARE ETTIENNE (YS) DE BEER FROM PRETOPIA, BEN FOURIE FROM PRETORIA AND ALSO ROY MITCHELL FROM PRETORIA. WHAT A BUNCH OF "VAALPENSE" THERE IS MARTHAN BESTER WHO SPENT TWO SUMMERS ON GOUGH AS A BIOLOGIST HAS COME ALONG TO DO MAMMAL RESEARCH. HIS ASSISTANT IS GRANT CRAIGH. THE SECOND ORNTHOLOGIST IN THE TEAM IS ALAN BURGER WHO SPENT A YEAR ON MARION A FEW YEARS BACK. CHRIS BRITTON IS OUR COMMUNICATOR WHO SEEMS A TYPICAL TRANSVALER WHO LOVES FISHING BUT DOES NOT EAT FISH. FUNNY PEOPLE AREN'T THEY. LAST BUT NOT LEAST WE HAVE OUR MAN WHO GIVES US LIGHT, WARMTH KEEPS OUR PROGRAMMES GOING AND KEEPS OUR MEAT FRESH FOR THE YEAR, YES JOHN STONE OUR DIESEL MECHANIC. FROM WHAT WE HAVE SEEN OF HIS WORK WE NEED HAVE NO FEAR FOR POWER PROBLEMS.

WELL NOW AFTER CLIMBING ONTO THE LANDING STAGE, CROSSING BOULDER BEACH AND TAKING ONE "STEP" MEETING THE OLD TEAM AND TAKING OVER THE PROGRAMMES. WELCOME TO MARION WAS TRUE IN EVERY WAY. THE TAKE-OVER WENT OFF VERY WELL, SMOOTHLY ORGANIZED AND SLOWLY BUT SURELY MARION 33 HAD TAKEN OVER LEAVING THE OLD TEAM NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO. IT WAS THEN THAT TIME WAS TOO LONG, DAYS NEVER ENDED AND MOST IMPORTANT WAS THAT THEIR HOUSE BECAME CURS. THE P.W.D. DID THEIR WORK AND FINISHED IN GOOD TIME WHILE THE OBSERVERS DID THEIR OBSERVING AND INSTALLING.

SATURDAY NIGHT (1ST. MAY) WAS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER THANKS TO JOHAN AND BEN. THEY ORGANIZED AND CATERED FOR A BUFFET FAREWELL DINNER FOR MARION 32. IT WAS A GREAT OCCASION WITH DANCING, TALKING OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS AND EVEN STREAKING.

MARION 32 PACKED AND LEFT ON THE 2ND IN THE LATE AFTERNOON. WE WISH THEM BON VOYAGE AND GOOD LUCK WITH THE FUTURE. FROM MARION 33 WE SAY SAYONORA AND SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.