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On 27 July 2003, Sam Nkomo, a game ranger at the Jaci’s Tree lodge, near Madikwe in North West, was driving two tourists in his off-road vehicle when an angry elephant unexpectedly attacked the vehicle.

The elephant buffeted the vehicle twice, piercing the bodywork with its tusks. One tourist was catapulted out of the open bodied vehicle, whereupon the elephant charged the tourist, eventually pinning him to the ground.

Having lost his game ranger rifle in the commotion, Nkomo reached for a branch of a tree and began beating the elephant vigorously, forcing it to retreat. With seven other elephants coming towards them, Nkomo protected the injured tourist by placing his own body in the path of the elephants and simultaneously contriving a tumultuous disturbance and clamour, which finally drove them away.

Sam Nkomo displayed great presence of mind, extreme bravery and fearlessness, and risked his own life to protect the lives of others.
Leonard Slabbert (1953 - )

MENDI DECORATION FOR BRAVERY IN SILVER

AWARDED TO
LEONARD SLABBERT
FOR A SELFLESS ACT THAT
LED TO THE SAVING OF
EIGHT PERSONS FROM
DROWNING IN THE
SAULSPOORT DAM IN
THE FREE STATE

On 1 May 2003, a bus carrying 61 COSATU members to a rally in Charles Mopeli Stadium in Bethlehem, plunged into the Saulspoort Dam.

Two passengers swam to the edge of the dam and alerted Leonard, Slabbert, (a technical official at Dihlabeng Municipality) to the accident. Slabbert saw a group of people on the roof of the submerged bus.

Without any hesitation, Slabbert rushed to launch a boat and, accompanied by Rudi Kok and Marco Rautenbach, overcame the adverse conditions and the extreme cold of the dam water to rescue passengers from the submerged bus.

Leonard Slabbert’s presence of mind, quick thinking and fearless actions resulted in the saving of the lives of eight fellow South Africans.
Members of the units of the SADF involved in the Oceanos Rescue Mission

Within 25 minutes of confirming that the Oceanos, with 587 passengers and crew on board was in distress along the coast, near East London, the Officer Commanding Rescue Co-ordination Centre launched a rescue mission which has become a textbook illustration of maritime rescue professionalism, indeed a benchmark studied by many rescue centres across the world.

Helicopters were immediately dispatched from Durban, Pretoria and Cape Town, and other ships and craft in the vicinity were summoned to provide immediate assistance to the ship.

The first SANDF personnel on the scene found it to be listing badly to the starboard side and in imminent danger of sinking. South African Navy divers set about destroying cables and other protuberances to enable the rescue helicopters to get in closer to facilitate quicker evacuation.

Complementing a rescue operation by boat, the SAAF helicopters executed a seamless operation, with helicopter after helicopter ferrying to shore, passengers and crew hoisted up from the badly listed ship. When 21 passengers remained unaccounted for, erroneously as it turned, Navy divers re-entered the badly listed ship which they searched from stern to stern. The last divers were finally evacuated after they were certain that no one was left behind, merely 25 minutes before the Oceanos sank. All 587 passengers and crew were rescued with no loss of life.

The complicated mission demonstrated outstanding inter-service co-operation and tested the flying and diving skills, airmanship, judgement, dedication, endurance and perseverance of all SADF personnel involved in the operation. Moreover, all the navy and airforce personnel involved distinguished themselves by placing themselves in imminent danger throughout the mission.

The Oceanos Rescue Mission is a remarkable feat in the annals of maritime history which received much international acclaim and praise.

AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITS OF THE FORMER SADF INVOLVED IN THE OCEANOS RESCUE MISSION FOR ACTS OF BRAVERY AND VAOUR DISPLAYED DURING THE RESCUE MISSION TO SAVE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF THE OCEANOS CRUISE LINER IN AUGUST 1991
Basil February was born in Cape Town in 1943 and matriculated from Trafalgar High School in 1960 with five distinctions. Although he wished to study law at the University of Cape Town (UCT), his application was refused by the then Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, BJ Voster.

He subsequently enrolled at UCT’s medical school, but being more absorbed in political struggle, dropped out the following year.

February joined the South African Coloured People’s Congress (SACPO) in 1963. At a time when public meetings were banned, February and his dear comrade James April painted political graffiti to communicate their message. These activities soon landed him in trouble with the law.

In 1964, February joined Umkhonto we Sizwe. Fearing that knowledge of his plans to skip the country might put family and friends in great danger, he disappeared without bidding his family and friends goodbye. They would never see him alive again.

He secretly left Cape Town and made his way to Botswana and later underwent training in guerrilla warfare in other African countries and in Czechoslovakia. As a soldier, February stood out for his leadership qualities. He was a gifted intellectual and writer and contributed many articles to *Dawn*, the Umkhonto we Sizwe journal.

After training, February was sent back to South Africa to lead a guerrilla unit. The unit was ambushed in southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in 1968 while en route to South Africa. February put up a heroic defence against overwhelming odds to protect his comrades and give them time to escape.

Basil February sacrificed his own life to save his comrades and in so doing became one of the first young South Africans to die in the course of the armed struggle.
Petros Linda Jabane (1958 - 1980)

MENDI DECORATION FOR BRAVERY IN GOLD (POSTHUMOUS)

Petros Linda Jabane was born in Soweto in 1958 and grew up in a single parent family. Unable to keep him at school after Standard Five, his working mother sent him to work to help support the family.

Jabane’s experience of injustice and oppression as a worker and the 1976 Soweto uprising inspired him to join the ANC’s Umkonto we Siswe.

Jabane received military training in Angola, where his combat unit gave him the nickname of *Ikommanisi* because of his dedication to the workers’cause.

After his whereabouts were detected by the security police from information extracted from brutally tortured comrades, a massive unit of the South African security force, descended on his secret refuge in Chiawelo in Soweto.

Surrounded on all sides and knowing that he would be killed in any event, he was determined to resist being taken alive. When he refused to surrender, the security forces opened fire on the hapless freedom fighter. Jabane defiantly fired back, forcing his enemies to retreat. Jabane’s efforts to avoid capitulation have become legendary and witnesses still talk of how he “fought like a lion” to keep at bay the huge forces arraigned against him.

Fighting to his last bullet and injuring many security force members, Jabane was eventually overcome by the shear might of the assault against him and finally succumbed when a grenade was launched into the building.

Petros Linda Jabane, the *Lion of Chiawelo*, as he has become popularly known, laid down his own young life to secure a South Africa free from oppression, exploitation and racism. His heroic stand until the very end remains an inspiring symbol of fortitude in the face of overwhelming odds.
Within a few hours of Cyclone Eline arriving in the Southern African coastal area in February 2000, thousands of people in southern Mozambique were cut off from dry land, trapped on the roofs of their houses and in trees. Nearly 300 000 people on both sides of the Limpopo river were endangered and in desperate need of food and shelter.

In response to an urgent request from the Mozambican Government for assistance, the Government of South Africa instructed the South African Air Force (SAAF) to immediately launch a rescue mission.

With hundreds of Mozambican villages and farm lands totally flooded by the Limpopo, SAAF rescue teams supported by other units of the SANDF flew hundreds of missions to rescue as many people as possible and to deliver emergency food parcels, medical supplies and water. Despite the extreme operational conditions and long hours, military personnel never faltered.

Operational readiness and endurance of the SANDF personnel involved were tested to its limits when, a week later, the Limpopo again burst its banks. The SAAF once again went into action, relentlessly and tirelessly flying mission after mission.

Altogether the SANDF Operation Lichi rescued more than 14 391 persons by means of air operations, delivered more than 2647.6 tons of food and medical supplies.

All of South Africa were moved by the skill, endurance, valour and fearlessness demonstrated by our defence force personnel. All of us felt a measure of pride in the SANDF’s dedication to the protection of life and reassurance in its capabilities.

The heroic efforts of our countrymen and women to save lives in a neighbouring country were highly commended by Mozambique, the continent of Africa, and indeed, the international community at large.
Gerrie Coetzee was born 1955. He started boxing professionally in 1974, and had 22 consecutive wins before his first try at the World Heavyweight title. He was the first African ever to compete for — as well as win — the World Heavyweight boxing title.

His challenge to John Tate for the WBA's World Heavyweight title, left vacant by Muhammad Ali, was watched on national television by hundreds of thousands of South Africans — unprecedented at the time and truly phenomenal given that SABC TV had only just begun to broadcast. His world bout challenge resulted in millions of South Africans of all hues rooting for the "white" South African battling the "black" American, thereby confounding the false logic of apartheid.

Although Gerrie Coetzee did not win that bout, he did later win the World Heavyweight title.

His record stands at 33 wins, six losses and one draw, with 20 wins by knockout. Coetzee remains a true South African icon in the world of boxing.
Born from a prominent sporting family, and raised in Muir Street, District Six, Cape Town, Goolam Abed was a formidable rugby and cricket player.

Abed was a pioneering sportsman in the 1950s, playing cricket for Western Province and rugby for the Greenpoint-based Western Province Rugby Football Union.

Following in the footsteps of other great sportsmen such as Eland and Tuli, forced to seek opportunities denied to them in their own country, Abed left South Africa in 1961 to play rugby league in England, after being spotted by English rugby league talent scout, Jim Windsor.

He received significant success in rugby league for Bradford Northern as well as playing cricket in the Lancashire League in England.

Abed is widely regarded today as of the calibre that would have under normal circumstances entitled him to official national colours in both cricket and rugby.

Abed received a Springbok blazer in 2003 as part of the SARugby Football Union's efforts to recognise previously neglected rugby greats.
Hestrie Cloete was born in 1978 in Germiston. Cloete is South Africa’s second track and field World Champion since the country’s readmission to the World Championship in 1993.


With the exception of the Olympic Games of 2000 where she won silver, Cloete has won all the major titles including the African Games in 1995 and 1999, the Commonwealth Games in 1998 and 2002, the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) Grand Prix winner in 1999 and 2001, the Goodwill Games in 2001, the World Cup in 2002 and the World Championships in 2001 and 2003.

She is currently the South African, African and Commonwealth record holder and is ranked 1st by the IAAF. Cloete is also ranked joint 4th record–holder on the World All Time list with the phenomenal jump height of 2.05m.

This year she became the first woman high jumper ever to successfully defend her World Championship title, was voted 2003 World Best Performance or Performer, as well as being crowned World’s Best Athlete.
Basil D’Oliviera was born in 1931 in District Six in Cape Town. A keen cricketer from an early age, D’Oliviera excelled at cricket but soon reached an artificial ceiling in his own country because he was excluded from the possibility of representing his country due to the racist policies of the Apartheid regime.

‘Dolly’ was recommended to a league club in England and went on to play for England in 1966. In 1968 he was selected for the MCC tour of South Africa, but the Apartheid government would not approve of such a challenge to its racial policies and promptly cancelled the tour.

Basil D’Oliviera campaigned untiringly for the exclusion of racist South Africa from international sport in general and cricket in particular.
Ken Gampu was a physical training instructor, a furniture salesman, an interpreter in a lawyer's office, and a policeman, before he received his first role as an actor in 1958.

Having made a success of his debut acting part on stage in Athol Fugard's first play, No Good Friday, Gampu went on to gain renown for his masterful performances in over 30 local and international productions, including King Solomon's Mines, Wild Geese, Dingaka and A Reasonable Man. He also starred in top theatre productions, like Ipi Tombi and No Good Friday. During a very busy stint in the United States from 1968 to 1970, Gampu took part in a poetry reading alongside the likes of Edward G Robinson, Peter Sellers, Mia Farrow, Faye Dunaway and Richard Harris.

Ken Gampu had a successful career spanning 40 years. He worked with some of the greatest names on stage, film and television and became one of the first black South Africans to be featured in Hollywood films.
Penelope ‘Penny’ Heyns was born in 1974 in Springs. In 1992, Penny was the youngest member of South Africa’s Olympic team to Barcelona. In that year, Penny became the only woman in the history of the Olympic Games to win both the 100 m and 200 m breaststroke events.

In 1999, Penny broke a total of four individual world records in one event, on two separate occasions. In that same year, she broke 11 new world records within three months. Both these performance records are achievements unparalleled in the history of swimming.

To date, Penny has broken 14 world records, which places her in the same category as other swimming icons such as Mark Spitz, Lenny Krazelburg and Ian Thorpe.

Penny Heyns’s achievements crown her as arguably the best breaststroke swimmer ever. It is an undisputed fact that she is the greatest female breaststroke swimmer of all time.
Eric Majola (1930 - 1971)

THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER (POSTHUMOUS)

Eric Majola was born in 1930 and lived all his life in New Brighton, except for two years studying for a teacher’s diploma at Healdtown College near Fort Beaufort in 1950 and 1951. Majola started playing schools cricket at Newell High School. In 1952, at Healdtown College, he earned provincial colours. After college Majola joined the New Brighton Cricket Club.

Between 1953 and 1962, Majola was at the height of his career, playing for the Eastern Province and the national African team in both cricket and rugby.

Besides his impressive league statistics, there were soon indications of talent on the broader stage. For example, he took seven for 27 and scored 92 when Port Elizabeth trounced Grahamstown in one inter-town sub-union match. In the same season he scored 107 playing for the Eastern Province Bantu Cricket Union against the Eastern Province Coloured Cricket league. His bowling figures were five for 48.

Majola appears to have played in most of the 1950s tournaments, which were held in Kimberley (1950), Cape Town (1952), Durban (1954), Port Elizabeth (1956) and in Johannesburg over Christmas in 1958.

In January 1954, African Sports declared Majola the best all rounder in ‘Bantu cricket’ at the time.

Although Eric Majola received prominence and public acclaim as a cricketer, he is also regarded as a legend in South African rugby.
Sydney Maree was born in 1956 in the dusty mining town of Cullinan, east of Pretoria. His life was inextricably linked with the struggle against oppression and racism in South Africa.

In 1977, at the age of 18, he boarded a plane for Villanova University, near Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), for what turned out to be a stay of 20 years in the United States (US). Maree broke onto the scene in November 1976, when in Port Elizabeth he became the first, and only sub four-minute mile schoolboy in the history of South African athletics (3:57,9), second only to the American high-school sensation Jim Ryan (3:56).

Maree’s victory in the inaugural 5th Avenue Mile in New York, where he missed breaking Sebastian Coe’s world mile track record by five hundredths of a second, placed him firmly on the international athletics map and remains unsurpassed.

In Cologne, Germany on 28 August 1983, he broke Steve Ovett’s world 1 500 m record in 3:31,24. He went on to break the magical 3:30 barrier for the distance, running 3:29,77 – which is still the American metric mile record.

In 1981, he became the first black athlete to receive the South African Athlete of the Year award.

Two weeks before the start of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics for which Sydney Maree qualified for a place on the US team, he suffered a hamstring injury.
Gladys Mgudlandlu was born in 1925 in the district of Peddie in the Eastern Cape. She went to school in Port Elizabeth and in 1940 obtained a Teachers Diploma at the Lovedale College near Alice. In 1944, she moved to the Cape Town township of Gugulethu where she taught.

Mgudlandlu was a self-taught artist with a natural talent for painting. Under very difficult conditions Mgudlandlu practised her art uncompromisingly to become one of the first black women artists to exhibit their work in public. She held several professional exhibitions in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth and received the *Arts SA Today Exhibition* Award in 1963. She also wrote her own stories and folktales, which she illustrated herself.

Fellow artist and mentor Gregoire Boonzaier was moved to describe Mgudlandlu as ‘The Black Irma Stern of South Africa’.

Gladys Mgudlandlu is regarded as a pioneer professional black woman artist in South Africa.
Lionel Ngakane entered the film-making industry in 1950 and established a career in cinema, television, theatre and radio, as actor, writer, director and producer, principally in Britain, but also in Senegal, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Nigeria.

Between 1957 and 1962, he directed *Vukani Awake*, a documentary on South Africa. In 1962, his short feature film *Jermina and Johnny* won first prize at the Venice and Rimini Festivals, and a bronze award at the Festival of Carthage. This film is still screened at international festivals. In 1985, he produced the documentary film *Nelson Mandela*, which was screened in Britain, on the African continent, in Europe and the United States.

Ngakane was instrumental in organising the first African Film Festival at the National Film Theatre in London, participated in international symposiums on African and Third World Cinema and wrote articles for newspapers and magazines. Ngakane conceived an organisation of African film-makers to foster co-operation and in 1967 the Pan-African Federation of Film-Makers was formed, with Ngakane as regional secretary for southern Africa. He was also a member of the Advisory Committee on Cinema for Africa ’95 in Britain.

In 1994, Ngakane returned to South Africa to create a chain of independent township cinemas. In 1996, he was a member of the new Government’s Reference Group to prepare the *White Paper on Film Policy* and has been chairperson of the M-Net Film Awards selection committee.

Lionel Ngakane was currently advisor to the Newtown Film and Video School, served on the board of the Film Resources Unit, was a member of the board of directors of the South African Cinema Foundation and served on the Media Outreach Group of the Centre for Cultural and Media Studies, University of Natal.
At the age of 19, Jacob Ntuli turned professional boxer in 1950. In his eighth bout he captured the South African bantamweight title and later on, the flyweight title.

Ntuli became the first black South African to win an Empire championship (the forerunner to the Commonwealth title) in 1952. The success effectively made him one of the best two or three flyweights of his time, and his achievement was confirmed when Ring magazine selected him as the top-rated flyweight in its rankings.

In all, Ntuli had 11 fights in England. He concluded his career with a respectable 31-14-2 record.

Ntuli was the first black South African boxer to receive world acclaim. His achievements are particularly remarkable in that they came at a time when black boxers were severely restricted and had little hope of advancement in the sport. Black fighters at the time were not allowed to compete against white fighters, and were restricted to black promoters. Ironically, Ntuli became a favourite of the white boxing establishment.

Ntuli was one of South Africa's finest fighters who made his mark in the sport of boxing. He proved his ability against the very best of his era and in doing this, played a pioneering role that opened doors for other black sportspersons.

Jacob Ntuli is widely regarded as one of the 10 greatest South African boxers of all time.
Zanele Situ was born on the 19 January 1971 in Matatiele, Eastern Cape.

She lived with both parents and four other siblings.

In 1982, at the tender age of 12, and while still in Standard 4, Situ was injured in an accident to the extent that she lost the use of both her legs and became confined to a wheelchair.

Determined not to be held back by the challenges posed by her disability, she took up athletics in 1985, and turned professional three years later.

Zanele Situ achieved the groundbreaking feat of becoming the first black South African female athlete to win a Paralympic gold medal at the Sydney Games in 2000.

Competing in a category for athletes with spinal injuries, Situ won the Javelin event with a world record throw that bettered the previous mark by an unprecedented three metres. Situ followed that achievement with a silver medal in the Discus event.

Zanele Situ stands as an inspiration to all South Africans in our personal and national challenges to overcome setbacks and adversity.
Dumile Feni (1939 - 1991)

THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD (POSTHUMOUS)

Dumile Feni was born in the town of Worcester outside of Cape Town. He worked as a sculpture apprentice at a plastics foundry in Johannesburg and started his career as an artist by drawing on and decorating walls in hospitals.

The eloquence of his drawings soon brought him recognition and in 1965, the ‘Goya of the townships’ as he was dubbed, was given support to work professionally by a Johannesburg Gallery. Two years later his work was exhibited at the Sao Paolo Biennale. In 1968, he went into exile in the United States from where he never returned. Although his work was exhibited in London in 1969 and appeared in group exhibitions in South Africa in the 1970s, by the 1980s his work was rarely exhibited. He died relatively unappreciated in New York in 1991.

Dumile Feni is one of South Africa’s finest artists, who sadly, never tasted his country’s freedom. His work embodies the suffering and turmoil of the oppressed under apartheid, the resilience of the human spirit, and the pathos of exile.
Bessie Head was born in Pietermaritzburg in 1937, the daughter of a mixed-race relationship between her Scottish mother and an African man. She was raised by foster parents and later placed in an orphanage.

Exhibiting an early intelligence, she overcame her difficult childhood to train as a primary school teacher. After four years as a teacher, she took up work as a journalist for *Golden City Post*.

She left for Botswana after a failed marriage. There she lived for many years in deep poverty. She spent 15 years in a refugee community before she was awarded citizenship. Her three novels and numerous other works were all written in Botswana where she died in 1986 at the young age of 49.

Drawing on her experience as a racially-mixed person growing up without a family in South Africa, Head's writing often dealt with poor and abused black women and their experiences of racism and sexism. Although Head claimed to be non-political in her writing, she portrayed the struggles and hardships of life in post-colonial Africa and the injustices and oppression of people. Inherent in her writings was the hope for social change and peace.

Bessie Head is one of Africa's most prominent writers. In her short life, she left an important literary legacy to Africa and the world.
Princess Constance Magogo Sibilile Mantithi Ngangezinye Ka Dinizulu (1900 – 1984)

Princess Magogo ka Dinizulu was a member of the royal family and attended school at Mahlabatini. She was a keen observer and upholder of Zulu culture and tradition.

Princess Magogo was regarded as an authority on Zulu music and is remembered as one of Africa’s greatest composers, musicians and singers. Her talents received a wider audience in 1939, when the late Dr Hugh Tracey made a number of recordings of her performances. She later recorded with the SABC and West German Radio, among others.

Her vast repertoire of solo vocal works included not only traditional songs dating from the time of King Shaka in the early 19th century, but also her own original compositions sung in traditional style.

Through the training of scores of young singers, she also made an unequaled contribution to the preservation of traditional music and musical development in South Africa. Her original songs constitute a significant addition to the corpus of traditional Zulu music.

Princess Magogo’s music remains as compelling now as it was during her lifetime.
Alex La Guma was born in 1925 in Cape Town. After graduating from Trafalgar High School in District Six, he joined the Young Communist League in 1947 and became a member of the Communist Party a year later.

He was the Western Cape chairperson of the South African Coloured People's Organisation (SACPO) in the 1950s and a national executive member of the SACPO (later named the South African Coloured People's Congress) in the 1960s.

From 1955, La Guma wrote for *New Age*. He was involved in organising the Congress of the People, and in many articles for *Fighting Talk* he captured the atmosphere of the 1956 Treason Trial proceedings. He was placed under 24-hour house arrest in 1962, detained in 1963, and finally went into exile in 1966.


La Guma was an important South African and African cultural activist and writer, but also an important political figure. He steadfastly held to his ideals despite official harassment, banning and house arrest.

Alex La Guma was chief representative of the ANC in the Caribbean at the time of his death in 1985.
Steve 'Kalamazoo'Mokone was born in Doornfontein in 1932 and represented South Africa in soccer at the youthful age of 16. He became the first black professional in Britain (and later in Holland) when he signed up for the English club Coventry City in 1955.

Disheartened by his treatment and disillusioned by the style of football at the club, he left only to achieve superstar status playing for the Dutch side, Heracles, and later Torino in Italy. By 1959, he was elected Europe's best soccer player.

Today, Mokone is regarded as the greatest footballer South Africa has ever produced, often being compared with the world's all-time greats, including the inimitable Pele of Brazil.

Mokone studied in America, gaining a Doctorate in Psychology and International Politics. Mokone is currently the chief executive officer of The Kalamazoo South African Foundation, which he founded in 1996. He is also on the board of directors of the Commonwealth Sports Awards.

Steve Mokone has the distinction of having a street named after him in Amsterdam.
Gary Player was born on 11 January 1935 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Player’s career, spanning almost 60 years, is one of relentless success. He has won nine major titles: three Masters; three British Opens; two PGA Championships; and one US Open. He has won all four Major Championships (one of only five players who hold this distinction). He has won at least one Tour event in five different decades and is the only player in the 20th century to win a British Open in three different decades. Altogether Player has had more than 160 major victories.

When he turned 50 at the end of 1985, Player won his first senior tournament and by 1997 he had won his ninth Senior Major, thereby equaling the nine Majors he won between 1959 and 1978.

Gary Player has been integrally involved in the provision of golf facilities and equipment and promoting golf among previously disadvantaged sectors of our people. He is widely regarded as one of golf’s all-time greats and is a living South African sporting legend.
Olive Schreiner was born in 1855 in Basutoland (Lesotho). Her parents were missionaries and the family later moved to an isolated part of the Cape Colony.

Olive found work as a governess and then taught at the Kimberley New School. In her free time she began work on a novel about life in South Africa. Later, while at medical school, Schreiner’s first novel, *The Story of an African Farm*, was published in 1883.

*The Story of an African Farm* was acclaimed by the critics. The book sold well in both Britain and America. Schreiner followed *The Story of an African Farm* with two collections of short stories, *Dreams* (1891) and *Dream Life and Real Life* (1893).

In 1894, Schreiner returned to South Africa where she continued to write. Her next book, *Trooper Peter Halkett of Mashonaland* (1897), was a strong attack on imperialism and British racism in South Africa. She also published *Women and Labour* in 1911.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Schreiner moved back to Britain. Over the next four years she was active in the peace movement. Schreiner returned to South Africa in August 1920, the same year she passed away.

Schreiner was a strong supporter of universal suffrage, arguing that the vote was ‘a weapon by which the weak may be able to defend themselves against the strong, the poor against the rich’.

Olive Schreiner wrote extensively to the British press, giving vent to her observations of oppressive practices in the Cape Colony and took an active role in lobbying for liberal colonial government policies.
Gerard Sekoto was born in Botshabelo, Middleburg in 1913. After attending the Botshabelo Training institute, Sekoto studied to become a teacher at the Diocesan Training College near Pietersburg (Polokwane). During this time he entered an art competition organised by Fort Hare University, for which he was awarded second prize. He subsequently left teaching in order to concentrate on his art.

Sekoto lived in various places including Sophiatown in Johannesburg, District Six in Cape Town and Eastwood in Pretoria. He drew his inspiration from his surroundings and depicted a wide range of subjects such as working people and washday scenes, themes which he maintained through his 50 year self-imposed exile in Paris, France.

His early work is particularly remarkable in that they constitute a documentary record of urban places later obliterated by the apartheid regime, and they portray human conditions in a manner which shows the artist’s empathy for human suffering as well as human resilience.

Although he obtained a measure of recognition as an artist through exhibitions in Paris, Stockholm, Venice, Washington and Senegal, and an honorary doctorate from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1989, Gerard Sekoto’s life was one of a struggle to survive.
Cecil Skotnes was born in 1926 in East London. In 1950, he obtained the Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Witwatersrand. In 1952, he was appointed cultural officer at the Polly Street Centre in Johannesburg.

Skotnes is an internationally renowned artist who has exhibited his work to much acclaim in many countries including Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Brazil, Athens, Namibia, Israel, Germany and Italy. He contributed a three-colour woodcut for the Nobel Prize portfolio in honour of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Chief Albert Luthuli. He was awarded the Chamber of Mines Gold Medal in 1965, and South African Breweries Gold Medal in 1968. Skotnes is the recipient of three honorary doctorate degrees in recognition of his work, respectively from the Universities of Cape Town, Rhodes and Witwatersrand.

As teacher at the Polly Street Centre, chairperson of Johannesburg ‘Bantu Music Festival’, President of the South African Council of Artists and later, founder member and trustee of the Community Arts Project in Cape Town, Skotnes has made a remarkable contribution to the development of black artists in South Africa.

In 1954, after the State clamped down on adult education for blacks, Skotnes initiated the first urban professional art school in South Africa.

Through Cecil Skotnes’ leadership and guidance under very trying times, scores of black artists received training and launched their professional careers at the Polly Street Centre and at the Community Art Centre in Cape Town.
During the height of the student uprising of the 1970s, Lekgau Mathabathe was the school principal at what is today known as the legendary Morris Isaacson High School. Under very difficult circumstances he played a critical role in providing direction and support not only to students but also to parents and the community at large in Soweto.

Together with Dr Nthato Motlana and others, Mathabathe was deeply involved in the Black Parents Association, the Teachers Action Committee and the Soweto Committee of Ten. All of these were progressive structures challenging the apartheid system.

Lekgau Mathabathe is widely remembered in his community for his courage and exemplary leadership in the struggle for quality education and to improve the lot of his community.
Jasmat Nanabhai was born in India on 17 February 1907 where he schooled. His family came to South Africa in 1924 and settled in Boksburg.

Nanabhai’s experience of racism and the consequence of unjust race laws inspired him to join the struggle for freedom and human rights. He returned to India in 1930 and as a young man, participated in Mahatma Gandhi’s famous march against salt taxes. This earned him a short spell in an Indian prison.

On his return to South Africa, Nanabhai continued to take up the cudgels of the struggle. In the 1940s, he joined the Transvaal Indian Congress and volunteered in the passive resistance campaigns against the racist Ghetto Act. He has since that time been involved in all the major campaigns of the struggle.

Over the decades, Nanabhai has been a loyal and steadfast presence in the movement for democracy and freedom. His mature leadership and wisdom borne of many years of active struggle against and resistance to apartheid have influenced generations of freedom fighters.

Among his close friends and comrades were the late Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo, as are former President Nelson Mandela and Ahmed Kathrada – men who have inspired him over these many years in his fight for justice, democracy and human rights.

At 96 years of age, Jasmat Nanabhai still has the time and energy to get involved in the issues and problems of his community.
Mary Burton, a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, moved to South Africa in 1961 where she became immersed in the struggle for human rights. She became a leading figure in the Black Sash, an anti-apartheid organisation formed by white South African women to protest human rights violations.

Burton served as president of the Black Sash from 1986 to 1990 – an organisation Nelson Mandela called ‘the conscience of white South Africa’. In 1995, she was appointed a Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and served on its Human Rights Committee. In 2000, she helped launch the ‘Home for All Campaign’, which called primarily on white South Africans to contribute to the reconciliation of South Africa in recognition of the benefits they had received from racial privilege under apartheid.

Mary Burton currently serves as Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the University of Cape Town.

AWARDED TO MARY BURTON FOR RAISING THE CONSCIENCE OF SOUTH AFRICANS AGAINST THE EVILS OF APARTHEID AND FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, NATION-BUILDING AND PEACE ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER
Professor Willie Esterhuyse was born in 1936 in Laingsburg, Western Cape. From humble beginnings Esterhuyse rose to become a leading Afrikaner writer, philosopher and intellectual.

Prof Esterhuyse has published extensively over a wide area including philosophical and political issues. He has authored amongst others: Apartheid must die and The Road to Reform.

Among other awards, Prof Esterhuyse has been the recipient of the Stals Prize for Philosophy from the SA Academy of Arts and Science, the Sunday Times Prestige Prize for Political Literature and the Leon/Fox Community Relations Award.

Prof Esterhuyse is a leading figure in the Afrikaner community who, through immense foresight and profound love for his country, realised the futility of trying to sustain apartheid. In an attempt to forestall a bloodbath and at great risk to his own standing and credibility, he doggedly persevered with the task of convincing other significant leaders within his own community of the need to open negotiations with the ANC.

These initial talks, at first testing the waters, paved the way to real engagement and enabled both sides to develop a deeper understanding of the fears, desires, needs and wants of the other. Later when real negotiations stalled, Prof Esterhuyse’s cool head and keen sense of fair-play and justice prevailed to drag negotiators back to the table.

Prof Willie Esterhuyse made a humble yet significant contribution to the ultimate success of negotiations, which finally led to the interim Constitution that laid the basis for full democracy in South Africa.
Cissie Gool was born in Cape Town in 1897, the daughter of the prominent political figure, Dr Abdullah Abdurahman.

As a young person, she joined the Socialist Party, but in 1936 she founded the National Liberation League and became its first president. From 1938 to 1951, Gool represented District Six on the Cape Town City Council. For several years she was the only woman serving on the City Council and in 1949, she was elected chairperson of the City Council’s health committee. During the 1940s, Gool became the president of the Non-European Front and took part in a passive resistance campaign. She was also active in the Franchise Action Council, the predecessor of the South African Coloured People’s Organisation.

Gool was arrested and charged on many occasions for her convictions, but this did not deter her from her political activities.

In 1962, Gool received an LLB degree from the University of Cape Town and was admitted as an advocate to the Supreme Court.

To this day, the name Cissie Gool remains synonymous with the history of the struggle of the mother city.
Archie Gumede was born in Pietermaritzburg in 1914 and matriculated in 1932 from the Lovedale Missionary Institute in the Eastern Cape. Gumede subsequently studied at the South African Native College (subsequently called University of Fort Hare) but dropped out after two years due to his political work.

Gumede joined the ANC, becoming Pietermaritzburg assistant branch secretary in 1949 and assistant secretary for the Natal ANC in 1951. He participated in ANC campaigns against Bantu education, the extension of pass laws to women and the forced removals in Charlestown and Roosboom in northern Natal. He was among those charged in the infamous 1956 Treason Trial.

In 1976, before the Soweto uprisings, Gumede participated in the formation of an Education Action Committee to deal with the problems at African schools. In the aftermath of the Soweto riots, he became active in the Parents’ Committee established in the Durban area. In 1979, Gumede was instrumental in the establishment of the Release Mandela Committee of which he became chairman.

At its launch in August 1983, Gumede was elected president of the UDF, along with Oscar Mpetha and Albertina Sisulu. He was re-elected president in April 1985 at the UDF’s first annual conference in Azaadvile, Krugersdorp. In May 1990, he formed part of the ANC delegation that first met government representatives to open discussions on the ending of apartheid at Groote Schuur in Cape Town.

Archie Gumede has been banned, detained and arrested many times, yet never faltered. Over the decades, and when the harassment, persecution and detention of senior political leaders were at its worse, this stalwart of the struggle remained firm and unwavering, a veritable beacon of hope and guidance for many generations.
Matthew Goniwe was born in Cradock, Eastern Cape in 1947. He attended St James' Primary School and Sam Xhallie Secondary School, where he obtained his Junior Certificate. He obtained a teachers’ diploma from Fort Hare University and returned to Sam Xhallie School to teach mathematics and science.

Goniwe was arrested in 1977 under the Suppression of Communism Act and sentenced to four years imprisonment in Umtata Prison. After his release, Goniwe returned to teaching in Graaff-Reinet and completed a BA degree through the University of South Africa.

In 1983, Goniwe became active in leading protests against high rents in Cradock. Under political pressure, the Department of Education and Training attempted to transfer him back to Graaff-Reinet. This resulted in teachers and pupils from Cradock’s seven schools embarking on a 15-month class boycott – the longest in the country’s history.

On 27 June 1985, Matthew Goniwe and three other activists, Fort Calata, Sparrow Mkonto and Sicelo Mhlauli, were murdered and their bodies mutilated by members of the apartheid security forces.
Mthuli Ka Shezi (1947 – 1972)

ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER (POSTHUMOUS)

Mthuli ka Shezi was the president of the Student Representative Council at the University of Zululand and later became the vice president of the Black People’s Convention, the forerunner to the Azanian People’s Organisation.

Mthuli ka Shezi was a leading Black Consciousness Movement intellectual, political leader and cultural activist. He was also a playwright of note. Shezi’s famous play, *Shanti*, was performed to rave reviews by the People’s Experimental Theatre Group in the early 1970s.

Through his writing and his plays, Shezi introduced scores of South Africans to black consciousness ideas, and influenced a generation of leaders and activists.

In 1972, Mthuli ka Shezi was brutally killed after being pushed in front of a moving train at the Germiston railway station, when he came to the defence of African women who were being drenched with water from a hosepipe by a white station cleaner.
Winnie Kgware (1917 - 1998)

ORDER OF LUTHULI IN SILVER (POSTHUMOUS)

AWARDED TO WINNIE KGWARE FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND LIFE-LONG COMMITMENT TO THE IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY, NON-RACIALISM, PEACE AND JUSTICE

Winnie Kgware was born in Thaba Nchu in the Free State in 1917.

A teacher by profession, and resident at the University of the North (Turfloop) as the wife of the rector, Kgware got involved in supporting students in their protests against government restrictions on campus. One of her early acts at the University was to organise a Methodist prayer group in defiance of an order that banned students from worshipping on campus. She gave sustenance to the student movement and in an ironic twist, allowed the rector's residence to be used as a meeting place for the University Christian Movement, an organisation that was banned from the campus at the time.

In spite of the age gap between her and fellow activists, Kgware was valued for her strategic and emotional maturity and played a leading role in the launch of the SAStudents' Organisation at the University in 1968.

Having moved to Kroonstad, Kgware became the first president of the Black People's Convention (BPC) formed in 1972 as an umbrella body of the black consciousness movement led by Steve Biko. The BPC was amongst the organisations that were banned in 1977.

One incident which demonstrated the determination of Kgware occurred in 1977 when the bus taking mourners to Steve Biko’s funeral in King William's Town was stopped by security forces. Kgware then 66 years old, evaded the police and determined to be at the funeral, hitched a lift all the way to King William's Town.

The Umtapo Centre in Durban awarded the Steve Biko Award to Kgware in recognition of her role in the liberation struggle.
Jafta ‘Jeff’ Kgalabi Masemola joined the ANC Youth League in 1958 and was amongst the group of break-away members who founded the Pan African Congress of Azania (PAC) in 1959.

When the PAC was banned in 1961, Masemola and others were sent out of the country to set up the PAC’s underground guerrilla structure, POQO, the forerunner of the Azanian People’s Liberation Army (APLA).

Masemola was abducted in Lesotho by apartheid forces and was, with most members of his unit, later sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island. Prison authorities regarded him as an instigator among the prisoners and the ‘Tiger of Azania’, as Masemola was popularly known, was subjected to solitary confinement for much of his time on Robben Island.

Jafta Masemola rejected President PW Botha’s offer to release him on condition that he denounced the armed struggle. He steadfastly refused to engage in any negotiations, except if it was to result in the return of land to the dispossessed African majority and the establishment of a free and just society.
Phyllis Naidoo was born in Estcourt in KwaZulu-Natal in 1928 and from an early age was active in the Non-European Unity Movement (NEUM).

As a student, and later a teacher at Natal University (Non-European section), she organised a Human Rights Committee which helped to raise funds for the 1956 Treason Trialists and their families. Naidoo was a member of the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) and the South African Communist Party (SACP) and with her husband, MD Naidoo, and Govan Mbeki, did underground support work for ANC cadres. After being placed under a banning order and house arrest in March 1966, she began to study law and qualified as a lawyer in 1973. She set up her legal practice when her banning order was lifted in 1976. She made a point of employing ex-Robben Island prisoners in her practice – including at one stage Jacob Zuma, the current Deputy President.

On 23 July 1977, Naidoo was forced to flee to Lesotho, where she continued to work for the ANC. She assisted members of the SACP and ANC to escape from South Africa, and provided support for them as well as to the scores of youth skipping the borders in the aftermath of the Soweto student uprisings.

In 1983, she fled Lesotho and settled in Zimbabwe.
Father Albert Nolan (1934 – )

Albert Nolan was born in 1934 and entered the Dominican Order of the Catholic Church in 1954. He studied in South Africa and Rome, and later travelled widely to research the rationale of liberation movements. His main work for many years was as a university chaplain, the development of the Young Christian Students organisation and constant lecture tours at home and overseas.

His book *Jesus before Christianity* was translated into many languages and after 25 years continues to be a best seller in many countries. Whilst on the run from the South African security police in 1988, he wrote *God in South Africa*, a key exposition of the theological vision that arose from the struggle for the salvation of communities and individuals.

In the 1970s, Nolan became the central figure for young black and white Christians seeking liberation. Quiet and humble, his involvement with people on the ground enabled him to translate his personal faith and scholarly background into a vibrantly lived theology. He also worked at the Christian Institute and later as a full-time activist at the Institute of Contextual Theology.

Nolan played a key role in the production of the seminal Kairos Document, which both widened and focussed the support of the Church for the liberation struggle.

Through *Challenge* magazine, widely circulated through all denominations and conceived and edited by Nolan, the insights of the liberation era are being carried forward into the transformation period.
Charlotte Maxeke received missionary education in the Eastern Cape and became a teacher in Kimberley in the Northern Cape. As a member of a Christian choir group, she joined a tour to the United States (US). After the tour she enrolled for a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree at the Wilberforce University in Cleveland, US, an institute of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She became the first African woman from South Africa to be awarded a B.Sc. degree.

In 1913, Maxeke led a campaign in the Orange Free State against the carrying of passes by women. She was a leading figure in the founding of the Bantu Women’s League, a constituent member organisation of the South African Native National Congress, the original name of the ANC.

In 1918, as leader of this organisation, she led a delegation to Prime Minister Louis Botha to make representations on the pending implementation of passes for women. The following year, Maxeke led a protest against its implementation.

Maxeke was also involved in the founding of the Industrial and Commercial Worker’s Union in 1920.

Charlotte Maxeke has often been referred to as the ‘Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa’ and an ANC nursery school has been named after her in Tanzania.
Born in Johannesburg in 1925, Patrick Mosell Molaoa grew up in Alexandra Township, attended schools in Basutoland (Lesotho), Johannesburg, and matriculated in Kimberley.

In his early adulthood, Molaoa ran a gymnasium in the Western Native Township in Johannesburg and worked as a clerk for the Public Utility Transport Company (PUTCO). Molaoa became active in the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) and served as its Transvaal treasurer and assistant secretary in the mid-1950s. He was elected national president of the ANCYL in July 1959 and consequently, was amongst the first accused in the Treason Trial.

After his acquittal in 1961, he joined Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK) and underwent military training outside of the country. He was killed in action in 1968 while involved in a guerrilla skirmish in southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

Patrick Mosell Molaoa was among the first MK cadre to die in combat.
John Nkadimeng was born in 1925, in Sekhukhuneland, Limpopo, where he completed his primary school education before moving to Gauteng.

A shop steward with the African Tobacco Workers’ Union in 1949, he became general-secretary of the underground South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) in 1983 and, although today the Ambassador to the People’s Republic of Cuba, remains committed to the trade union movement.

Nkadimeng was detained during the Defiance Campaign in 1952 and was one of the 156 Congress activists charged with treason in the 1956 Treason Trial.

In 1963, during yet another bout of detention, Nkadimeng was issued with a banning order. This order remained in effect right up to the time he fled the country in July 1976.

Nkadimeng continued to work in the liberation movement in exile. He served on the ANC’s political and military council and was chairperson of the ANC’s political committee.

As the leader of SACTU, Nkadimeng worked tirelessly for the ideal of worker unity in a single national federation. He helped realise the formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).
Alfred Nzo was born in Benoni in 1925 into a poor family. He matriculated in the Eastern Cape and enrolled for a Bachelor of Science degree at Fort Hare University in 1945.

He became active in student politics after joining the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League. Nzo was active in organising the Defiance Campaign in the 1950s and took part in the consultative campaign to canvass the views of people on the kind of society they wished to build. This campaign culminated in the Congress of the People in 1955, at which the seminal Freedom Charter was adopted.

In 1958, he was voted onto the regional and national executive committees of the ANC. In 1964, he left the country to work for the ANC in exile. He was posted to various places, including Egypt, India, Zambia and Tanzania. Nzo served as the secretary-general of the ANC from 1969 until 1991, and also served as an ANC delegate in the CODESA talks with the Nationalist Government that finally led to the interim Constitution.

Nzo served as the first Minister of Foreign Affairs in a democratic South Africa. In this capacity, he laid the groundwork for continental conflict-resolution processes, which have in recent years begun to bear fruit.

Alfred Nzo dedicated his entire adult life to the struggle for liberation and human rights in South Africa.