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SUIDER-AFRIKA VEILIGHEIDSTUDIES & MAGTE GESKIEDENIS
SOUTHERN AFRICA SECURITY STUDIES & FORCES HISTORY

SPECIAL EDITION



Captain Tiger Ellappan



EDITORS

The editor-in-chief of *NONGQAI* Magazine is retired Brigadier **Hennie Heymans** ("HBH") of the S.A. Police, who holds a Master's degree in National Security Studies and had represented the S.A.P. on the Secretariat of the State Security Council.

The editor of the **Ladies Edition** of *NONGQAI* is **Sarie van Niekerk** ("SvN"), herself a former police officer and journalist at *Beeld* newspaper.

The editor of *NONGQAI*'s digital publications and group operations manager is **Dr. Willem Steenkamp** ("WPS"), a retired attorney and ambassador who is a former member of the N.I.S. and D.F.A. Willem is responsible for *NONGQAI*'s YouTube channel and BLOG, plus our publisher, GREXPA s.a.

There are two sub-editors. Col. **Logan Govender** ("LG") is our lead historian on police officers of Indian descent. **Henning van Aswegen** ("HvA") renowned author formerly of the National Intelligence Academy, handles the intelligence desk.

Any opinions expressed by any editor (or by any other contributor), are entirely their personal responsibility, and should be attributed to them individually and **not to the editorial board, owners or publisher.**

REDAKSIE

Die hoofredakteur van die *NONGQAI* tydskrif is afgetrede Brigadier **Hennie Heymans** ("HBH") van die S.A. Polisie, met 'n Meestersgraad in Nasionale Veiligheidstudies en wat die S.A.P. verteenwoordig het op die Sekretariaat van die SVR.

Die redakteur van *NONGQAI* se vroue-blad is **Sarie van Niekerk** ("SvN"), voormalige polisiebeampte en joernalis van die koerant *Beeld*.

Die redakteur van *NONGQAI* se digitale publikasies en ook groep-bedryfsbestuurder is **Dr. Willem Steenkamp** ("WPS"), afgetrede prokureur, ambassadeur en voormalige lid van N.I. en die D.B.S. Willem versorg *NONGQAI* se YouTube-kanaal en BLOG, en bestuur die uitgewer-maatskappy, GREXPA s.a.

Daar is twee sub-redakteurs. Kol. **Logan Govender** ("LG"), is ons historikus vir die geskiedenis van polisie-lede van Indiër-afkoms. **Henning van Aswegen** ("HvA"), skrywer voorheen van die Nasionale Intelligensie Akademie, versorg intel-nuus.

Enige menings uitgespreek deur enige lid van die redaksie (of deur enige ander bydraer), is hulle persoonlike verantwoordelikheid en moet hulle individueel toegereken word, **nie die redaksie, eienaars of uitgewer nie.**

Aim & Policy - Doel & Beleid

Our goal is to collect and record our national security history for publication in the *NONGQAI* for future generations.

We publish the articles and stories as we receive them from our correspondents; we only correct spelling mistakes. It's important to publish the stories in the form and context that we received them from our correspondents. Policemen and Defence personnel have their own language and sub-culture. We are not a scientific or literary journal. We only work with historical building blocks, as in the oral tradition.

Ons doel is om die nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis in die *NONGQAI* aan te teken en só vir die nageslagte te bewaar.

Ons gebruik die artikels en stories soos ons dit van ons korrespondente ontvang; ons maak slegs die spelfoute reg. Dis belangrik om die stories te bewaar in die vorm en in die konteks soos ons dit ontvang. Lede van die veiligheidsmagte het hul eie taal en ons moet dit ook so aanteken. Ons is nie 'n letterkundige of wetenskaplike joernaal nie. Ons werk slegs met die boustene van die geskiedenis, in die orale tradisie.

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NONGQAI is 'n opvoedkundige publikasie sonder winsbejag wat gratis versprei word. As sodanig geniet dit onder S.A. Reg die "redelike gebruik"-vrystelling van ander se outeursreg in materiaal wat hierin her-publiseer word. Eties, word sulke oorspronklike outeurs en publikasies na die beste van ons vermoë siteer en erken, ook vir foto's en beeldmateriaal. **Al wat ons vra vir die her-gebruik van ons materiaal, is dieselfde hoflikheid van volledige kreditering.**

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NONGQAI is 'n gratis aanlyn bewaarplek van herinneringe, historiese gegewens en ontledings rakende die nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis van Suid-Afrika. Dit dek van die heel onlangse tot die koloniale verlede van polisiëring, militêre ontwikkelinge, intelligensie en diplomاسie in die streek. Dit word gedoen met twee hoof oogmerke: om rou historiese gegewens en die insigte van werklike deelnemers, geboekstaaf in die tradisie van orale vertellings, te bewaar tot voordeel van toekomstige geslagte; en, tweedens, om aan veterane van die dienste en gewapende magte 'n platform te bied waardeur hulle hul verhale en foto's kan deel, vir die leesgenot van ou kamerade, vriende en familie. **NONGQAI** doen dit sonder om die verlede te verheerlik, en ook nie om die verlede weer te wil herleef nie. Ons wil help om die goeie in die verlede te koester, deur die geskiedenis sonder kwaadwilligheid te boekstaaf.

Die eerste **NONGQAI** het in Maart 1907 verskyn as die amptelike kwartaallikse tydskrif van die polisie van die kolonie Natal. Na die totstandkoming van die Unie van Suid-Afrika in 1910, en die daaropvolgende stigting van die Unie-weermag en die nasionale polisiemag in 1913, is besluit om die tydskrifte van die verskillende koloniale magte van voor die Unie, saam te voeg in een. Die naam **NONGQAI**, wat in Zoeloe beteken "die koning se wagte", is gekies vir hierdie saamgevoegde tydskrif, wat die tydskrifte van koloniale dienste soos *The Bandolier*, *The Qakamba*, *The South African Constabulary Journal* en *The Transvaal Police Magazine* vervang het. Die nuwe 1913-weergawe van die **NONGQAI** verteenwoordig dus al die uniformdienste van die Unie, insluitend die Polisie, Weermag en Gevangenisdiens.

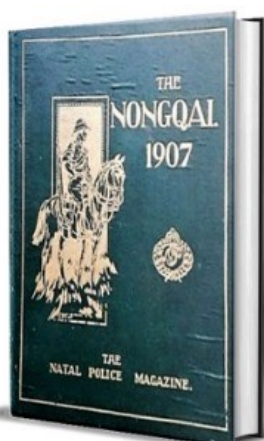
Nadat die Unie die Republiek van Suid-Afrika geword het, het die verskillende dienste geneig om hul eie tydskrifte te ontwikkel, soos *Paratus* vir die weermag en *Servamus* vir die polisie. Die oorgang in 1994 na 'n nie-rassige demokrasie het 'n einde gemaak aan daardie era, maar nie 'n einde aan belangstelling in die geskiedenis van daardie epogmakende tye nie. Brigadier Hennie Heymans het daarom die **NONGQAI** in e-tydskrif vorm laat herleef as 'n bewaarplek van data, herinneringe en ontledings oor die nasionale veiligheidsgeskiedenis van Suid-Afrika.

NONGQAI se tradisionele e-tydskrifte (standaard en vroue-edisies) word aan die begin van elke maand gepubliseer en word gratis op ons Blog www.nongqai.org en die ISSUU-platform gedra. Spesiale uitgawes, wat elk oor 'n spesifieke tema handel, word gereeld gepubliseer. Ons Blog-artikels daarenteen, verskyn deurlopend, en so ook ons video's op YouTube. Die beleid van die redakteurs van **NONGQAI** is om nie in te meng met die inhoud wat deur bydraers voorgelê word nie, behalwe vir eenvormige blad-opmaak en hersiening van spelling en grammatika. **Die inhoud is dus die verantwoordelikheid van elke individuele bydraende outeur; Nongqai, sy redakteurs en uitgewers aanvaar geen aanspreeklikheid daarvoor nie.** Die doel is om die voormalige deelnemers so outentiek en direk as moontlik te laat praat, sodat historici dit as bron van rou historiese gegewens kan gebruik in hul historiografiese evalueringe. **NONGQAI** self is dus ook nie 'n akademiese geskiedenis-publikasie wat aanspraak maak op wetenskaplike beoordeling of verifiëring van die inhoud wat sy vrywilliger bydraers op sy bladsye gedeel het nie.

NONGQAI, hetsy as tydskrifte of digitale media, is heeltemal gratis en toeganklik op ons web-blad: <https://nongqai.org> Dit kan aanlyn gelees word of as .pdf-dokumente afgelaai word. Die argief van vorige uitgawes verteenwoordig 'n skatkamer van historiese gegewens, foto's, persoonlike herinneringe en staaltjies, sowel as ontledings van belangrike nasionale veiligheidskwessies van die verlede en die hede – dit word bewaar op ons Blog, sowel as deur die Akademia Biblioteek.



NONGQAI is a free online repository of memories, historic data and analysis relating to the national security history of Southern Africa. It covers from the very recent to the very ancient past of policing, military developments, intelligence, and diplomacy in the region. It does so with two main goals: to provide raw historic data and insights from actual participants, in the tradition of oral history, for the benefit of future generations; and, secondly, to provide ex members of the services and armed forces with a platform through which to share their stories and photographs, for the reading pleasure of old comrades-in-arms, friends and family. This **NONGQAI** does, without glorifying the past, nor wishing to live again the past. It helps cherish the good in the past, recording history without malice.



The original **NONGQAI** magazine had started out in March 1907 as the official quarterly magazine of the police of the colony of Natal. After the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910, and the subsequent founding of the Union defence force and the national police force in 1913, it was decided to amalgamate the magazines serving the different pre-union colonial forces into one. The name **NONGQAI**, which in Zulu means “the king's watchmen”, was chosen for this amalgamated magazine, which replaced the pre-union colonial services magazines such as *The Bandolier*, *The Qakamba*, *The South African Constabulary Journal* and *The Transvaal Police Magazine*. The new 1913 version of the **NONGQAI** thus represented all the uniformed services of the new Union, including the police, the military, and the prisons service.

After the Union became the Republic of South Africa, the different services tended to develop their own magazines, such as *Paratus* for the military and *Servamus* for the police. The 1994 transition to a non-racial democracy brought an end to that era, but not an end to interest in the history of that era. Brigadier Hennie Heymans thus revived the **NONGQAI** in e-magazine form, as repository of data, memories, and analysis about the national security history of Southern Africa.

NONGQAI in its traditional magazine format (standard and Ladies' editions) is published at the beginning of each month and is carried on our Blog www.nongqai.org and the ISSUU platform. Special issues, each dealing with a particular theme, are regularly published. Our Blog posts and YouTube videos, on the other hand, are published throughout the month.

The policy of the editors of **NONGQAI** is not to interfere with the content of articles submitted and deemed publishable, except for uniform formatting and reviewing spelling and grammar. **The content is therefore the responsibility of each individual contributing author; the editors, owners and publishers accept no liability for it.** The objective is to let the former participants talk, as authentically and directly as possible, for historians to use as source of raw historic data in their historiographic evaluations of past events. **NONGQAI** itself thus isn't, nor does it pretend to be, an academic history publication laying claim to scientific assessment or verification of the content its volunteer contributors had shared through its pages.

NONGQAI is entirely free and accessible on the internet, where it can be read online or downloaded as .pdf documents. Its archive of past editions represents a treasure trove of historic data, personal recollections, and anecdotes, as well as analysis of important national security issues, past and present. This archive can be found on our Blog, and in the care of the Akademia Library.

Brigadier Hennie Heymans

Special Nongqai please!

Thank you.

Logan

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE

CAPTAIN (TIGER) RAJOO ELLAPPAN

DRILL, MUSKETRY INSTRUCTOR AND PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER

A LEGACY OF DEDICATION AND EXCELLENCE



Cover page

FOREWORD

Lieutenant-Colonel (Advocate) Jay Govender



Daughter of Captain (Derrick) Sagathevan Moodley

It is my honour to pay tribute to a man who has not only served with professionalism and distinction in the ranks of the South African Police Service, but who has also left an indelible mark on each of us through his mentorship, integrity and strength of character — Captain Rajoo “Tiger” Ellappan.

Captain Ellappan's journey is remarkable: born in Durban's Riverside area and later relocating to Chatsworth, he entered the police force in 1969. From working as a tailor manufacturing uniforms for senior officers, he pursued his dream of joining the SAPS. He underwent his basic police training at the Training College in Wentworth from November 1969 to April 1970 and soon took on leadership roles including troop leader and later became a drill and musketry instructor at the same college. I will always remember his booming drill commands.

It was during his time as instructor that many of us - myself included experienced his firm but respectful style. While other instructors may have felt harsh, Captain Ellappan blended assertiveness with dignity. I recall a time when I was ill, too weak to move at the Cator Manor College, Capt Ellappan almost carried me up the stairs and drove me to the district surgeon - a gesture of genuine care from someone balancing duty and compassion.

But his contributions go far beyond policing. He was a professional wrestler and shared his skills with trainees at the Police academy. Through sport he demonstrated discipline, courage and the drive to push limits - qualities he brought into his work at the academy.

Just before my passing out parade, Capt. Ellappan personally advised me to learn a few self-defence and wrestling techniques. He told me that because I was small in stature I would need these techniques to make arrests.

At the police training colleges of Wentworth, Cator Manor and Chatsworth, Captain Ellappan taught drill, musketry, swimming, wrestling, self-defence and boxing. He has tutored thousands of students, moulding them into officers of readiness and resilience.

What stands out most is his ethos of respect and the unwavering way he carried himself with integrity, humility and discipline.

Captain Ellappan was not just an instructor. He was a champion, a mentor, a role-model, a man of principle. He has given younger officers the confidence to lead, to train, to fight for justice and also to care.

Recently I found out that his grandchild was in my daughter's class (she is an educator at Northdene Preparatory School, Durban) I told her to convey a message to this child that his grandfather is a legend, and I really meant that.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please raise your glasses to Captain Rajoo "Tiger" Ellappan — a legend in policing, a champion in sport, a guide for many. Here's to his continued success and fulfilment in retirement. Thank you.

Lieutenant-Colonel (Advocate) Jay Govender

Legal official in the SAPS. voluntary legal support to victims of domestic violence. Tutor with University of South Africa (Unisa).



Captain (Derrick) Sagathevan Moodley, Dad of Lieutenant-Colonel (Advocate) Jay Govender

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE
CAPTAIN (TIGER) RAJOO ELLAPPAN
DRILL, MUSKETRY INSTRUCTOR AND PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER
A LEGACY OF DEDICATION AND EXCELLENCE



Captain (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan

(Researched, authored, set out, edited and forwarded for publication by Logan Govender [LG] with the information obtained from Captain (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan, various sources, other police members and individuals.)

CO-EDITOR



**Col. Logan
Govender**

[LG]

AUTHOR'S NOTE

“The Nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten” – Calvin Coolidge

It is with great honour that we present this commemorative biography of Captain (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan, an officer whose name became synonymous with discipline, professionalism, and unwavering dedication to the ideals of policing.

Captain Ellappan's life story embodies the values of service, strength, and selflessness, which defined a generation of South African Police officers who served with pride and purpose.

His contribution to the training of recruits, the upholding of standards, and his influence as a mentor and instructor are etched into the collective memory of those who had the privilege to serve under or alongside him. Whether on the parade ground, in the lecture hall, or within the community, Captain Ellappan carried himself as a true officer and a gentleman.

This biography is both a tribute and a testament - to a man whose legacy continues to inspire, long after the echo of his commanding voice has left the parade ground.

[LG]



EARLY LIFE

Captain (Tiger) Rajoo ELLAPPAN was born on 1947-05-15 in the Riverside district of Durban North, KwaZulu-Natal but his family were forced to relocate to Chatsworth, an Indian township demarcated on the South of Durban in 1963 due to the Group Areas Act. He attended the Sir Kurma Reddi State Aided School and thereafter entered Sastri College for a short while; personal financial circumstances did not permit him to study further.

He took up employment as a tailor at Sir Edward Wills Tailoring based in Smith Street, Durban. They manufactured, amongst other items of clothing, uniforms for senior SA Police and Military Officers.

As a young lad, he desired to become a professional boxer. However, at the time he was prevented from achieving this as his job was demanding and there were restrictions, training facilities under the apartheid laws. Gymnasiums for use by non-whites were few and far between.

[LG]

ENLISTMENT INTO THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE

Whilst working, he became fascinated with the design and insignia on the police uniforms. On 1969-08-25, during a lunch break he walked into the police headquarters in Smith Street and was approached by an Indian policeman, who assisted him to enlist into the SA Police.

Ellappan was placed at the SA Police, Unit 2 (Bayview) in Chatsworth. He worked under the command of Chief Sergeant Subramonia Pillai, who became an inspiration and mentor to him.



Late Chief Sergeant S Pillai and Warrant Officer GM (Sterk-Gert) Smit, Brigadier discuss plans for the new Chatsworth Police Station in Unit 02 – the first entirely Indian-Staffed station in South Africa. In the background a section of the temporary police station can be seen.

(Photograph was kindly colourised by Ms Jenny Bosch)



Late, Lieutenant-Colonel Subramonis Pillai, black and white photo supplied by Brigadier (Natty) NG Govender
(Photograph was kindly colourised by Ms Jenny Bosch)

BASIC POLICE TRAINING

Ellappan was called up to undergo basic police training at the SA Police, Training College in Wentworth, Durban from November 1969 to April 1970. He was appointed as a troop leader for the platoon. After completion of basic police training, he was posted back to the Chatsworth Unit 2, police station.



South African Police

Training College

Wentworth, Durban

Platoon 13

November 1969 to April 1970

Members Identified

Second row: (L-R) 7th Hariram, (Brigadier Hari Badul); 10th Chaitoo, (Warrant Officer [Detective]), 3rd from right.

Third row: (L-R) 3rd Shunmugam, (Colonel Johnny Govender); 5th BD Naidoo, late (Sergeant Brain Naidoo); 10th Rajoo (Captain Tiger Rajoo Ellappan).

Fourth row: (L-R), 3rd Krishna (Brigadier Chris Thayer); 5th VN Pillay, late (Warrant Officer Lucy Nithia Pillay); 9th SR Naidu, late (Warrant Officer), 2nd right.

A collage of photographs taken during a self-defence class tutored by Ellappan at the Bayview School Hall in Unit 02 during the early 1970's





DURBAN VICE SQUAD

A few months later because of his physical strength and self-defence skills, he was nominated to report to Captain Basie Smith, (Major General) who headed a new specialised unit from Durban Central called the 'Vice Squad'. It dealt with

the illicit use and dealing in narcotic drugs, alcohol, gang warfare and prostitution amongst other offences.

In the 60 and 70's Durban was notorious for gang activity. Notorious gangs such as the Salot Brothers, Crimson League, Young Americans and Dasheens. The unit was responsible for quelling gang warfare and instrumental in arresting gang members for serious crimes of violence and even murders.

There were many challenges, such as discrimination in the 70's.

He grew up as an upright and disciplined person and overcame the challenges that presented themselves.

AMATEUR WRESTLING

Ellapen said, he owed much of his success to the police force as they offered him time and facilities to become a professional wrestler during apartheid. Joining the SA Police opened many doors of opportunity for him to pursue a career in wrestling.

“I initially began amateur wrestling.

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

“By the grace of God, my successes in the field led me to enter the professional arena in 1975. As a professional wrestler, I am the unbeaten heavy weight wrestling champion in KwaZulu-Natal.” - said Ellappan.

I have had the opportunity to compete against several international wrestlers throughout the country. I was overcome with both pride and gratitude after I

was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame of the World Wrestling Alliance of RSA.”

DRILL, MUSKETRY AND SELF DEFENCE INSTRUCTOR

“I was also nominated to train recruits at the SA Police, Training College in Wentworth during 1977. In addition, I have had the honour and privilege of tutoring several thousand students in musketry, drill, wrestling, boxing, self-defence and swimming,” he said. During the 90’s with the opening of the new Police Training College in Chatsworth—marking the end of an era at Wentworth—he was appointed to continue his instructional duties in drill and musketry.



Sergeant Ellappan tutoring students in the care, handling and use of firearms, SA Police, Training College, Wentworth during 1978. Sergeant Ellappan squatting extreme left in front.



Sergeant Ellappan with students of SA Police, Training, College, Wentworth, Durban during 1978. Ellappan seated in the centre of the front row



South African Police Mechanical School

Benoni

August 1978

His message, especially to the youth, was to be disciplined and honest, as well as to treat everyone with respect.

“I used to train and teach others amateur wrestling at the college and also in the process, learn my own moves so I could turn pro. Major Nothnagel trained me at Wentworth. It was a really good place for me to start because I got an opportunity to practice and also the police force gave me a platform. They were lenient in that they gave me time off to rest after events. “I was fortunate because I was a police instructor and people recognised me and gave me permission to wrestle at the City Hall, and this was a time when everything was strict.”

After turning pro in 1975, Ellapen's once far-fetched dream of becoming a professional wrestler turned into reality, through dedication and support from those around him.

But his career would also get a cherry on top, as Ellapen got a chance to wrestle Percy Hall himself, a man he once idolised and learnt from.

"I watched him wrestling so it was quite special" he explained.

Percy Hall, as he was known in South Africa, was known as Willem Hall to the rest of the world, according to Fight Times, a professional wrestler since 1954.

"During this time, I also attended wrestling events to watch people like Percy Hall wrestle at the Durban City Hall. I used to often go and watch their tactics and then go back to the college and practice," Ellapen said.

"I used to also train at the Seamen Institute on Point Road at the time. It was one of the only places with a ring, and that's where I could get a feel of what it was like to bounce off the ropes and try all these moves, I saw," he added.

"Having been recognised by the sport, by fans, after all these years wrestling at the City Hall, wrestling at the Ice Rink and at the Westridge Stadium. Just having the support that I did from my own Indian community.... Especially now, at the age of 78, to be recognised, it means a lot," Ellapen said.



Ellappan with a group of Lady students probably at the SA Police, Training College for Ladies at Cato Manor Durban



Ellappan on the parade ground at SA Police, Training College, Durban with students during a rehearsal for their Passing Out Parade



Staff of SA Police, Training College, Wentworth, Durban during 1982

Front row seated; from left to right – late Major Morgan Chetty, Second in Command, Lieutenant General, Deputy National Commissioner of South African Police, Service; late Lieutenant-Colonel Subramonia Pillai, Commanding Officer; Ms Neela Naidoo; late Lieutenant Doosi John Lamech, Musketry, Drill and First Aid, Captain.

Rear row, standing, Warrant Officer Sakkie Govender, Accounting Officer, Captain; Lance Sergeant (Natty) NG Govender, Drill Instructor, Brigadier; Sergeant Anil Beharie Ram, PT Instructor, Brigadier; Sergeant (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan, Drill, Musketry, Boxing and Wrestling Instructor, Captain; Lance Sergeants Colin Nair, Swimming Instructor, Colonel; Praveen Ramdas, Drill Instructor, Warrant Officer; late Sergeant Saravana M Govender, PT Instructor; Captain.



Photograph taken early 1980's after my Passing Out Parade at Kings Park Stadium, Durban. From left to right, Lance Sergeant P Subbiah, Major General; Warrant Officer (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan, Captain; [LG]; Lance Sergeant (Natty) NG Govender, Brigadier



According to Brigadier (Natty) NG Govender during the 1980's, Head Office sent instructors from Maleoskop to Wentworth in an effort to curb costs of sending platoons of students for Unrest and Damage Control Course.

Unfortunately, I am only able to identify the other Officers and members dressed in camouflage outfit. - [LG]

Front row, seated, from left to right, 2nd Lieutenant (Danny) G Pillay, Major General; 3rd Lieutenant Indera Chetty, Brigadier, Commanding Officer of SA Police, Training College, Pretoria; 4th Colonel Morgan Chetty, Commanding Officer, SA Police, Training College, Wentworth, Durban, later Lieutenant General, Deputy National Commissioner, South African Police Service.

Rear row, standing, 1st Lance Sergeant Dave Naidoo, Captain; 2nd Lance Sergeant (Natty) NG Govender, Brigadier; 4th Lance Sergeant Jerry Naidoo,

Captain; 6th Warrant Officer (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan; 8th Lance Sergeant D Naidoo, Colonel; 9th Lance Sergeant P Subbiah, Major General



Warrant Ellappan leading a platoon of newly trained students at an unspecified Passing Out Parade in Durban



During 1986 Ellappan in his wrestling gear



Ellappan in the ring with his Distinctive Collection of his Wrestling Accolades and Awards during 2008



Numerous Distinctive Wrestling Accolades and awards earned by Captain Ellappan over the years



At the funeral service of late, Lieutenant General Morgan Chetty, Deputy National Commissioner in Pretoria on 16 November 2016.

Front row, standing, Brigadier Anil Beharie Ram; Colonel Deon Singh

Rear row, standing, Brigadier (Natty) NG Govender; Captains Dave Naidoo; Jerry Naidoo; (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan; Colonel D Naidoo



At a function held in Durban honouring the stalwarts of SA Police, Training College, Wentworth, Durban on 2017-07-15

Captains Saravana M Govender; (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan



At a function held in Durban honouring the stalwarts of SA Police, Training College, Wentworth, Durban on 2017-07-15

Captains (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan; Dave Naidoo; Saravana M Govender; Colonel D Naidoo; Brigadier (Natty) NG Govender



Group Photograph of some of the attendees of the wreath laying commemoration ceremony of fallen members of the South African Indian Legion held at the Queen Nandi, Mounted Rifles, (Natal Mounted Rifles), NMR Avenue Durban on 15 October 2022.

Back, from left, Warrant Officer Laren Krishna, Marine (R) Raees Vawda, Marine (R) Johnson Dayal, Marine (R) Gary Perumal and Captain (R) Vino Eargambram. Front, from left, Captain Rajoo Tiger Ellappan, Warrant Officer and Marine (R) Lionel Moodley (chairperson of the South African Indian Legion), Colonel David Perumal and Legionnaire Sherene Rambalee.



Captain Ellappan and another Celebrated Legionnaire in conversation at the same function

Ellapen was inducted for being a pioneering figure for the sport in the Indian community.



Captain Ellappan recognised and acknowledged for his sterling service to the SA Police and the community and is rewarded by his former colleagues with a plaque crafted and designed by Brigadier Natty (NG) Govender; Colonel D Naidoo; Captains Dave Naidoo and Jerry Naidoo
Front row, seated, left to right, Colonel D Naidoo; Captain Ellappan; Brigadier (Natty) NG Govender.

Rear row, standing, Captains Jerry Naidoo and Dave Naidoo



The award presented to Ellappan at his induction into the Wrestling Hall of Fame during 2024

The father of three added that among the valuable lessons he had learnt while serving in the SAP was to respect all irrespective of race or creed.

“In addition, serving as a police officer has also taught me humility, integrity and discipline. It gave me happiness and fulfilment to serve the various communities and the SAP as a whole.”

At 78years-old, Captain Rajoo ‘Tiger’ Ellappan said he was overcome with both pride and gratitude after he was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the World Wrestling Alliance of RSA.

The following decorations and medals awarded to Captain Ellappan, bears testimony of his exemplary conduct in the performance of his police functions.

1. The South African Police Service Centenary Medal 1913 to 2013.
2. The South African Police Seventy Fifth Anniversary Commemorative Medal.
3. The South African Police Amalgamation Medal.
4. The South African Police Service Ten Year Commemoration Medal.
5. The South African Police Service Soccer World Cup 2010 Support Medal.
6. The South African Police Service Forty Year Loyal Service Medal.
7. The South African Police Service Thirty Year Loyal Service Medal.
8. The South African Police Service Star Twenty Year Loyal Service Medal.
9. The South African Police Service Ten Year Loyal Service Medal.

“Captain Ellappan also spent many years in operational policing in almost all facets of policing. He worked at the old Unit2 police station in Bayview together with the late Lieut Gen P Naidoo, Maj Gen Danny Pillay and I. Other senior officers he worked under at that time, were the late Col S Pillai, Col Rungasamy, Col Soobramoney Govender (he is featured in one of the karate poses holding Captain Ellapan’s neck from the back during a training session), Col Manickum Govender and many others. – Major General (Professor) (George) Doraval Govender

“Tiger was revered by all. His personality was so refreshing. Strict disciplinarian yet humble. To round it off he had a sense of humour. A true officer and gentleman” - Major General Johan Booysen

“A true legend of the Indian diaspora and South African Police. Have immense respect for Captain Ellappan” – Advocate Karen Pillay

“Being a professional wrestler myself, Tiger was heavily influential in me starting out. He basically gave me his own space and told me I could wrestle there. So, when I launched this program with WWA to recognise legendary wrestlers, I knew Tiger Ellapen had to be one of the first people I honour and pay homage to. It is because of people like Tiger and Trevor Van de Westhuizen aka “Blacksmith” that I am where I am,” Nightmare said.

“Your departure from Shallcross marks the end of an era for our community. You have been more than just a community member, you have been a steadfast

friend, a courageous and decorated member of the South African Police Services, a champion on the wrestling mat, and above all, a dignified gentleman whose adherence to proper protocol we all admire. Founder of World Wrestling Alliance in South Africa.” - Daryl Naidu aka “Nightmare

“The Shallcross Civic Association, and indeed the entire community, will feel the void left by your relocation. Your tireless service, strength of character, and thoughtful presence have left an indelible mark on all of us.” - Jerald Vedan

“You have done more for me in my life than I will ever be able to do for you. From my days as a student at the Police college, I looked up to you for inspiration. You are not only my guide and mentor but that of so many others too.

I know what it means to you to own a house. Of all the college staff you were only one of 3 who owned a house in the early days. As I said I will assist in any way I can.” - Brigadier (Natty) NG Govender

“As a former student of Captain (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan, I hold the deepest respect for a man widely recognized within and beyond police circles in South Africa as a distinguished Drill, Musketry Instructor and an accomplished Professional Wrestler. Truly, he embodies the essence of an Officer and a Gentleman.

Captain (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan’s unwavering dedication and resilience have left an enduring legacy within the community and in the fight against crime. His remarkable contributions are also honoured on the University of KwaZulu-

Natal's Gandhi/Luthuli Documentation Centre website, in the gallery titled 'South African Police Indian Veteran' and online magazine Nongqai. This centre stands as both a living archive and a tribute to the Indian community's rich heritage in South Africa.

At 78 years old, Captain (Tiger) Rajoo Ellappan - expressed profound pride and gratitude upon being inducted into the Hall of Fame of the World Wrestling Alliance of RSA, a fitting recognition of a lifetime of service and excellence.” – Logan Govender

“Congratulations Legend Tiger Ellappan. Greetings from all of us in Massachusetts, USA. Visiting Nelusha & Family.” - Dan Shunmoogan

I want to acknowledge and respect these Officers who work tirelessly behind the scenes.



Brigadier Hennie Heymans, Editor in Chief of Nongqai



Captain DME Lazarus



Captain (Sooks) P Sookaloo laying a wreath at a Commemoration Service in Pietermaritzburg. His Dad was a World War 11 veteran

AFTERWORD

Advocate Yolán Denness

A truly great police officer is hard to find, difficult to part with and impossible to forget.

Captain “Tiger” Ellapen, you are such a leader, a mentor and formidable force literally and figuratively to us all. You have worn your uniform and badge with pride, honour and we salute you. Your bravery has kept us safe and impacted many amateur policemen to become future wrestlers both in the fight against crime and in the ring.

You trained, mentored, imparted your skills, knowledge and prowess to your fellow policeman since joining the training college and your selfless service remains with all that crossed your path.

Many of your students would say they remember you as a teacher, ultimate athlete and a huge disciplinarian. You would reiterate this by saying “being an instructor it was such a fortunate thing cause people recognized that status and allowed you to train at the “Percy Hall” when it was a strict time” The legacy that you pray to leave behind is that we honour this family, the family of the South African Police and keep each other close with respect for this organization that you were part of and we as men and women in blue were privileged to share with you, Captain “Tiger” Ellapen.

“We are entitled to nothing and blessed with everything”.

Advocate Yolynn Denness

LLB (UKZN); LLM (UKZN)

B.Tech. in Policing (Unisa)

National Diploma in Pol. Admin

Advocate of the High Court of S.A.

Member of the National Bar Council of S.A.



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- Major General (Professor) [George] [DG] for his keen interest, advice, inspiration and professional assistance always.

- Advocate Karen Pillay, daughter of the late Colonel Rungasamy (Dickey) Munsamy for her keen interest, advice, inspiration and professional assistance always.
- Advocate (Lieutenant General) Sally Khan; Major General Oswald Reddy and Captains DME Lazarus (Prakash) P Sokaloo for their respective contributions, herein.
- Lieutenant-Colonel (Advocate) Jay Govender for the Foreword and Advocate Yolán Denness, wife of Captain Denness for the Afterword.
- Last but by no means the least, my dear family for their inspiration, encouragement and patience.

“Agnosceret et honorare servientibus” –

“To acknowledge and honour those who served”

“Soli Deo Gloria” - “To God Alone Glory”

Logan Govender



BLOG POSTS



Good day!

This issue (click on link) presents a selection of blog posts for the month of October 2025. You are invited to browse the list and explore any story or article that captures your interest. There is no expectation to read everything — simply follow the links to what resonates with you.

Enjoy the journey — and happy reading!

Link to the completer blog: <https://www.nongqai.org/new-nuut-2/>



PHOTO RESTORATION & HAND COLOURISATION

Have you ever wondered what that old black and white photo would look like in full colour?

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Drop me a message or Facebook mail me to discuss putting the colour back on your precious memories.



JennyB Colourised Photos.

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NONGQAI

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SLOT | END



Dear reader

Please note that this magazine is composed of contributions received from independent contributors, in the tradition of recounting history as seen through the eyes of those who had lived those times. It thus contains diverse and personal recollections and opinions. Therefore, the editors and publishers of the Nongqai cannot be held responsible or be liable for the content provided by contributors.

Geagte leser

In die tradisie om die geskiedenis weer te gee soos gesien deur die oë van diegene wat daardie tye beleef het, bestaan die *Nongqai* uit insette gelewer deur sy onafhanklike bydraers. Dit bevat dus uiteenlopende persoonlike herinneringe en menings. Die redakteurs en uitgewers van die *Nongqai* kan daarom nie verantwoordelik of aanspreeklik gehou word vir die inhoud wat deur individuele bydraers gelewer is nie.

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