

The South African NAVAL MUSEUM

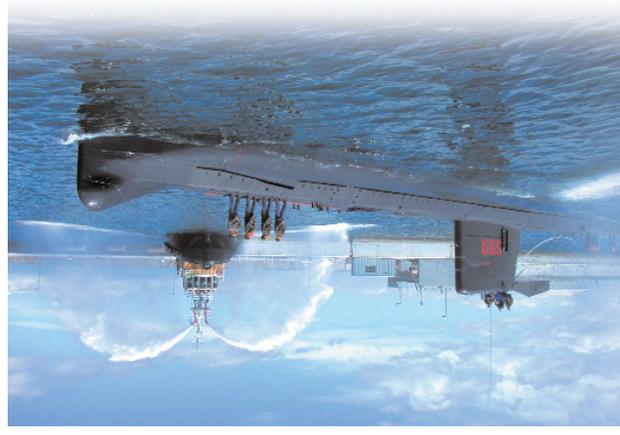


Welcome aboard the
Daphne Class submarine

SAS Assegai - S99



(ex SAS Johanna van der Merwe)



Brief History

On 10 February 1967, after nearly two years of negotiation, an order was placed with the French Government to provide three Daphne class submarines plus the training and infrastructure to run and maintain them.

The first of these submarines, *SAS Maria van Riebeeck* S97 was launched on 18 March 1967 - the date accepted as the birth of the SAN Submarine Service. The second boat was *SAS Emily Hobhouse* S98 and the last of the class was *SAS Johanna van der*

Merwe.



In 1999 the three boats were renamed *Spear*, *Umkhonto* and *Assegai* respectively. In 2003 *SAS Spear* was cut up and scrapped, followed by *SAS Umkhonto* in 2008. On decommissioning in 2003, *SAS Assegai* was retained by the Navy for preservation as a museum boat and technology exhibit.

SAS Johanna van der Merwe/Assegai

Laid down at the Dubigeon-Normandy shipyard in Nantes on 24 April 1969, she was launched on 21 July 1970. Commissioned under command of Lt Cdr Theo Honiball on

Her arrival home marked the successful culmination of five years of construction, trials and training to establish a submarine capability - a remarkable achievement. It was not long before the boats were involved in operations and in 1975, just preceding Operation SAVANNAH, *SAS Johanna van der Merwe* was deployed into Angolan waters under Operation YSKAS to prepare for the evacuation of personnel. During the so-called Border War, she took part in some ten clandestine special operations.

During her career, she underwent four refits, which included additional fuel tanks and the fitting of a locally developed hardware based RAKA combat suite in the 80s, which replaced the cumbersome plotting table. In the late 90s she received the South African developed NICKLES fully integrated software based combat suite and two state of the art rebuilt periscopes.

With the acquisition of the new Type 209 submarines for the SA Navy, *SAS Assegai* finally paid off on 23 November 2003.