



Team Journal - Day 2

Friday 24th March

After a long but reasonably painless flight we arrived on time in Johannesburg at about 8.30 a.m. As we navigated our rifles through customs the Captain and the Adjutant went off to some distant place. Their task was to attempt to talk the relevant South African authorities into letting go of ammunition which had been shipped out some time ago and which the said authorities had been jealously hoarding, spurning all previous attempts to wrest it from their grasp. We were greatly assisted in getting through customs by our welcome party from SABU - Natie and Willem du Plooy and Richard van Lingen



Richard assists in the extrication of the team from Jo'burg airport

We finally got away from Johannesburg airport at about 1 p.m. Getting a team through an airport is never a speedy process. However, the good news was that the Captain had succeeded in his task and we had our ammunition.

The drive to Nottingham Road range was uneventful, despite a certain lack of convoying etiquette exhibited by the drivers of some of the 4 buses and at least 3 police speed traps on the way. We arrived (a little delayed by the, frankly, disappointing level of navigation skills displayed by the management bus) at the range at about 6 p.m just as darkness was falling and the crickets were chirping at their loudest. For those of us who had not visited the range before there was a brief opportunity to admire the setting before darkness fell.



The Nottingham Road clubhouse under a darkening sky

After meeting our hosts, and drinking a little of their beer, we headed for the hotel, a very welcome shower and dinner and some preparing of kit before a reasonably early start on the range tomorrow.