

June embraced retirement with enthusiasm and she was at last afforded the time to devote herself to reading, art and gardening. She joined an art group with Padca, (Pietermaritzburg and District Care of the Aged) attending art classes in the old library's gallery, producing delicate and beautiful work in which she showed great ability and by so doing, revived a remarkable talent for botanical drawings. Her garden provided hours of pleasure; its success based not only on hard work but a keen horticultural knowledge.

June loved all animals and spoke often of the dogs which had lived with her family. In her own home at 277 Bulwer Street she was never without at least one stray cat, which had moved in as soon as opportunity presented itself.

If June's work occupied much of her life before retirement, it was with her family that her heart really lay. She was devoted to all members of her family and was never happier than when in the company of her sister Ann with whom she shared a lifetime's memories and mutual interests. These included a

love of classical music and the tuneful melodies of the early to mid-twentieth century.

In March 2011, June sold her house and preparations were made to accommodate her at Ann and her husband Ian Player's home, Phuzamoya, in the Karkloof. She moved in September 2011 and although then in poor health, spent her last months in peace and happiness, enjoying the relaxed country atmosphere and the beauty of the farm. She died peacefully on 24 February, 2012 four days before her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday.

At June's memorial service on 10 March, family members, friends and former colleagues paid tribute to her in a gathering on the farm. During the ceremony, a plum tree was planted which was a reminder of the one in Ixopo which June had known as a child. In her notice in *The Witness*, Ann described June as "admirable, courageous and wise", and this is indeed how she will always be remembered by her family and her many friends.

JENNIFER LANCASTER

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## *Edmond Hall, MMM, JCD (1927–2011)*

**C**OLONEL Eddie Hall, commanding officer of the Natal Carbineers from April 1985 to July 1990, after serving as second in command from June 1981, came from a family that devoted more years to that regiment than any other family since the Second World War. Not long before he passed away the Carbineers celebrated his 60 years of devoted service. For a few months, from May to July 1990, he also enjoyed the

distinction of having his son, John, as his Regimental Sergeant-Major – surely unique in Citizen Force/Reserve Force history. His own father, A.G. (Alfie) Hall, had served the regiment for 56 years.

In 1950 Eddie enrolled in the band as a cornet player and remained a bandsman throughout his military career, including his years as commanding officer. At one point there were three generations of Halls in the band: Alfie,

Eddie and John. Eddie Hall's Carbineer career began on 1 July 1952 when he became G6784 (later 67854760BV) Carbineer E. Hall, and in April 1961 he was promoted to intelligence sergeant in Battalion HQ. On 7 March 1962 he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant (then termed assistant field cornet) as intelligence officer. He rose steadily through the ranks, becoming commanding officer on 1 April 1985. In July 1959 Eddie was involved in the resuscitation of the then Royal Natal Carbineers Band Committee, and he was probably the only commanding officer to play in his unit's regimental band. He also served as a band instructor for cadets at St Charles College (12 years), Hilton College (two years), Maritzburg Technical High School (three years), and Maritzburg College (six years). He himself had been educated at Kearsney College.

He also served during the States of Emergency from March to May 1960 and in April 1961 and it was here that his leadership qualities came to the fore. In June 1959 he participated in the guard of honour during the visit of the Governor-General to Pietermaritzburg, and in July 1962 he performed orderly duties on the occasion of a visit of the State President to Natal – two of numerous ceremonial duties during his years with the regiment. From August to November 1976 Major Hall saw service with the Carbineers at Ogonjo in the operational area of the then South West Africa (Namibia). On one occasion, during a firefight, Eddie climbed on to an anthill waving a walking-stick in an attempt to attract the attention of a nearby Land Rover! For this performance he earned the nickname "Lucky Ed". The Carbineers returned to the "Border" from July to October



*Edmond Hall*

1977, and Eddie returned to this theatre of operations in 1978 (for election monitoring) and again in 1981 for three months at Kavango West.

During his time as commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel (or Commandant as the rank was termed then) Hall faced difficult challenges, from policing duties in increasingly hostile African townships to growing resistance to Citizen Force service. His effective leadership style was based on teamwork, applied through his monthly coordinating conferences. His first official parade upon assuming command was the once familiar retreat ceremony at the Royal Agricultural Show on 15 May 1985. Following his retirement from the Carbineers in 1990, he was promoted to full colonel on Natal Command's Citizen Force liaison staff. He also served on the Part-time Forces (later the Reserve Forces) National Council, and was also for many years chairman and a trustee of the Royal Natal Carbineers Association. On 27 November 2010

a function was held in the Carbineers Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to commemorate Colonel Hall's 60 years of service. Following the passing of Colonel Peter Francis in May 2009 he also served as honorary colonel until his own death. He was awarded numerous medals and decorations, including the Military Merit Medal (MMM) for service beyond the call of duty, and the John Chard Decoration (JCD).

Colonel Hall also enjoyed a lifelong commitment to the renowned Carbineer shooting team. He shot in the team from 1956 and from 1972 captained it to many victories for the Emma Thresh and Royston Memorial floating trophies and in many other competitions. On numerous occasions from the 1950s to the 1980s he posted the highest scores in the Emma Thresh and Royston Memorial, in the process winning provincial colours for shooting.

In November 1987, on the initiative of the Nationalist government, he represented the Carbineers at the opening of a new Delville Wood Museum in France. The irony was not lost on Colonel Hall, when at an assembly of retired senior officers he commented on the Nationalists' opposition to South African participation in both World Wars on the British or Allied side.

Eddie Hall's dedication to the Natal Carbineers was such that in 1989 a new floating trophy for commitment, the Eddie Hall Cup, was inaugurated. The award honours the Carbineer who most typifies the spirit and fellowship of the Regiment. The first recipient was none other than Eddie Hall!

In civilian life Eddie Hall was for many years the head of AG Hall (Pty) Ltd, the family painting and renovating business in Pietermaritzburg. Established in 1902 (with roots stretching

as far back as 1862) the business celebrated its centenary in 2002, joining Allison's Saddlery and McDonald's Seeds as 2002 centenarians. It is the second oldest such family concern in Pietermaritzburg, and has been responsible for renovations to many of the city's public buildings, such as St Mary's Catholic Church, where the Hall family worships.

The firm was established by Edmond (Ted) Hall (1880-1958) at 167 Longmarket (Langalibalele) Street and initially focused on painting, glazing and wallpaper hanging. In the Natal Directory for 1918 an advertisement appears for "EJ Hall: House decorator, painting, paperhanging, graining etc." Also "Practical Workmen [are] sent to all parts of the Province." Interestingly, on the same page there appears an advert for W. Hay's biscuit factory. The Hays were also a long-serving Carbineer family, most notably Colonel Len Hay who was a prominent rugby player and administrator.

Altogether five generations of the Hall family have been born and bred in Pietermaritzburg. The first Hall, a painter, came to Natal in 1862 as an 18-year-old. Eddie joined the firm in 1956 and took charge of it in 1963. In November 1961, when the Carbineers made application for his appointment to commissioned rank, one of the points in the motivation was the fact that he was "in business with his father, AG Hall, an old established Pietermaritzburg firm".

On 18 October 1952 Eddie married Denise (Denny) Bonnefin who has supported him in his business and military endeavours, as well as raising his family. They were married for 59 years and had two sons, John and Alan, and two daughters, Trish and Odette.

MARK COGLAN