



**Sgt Cyril Beiles 29023 'V'**

**Served in the Union of South Africa Defence Force from 1 June 1940 to 11 October 1945**

Cyril Beiles was born on 13 January 1922 in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was the son of James (Jack) Beiles (born 1892 in Johannesburg) and Florrie Fridjohn (born 1888 in Ireland). His parents were married in 1917 in Pretoria, South Africa, where Cyril's father practiced his profession as a pharmacist. Cyril had an older sister, Rita (born 1918).



*Cyril with his parents and sister (1936)*

Cyril grew up and spent his childhood years in Pretoria, where he went to school. When he left school, he became a motor spares salesman. His interest lay in commerce, and he ultimately became a business man.

Cyril had a passion for racing motor cycles. Within his racing club circle, he was affectionately referred to as "Speedy" Beiles.

Cyril was determined to enlist in the armed forces, and on 1 July 1939, while not yet 18, he joined 6th Field Ambulance part time, and a year later, on 1 June 1940, he began full time service. He was initially assigned to the South African Medical Corps (SAMC), 6th and 12th Field Ambulance, and in November 1941 he transferred to the South African Corps of Signals (SACS). Given his experience and skills with motorcycles, it is not surprising that he served as a despatch rider. He continued in this role for three years. Despatch riders generally relayed messages and information between different units and were often exposed to danger and difficult conditions. Their riding skills required them to navigate various terrains and weather conditions, and one assumes that these were the typical conditions under which Cyril served.

In July 1943, he transferred to the South African Pay Corps (SAPC) as a Corporal, and six months later he was promoted to Sergeant.

Cyril served in East Africa, the Middle East, and Egypt, before returning to South Africa to continue his service in Pretoria, where he remained until his discharge on 11 October 1945.

He was awarded four service medals, the 1939-45 Star, the Africa Star, the War Medal (1939-45), and the Africa Service Medal.



*Picture on left (from left to right):  
1939-45 Star  
Africa Star  
The War Medal (1939-45)  
Africa Service Medal*

*The badge in front appears to be an old South African General Service Army cap badge or collar badge.*



Cyril was a very patriotic man, held strong opinions, and was extremely loyal and reliable. Such was his patriotism that as he neared the end of his service, he volunteered to enlist in the South African Air Force (SAAF) for combat duty in the East as an Air Gunner, but it would seem that this never happened.

After the war, Cyril returned to Pretoria, and on 1 June 1950 he married Molly Goodman (born 1928), who grew up in Estancia, South Africa. They were married in Ermelo, South Africa, and lived in Johannesburg. In 1963 they moved to Alberton, South Africa, where he ran a retail furniture shop (Cyril Beiles and Company).

In 1968 the family moved to Milnerton, a suburb in Cape Town, South Africa. Cyril ran a retail jewellery business (Galoon Jewellers) in Woodstock, a suburb in Cape Town, and he later opened another retail jewellery business (Si Bon Jewellers) in Milnerton. He subsequently sold the Woodstock business, and focused solely on Si Bon in Milnerton.

Cyril and Molly had four daughters, Valerie (born 1956), Heather (born 1958), Joanne (born 1963) and Fiona (born 1968).

As a family man he was always very passionate, morally correct, very generous, and a good man. He never spoke much about his war years, but the war did take its toll on him.

In the mid 1980s he sold the jewellery business, and he and Molly moved to Vereeniging, South Africa, to be near their children and grandchildren.

He lived out his last years in Cape Town, and exactly 50 years after his discharge from the army, Cyril Beiles died on 12 October 1995 at the age of 73.

Molly later emigrated to Australia to be near her family, and died in 2024 at the age of 95.



*Cyril and Molly (1980)*



Written by Philip Stodel (Israel)  
August 2024

**Sources:**  
*South African Army service records*  
*Information and photographs provided by the family*



Military Pay Headquarters,  
PRETORIA.

7th May, 1945.

The Group Paymaster,  
E.90H-L.

Sir,

I beg to apply for a transfer to the S.A.A.F. and in support of my application, submit the following statement:-

My service in the U.D.F. is as follows:-  
Three years as a Despatch Rider, S.A.C.S. (S.A. Army Sigs.) and one year, nine months in the S.A. Pay Corps.

In view of the fact that the war in Europe is now over, I feel that I should like to offer my services for combat duty in the Eastern theatre. The S.A.A.F. is recruiting Air Gunners for service in the East and I wish to serve in this capacity, and on being transferred to the S.A.A.F., am prepared to sign the new extended service attestation.

Although my official medical category is "C1", some time has elapsed since my last examination and I am sure that I would now be reclassified "A1".

*Major S. H. ...*  
*Sub. Staff. ...*

*S. Beiles*  
No. 29023V Sgt. Beiles, G.

D.G.D. 30.

Date of assumption of full-time service  
Aanvangsdatum van voltydse diens  
1 June, 1940.

Date of Release/Discharge  
Datum van ~~verloofing~~/ontslag  
11 October, 1945.

Released/Discharged by (Unit or Dispersal Depot)  
Verreël/Ontslaan deur (eenheid of ontslag-depôt)  
DISPERSAL DEPOT

at Pretoria  
te

Age 23 Race European  
Ouderdom 23 Ras European

Married or Single Single  
Getroud of ongetroud

Children:  
Kinders:  
Number n  
Getal

Age n  
Ouderdom

Sex n  
Geslag

Released/Discharge Authority  
Magtiging tot ~~verloofing~~/ontslag  
W.R. 7/29023.V. 8/1/45.  
Partial demobilisation.

No. 103072 1B

**Ex-Volunteer's Identity Book.**  
**Oud-vrywilliger se**  
**Identifikasieboek.**

No. 29023 V. Rank Sgt.  
Rang

Name Beiles,  
Naam Cyril

Address 355 Pretorius St.,  
Adres Arcadia,  
Pretoria

O.P. S.41140-1945-6-100,000. 8.

G.P.S. DD 1810

  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENCE FORCE

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

1. Certificate

I certify that:

No. 29023V Rank SGT

Full name BEILES Cyril

was posted for service on 1 JUNE 1940, in the FULLTIME VOLUNTEER FORCES

served in THE SA MEDICAL CORPS AND WAS DISCHARGED

on 11 OCTOBER 1945, and that the particulars given herein correctly represent entries in his personal record.

Dated at PRETORIA this 4 day of AUGUST 1992

  
Chief of the SADF: General  
WOI  
CHIEF OF STAFF PERSONNEL: LT-GENL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
EHRB OF STAFF PERSONNEL

HOOP VAN STAF PERSONNEL  
DEPARTEMENT VAN VERDEDIGING

2. Honours and Awards

1939-45 STAR

AFRICA STAR

THE WAR MEDAL (1939-45)

AFRICA SERVICE MEDAL

# Photo Gallery

This selection of photographs has been assembled from a larger collection found in Cyril's album. Dates have been included where known, but beyond this, no attempt has been made to present the photos in any historical or chronological sequence.



*Self + Jinx Rogers*



*Cleaning the .38 in case*



*1942/43*





*The Rhona 1940*



*From East Africa to Egypt 1940-41*



*Juba River 1940*



*Back in Nairobi 1941*



*Moving up for the push Nov 1941*

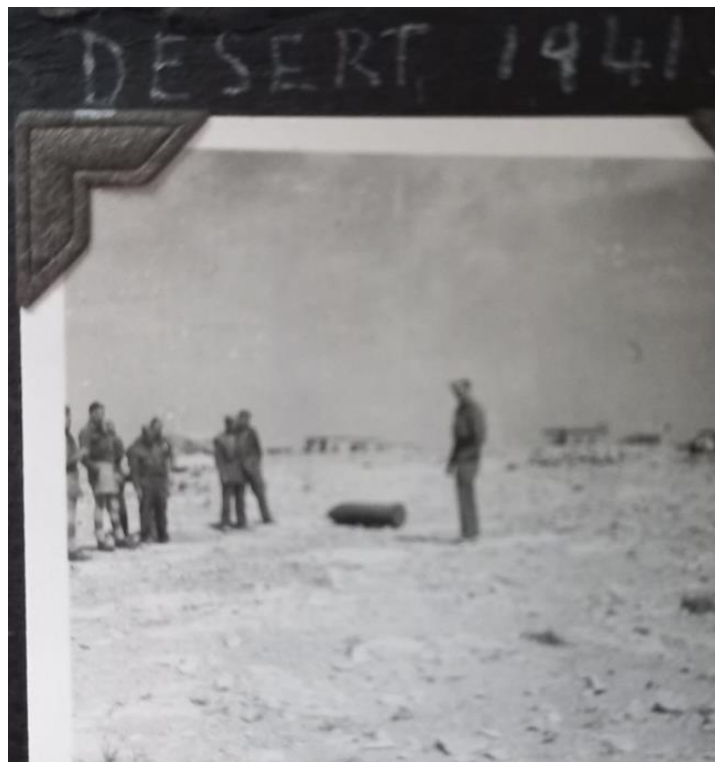


*Establishing contact*



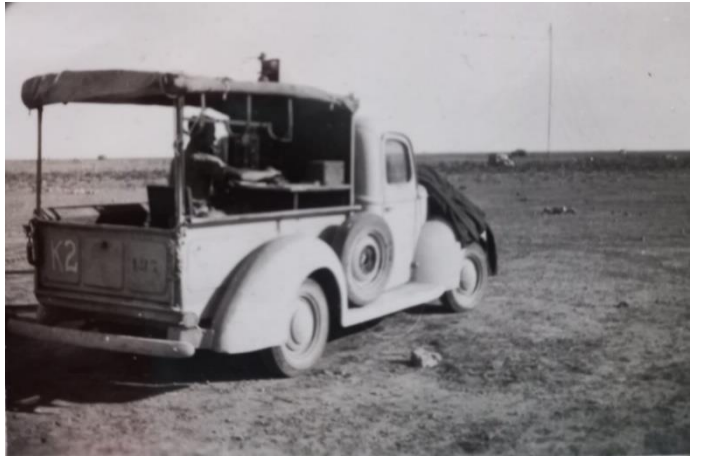
F. Madelena  
end 1941  
start of push

*Bobby, Sam, Self  
F. M???? end 1941, start of push*



*Desert 1941*





JEEP NOT A BAD SUBSTITUTE FOR A BIKE (SELF)

*Jeep not a bad substitute for a bike (self)*



SELF JIMMY

*Self, Jimmy*



SELF TUNING BIKES  
FOR Abyssinia.

*Self tuning bikes for Abyssinia*



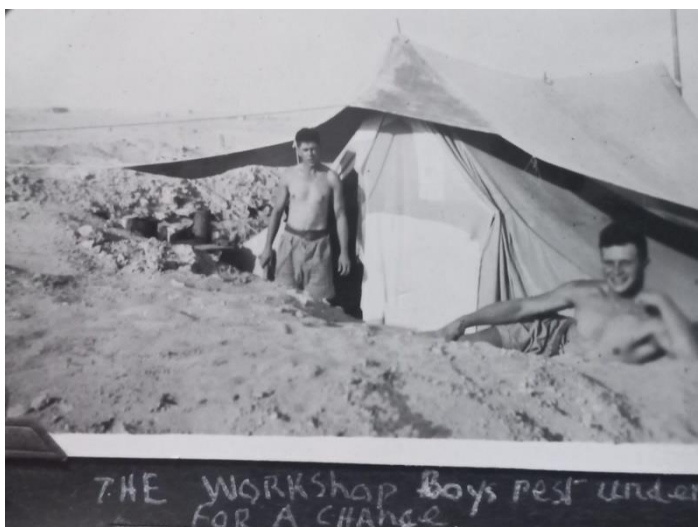
BEFORE EL ALEMAIN  
WE PULLED OUT TO COME HOME

*Before El Alemain we pulled out to come home*



FIRE

*Fire*



THE WORKSHOP BOYS REST UNDER  
FOR A CHANGE.

*The workshop boys rest under for a change*



SMITTY MAKES SURE  
I DON'T GO THROUGH THE WIRE

*Smitty makes sure I don't go through the wire*



ON the Equator

*On the Equator*



Filling up Blown up  
Bridge with Drums

*Filling up blown up bridge with drums*



TOBRUK

*Tobruk*



*Our donor(?) dugout outside Tobruk*



*All our planes returned except (1942/43)*



*Badia*



*Afmadu Desert 120°F*



DERNA PASS.

*Derna Pass*



SOLLUM 1942

*Sollum 1942*



IT IS BURIED ON SIDE OF MAIN PATH  
COW PLANES GOT THEM.

*Iti's buried on side of main path.  
???? planes got them*





*Self + Haif Section Jimmy*



*Home Again*



*Before coming home*

