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[Search](#) > Search Results > Monty Meir, Sklaar

Content Language

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[Main](#)
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[< Previous](#)
[Next >](#)

Item ID	70032	
Full Name	Monty Meir, Sklaar	
Father's Name	Barnett	
Mother's Name	Mary	
Gender	male	
Country of Birth	South Africa	
City of Birth	Cape Town	
Date of Birth	21/12/1921	
Military Service	South Africa	
Death Details	Passed away	
Date of Death	28/09/1996	
Place of Death	Johannesburg	



Category	Armies/Fighters	
Enlist Reason	Volunteering	
Participation	Fighting	
Corps	Signal Corps	
Old Item No.	40051	

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Biography

Monty Sklaar (21 December 1921 Cape Town, South Africa – 28 September 1996 Johannesburg, South Africa) service number 230861 (V) South African Corps of Signals (S.A.C.S.), nicknamed Snubby, was the youngest child of Barnett Sklaar (1870-1948) and Mary Sklaar nee Turest (1880-1955). His parents were immigrants from Lithuania and were married in Paarl in 1902. At the time of his birth, the family were living in Clanwilliam on the Cape West Coast. His father subsequently acquired a hotel in Robertson and Monty spent most of his childhood there before the family moved to Beaufort West. He matriculated at Beaufort West High School in 1939.

During World War Two Monty enlisted in the Union Defence Force. It was before his 21st birthday. He forged his parents' signature giving him permission to do so. He was assigned to the South African Corps of Signals and was a signaler. He was trained in Komatipoort before being shipped 'up North'. He fought in Egypt and Italy. After the war, he spent a year in Bellagio, Italy, waiting to be repatriated home. He was demobilized on the 19 February 1946.

On his return to South Africa Monty went to East London to study pharmacy, on a bursary from the South African Government.

He married Molly Seftel (1930-2020), They had two daughters, Louise born in

1958 and Philippa in 1960. He served on the Johannesburg Management Committee for many years. In 1975 he became the Deputy Mayor of Johannesburg and the following year the Mayor.

He died in September 1996.

Personal Story

Monty Sklaar (21 December 1921 Cape Town, South Africa – 28 September 1996 Johannesburg, South Africa) service number 230861 (V) South African Corps of Signals (S.A.C.S.), nicknamed Snubby, was the youngest child of Barnett Sklaar (1870-1948) and Mary Sklaar nee Turest (1880-1955). His parents were immigrants from Lithuania and were married in Paarl in 1902. At the time of his birth, the family were living in Clanwilliam on the Cape West Coast. His father subsequently acquired a hotel in Robertson and Monty spent most of his childhood there before the family moved to Beaufort West. He matriculated at Beaufort West High School in 1939. He was at school with Christiaan Barnard (1922-2001) cardiac surgeon, who were performed the world's first heart transplant, and his younger brother Marius Barnard (1927-2014). Marius Barnard became a personal friend when Monty and Marius became reacquainted in the South African political circles later on in life.

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On his return to South Africa Monty went to East London to study pharmacy, on

a bursary from the South African Government. His older brother Max Sklaar (1919-2006), also a pharmacist, had a pharmacy in Mayfair, Johannesburg and Monty joined him. Monty eventually acquired 'The 'shop', Green's Pharmacy and worked there until he sold it in the early 1980s. He met his wife, Molly Seftel (1930-2020), an actress, in 'The shop' and they were married in 1957. They had two daughters, Louise born in 1958 and Philippa in 1960.

Monty Sklaar was an extremely gregarious man who had a strong moral code coupled with a concern and commitment to community. He was elected a city councilor in the early 60's, representing the Langlaagte-Mayfair constituency. He was an integral part of the Mayfair Crosby community, serving on the local Bowling committee even though he did not play bowls, on the John Ware Primary School Parents Teacher Association (PTA) as well as being active in his daughters' schools' PTA. He and his wife treated everyone with dignity, and he had a very large Black clientele. Many of his customers came to him for every kind of advice and he often lent them money. Many of these customers lived on the surrounding gold mines and got off the train in Mayfair on their way to and from Soweto. A woman, Mariana Kekana, who lived in Soweto was in the pharmacy one day when her waters broke. Monty rushed her to Baragwanath Hospital where she gave birth to a daughter who she named Molly. Two years later, she gave birth to a son who she named Monty. The Sklaars maintained contact with the Kekana family and helped educate the two children.

Monty served on the Johannesburg Management Committee for many years. In 1975 he became the Deputy Mayor of Johannesburg and the following year the Mayor. His theme was "Meet the People". He and his wife were keen to break down existing class and racial barriers and for the first time in the history of Johannesburg, Black, Coloured and Indian citizens were included in the city functions. Monty was an Alderman of the Hebrew Order of David and was acknowledged for the contribution he made to Johannesburg during his term of

office as Mayor. After Monty stepped down as Mayor, both he and Molly joined the liberal Progressive Party. In 1978 he won the constituency of Highlands North for the Progressive Party.

Monty suffered a stroke in 1987 which left him with very limited speech. A second stroke in 1994 resulted in paralysis. He died in September 1996 and was survived by his wife and daughters.

Source:

Louise Kremeris, nee Sklaar, daughter.

<https://sajmarchives.com/molly-seftel-sklaar-collection>

https://esat.sun.ac.za/index.php/Molly_Seftel

Related Materials



Monty Sklaar soldier



Molly Sklaar with Molly Kekana and Monty Kekana



Monty Sklaar and Molly Sklaar with the Kekana children
Molly and Monty, Soweto



Monty Sklaar Hebrew Order of David



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Monty Sklaar UDF