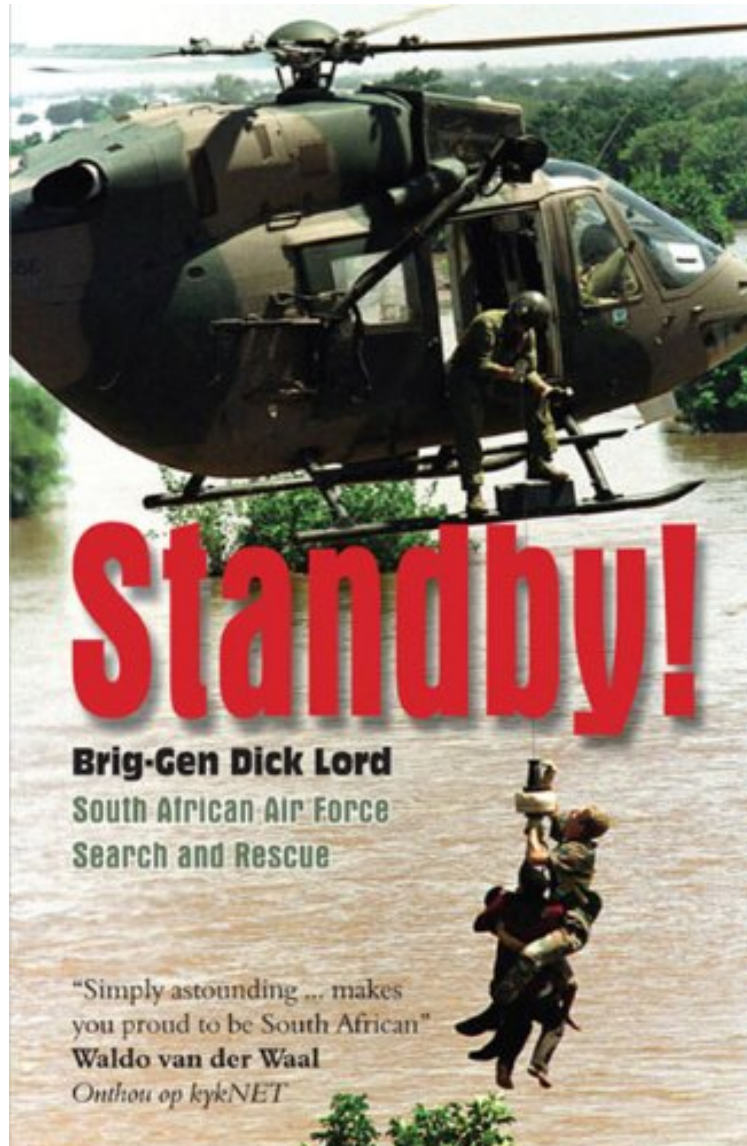


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Standby!: South African Air Force Search and Rescue

Dick Lord

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Dick Lord : Standby!: South African Air Force Search and Rescue before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Standby!: South African Air Force Search and Rescue:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent!By GarethWhat a fantastic journey into this all too often hidden world of ordinary people who are in fact one and all hero's. The Oceanos sinking was particularly moving and an exceptional feat of organisation, dedication and bravery on so many levels. Non-fiction is often not particularly well written, but this is exceptionally well done and eloquently written.

Unsung heroes the selfless heroism of South Africa's airmen In the air force no mission receives greater priority than the mission of mercy. When lives are at stake all resources available are dedicated to the task. Aircrew, ground crew, paramedics, doctors, mountaineers, navy divers, policemen and trained civilian volunteers are rapidly organized into a rescue team and dispatched with all haste to the disaster scene. This requires training, preparedness, dedication, determination and courage. Rescue missions are often flown in weather conditions that would normally ground all aircraft. Scenarios are as diverse as high-rise fires, mountain, flood and maritime rescues, to white-outs in the snows of Antarctica. Originally published in 1999 as *Fire, Flood and Ice*, this updated edition includes yet more spectacular South African Air Force (SAAF) search and rescue missions, both military and civilian. Included is the remarkable rescue of all 581 people from the ill-fated liner *Oceanos*, for which the author was mentioned in dispatches for his role as commander of the rescue operation. Also new are heart-warming accounts of SAAF rescues during the devastating floods of 2000 in Mozambique, which captured the world's attention. Dick Lord was born in Johannesburg where he grew up. He joined the Royal Navy in 1958, where he qualified as a fighter pilot. Flying *Sea Venoms* and *Sea Vixens*, he served on the aircraft carriers *Centaur*, *Victorious*, *Hermes* and *Ark Royal*. He did a two-year exchange tour with the US Navy, flying A4 Skyhawks and F4 Phantoms out of San Diego, California. He completed tours of air warfare instruction, flying Hunters out of the naval air stations at Lossiemouth, Scotland and Brawdy, Wales. He returned to South Africa in early 70s and joined the South African Air Force (SAAF), flying Impalas, Sabres and Mirage IIIs. During the Border War, he commanded 1 Squadron, flying Mirage F1AZs into Angola, followed by running air force operations out of Oshakati, Windhoek and SAAF Headquarters in Pretoria. A highlight of his career was organizing the successful fly-past of 76 aircraft for Nelson Mandela's inauguration as President of South Africa in 1994. He is also author of *Vlamgat The Story of the Mirage F1 in the South African Air Force, From Tailhooker to Mudmover and From Fledgling to Eagle The South African Air Force during the Border War*. He is retired and lives near Cape Town with his wife June.

About the Author Brigadier-General DICK LORD was born in Johannesburg where he grew up. He joined the Royal Navy as an air cadet in 1958, where he qualified as a fighter pilot. Flying *Sea Venoms* and *Sea Vixens*, he served on board the aircraft carriers *Centaur*, *Victorious*, *Hermes* and *Ark Royal* on cruises around the world. In the mid 60s, he was selected for a two-year exchange tour with the US Navy, flying A4 Skyhawks and F4 Phantoms out of San Diego, California. He completed tours of air warfare instruction, flying Hunters out of the naval air stations at Lossiemouth, Scotland and Brawdy, Wales. He returned to South Africa in early 70s and joined the South African Air Force (SAAF), flying Impalas, Sabres and Mirage IIIs. During the Border War, he commanded 1 Squadron, flying Mirage F1AZs into Angola, followed by running air force operations out of Oshakati, Windhoek and SAAF Headquarters in Pretoria. He was mentioned in dispatches for his role in the remarkable rescue of all 581 people from the ill-fated liner *Oceanos*. A highlight of his career was organizing the successful fly-past of 76 aircraft for Nelson Mandela's inauguration as President of South Africa in 1994. He retired to Somerset West near Cape Town with his wife June. He is also author of *Fire, Flood and Ice* (to be republished in 2011 as *Standby!*), his first book, which chronicles some of the SAAF's spectacular search and rescue operations; *Vlamgat The Story of the Mirage F1 in the South African Air Force* and his latest best-seller, *From Fledgling to Eagle The South African Air Force during the Border War*, released in late 2008.