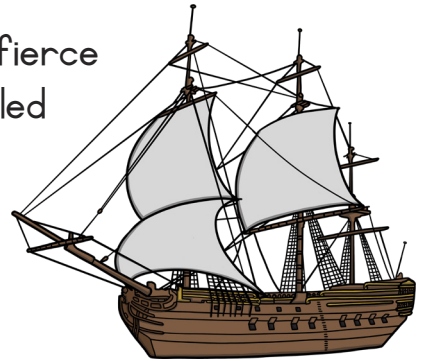


Wolraad Woltemade

The story of Wolraad Woltemade is a beautiful tale of a brave man and his horse, Vonk, who died while rescuing sailors after a ship was wrecked off the coast of South Africa.

On Sunday, 30th May 1773 there was a fierce storm in Table Bay, Cape Town - also called the "Cape of Storms". There were five ships lying in the bay. The storm was so bad that the ships' hawsers holding the anchors began to snap under the pressure from the storm.



The storm intensified and in the early hours of June 1st, one of the ships, the De Jonge Thomas, broke loose from its last anchor. The wind and waves dragged the ship, anchor and all, across the bay and into the sandbank, breaking the ship in half.

There were 207 men on board, when the ship split into two. The sailors were desperately calling for help as the relentless waves hammered the ship against the sandbank.



On the morning of June 1st, Governor van Plettenberg sent thirty soldiers to assist survivors and to prevent looting from the shipwreck. Corporal Christian

Ludwig Woltemade was one of these soldiers. He was the youngest son of Wolraad.



By this time the sailors were falling into the raging sea. Many drowned attempting to swim ashore.

A crowd of spectators also gathered on the beach—everyone too scared to brave the stormy sea.

As daylight came, the 65 year old Wolraad left his home, on horseback, taking provisions to his son. On the beach, on top of a sand ridge, he paused for a

moment - staring down at the storm-tossed bay, wondering why the soldiers made no attempt to swim out and help the drowning sailors.

Wolraad realised that nothing could be done by those on the beach. Filled with pity for the poor sailors, he mounted Vonk and galloped into the freezing waters of the deadly sea of towering waves.

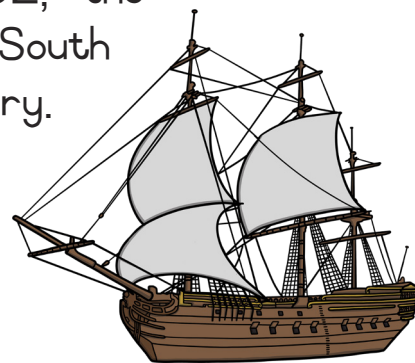


Seven times they swam out to the wreck and fourteen people were dragged back to shore two by two. By this time Wolraad and Vonk were exhausted, but the cries from the ship spurred Wolraad on. The courageous pair plunged back into the sea an eighth time, but as they approached the wreck, six men leapt from the ship and grabbed hold of Vonk's tail and mane. It was too much for the poor creature. They were all dragged below the waves and drowned.



Wolraad Woltemade drowned as a hero that day. Of the 207 people who were on board, only 53 survived and 14 of them were saved by Wolraad. In honour of his bravery, a ship was named after him: De Held Woltemade - Woltemade, the Hero. His name was

also given to several stations, streets and legendary tug boats. Until 2002, the Woltemade Cross for Bravery was South Africa's highest award for civilian bravery.



Questions

1. Which type of animal helped Wolraad Woltemade to save the drowning sailors? Choose one.

☐

A dog

☐

A horse

☐

A donkey

2. How many ships were lying in Table Bay on the night of 30 May 1773? Choose one.

☐

5

☐

3

☐

7

3. What happened to the ship, the De Jonge Thomas in the early hours of June 1st? Complete the sentence.

The De Jonge Thomas broke loose from its last _____
and crashed against the _____.

4. How many men were on board the ship when it crashed into the sandbank? Choose one.

☐

53

☐

30

☐

207

5. Why did no one on the beach try to save the drowning sailors? Complete the sentence.

Everyone on the beach were too _____ to brave the stormy sea.

6. How many people did Wolraad Woltemade save that day?

☐

14

☐

53

☐

7

7. True or False? A ship was named after Wolraad Woltemade, the De Held Woltemade.

True

False

Answers

1. Which type of animal helped Wolraad Woltemade to save the drowning sailors?
Choose one.

☐

A dog

☒**A horse**☐

A donkey

2. How many ships were lying in Table Bay on the night of 30 May 1773?
Choose one.

☒**5**☐

3

☐

7

3. What happened to the ship, the De Jonge Thomas in the early hours of June 1st? Complete the sentence.

The De Jonge Thomas broke loose from its last **anchor** and crashed against the **sandbank**.

4. How many men were on board the ship when it crashed into the sandbank?
Choose one.

☐

53

☐

30

☒**207**

5. Why did no one on the beach try to save the drowning sailors? Complete the sentence.

Everyone on the beach were too **scared** to brave the stormy sea.

6. How many people did Wolraad Woltemade save that day?

☒**14**☐

53

☐

7

7. True or False? A ship was named after Wolraad Woltemade, the De Held Woltemade.

True

False

Questions

1. How was the weather on Sunday night 30 May 1773 in Table Bay, Cape Town? Choose two.

☐

windy

☐

sunny

☐

stormy

2. Number the following events 1 - 5 to show the correct order. Number one has been done for you.

	The sailors were falling into the raging sea.
	One of the ships, the De Jonge Thomas broke loose from its last anchor.
	The ship hit the sandbank and broke in half.
	The wind and waves dragged the ship across the bay.
1	The five ships' anchors began to snap under the pressure of the storm.

3. True or False? Corporal Christian Ludwig was the youngest son of Wolraad Woltemade.

True

False

4. How many men were on board the ship when it crashed?

5. Why did no one on the beach try to save the drowning sailors?

6. Complete the sentence.

Wolraad and Vonk swam out _____ times to the wreck and saved _____ people that day.

7. In honour of his bravery, a ship was named after Wolraad. What was it called and what does it mean?

Answers

1. How was the weather on Sunday night 30 May 1773 in Table Bay, Cape Town? Choose two.



windy



sunny



stormy

2. Number the following events 1 – 5 to show the correct order. Number one has been done for you.

5	The sailors were falling into the raging sea.
2	One of the ships, the De Jonge Thomas broke loose from its last anchor.
4	The ship hit the sandbank and broke in half.
3	The wind and waves dragged the ship across the bay.
1	The five ships' anchors began to snap under the pressure of the storm.

3. True or False? Corporal Christian Ludwig was the youngest son of Wolraad Woltemade.

True

False

4. How many men were on board the ship when it crashed?

207

5. Why did no one on the beach try to save the drowning sailors?

Everyone was too **scared** to enter the stormy sea.

6. Complete the sentence.

Wolraad and Vonk swam out **seven** times to the wreck and saved **fourteen** people that day.

7. In honour of his bravery, a ship was named after Wolraad. What was it called and what does it mean?

It was called De Held Woltemade and it means Woltemade, the hero.

Questions

1. How was the weather on Sunday night 30 May 1773 in Table Bay, Cape Town?

2. Number the following events 1 - 5 to show the correct order.

	The sailors were falling into the raging sea.
	One of the ships, the De Jonge Thomas broke loose from its last anchor.
	The ship hit the sandbank and broke in half.
	The wind and waves dragged the ship across the bay.
	The five ships' anchors began to snap under the pressure of the storm.

3. Who was Corporal Christian Ludwig? What was he doing on the beach on June 1st 1773?

4. How did Wolraad Woltemade save fourteen people that day?

5. What happened the eighth time when Wolraad and Vonk went back into the sea?

6. Why was there a ship named after Wolraad Woltemade?

Answers

1. How was the weather on Sunday night 30 May 1773 in Table Bay, Cape Town?

It was a stormy and windy night.

2. Number the following events 1 – 5 to show the correct order.

5	The sailors were falling into the raging sea.
2	One of the ships, the De Jonge Thomas broke loose from its last anchor.
4	The ship hit the sandbank and broke in half.
3	The wind and waves dragged the ship across the bay.
1	The five ships' anchors began to snap under the pressure of the storm.

3. Who was Corporal Christian Ludwig? What was he doing on the beach on June 1st 1773?

Accept any similar answer: He was the youngest son of Wolraad and was sent with 29 other soldiers to assist survivors and to prevent looting from the shipwreck.

4. How did Wolraad Woltemade save fourteen people that day?

Accept any similar answer: Wolraad and Vonk swam out seven times to the wreck and dragged fourteen men back to shore two by two.

5. What happened the eighth time when Wolraad and Vonk went back into the sea?

Accept any similar answer: As they approached the wreck, six men leapt from the ship and grabbed hold of Vonk. The weight was too much and they were all dragged below the waves and drowned.

6. Why was there a ship named after Wolraad Woltemade?

Accept any similar answer: To honour his bravery. To remember the story of Wolraad Woltemade.