



## VAALDAM DAM (26.881646 S; 28.115638 E)

Completed: **1938**  
Raised: **1953 and 1985**

River: **Vaal River.**

Capacity: **2610 million m<sup>3</sup>**

Type of dam: **Concrete gravity.**

Length of wall (top): **800 m**

Length of dam (from dam wall to inflow): **60 km**

Nearest town: **Vereniging.**

Surface area: **32 000 ha**

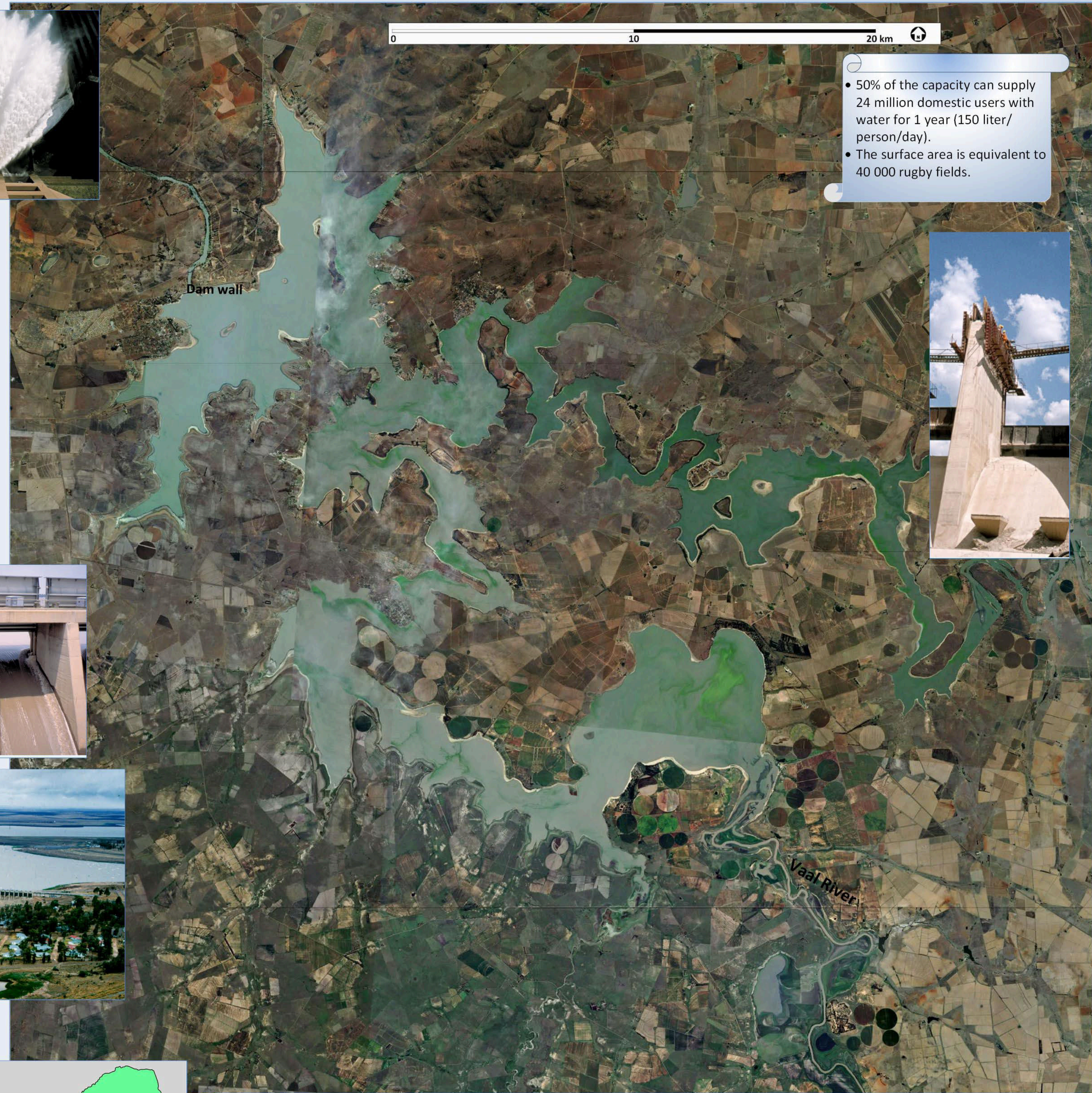
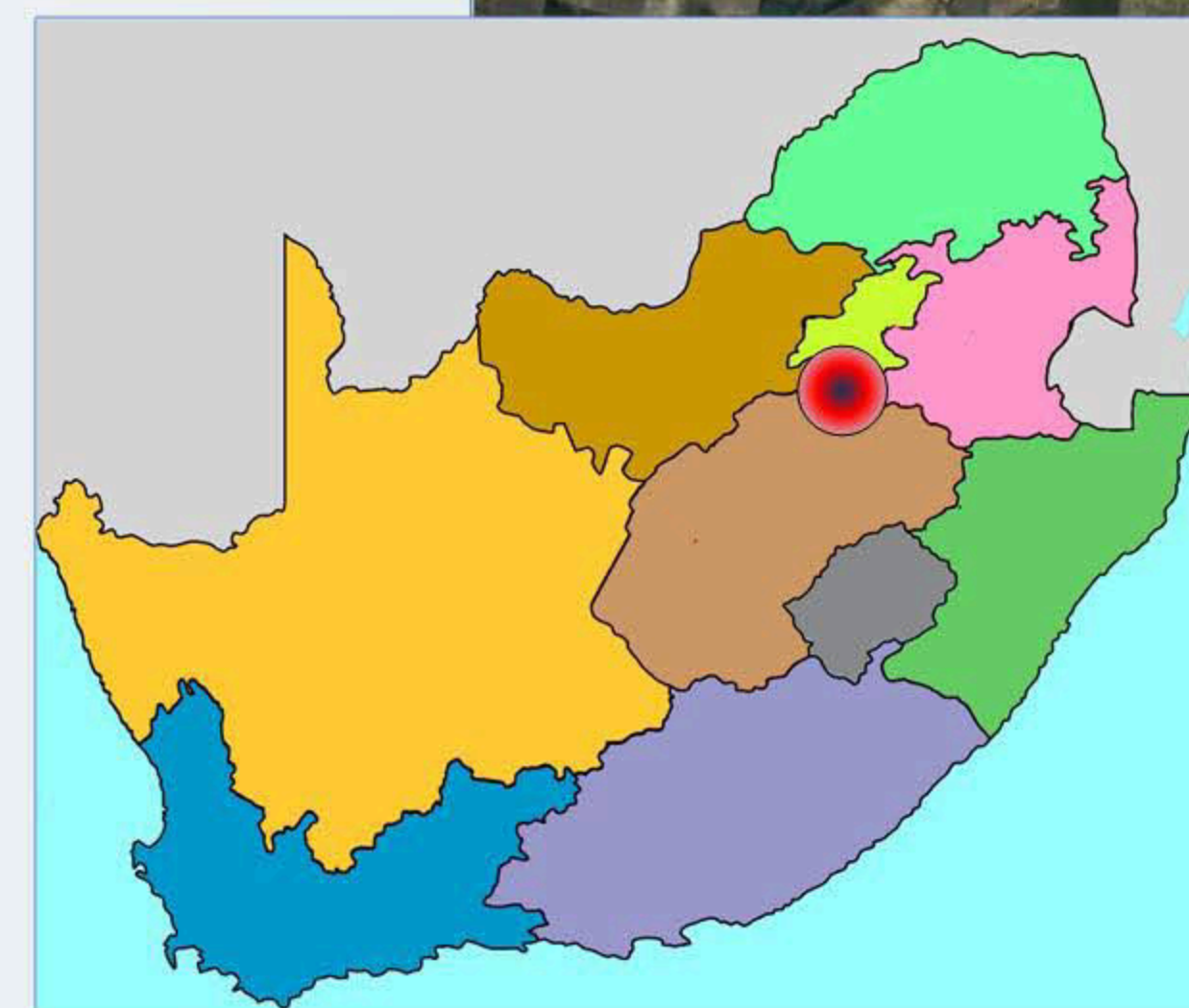
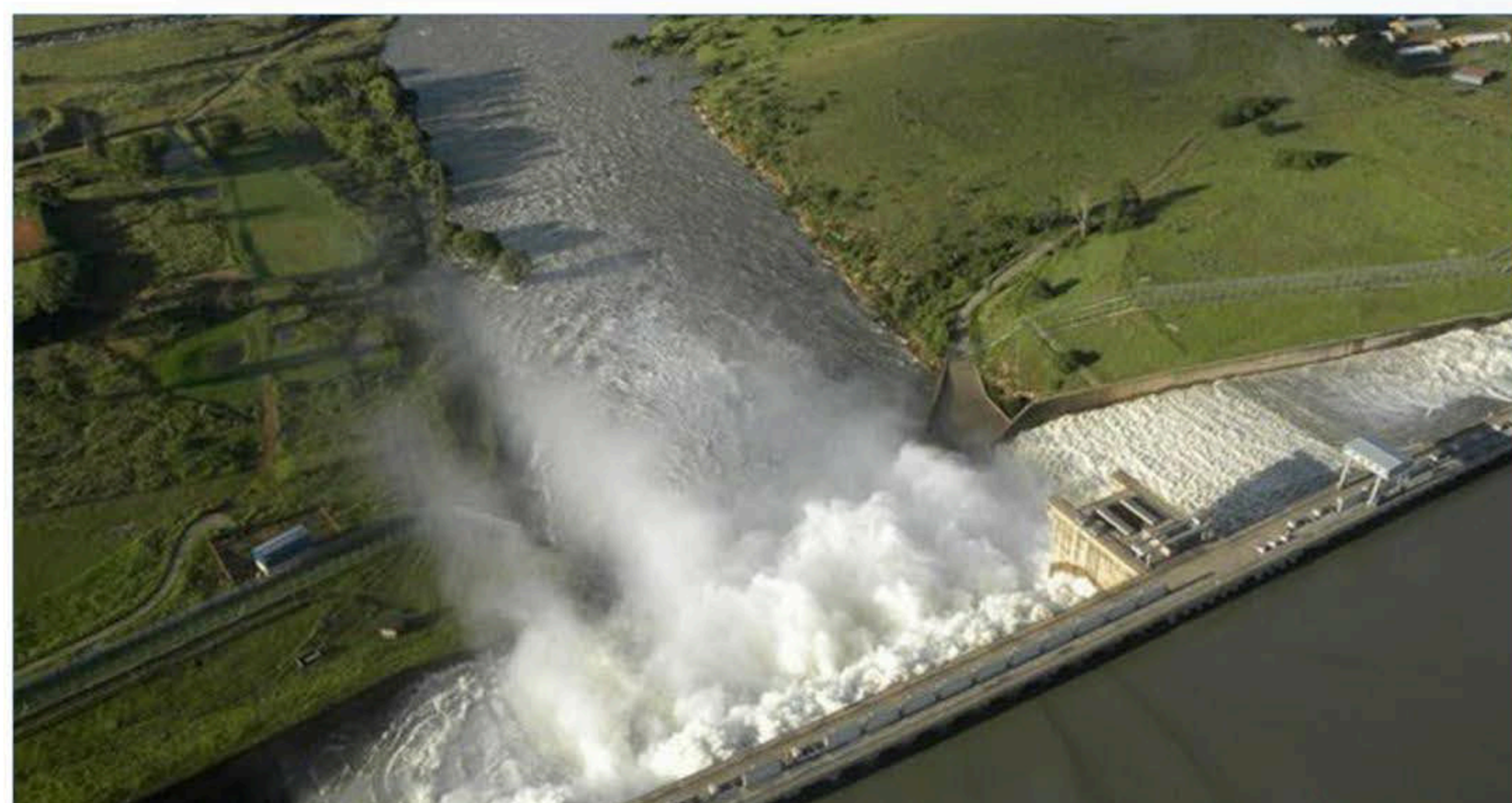
Water use: **Domestic and industrial.**

Capacity compared to the Gariep Dam: **50%.**

References, literature and photos:

References: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaal\\_Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaal_Dam);

Photos: DWA; Google Earth Panoramio



- 50% of the capacity can supply 24 million domestic users with water for 1 year (150 liter/person/day).
- The surface area is equivalent to 40 000 rugby fields.



The construction of Vaal Dam started during the depression in the early thirties and the dam was completed in 1938 with a wall height of 54.2 m and a capacity of 994 million cubic metres. It was built as a joint venture by Rand Water and the Department of Water Affairs. The dam was raised in the early fifties and in 1985 A height of to 63.4 m. The Lesotho Highlands Water Project feeds water into the system by gravity. The Sterkfontein Dam forms part of the Tugela-Vaal water transfer scheme And water from the Sterkfontein Dam is released once the Vaal Dam drops to below 16%. The dam has its own island some 5 km long. The island was used as a secret meeting place by the apartheid government but now hosts the annual Round the Island Yacht race. On 4 May 1948 BOAC introduced Short Solent flying boats on the UK to South Africa. The small village of Deneysville was used as a stop-over point by the old BOAC flying boats.