

STANDER

Crime History – South African Legend - Action Packed – Modern-Day Robin Hood:
FAKE



by Coyote Weeds

"A former **police captain**, born and raised in Pretoria, and the son of a **police general**, André Stander was the **stuff of fiction**, or rather pulp fiction. As a character, he seemed completely implausible. If you'd made him up, no one would have believed you. Yet that was André Stander, a walking contradiction."

-Allan Heyl, a member of the Stander Gang

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Notice: *This is just my opinion, based on Internet research which anyone can do, but hardly ever does. Or if they do, they come to the wrong conclusions. (Miles in **green**)*

This is one of those “true crime” stories which doesn’t make a lot of sense when you really look at it; a trend Miles and guest writers keep running into.

This is the story of a South African police captain turned bank robber and the chase to arrest him between 1977 and 1980 as well as subsequent bank robbing sprees with the Stander Gang up to 1984. Pictured above is Thomas Jane playing Captain [André Stander](#) (**fudge of Stanley?**) from the film released in 2003. The mug shot photo is of André after he was captured by police in Fort Lauderdale, FL, where he allegedly fled to. You’ll notice right away he is not looking at the camera. This is the only mug shot I can find online. It’s hard to believe they didn’t make him retake the photo but we’ve seen this many times before with fake criminal mug shots.

As someone who likes action movies now and then, I will say it's entertaining (or at least I enjoyed watching it with friends many years ago). The film was OK; it's not overly violent, the writing has humor mixed in and Thomas Jane overall was fun to watch. Who doesn't like a Robin Hood-like heist story occasionally? The film appears to be a box office bomb however, only grossing around \$300,000 despite a \$15 million dollar budget! The film was first shown at The International Toronto Film festival, where I'm sure many propaganda productions are first shown. The film also makes changes to the story, possibly making Stander's actions more understandable or maybe even more believable. He's portrayed as an anti-hero, turning against the system due to corruption, classism, and racism. I'm not sure how South Africans felt about Stander, but that is what I felt watching the film for the first time. In the film, even a bank manager gets all excited upon learning he was robbed by the Stander Gang, implying they've become infamous underdogs of some kind. Another scene shows Stander giving away the money he steals from his first bank to some poor man on the street.

Starting at the Wikipedia page on Stander, we get a sense of how farfetched this story is. "He sometimes carried out the crime on his lunch break, often returning to the scene as an investigating officer." Stander robbed 20 banks or more before he was arrested and sentenced to 75 years in prison on May 6th, 1980. "However, since many of the charges in the sentence ran concurrently, he faced an actual sentence of 17 years." What? Hoes does that happen? For more confusion, the film depicts Stander being sentenced to 32 years in prison. It was that or 33. Couldn't the producers look up the actually record of his sentence?

Or maybe this is a typo from [this link](#) used on the Wiki page. There we find it says 17 years, not 17. Even still, 17 seems to be the most common among the sources online. The linked article explains Stander was caught because he bragged to one his best friends in the **Bureau of State Security (BOSS)**, Carl van Deventer, even inviting him to join in on his robbing spree! Just so you know, BOSS is the South African state intelligence agency, aka a high budget and secretive institution (*we'll come back to them later*). How did Stander know people in the South African equivalent of CIA? Deventer began a tailing unit of Stander, where they found he was using stolen vehicles parked at the Jan Smuts airport. Stander would often times fly to another city, rob a bank, and fly back. In this parked car, Deventer found a balaclava as well as false wigs/beards/mustaches. Leaving the car as they had found it, Deventer staked the vehicle as Stander came to remove items from the car. The next day, a bank was robbed in Durban. This was somehow enough proof Stander was the culprit? The day after, January 4th, Stander flew back to Johannesburg from Durban where police, headed by Major-General Kobus Visser of the CID (Criminal Investigation Department) of the South African Police, were waiting for him at the airport. Upon arrest they discovered 4000 rand, a balaclava, a revolver, a false mustache and beard in his luggage.

None of the last paragraph is mentioned in the film from 2003, and he never leaves to rob banks in cities using the airport. His capture in the film happens at a bank, staked out from his best friend (named Cor Van Deventer!) in his department, who finally figures out the robbing sprees are Stander's doing. So, the film moved Carl from BOSS to SAP, and also changed his name slightly. Funnily enough, an airport robbery is planned in the film by the Stander Gang (we'll get to them in a moment), but it is called off last minute by Stander, who is suspicious it may be trap (spoiler alert: it is).

After his capture in 1980 during his first trial, we are told Stander's motivation to rob banks stems from his involvement in the [Soweto uprising](#) in 1976. He and his fellow officers shot and killed 176 unarmed schoolchildren. However, another linked article on Wiki claims Stander was not present with the police

contingent at Thembisa where the uprising took place. In the film, Stander is forced to help contain a riot with his fellow officers, where he shoots a man threatening to hit him. The next scenes depict Stander going through a downward spiral/mental breakdown with friends and family before starting to rob banks.

Stander was then sent to Zonderwater maximum security prison near Cullinan where he would meet fellow bank robbers Patrick Lee McCall and (George) Allan Heyl (whose first name is hardly mentioned in any publications and sometimes spelled Alan instead of Allan). The only insight I could find during this time in Zonderwater comes from Heyl, the last surviving member of the trio, who wrote a book published in 2018: *Bank Robber – My time with André Stander*. It was quite a painful read for me; it's a terribly written mess, equivalent to an 8th grade boy's book report rushed to make the deadline. I found it full of inconsistencies (as well as contradictions to the official narrative), unbelievable behavior, crime story clichés, filler, etc. How Heyl ends up in Zonderwater is incredible. One moment, he is a careful bank robber, but the next he's doing unbelievably stupid things. For instance, the last bank he robs before he is arrested, Heyl uses a BMW motorcycle where he alters his license plate with black tape, changing it from TJ 934394 to TJ 3439. The police will surely never figure it out!

In the film we hear a story of from Heyl (played by David O'Hara) about how he got into armed robbery. His black girlfriend, pregnant with his child, was beaten up by a bunch of white guys. Heyl admits in his book from 2018 he completely made this story up. Being that Heyl was one of the primary sources for the film, it's hard to believe they could get that wrong by accident. Obviously, it's in the film as another Apartheid-pushing button.

There are a number of interviews with Heyl online where I found this still shot of him giving what I believe is a signal:



According to Heyl, he helped plan how Stander would escape from Zonderwater prison. On pg 72 of his book, Stander tells Heyl:

...'There's nothing I want to do more than rob lots and lots of banks again and, despite what you've told me about not trusting anyone, I'll tell you this: **if I have just one day left of my sentence to serve and I get the chance to escape, then I'll escape.**' He said it calmly; he was clearly dead serious. 'We need not beat about the bush with each other. So

now you know that I'm intent on escaping. I know my secret's safe with you.

So please, if you have a plausible idea about how to get out of here, I'll be grateful if you'll share it with me."

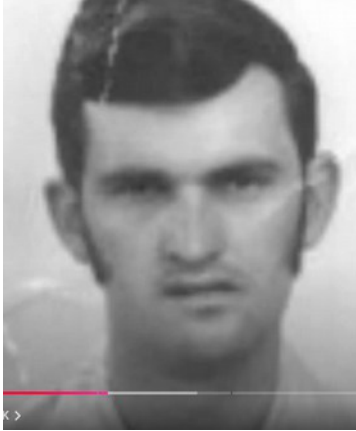
Does this sound very real to you? Clearly dead serious? The whole book reads like this by the way, with a nauseating number of unnecessary adjectives and adverbs.

Stander would later come back for Heyl during his trades test. Fearing Stander wouldn't be able to take one of the tougher guards (referred to as Fires) or any other guards present, the pair decide McCall (who also really wants to escape) should be in on the plan. Both men didn't like or trust McCall according to Heyl. Stander was cheated out of money from him once and Heyl also had a fist fight with him. The plan was for Stander to overpower this guard named Fires, who is both a sadistic torture-loving psycho, but stupid enough to become good friends with Stander over books and a set of golf clubs Stander promised to deliver. Fires only gives Stander a more relaxed pat down during transfers, allowing Stander to hide some kind of pipe weapon Heyl makes for him. Seriously, this is what is written in the book according to Heyl.

There are many bizarre reveals in Heyl's book. For example, on pg 62, we are told,

"[McCall] said he had been sentenced to fifteen years for his involvement in highly complex international fraud, the intricacies of which I struggled to follow. He had twice escaped from custody, the more recent being from Victor Verster Prison outside Paarl. Despite these escapades, **none of the authorities - neither the police nor the prisons - had ever photographed him.**"

I don't know why Heyl bothers to mention this in the book. Why would Heyl know this during his time in prison? And how could authorities not take photographs? Absolute vaudeville. Was there even a McCall at all? I was only able to find one photo of McCall from a [youtube channel](#). None of the sources linked to the channel led to this photo, so I'm not sure how or where it was found.



Stander would escape prison with McCall on **August 11**, 1983; aces and eights. It is said Stander and McCall faked their injuries (also depicted in the film) in order to meet with the physiotherapist on site. Wikipedia says Stander and McCall were left with a female PT, overwhelmed her and escaped with her car. This seems extremely farfetched from what I can gather about physiotherapists who work in prisons. PTs in prison work on a one-to-one basis, typically with the inmate still behind bars, while the therapist instructs with armed guards. However, the ficacrime-mystery article I linked above states they overpowered **THREE** prison officers, taking their revolvers. This correlates to Heyl's version. Four months later, Stander and McCall helped Heyl escape at nearby Olifantsfontein, where Heyl was taking a Trades test. Heyl had actually been planning an escape at this test site even before he met Stander. What date did they spring Heyl from prison? **October 31st: Halloween**; a favorite spook holiday.

None of this sounds believable in the least, especially escaping a maximum-security prison, but maybe it all makes sense when we note who Stander's father is. His father is not named in genealogy searches, but we are told at Wikipedia his name is Major General Francois Jacobus Stander, **a prominent figure in the South African Prison Service**! If that isn't the biggest red flag in this whole saga, I don't know what is.

Stander, McCall, and Heyl would be known as the Stander Gang, robbing banks together until January 1984. From Heyl's book on pg 132., Heyl gives us his opinion when the first report called them as such:

"The title had been invented by a Pretoria reporter, and soon it had caught on in every publication. It was a tag that would spawn many myths, some of them lasting decades. The rogue cop - the anti-hero - had become a daredevil folk hero joining the panoply beside Robin Hood, Rob Roy, Billy the Kid, Ned Kelly, John Dillinger, Clyde Barrow. In a country isolated from international sporting and cultural events and ruled by the iron fist of a police state, many embraced with relish the legend of André Stander."

Since all of those guys are fake, the report is just giving us the clue about Stander as well. They are alleged to have robbed more than 20 banks, sometimes 3 or more on the same day. They had multiple

safe houses and a number of stolen vehicles. They were “masters” of disguise, brazenly mocking the police for the two months of their robbing spree.

[This web article](#) offers interesting newspaper photographs of the saga:



Pictured from left to right is Stander, Heyl, and McCall. This McCall looks nothing like the previous photo I showed earlier. One could say it's because he's wearing a disguise, but according to Heyl, **McCall never wore a disguise**. Heyl says this is one of the reasons their hideouts got found out. I guess Stander and Heyl were just super nice and considerate gentleman for allowing the irritating McCall to do whatever he wanted.

The title of the article: Hy word nog n' 'Al Capone' translates to “He becomes another [Al Capone](#).” The paragraph below that translates to, “André Stander is going to become South Africa's Al Capone. The former police captain, now a fugitive criminal, is determined to get a gang of robbers together. Organized robberies are his goal, and he will not hesitate to kill if anyone gets in his way.”

Below is another photo from the same web article. You'll notice the picture of the guy in the middle is the same photo used for McCall up above, even though it's implied to be another disguise used by Stander here.



Between the film from 2003 and articles like the pictures above, it appears as though the crime spree started hot and heavy right from the time Heyl is sprung from prison, first robbing a gun store. Heyl's book from 2018 tells a slower (and stranger?) tale. On pg. 112, Stander chases Heyl around the pool of one of their safe houses, playing Russian roulette with himself and Heyl; like best buds in crime do, I guess. This pisses off Heyl a great deal. On pg. 117, Stander goads Heyl for not stealing a car and robbing a bank yet, saying he's lost his nerve. In response to this, Heyl decides to rob a bank **without** Stander, using McCall as his accomplice instead. On pg. 118, McCall and Heyl get in a massive car wreck, putting McCall in the hospital for a week. How a fugitive from prison was able to stay in a hospital for a week, with visitations from Heyl, only adds to the stupidity of this saga.

On pg. 121, Heyl and Stander finally rob banks together (I guess McCall stayed at the safe house, still recovering from the accident). The two have no plans, randomly choosing banks to rob that come to mind. Their first bank of the day is a large branch of the United Building Society. After Stander patiently waits in one of the many lines to the teller, Heyl describes the event as follows:

“André greeted the teller and discreetly showed her the gun he held in his left hand, which was partially in the bag. Softly he said, ‘No alarms. Put the cash on the counter. We just want the money. We won’t harm you, I promise.’

She did as he’d ordered. Quickly and deftly André stuffed the money into the bag.

We then moved to the second teller. 'Please excuse us,' I said to the customer she was serving and he obligingly took a step backwards. I told the teller to put the cash on the counter.

And this was how we proceeded, as if the operation had been choreographed. After the fifth teller, André glanced at me and we nodded in agreement. Time to go. As we approached the exit, a uniformed guard opened the door for us with a polite goodbye. I glanced back and, to my astonishment, realised that the customers were still queuing patiently. No one was even looking at us."

Yes of course, customers at a bank have no problem being cut off in line, and would never notice a teller piling money for the same guys 4 times in a row. The uniformed guard must have been doing his daily crossword puzzle. Makes total sense. Heyl and Stander then rob two more banks: Barclays Bank and Trust Bank; totaling three for the day.

I mentioned early the Stander Gang openly mocked the police, often using the same vehicles or using rare cars like **Stander's 911 Porsche**. On pg. 131, Stander and Heyl are scouting out a bank they wish to rob:

I was about to get out of the car when André grabbed my sleeve. He pointed upwards and there, on a first-floor balcony across the road, was a cop in camouflage gear with a shotgun and a radio. He was looking up and down the street and hadn't noticed us draw quietly into the parking space. Perhaps he was waiting for a high-speed arrival with squealing tyres. Here we were in the most infamous car in the country - a sky-blue Cortina XR6 - both of us wearing our trademark wigs and sunglasses, but to him we were invisible. On more than one occasion in the past weeks, while we'd been waiting at traffic lights, drivers alongside us had recognised us and waved sheepishly.

We looked at each other and almost telepathically came to the decision to go ... into the bank.

They proceeded to rob the bank peacefully and made their getaway without incident.

The Stander Gang in the 2003 film plan to rob the airport, but Stander cancels the plan last minute, luckily avoiding a trap set for them by police. However, in Heyl's account on pg. 125, Stander and Heyl **do** rob the airport. Despite the heavily armed police presence, the pair rob a bank for multiple currencies between a window of time where the guards are far enough away during patrol, and escape without a hitch. I'm not sure why the film changes this. Perhaps because the story there sounds nearly impossible.

Pg 144. McCall finally joins in on the bank robbing sprees, effectively robbing banks for about a week with the Stander Gang. Quoting from Heyl's convoluted mess of a book:

“During André’s days as the CID chief of the Isando area, he’d had his eye on the Barclays Bank in Electron Road. As there were many industrial businesses in the area, the bank was stocked with cash for the Friday payrolls. André reckoned we could score about R600 000. To get an idea of the movements of the cash-in-transit security vans, we had Mac stake out the bank for a few days.”

“We had decided to rob the bank on Friday 20 January 1984, but to get Mac into the swing of things, we headed out for a little ‘hopping’ on the Thursday. **André and I wore our usual disguises and Mac made no change to his appearance at all.** True, there were no photographs of him on the police records, but any photographs that might be inadvertently taken during a robbery would give them his true appearance. I thought he was being complacent, but in the end it was his decision.”

This Thursday robbing spree scored the Gang R160,000 in about ninety minutes. Not long after this, photos were published of the gang from one of the banks they robbed. The gang were making plans to escape the country by purchasing a yacht named the *Lily Rose* from the Royal Cape Yacht Club in Cape Town. On 27 January, 1984, we are told Stander flew to Fort Lauderdale, Florida using a false passport in order to arrange the sale. Why would he need to be in Florida for that? And if he can leave the country without a boat, why isn’t the rest of the gang doing so? To add more confusion, Heyl tells us he and Stander decided to give the boat to McCall, so they can finally distance themselves from him. Heyl also tells us Stander was in Florida purchasing a property from a Dr. Bhutto, a German diplomat to South Africa. What? I found zero information online about a Dr. Bhutto. Isn’t Bhutto an Indian name?

Three days later on 30 Jan, 1984, the South African police discovered one of the Gang’s hideouts using a tip-off from escort girls who were familiar with the Gang and their hideouts. Heyl calls McCall, informing him their hideouts have been compromised. McCall ignores his warnings because he had a long drive from Cape Town, choosing to rest instead. Police surrounded the building and demanded anyone inside to come out. McCall, the only member inside, refused to give up, firing at police from various rooms. The police eventually stormed the building, finding McCall dead on the floor. In the film, McCall walks out onto the balcony guns blazing, dying in a hail of gunfire.

After the death of McCall, Heyl left South Africa, first moving the Greek isle of **Hydra**, then England, and finally Spain. He moved back to England in order to retrieve “valuables” he left here, employing the help of a guy named Billy Williams. **So William Williams?** What these valuables are and why he needs some guy to help him get them is never explained. Anyway, Billy turns on Heyl, releasing his fake identity, John Philip Ball, as well as where Heyl is hiding to Scotland Yard. Heyl was then arrested at his girlfriend’s mother’s house in Surrey, England. For more confusion from Heyl, pg. 163:

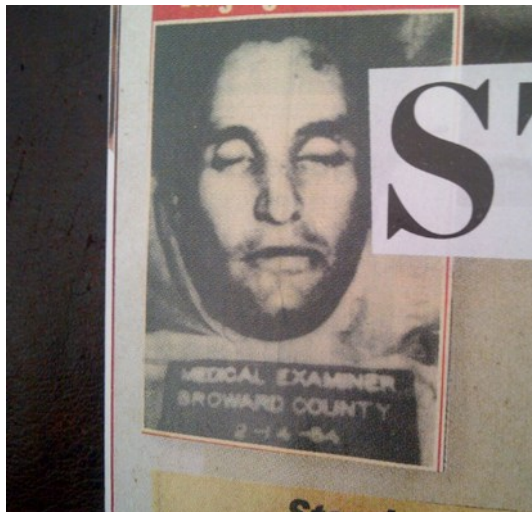
“In Basingstoke we [Heyl and some South African guy he met in Greece] held up a supermarket cash guard with the help of a toy gun. It was a messy robbery during which the guard dropped the money bag on the floor. **As I bent to pick it up, my address book fell, unobserved, out of my shirt pocket.** That book contained the London address of Teresa’s

mother, where I was staying. A few days later, the police came knocking.”

Riiiiight. Did Billy have anything to do with Heyl getting caught then? In May 1985, Heyl is sentenced to nine years in prison for armed robbery (apparently, he committed some robberies while in England) and illegal possession of a firearm. After serving time in England, he was extradited back to South Africa where he was sentenced to a further 33 years in prison. Of course. Heyl was released on parole on 18 May 2005. He became a motivational speaker, often talking about his time as a bank robber. Heyl died April 17, 2020.

Stander is said to have met his demise a few weeks after McCall, and his death is equally absurd. While in Fort Lauderdale, FL, Stander had purchased a 1973 Ford Mustang using a forged drivers license with the name of an Australian author, Peter Harris. On February 10, 1984, Stander was pulled over by police and arrested for driving an unregistered vehicle. Upon presenting his fake ID, the police officer recognized it was a forgery, seized it and added driver's license forgery to his list of offenses. **The police however, believed Stander's story about his identity, releasing him later that evening.** Does this sound believable at all? This story makes no sense.

Later that night, Stander broke into the police impound to get this Mustang back. After stealing his car back, he took it to the man who sold it to him, asking him to paint the car a different color. However, the dealer had just read about the Stander Gang in local newspaper, recognizing Stander is the man he sold his car to! What are the odds!? The dealer called the police who then surrounded the building Stander was staying in, waiting for him to return. As Stander returned to his building on a bicycle, officer Michael van Stetina attempted to arrest him, where a struggle ensued for Stetina's shotgun. The gun discharged on Stander, causing him to bleed to death before an ambulance could arrive. As usual, Heyl's account in his book contradicts this one. Heyl reports Stetina shot Stander to death with his pistol while he was trying to escape with his shotgun. Either way, I don't care to look into it any further. The scoopwhoop article I posted on pg. 5 gives us this picture after his death, which doesn't really look like him in my opinion:





[André Charles Stander](#) was born 22 November, 1946 and died 13 February, 1984. The photograph above is commonly found in search engines. His father was [Major General Francois Jacobus Stander](#) (1916–2001) according to Wikipedia, but he is listed as private on his [geni.com](#) page. His mother is Violet Stander, and has an extensive genealogy available. However, it gets weird right where we find her brother, father, grandfather, and g grandfather are all named Charles Henry Deacon; no juniors or seniors. Can this be right? The Deacon line ends in Bedford, UK. André's aunt married a [Le Roux](#), a surname meaning "[red-haired](#)" or "red-skinned". There are also three LeRoux's in the peagee.

André's maternal grandmother is [Gertruida Aletta Magdalena Strydom](#). The Strydom line goes back to Flanders, Belgium, with spellings changing from van Strijdonck to van Strydonck to Strijdom. An important link can be found at [Johannes Strydom \(b. 1760\)](#) whom married a Scheepers, with a direct line to [Admiraal Willem Bastiaensz Schepers](#), a [shipping company manager](#) located in the Netherlands.



From his Geni page, there is a summary in Danish I put though Google Translate:

“One of the most important 17th-century Rotterdam whaling shipowners was Willem Bastiaansz. Schepers. In 1683, as 'bookkeeper', he managed the administration of the largest shipping company in the

Maasstad, which at that time had 7 whalers. This merchant, born in Rotterdam in 1620, made efforts in 1672 to get the Maasstad on the side of the Prince and was appointed lieutenant-admiral of Holland and West-Friesland at the Noorderkwartier the following year, then at the Admiralty College of Amsterdam and finally at that of the Maze, when Aert Jansz. van Nes died in 1693. His most important deeds as a naval officer include commanding a squadron that was sent out in 1677 to support the Danes in their fight against Sweden - for which activity Schepers was ennobled by the Danish king - and accompanying Prince William III to England in 1688.”

I guess it should come as no surprise Stander comes from the founders of South Africa, specifically Cape of Good Hope. This is one of many links to Dutch/Danish East India Company will we make throughout the genealogy search.

Going back to André's maternal grandmother Gertruida, her father is a Calitz, le Grange, and a van Wyk. Her mother Jeanetta was also a Calitz (showing intermarrying). Following her paternal Calitz link a generation brings us to [Frederik Jacobus Calitz \(b. 1777\)](#), where an interesting split can be found. Frederik's mother Magdalena is a [Pretorius](#) and a [van den Berg](#). The van den Berg found here is also a Hack and [Sachs](#). Following the Pretorius, line I came across the wife of a Pretorius, [Johanna Sterrenberg](#). She is the daughter of the Dutch painter [Jans Victor](#) (b. 1619), known for his Biblical scenes. He was a member of the Calvinist Dutch Reformed Church.



Abraham and Isaac before the Sacrifice, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, 1642 (Wikipedia).

Calitz members leads to French ancestors Bacot, Labuschagne, and Moreau.

Let's jump another generation of André's to his maternal great grandmother, [Hendrina Antionetta Deacon \(van Loggerenberg\)](#), b. 1816. Her mother, Alberta, is a Joubert, her father being [Jacob Jacques Joubert](#). His mother is a de Villiers, linking us directly to [Pierre Joseph de Villiers](#), who held many positions close the Crown of France. We find more links to families de Fay, [de Dreux-Morainville](#), and so much more. Starting from [Jacques de Bossart de Dreux, Seigneur de Morainville \(circa 1430\)](#); his wife Guillemette de Segrie links us to de Poissy, de Craon, de Mello, a [de Beaumont \(1st Earl of Leicester\)](#), [Count Amadeus V of Savoy \(the Great, b. 1249\)](#), [Marguerite Beatrice of Savoy \(of Geneva\)](#), and many more nobles of Belgium, Germany, and even England. One of the de Craons married a [Isabelle de Saint-Maure \(circa 1280\)](#), and if we follow her de Thouars line, leads us to [Cecile de Laval \(circa 1150\)](#), directly linking us to FitzRoy and FitzWilliam. André seeds from Kings and Queens of Europe; Incredible. I didn't think André's line could be traced this far, but there it is.



MARGARET OF GENEVA, COUNTESS OF SAVOY, 1180 - 1252, WAS THE DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM I, COUNT OF GENEVA, AND BEATRICE DE FAUCIGNY.

In linking Stander to Stanleys, we first have to realize that Stander is a fudge of Standen, a British peerage name also from South Africa. See [Charles Standen](#), b. 1947 in South Africa, son of Cyril Standen, whose father is listed as Charles Barber. So a lot of misdirection already. Both of them apparently took the name of Cyril's mother-in-law, Mary Atherstone Barber. She links us to the Trotters (think Brad Pitt), who link us to the Gordons, Earls of Aberdeen and Dukes of Gordon, who link us to the Howard dukes, who link us to the Stuart kings, who link us to the Stanleys who put them on the throne. We also link to the Villiers, proving again these Standens are the same as the later Standers.

These Standens in the peerage married the Liddells in about 1860, linking us forward to Biden, who is a Liddell. I traced the Standens back to about 1630 in West Sussex and Kent, but then they disappear.

However, given their later links to the Stuarts, we can be pretty certain they were Stanleys hiding for some reason as Standens, later Stander.

I also have more information on Heyl. The von Heyls are Barons of Herrnshein, related to the Barons von Dungern, the Barons von Seefried and the von Hessens. These Heyls made their money from leather goods and later politics in Worms. They still live in the castle in Worms and have a Riesling winery out in the country. His son, Order of St. John, married the Princess Mathilde of Ysenburg and Buding. The living von Heyl is Cornelia, who married the Baron von Bodenhausen. She has two sons. The Baron von Bodenhausen also now lives in Somerset West, South Africa, tending to confirm once again we have the right Heyls here.

My brain keeps rattling as to why the Stander Gang was created; besides the typically fake loud news, much like we hear today. It was helpful for me to reread [Miles' \(and guest writer's\) paper on Mandela](#), keeping in mind the Stander saga ended just 10 years before Mandela took office. I would read Miles' paper to get a better context of the political atmosphere in South Africa from the 1970s onward. His paper concludes South Africa was planning to be looted during civil unrest and regime change during apartheid. I will suggest the Stander robbery story was just one small part of that. It seems the goals were to 1) make the government and police look inept and 2) really hammer the racism angle (i.e., make Stander a hero to the Blacks and other lower classes).

Or was this more to do with a longstanding covert war/feud between Dutch East India Company and the British East India Company. If so, which faction was the Stander project working for? My guess is BEIC. To confirm this, the answer may be found looking into the Intelligence agencies operating during this time. Remember, Stander had a friend, Carl van Deventer, who worked in the BOSS (Bureau of State Secretary). There is some (purposeful?) confusion as to whether Deventer worked for the South African Police (SAP) as well. However, I learned BOSS was the replacement for the [Republican Intelligence](#) unit of the Security Branch of the SAP, meaning there was quite a bit of overlap between all these entities.

The Wikipedia page for Republican Intelligence (RI) has very intriguing details surrounding it's creation. It ran 1961 to 1969. Before 1961, South Africa relied on Britain for intelligence services. RI was established after South Africa became a republic, withdrawing from the Commonwealth of Nations as well as *cutting ties with British Intelligence*. Years before this happened, we learn from wiki,

“The British authorities squashed any chance of an early national intelligence service [for South Africa], based on [MI5](#), being created in 1938 as they feared that it would be infiltrated by nationalist [Afrikaners](#), the [Ossewabrandwag](#) and Nazi sympathisers.^{[1]:Chp2} [Colonel Pierre de Villiers](#), Chief of South African Police and the countries liaison with MI5, approached MI5 in 1938 in an attempt to set up a security organization based on the latter.^{[2]:218}”

Did you see it? Stander is a de Villiers! The paragraph above makes me think de Villiers still wanted to keep ties with MI5, but it looks as though he was denied his request at the time. Before RI, intelligence was mostly conducted by SAP and The Security Branch, the latter formed in 1947. Same as CIA in the US. Security Branch spent much of its resources fighting Communism throughout the 50s. From wiki we are told, “The Branch became the leading agency in the administration and enforcement of the [Suppression of Communism Act of 1950](#) upon its enactment in July.^[1]”, and that this Act was

famously used in, “the prosecution of Nelson Mandela and 155 other anti-Apartheid activists during the [1956 Treason Trial](#), which followed a series of investigations, raids, and arrests by the Security Branch.^[12]” Miles has already shown the whole 1956 Treason Trial was a farce, with everyone acquitted and released.

In the 1963, the third commanding officer assigned to Security Branch is Hendrik van den Bergh. Remember, Stander is a van den Berg. Hendrik is said to be the founder of both Republican Intelligence and it’s subsequent replacement, BOSS. Hendrik left Security Branch to run BOSS full time. BOSS would be replaced in 1980 by the [National Intelligence Service](#). From that link to the wiki page, we are told,

“During the [Muldergate](#) scandal, in which the [Bureau of State Security](#) (BOSS) had become mired, the head of BOSS, [Hendrik van den Bergh](#), resigned in June 1978 and was replaced by Alec van Wyk:^[120]^[1]

^[122] The Bureau for State Security was then renamed the Department of National Security (DONS) in September 1978.^[1]”

Guess who else is a van Wyk? Stander! So, this is all coming together nicely.

However, there is some confusion elements in the timelines of the Stander story as well as the creation of NIS. At the top of the wiki page, it says BOSS formed out of NIS in 1980, but the paragraph I quoted above says it was first replaced by DONS in 1978. So, I guess both entities were the same? I see another mismatch in Stander’s solo bank robbing spree between 1977-1980, where we were told Stander’s friend in BOSS ratted him out. That would have been in 1980, when Stander was arrested. So did his friend Deventer work for NIS then, and not BOSS? None of this makes any sense. I can only conclude Stander and the Stander Gang were completely written by Intel committees, with no basis in reality.

For one more hilarious add on, I found an [article about a man claiming to be the son of André Stander](#), who works as a minister. Personally, I don’t believe it (or any of it really). Maybe the Stander presented to us was just a bank robbing caricature played by an actor (or actors; including the Stander Gang), while the real Stander sat behind his desk all day writing folk tales about himself.



Translation: André Stander is back! Actor Waldemar Schultz becomes the anti-hero. (Coyote Weeds: this actor also played a small cameo in the Stander film from 2003. You'll notice the car behind him is a Cortina XR6. Maybe it was all about selling more Ford cars?)