

# BATTLEDRESS

# SHELLHOLE



*We Will Remember Them...*

CENTRAL CIRCLE, FISH HOEK

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## BATTLECRY DEC-JAN 2024-2025

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Greetings from your Ragbill

Hello friends and a happy 2025 to you and yours. Welcome back! Apologies this issue was so late. I was about to join the front line in the Ukraine, but was deemed so good looking that I would be a distraction so I had to row all the way back home. That is the curse of being born handsome instead of rich.

In this issue we will reflect on the good times that the end of the year brought us and begin to look forward to all the events that will bring us together in the coming months; in the spirit of True Comradeship, Mutual Help and Sound Memory. Looking forward to fighting through another year with all of you at my side.



## Sunset Calls to Service



Fortunately none of our members have taken on the next part of their journey without us.



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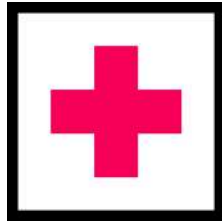
### WIDOWS NEWS

All Moth Widows had a happy and healthy festive season. Widow Pat Smith had a close call with some ne'er do well scammers, but the kindness of friends and neighbors prevailed. Everyone stay safe in these strange times we live in.



## INFIRMARY

Please keep Moth Ena, our beloved hero, in your prayers as she fights off that wretched virus that refuses to leave us as well as that of her grandson. Her daughter Elaine is also currently recovering from Surgery.



## ON THE MEND

The following Moth and Moth Family members are on the road to recovery



MSS Helen De Wet

Moth Vin York

## OTHER WELFARE NEWS

Please consider donating magazines, which are always received so gratefully. Contact MSS Helen De Wet if you can help supply this much loved reading material.

(Except for your old collection of Scopes, nobody wants those.)



# PEARL HARBOUR

CONTRIBUTED BY MOTH ROBBY ABRAHAMSE

By 1941 the world depression, with it's own over population saw, Japan seek to fix it's problems by taking over a struggling China and to move it's people in. In order to avoid the devastation of Chinese culture and destruction of it's lands, the American government joined other countries in decreasing trade and supplies to Japan.

This embargo resulted in the Japanese eventually having to end their conquest of China and begin to expand in other areas of Southeast Asia. Although not at war, the Japanese leaders figured that attacking the American Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbour would devastate the US and force them to lift their embargoes and sanctions. The destruction of a major oil and fueling station for ships and aircraft would also cripple their military capabilities allowing Japan more time to complete their expansion.

On 26 November 1941 a task force of the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service comprising of six aircraft carriers, two battleships, three heavy cruisers, nine destroyers, twenty-eight submarines, eight tankers and four hundred and fourteen aircraft set sail for Hawaii.



At 07h48 on the morning of Sunday 7 December the Japanese carried out a well coordinated and totally unexpected attack on the naval fleet in Pearl Harbour and the parked aircraft on surrounding airfields. The attacking aircraft including fighters, level and dive bombers and torpedo bombers were launched in two waves from multiple directions, providing the few hastily assembled defense gunners, who managed to unlock the ammunition with no specific aiming directions.



After the onslaught, lasting little more than one hour, the Japanese had destroyed or damaged twenty one war ships and totally destroyed 188 aircraft.

The attacking force then decided to abort the third wave which was meant to target the dry docks, workshops and repair facilities.

A total of 2 403 military personnel and civilians were killed and more than 1 100 left wounded.



Prior to the attack the US ignored the build-up of Japanese warships in the Pacific. Misinterpretation of signals, underestimation of Japanese capabilities and failure to respond to the early warnings and sightings received earlier that morning, contributed to their lack of preparedness.

Crucially, the three aircraft carriers of the Pacific fleet were at sea at the time of the attack.

The following morning the US Congress declared war on Japan and officially joined WWII. President Roosevelt declared in his speech that “the Japanese attack will be a date which will live in infamy.”

With the repair facilities in fact all the vessels save three, USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma and USS Utah, were raised, rebuilt and put back into service.

And as the war in the Pacific progressed, all the Japanese vessels that took part in the attack on Pearl Harbour were eventually sunk by the American Navy.

Admiral Yamamoto, the mastermind behind the attack later wrote in his diary “ I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve.”

To this day the USS Arizona lies on the sea bed inside the harbour silently leaking two quarts of oil per day to the surface.



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## POPPY COLLECTION UPDATE!

On the 9th of November, Battledress members volunteered to collect donations on behalf of the SA Legion. In total we raised **R5 556!!** Well done to all those who took part and many thanks to all who donated!



# CHRISTMAS CHEER

On the 14th of December 2024, Battledress hosted a spectacular Christmas Cheer event. The hall was alive with the festivities of the season and filled with a truly warm, welcoming and jovial atmosphere, really feeling that Christmas had come early. Check out the sampling of photos below to relive the moment or to see what fun we had if you could not make it. All photos are available on a google drive link, just contact me if you wish to browse through them. (Editing also available for them within reason free of charge...because, Christmas!) I'm already counting the days until the next one and trying my best to be a good boy.



It was a house full of cheer



Even Santa could not stay away



The hall was decked and looked beautiful







Revelry!



In-flight instructions from our lovely staff



The cheer takes off!



The atmosphere was as joyous as the guests.



Presents Galore!



Oh Captain, my Captain



A selection of photos showing some of Santas favorites. These elves had the luck of St Nick on their side and went home with some incredible raffle prizes.





# A SAMPLING OF LOVE

Just a small sample of some of the beautiful people at the Cheer. I have all the photos online and in my collection. Please reach out to me for any you may need.



# MOTHS NEW YEARS 2024-2025

Battledress welcomed the new year in style. It was such a special day with friends old and new and set the tone for the year ahead that we will have together.







It's not a new years party until Ena gets there.



The newest Battle Axe member, "Babyaxe"



Love and prizes, both are in abundance at Battledress



Ready to massacre all challenges.

Battle Axes and honoury members. We owe so much to their hard work and dedication. Thank you all.





# THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF POB AND GOOSE

A look into the life of a Provincial Old Bill and his handler. ;)



Dugout at the Commonwealth War Graves, if you look carefully you will see Princess Anne in attendance!



Ricky, Helen and Vanessa visiting our beloved warrior, Ena.



The meeting of 2 great minds. Leon and Ricky at The Marshall Smuts Memorial.



Langebaan No 9 Old Bill, Wouter and POB Ricky at the Christmas Function



Saturday morning firing of the cannon to commemorate The Battle of Blouberg,

# WARRIOR

Warrior was the horse of Captain Jack Seely during the First World War. Seely and Warrior served throughout the entire war, traveling to France with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in 1914 and returning home in the winter of 1918.



They survived some of the fiercest fighting of the war, on the Somme and at Ypres. Seely and Warrior led men of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade in the last major cavalry charge of the war, at Moreuil Wood in March 1918. Casualties were high – a quarter of the men and half the horses were killed. But Warrior escaped unscathed, only to be injured while traveling to his next post.

Warrior was dubbed 'the horse the Germans could not kill'. In 2014, 100 years after the war's outbreak, Warrior was posthumously awarded an honorary Dickin Medal on behalf of all animals who served in the First World War. The Dickin Medal, sometimes referred to as the 'animals' VC', was instituted in 1943 to recognise acts of bravery and devotion to duty by animals during periods of war or conflict.



## Birthdays for February

5th February - Moth Widow Lynne Laver

12th February - Ros Barnett

24th February - Jennifer Maree

# ELVES HAVE GONE NORTH...FOR NOW!



All signs indicate they will return at the end of the year. Be prepared. We had many brave Moths acting as spotters and keeping them out of mischief, let us honor one of those now in congratulating Chokkie for his documentation efforts.



"Somebody found the 50 Shades of Grey book."  
Chokkie



## THE LEARNED DISCUSSION CLUB

The first meeting of the Learned Discussion Club will be taking place on Wednesday the 12th of March 2025 in the Founders Room. Moth Albert will be sharing his knowledge of Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts with us. He has been hard at work on his research for this presentation, so be sure to support his efforts!

## SOCIAL BINGO 2025!

Yes the rumors are true!



Social Bingo is back! Please bring money for Bingo (R18 for a book of half sheets, R36 for a book of full sheets), the Jackpot Game & Raffle! Watch out for announcements of Bingo dates, one Friday a month.

**Don't forget your highlighters!**

Most importantly, bring your snacks, and if you want to bring a friend, please do so.

The bar is open for liquid refreshment, please support the bar as well.

Come and have a fun evening. Remember, the more people attend, the higher the pay-outs are.

Normal time 18h30 to start at 19h00.



## The Moth Market

The new market for this year got off to a strong start. Some amazing finds to be had at bargain prices. Also be sure to check out the bacon and egg rolls supplied by our Battle Axes. They are so good they literally bring people in from the surrounding area to have a bite. A bargain at R30 and they go fast! To accompany your breakfast rolls, we have coffee, tea and hot chocolate as well as biscuits. Fuel for bargain hunting. Always on the first Saturday of every 2nd month. Reminders will be found here and in the area of Battledress.



Please consider donating any unwanted goods to the Moth Table, your old North Stars might be someone else's treasure!

## Joker Draw Won!

A heartfelt congratulations to our resident joker who found his twin after many months of searching. Let's all remind Andy how much of a good friend he is next time we see him ordering drinks...

Now it begins again...who will win next? (hint: me)



## BATTLEDRESS DARTS

Be sure to partake in the enjoyment of good company and throwing sharp objects on the 1st of March as Battledress starts its fun and darts for 2025. Contact Moth Andy Howie for more info!



# Battledress 80th Birthday



Join us for a stylish dinner as we  
celebrate a major milestone:

Battledress Shellhole's 80th Birthday!  
Come dressed to impress and be a part of this special evening as we  
honor **80 incredible years!**

Date: 15th March 2025

Time: 18h00

Venue: Battledress Shellhole, Fish Hoek

Dress: Full MOTH Uniform or Jacket with Tie/Bow Tie  
(Miniature medals or full medals should miniatures not be  
available)

Ladies: Formal/Elegant (smart trousers or a dress)

Regret no children under 18 allowed.

Dinner:

Entrée (Savory tarts)

Main Course (Chicken or Beef with roast potatoes and  
veggies)

Dessert (Birthday Cake)

Sherry, Port & Wine

Tea and Coffee

Cost R150.00 per person

Please advise if you have any special dietary requirements

Please RSVP by Tuesday 25 February.  
Payment will be required by 28 th February.

# Upcoming Moth Social Events

21st February - Social Bingo

26th February - HMS Birkenhead Commemoration

1st March - Battledress Darts

6th March Battledress Monthly Meeting

15th March Battledress 80th Birthday!

## FOUNDERS ROOM HOURS

Wednesday 17:00 - 22:00

Friday 17:00 - 23:00

Saturday 14:00- 23:00

Public Holidays 14:00 - 22:00

Founders room hours will be adjusted for sporting events as per the authority of the exco committee and bar management.



Starting off the year with a bang! Thanks for your patience for this issue. I have decided to give up my life of being a handsome mercenary to enjoy all your company instead. Definitely a good deal in my book. See you soon!

Best wishes,

**MIKE**

Battlecry! Rag Bill

Moth Mike Wolmarans

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