



BATTLEDRESS SHELLHOLE
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BATTLECRY! JULY 2024

Hello (and Goodbye), One and All

This is my last Battlecry! Newsletter. I can't believe the day has finally arrived when I can hand over the quill to a new Rag Bill from 01 August. I am off on a 6-week holiday to see family and friends in the UK. I hope that you have enjoyed the newsletters as much as I have enjoyed writing them. I think it is only fitting that I pay tribute to Battledress Exco and Sub Committee members who have supported my role as Rag Bill over the last 6 years. Through thick and thin, laughter and tears, Covid-19 and more recently electricity problems. Battledress Shellhole will endure and I look forward to reading newsletters written by the new Rag Bill in the months to come.



Sunset Calls to Higher Service

There have been no calls to Higher Service this month of July and with the bitterly cold and very wet weather this month that in itself is a reason to give thanks.

In Memoriam

Moth Widow Pam Kirkpatrick

It was with sadness that news of the passing of Moth Widow Pam Kirkpatrick was received. Pam, who had been married to WW II Veteran Moth Ian "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, passed away on 27 June. Pam had battled with health issues for many years. Both she and Moth Kirkpatrick could be found feeding stray cats underneath the Longbeach Mall. In later years, Pam spent her spare time fostering cats and kittens as a member of the Foster Furrries Group. Rest in peace, Pam. Condolences to Pam's daughter, Beverly Human.



Sick Parade & Welfare (including Moth Widows & Friends)

Well done to everyone who is staying as healthy as you possibly can in what is another bitterly cold and wet month. I say it each year; this has to be the worst in living memory.

I will be making contact with you all in the next month or so, now that my official responsibilities of Play Bill will end on 31 July, allowing me to continue being the Shellholes Welfare Officer. Most of you are continuing to do well under the circumstances. You are all and always in my thoughts. Stay warm and keep your hot water bottles, hot toddies and whatever else you need to get through these bitterly cold days and nights.



MSS “Goose”, Welfare Officer and Play Bill

BIRTHDAYS

August

- 03 Nicole Stopford (wife of Moth Tony Stopford)
- 07 Moth Widow Winnie MacArthur
- 09 Norma Galvin (Wife of Moth Keith Galvin)
- 17 Moth Donald Grove
- 21 Padre Errol Sadler
- 24 Brenda Murrell (wife of Moth Glynn Murrell)
- 27 MSS Judy Welthagen
- 28 Pat Smith (Widow of Moth Smudge Smith)



Many happy returns and wishing you all a birthday year to remember.

Delville Wood Commemoration Service

At the 21 July 2024 Delville Wood Parade and Service at the Company Gardens in Cape Town, 7 Moths of Battledress Shellhole attended - Moth Ricky de Wet, Moth Julie Denham, Moth John Lamont, Moth Charlie Philipson, Moth Coral-Ann Viviers, Moth Sean du Plooy, Moth Alan Hopfeldt, MSS Helen de Wet, Denise Lamont and Tyla Viviers.



The Battle of Delville Wood holds a significant part in South African history. In the context of the greater battle of the Somme in July 1916, soldiers of the SA brigade fought through dense thickets of birch, hazel and hornbeam trees, and suffered an immense loss of life. It serves as a reminder that after the battle was over, one German officer remarked: “Delville Wood had disintegrated into a shattered wasteland, of shattered trees, charred and burning stumps, craters thick with mud and blood, and corpses everywhere, in places they were piled four deep.”

Of the 121 Officers and 3 032 soldiers from the SA Brigade who fought in the “theatre of war” only 29 officers and 751 soldiers walked out of the wood at the end of the battle. Three wooden crosses were made from the devastated wood and each year



one of the crosses (based in Pietermaritzburg) reportedly and inexplicably weeps blood (resin tears) for the soldiers lost in the battle.



Delville Wood

**(LCpl W.A. Beattie 4th SAI
“From hour to hour the battled
raged and fearful tumult reigned
And still they fought as men inspired
And still their ground maintained;
And as their stricken comrades fell,
the shattered boughs dropped down
In pity for their mangled forms – and
made their laurel crown.”**

We Will Remember Them

FUNDRAISING MOTH MORNING MARKET



After a month's break, the Moth Morning Market will be back on Saturday, 03 August. With more sales and bargains to be had, I can hear you all saying, "Just what I needed!" If you do not want to rent a table yourself, why not get rid of all the clutter you have been promising to do so and support the Moth Fundraising table.

JOKER DRAW

It still hasn't been won! The Joker Jackpot is nearing R4 000 and it could be yours at the next draw. Lucky ticket winners were Moth Julie Denham, MSS Helen de Wet Moth Mike Wolmarans and Jenni Weston (Moth Leonard Marais's Fiancé). You just have to be "in it to win it." Lucky wine winners were Sgt Maj. Moth Andy Howie and Rag Bill Moth Vanessa Chambers.



Denham, MSS Helen de Wet Moth Mike Wolmarans

and Jenni Weston (Moth Leonard Marais's Fiancé). You just have to be

"in it to win it." Lucky wine winners were Sgt Maj. Moth Andy Howie and Rag Bill Moth Vanessa Chambers.

This month's joker draw will be a roll over due to there being a holiday on 9th August. Next Joker draw will be on "lucky for some" Friday 13th September!

Friday BINGO Evening and Saturday Darts



By fair means or FOUL - the first Saturday afternoon Chicken Run Darts event was an egg-cellent afternoon. Well done to the organisers and those who donated the chicken and the eggs. Now, remind me which came first? Well done to Cheryl Howie for her first class organisation and to Nicole Stopford for her professional Bingo! calling. You may even hear a few choice ones you've not heard before.

Note: There was no forthcoming information from the Battledress Shellhole members regarding their Meals on Wheels endeavours, but perhaps in a future newsletter.

Snippet: First Test of A Nuclear Bomb – 16 JULY 1945



Did anyone watch the movie “Oppenheimer”? When the Japanese refused to surrender to the Allied forces in the Far East, the Americans decided that the war must end, or suffer the loss of more American and Allied forces in the months or years to come. The first nuclear bomb to be used in warfare was ‘Little Boy’ and it was dropped above the city of Hiroshima, detonating 2000 feet above the ground and exploding with the force of 20 000 tonnes of TNT. At its epicentre, the bomb reached a temperature of 11 000 degrees centigrade with the cloud reaching 50 000 feet high. As a comparison, a body is cremated at 1000 degrees centigrade.

SAS ASSEGAI Submarine on the MOVE

Earlier this month, the submarine SAS Assegai was back in the local news as it began its next land based journey towards the proposed museum site in Simon’s Town. The submarine’s museum project received a much needed cash injection of R750 000 from the Mayor of Cape Town, who commented that as Africa’s only submarine museum, it would “provide a unique educational and tourist attraction” next to the NSRI’s base with easy access for the public. At no cost to the SANDF, the museum will be managed by the Naval Heritage Trust and open to the public by the end of the year once further project work is completed. As a museum of technology its main focus will be on maths and science. Something our Shellhole Submariners will be very proud of indeed.

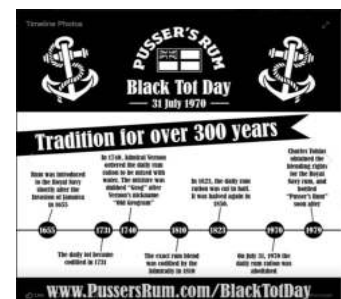


BLACK TOT DAY ANNIVERSARY – 27 JULY



It’s that time of the year again when Battledress Shellhole remembered the dark day of 31 July 1970. It was the last day on which the Royal Navy issued its sailors with their last rum ration, or tot as it came to be known. Whilst the South African Navy was not affected by the ban, the anniversary of Black Tot Day is celebrated. The effects of the daily ration was considered to be one of severe inebriation, and even when it became ‘watered down’

literally to 4:1, it was still regarded as dangerous. With two servings per day. It was subsequently halved again to just one tot per day, as a result of ‘piss-istent’ disciplinary problems in the Royal Navy. In 1969, the Admiralty believed that the abolishment of the tot of rum would improve performance of its sailors and after a lengthy debate in the House of Commons, the tot was deemed to be no longer appropriate for serving personnel. The last tot was poured at exactly 6 bells in the forenoon watch, or 1100 after the piping of “up spirits.” Black armbands and mock funeral processions have followed since the 1970 ban of the tot.



On Saturday, 27 July, "Up Spirits" was at 6 Bells and a wonderful menu was served by the Play Bill and her Galley Crew.



Black Tot Menu

- Sandwiches as starters.
- Curry Chicken with extra chillies on the side for those who like it hot!
- Rice
- Sambals (coconut, chutney, banana, chillies)
- Green Salad
- Ciabatta bread and butter
- Ice Cream and chocolate sauce for dessert.

1 Tot of rum or sherry per person was served.

A fantastic job by MSS Helen de Wet and her trusted 'First Mate' Shannon Bright, Norma Galvin, Victor and Rag Bill Moth Vanessa Chambers; who washed and dried (literally) hundreds of plates, knives, forks, spoons, pots and pans. What a fabulous function despite the freezing weather and torrential down pours, and no better swan-song for the Commander, Play Bill, Rag Bill and Shannon Bright to "... wish us good luck as you wave us goodbye, cheerio here we go, on our way." Good luck and best wishes to the incoming team for the next year.

Photographs from the evening will also be included in the August newsletter, courtesy of the new Battledress Shellhole Rag Bill, Moth Mike Wolmarans. Here is just a taster of the day for you as Battledress Shellhole members were joined by Ganges & RNA shipmates, CWPD representatives, Dawn Patrol supporters and many old and new Friends joined in the fun of the day.



Moths and Social Events in August*

*days and times, unless otherwise advised.

(29 July Exco & Sub Committee Meeting at 1730)

01 Aug Moth AGM (A new Top Table and Sub Committee)

02 Aug General Knowledge Quiz 1900

03 Aug Moth Morning Market 0800-1100

07 Aug Jan Breytenbach Memorial 1630

09 Aug Public Holiday – Women’s Day Cocktails, raffles and spot prizes 14h00

16 Aug Social Bingo 19h00

17 Aug 61 Mech Batallion Veterans Parade, Soetendal, Wellington 0900

18 Aug Bomb Alley War Commemoration Parade, Belville Civic Centre 10h30

In commemoration of all wars where South Africans fought or fell in battle, including the Border War

25 Aug CWPD AGM at Red Barn ToTs 10h30

31 Aug Darts & braai afternoon 15h00

Well, that’s all from me on this my last Battlecry! newsletter. It has been a pleasure and privilege to have been your Rag Bill for these last 6 years and whilst I shall miss your friendliness and kind comments, it is time to say goodbye, but in the words of the great Vera Lynn, ‘we’ll meet again, don’t know where, don’t know when ...’

Take good care of yourselves and please give your full support to the new Rag Bill Moth Mike Wolmarans.

Best wishes,

Vanessa

Battlecry! Rag Bill

Moth Vanessa Chambers

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FOUNDERS ROOM OPENING TIMES

Wednesday 17h00 -22h00

Friday 17h00-23h00

Saturday 14h00 to 23h00

Sunday and Public Holidays 14h00-22h00

Public Holidays as for Saturdays.

Last rounds are called one hour before closing times,
or at the Bar Manager's/Barman's discretion.

Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day

Monthly Quiz on the first Friday of the month
(General Knowledge and Musical Quiz is held on
alternate months)

Joker Draw on the second Friday of the month

Bingo on the third Friday of the month

Darts on the last Saturday afternoon of the month

Saturday braais

The above are normally held every month except in
the month of January when the Shellhole functions
are on a break, but may change, as and when needs be.

SPORT VIEWING TIMES ARE ON THE SHELLHOLE

NOTICE BOARD

Approved opening times will be adjusted for certain events,
functions and televised sporting events
as per the Shellhole Notice Board.