

BATTLEDRESS

SHELLHOLE



We Will Remember Them...

CENTRAL CIRCLE, FISH HOEK

Email battledress.shellhole@gmail.com



BATTLECRY JULY 2025

Greetings from your Ragbill

What an incredible month this has been as the Moth year draws to a close, we end it on a very high note, remembering sacrifices made and enjoying each others company and comradarie as we give thanks to those who fought and died for us and for all those to come.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.



One for the road...

SPECIAL MENTIONS

The following members need a place in your heart. Please hold them in your thoughts and prayers.

Moth Bert Sachse' is undergoing Chemo at Constantiaberg and should hopefully be home soon.



Nadia Sadler (Daughter of Moth Errol Sadler underwent a stay in hospital, now home.

Please keep Adj Moth Iain Groom and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Moth Richard Evans is always being visited for the pleasure of his great company.

OTHER WELFARE NEWS

All our Moth widows are doing well!

Magazines and UK newspapers delivered to Nerina where they are then distributed among residents by Moth Widow Carol Parish.



Sunset Calls to Service



We are fortunate that none of our members have gone on their next journey without us. Let us remember to love and comfort each other while we are still able.

ON THE MEND

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



Moth Ena Burnett showing good improvements in her health.

Albert Massyn is doing well and is ready to resume his boxing career.

Moth Donald Groves wife is recovering from her knee replacements.

Moth Vin York and John Lamont are both looking strong and planning to start a wrestling tag-team.

Moth Preston Barnard eating like a champ and enjoying lunches on the beach.

SPECIAL THANKS

To Moth Leon Haralambous who arranged a work gang (not a chain gang) to help a Moth widow in a massive undertaking.

Moth Vanessa Chambers in visiting Moth Ena Burnett every week when possible as well as providing visits and meals to other widows and those in need and in care.



MEALS ON WHEELS!



"It's Christmas in July! One of our giant-hearted cooking teams decided to give our recipients a delicious reason to be merry with this beautifully prepared Christmas-inspired meal. A big thank you to our wonderful volunteer cooks, Adrienne Bennett, Nicole Stopforth, Marion Clemitson, Tanya Walsh and Kate Parr, who prepared this marvelous meal."

Fish Hoek Service Centre Facebook



Members of our Battle Axes have been hard at work preparing delicious meals and bringing a surprise Christmas to those in need. Pea soup; gammon with teriyaki herb gravy; rice; roast potatoes; roasted mixed veg; tri-coloured trifle and an apple. Take a look at these pictures and tell me it does not make your mouth water. We can be very proud of our ladies involved. Truly living the Moth ideals.



Man I'm hungry now!

Serving up happiness plate by plate.



BATTLEDRESS BLACK TOT DAY

The 31st of July 1970 was a sad day. When the Royal Navy issued its last daily rum ration. (The daily tot.) However, much like the phoenix, the rum rises again! Well, for one day of the year anyway...

Here's how it went down at Battledress...from piracy to Lilly the Pink! Here are some select photos of the event, with the booth photos on their way to their respective recipients soon and more to be available online.



We had such a good time that day, this is simply a sample of the activities and laughs we all shared together.

Lily the Pink, a rendition. Be warned that song will find a permanent place in your brain.



Another collection of images of this unforgettable day. We hope everyone who did not make it will get a chance next year.



For now...but there's always next year. See you there!

BISMARCK: THE SEA MONSTER OF WWII

The German battleship Bismarck has been described in superlative terms ever since she sank the “Pride of the Royal Navy,” the venerable battle cruiser HMS Hood at the 24 May 1941 Battle of the Denmark Strait and drove the new British battleship Prince of Wales from the scene of the fight.

At the time, the Bismarck was widely viewed as the most powerful vessel afloat, as well as the largest, fastest, and most protected warship in the world.

The 1922 Washington Naval Treaty imposed a 35,000-ton limit for capital ships, a restriction that was continued under the 1930 and 1936 London naval treaties. The Bismarck and her sister, the Tirpitz, were larger than any modern warship built under the 35,000-ton restriction. While Germany was not a signatory of the treaties, it was committed to the 35,000-ton limit under terms of the 1935 Anglo-German Naval Agreement, a fact it chose to ignore. The Bismarck’s standard displacement was 41,700 tons



On the hunt.



She was absolutely massive in her day.

With a maximum sustained speed of 30 knots, the Bismarck was faster than most of her contemporary warships, but the Richelieu and Vittorio Veneto battleships equaled her in speed. Most if not all of the 35,000-ton battleships built after 1937 had about the same level of armor protection. But based on the Bismarck’s size and the difficulty in finally sinking her by shell fire and torpedoes, it may be assumed that she had superior protection, possibly as a result of greater compartmentalization of her hull.





The super structure.

Bismarck displaced 41,700 t (41,000 long tons) as built and 50,300 t (49,500 long tons) fully loaded, with an overall length of 251 m (823 ft 6 in), a beam of 36 m (118 ft 1 in) and a maximum draft of 9.9 m (32 ft 6 in). [The battleship was Germany's largest warship, [4] and displaced more than any other European battleship, with the exception of HMS Vanguard, commissioned after the war. Bismarck's hull used 90 percent welded construction to save weight; it was divided into 22 watertight compartments and had a double bottom that ran for 83 percent of the ship's length.

Bismarck was armed with a main battery of eight 38 cm (15 in) SK C/34 guns arranged in four twin gun turrets: two super-firing turrets forward. Secondary armament consisted of twelve 15 cm (5.9 in) L/55 guns. Her guns were rotatable and machine targeted.

The heavy anti-aircraft armament consisted of sixteen 10.5 cm (4.1 in) C/33 guns in eight twin mountings. The middle and light anti-aircraft armament consisted of sixteen 3.7 cm (1.5 in) C/30, and initially twelve 2 cm (0.79 in) C/30 anti-aircraft guns. In April 1941 two of the single 2 cm guns mounted on the searchlight platform on the foretop were replaced by two quadruple 2 cm C/38 guns.



The beast, she now sleeps in the depths.

In May 1941 the battleship, which was commanded by Admiral Günther Lütjens, was sighted off Bergen, Norway, by a British reconnaissance aircraft. Practically the entire British Home Fleet was immediately sent into action to intercept it. Two cruisers made contact off the coast of Iceland, and the battleship Prince of Wales and battle cruiser Hood soon engaged it. After destroying the Hood with a shell that exploded in the magazine, the Bismarck escaped into the open sea and soon began heading for Brest in German-occupied France. Sighted by aircraft 30 hours later (May 26), it was hit by a torpedo that crippled its steering gear, and the ship was bombarded throughout the night by battleships. On the morning of May 27 the King George V and the Rodney, in an hour-long attack, incapacitated the Bismarck, and an hour and a half later it sank after being hit by three torpedoes from the cruiser Dorsetshire. Of the some 2,300 crew aboard the Bismarck, only about 110 survived.

In 1989 an expedition led by American oceanographer Robert Ballard located the wreck of the Bismarck. The battleship was found lying upright at a depth of more than 15,000 feet (4,572 metres).

THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF POB AND GOOSE

Where will they end up next?



Setting sail for a good time.



The POB and his new captain.



POB Ricky inducting top table Pro Patria. Incoming Old Bill Shaun Hart (left) and Old Bill Bomb Alley Leon Van Der Westhuizen (right)



POB Ricky, Mike Dutton, HMS Ganges Chairman, Peter Turton, and Stan Gallon



POB Ricky and one of the Dellville Wood parade Organisers, Chairman of the Gunners Association and Chairman SA LEGION Cape Western Kevin Ashton



Ricky and Old Bill Philip Mclachan at Marshall Smuts



The POB doing his part for Mandela Day.

Delville Wood Memorial

Approximately 766 South African soldiers were killed during the Battle of Delville Wood. The battle, which took place between July 15-19, 1916, was part of the larger Battle of the Somme during World War I. The South African Brigade, initially numbering 3,150 men, suffered heavy losses, with the dead outnumbering the wounded by four to one. When the brigade was relieved, only 142 men emerged from the wood. We will never forget their bravery and sacrifice in the face of hell itself.



We were blessed with the weather.



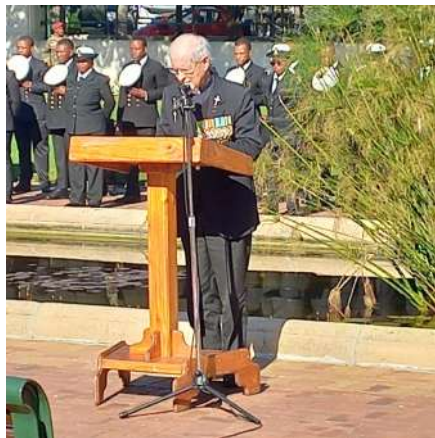
Moths on the march.



A large military presence.



The banner parade prepares.



Padre Moth Tony Bethke conducted a moving ceremony.



POB Moth Ricky De Wet and Lady Billie Renee Rossi laying wreaths for the MOTH and MOTHWA.





POB Ricky gave a powerful rendition of the MOTH credo.



The arrival of VIP guest Ian Neilson(Ex Mayor of Cape Town)



The banner parade standing proud.



The Cape Town Highlanders paying tribute.



The Provincial Sgt Major Moth Garth Andrews proud and on guard.



Battledress represented!

All in all it was a successful and well attended parade. Looking forward to attending again next year!



UNSINKABLE SAM

"Unsinkable Sam" was a tuxedo cat who led a charmed life. He served as SC (Ship's Cat) aboard warships on both sides in World War II, German and British, surviving three separate ship sinkings.

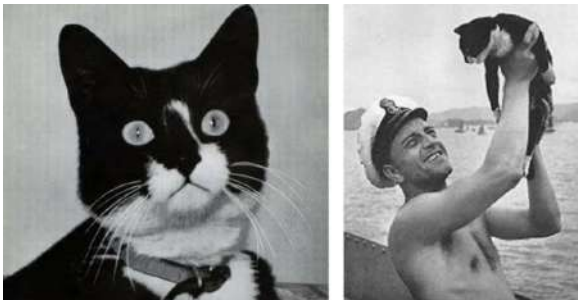
Oskar aka Unsinkable Sam, as he later became known, started his naval service as an official SC in 1941, aboard the Bismarck, a German battleship in the Kriegsmarine-the navy of Nazi Germany between 1935-1945.



Yes, yes...where's my dinner?

Poor Oskar was not destined to have a peaceful life. After only a few months in service aboard the Cossack, which was engaged in convoy escort duties, things took another hairy turn.

On October 24, 1941, the HMS Cossack was escorting a convoy from Gibraltar to Great Britain, when it was struck by a torpedo by the German submarine U-563.



Who could not love that face?



On May 27, 1941, the Bismarck, pummeled and torpedoed for hours, sank into the depths of the unforgiving Atlantic.

The scrappy tuxedo cat was found floating in the wreckage, and was rescued by crew members of the British destroyer, HMS Cossack.

Not knowing his name, it was suggested that his name begin with "O", for "Man Overboard".

The crew later decided to call the cat Oskar, and he began his new post as SC aboard the HMS Cossack.

The Cossack was severely damaged and subsequently sank.

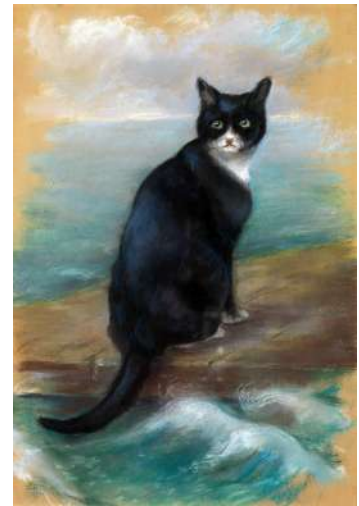
156 crew members were killed, but Oskar, once more, survived. He was brought to shore in Gibraltar, where the Royal Navy bestowed a new nickname upon him: "Unsinkable Sam". You'd think at this point, they'd let this noble cat retire, right?

But no, having survived two different ship sinkings, the Royal Navy considered him to be doubly lucky...their own good luck charm.

Instead of letting Sam pursue a purely feline agenda, getting fat and happy in the English countryside, he was pressed into service... again.

This time our hero was to serve aboard the HMS Ark Royal, a British aircraft carrier.

Coincidentally, the Ark Royal had played a part in the destruction of the Bismarck, though it's quite possible this information never reached Sam's ears.



I'm not amused.

A short two weeks later, on Nov. 14, 1941, the Ark Royal was torpedoed by German submarine U-81, as it returned from Malta in the Mediterranean Sea.

Although the damage was severe enough that the Ark Royal could not be saved, fortunately for the crew - and kitty - the ship sank very slowly, and only one crew member was lost.

All of the survivors, including Sam, were found clinging to the wreckage when rescued by a British Motor Launch, who reported to the press that the cat was "angry but quite unharmed."



The commander arrives.

It was decided that Unsinkable Sam would finally be allowed to retire.

He first found a home at the offices of the Governor of Gibraltar, and later was sent back to United Kingdom, to live a peaceful life in Belfast, at a place called "Home for Sailors".

Unsinkable Sam lived another fourteen years, dying of natural causes in 1955.

Source: *vocal.media*



Tuxedo cats. Hard to sink. Evidently.

The Moth Market

The Moth Market is going as strongly as ever and the next promises to be the best yet.

All donations are gladly accepted and can be made via Moth Coral-Ann at 076 682 2244. The next Moth Market will commence at 9am on the 6th of September



Yes, Einstein played the violin but you can still show us that you're smarter!

Joker Draw!

The build up to the next big win has started over. That Checkers dart set you've been eyeing is so close to you owning it that you can feel it....for just R5 a ticket you can make that dream a reality! The next Joker Draw is on the 5th of September.



MUSIC QUIZ

The music quiz is always a fun event and is becoming really popular. Invite your friends and family for a night of fun and laughter on the 12th of September.



BATTLEDRESS DARTS

The next fun darts game is on the 30th of August. A great place to learn darts in a friendly setting and sharpen your skills. However if you want to practice on a Saturday please draw the key from the barman for the cabinet and get the rubber mat from the top of the white Kas in the men's toilet lobby, to put on the floor. The lights are plugged in on the right side of the hall at the back.



This is none other our big man Moth Sean Du Plooy!



GUESS THE MOTH?

Who is that mystery Battledress member? If you don't know, you can find out in the next issue!

THE BIRTHDAY PAGE!



AUGUST

3rd August Moth Widow Nicole Williams

7th August Moth Widow Winnie MacArthur

9th August Moth Spouse Norma Galvin

17th August Moth Donald Grove

21st August Moth Errol Sadler turns 80!!!

24th August Moth Spouse Brenda Murrell

28th August Moth Widow Patricia Smith



**LORD ALBERTS
WORDS OF
BRITISH WIT:**

"I was engaged to
a contortionist...
but she broke it
off."

She married in haste, but
repented in Brixton.

Anniversaries are akin to toilets...
men usually manage to miss them."

Moths Events in August

1st August Battledress Joker Draw

7th August Battledress Monthly Meeting (AGM)

8th August Battledress General Knowledge Quiz

15th August Battledress Bingo

30th August Battledress Darts

CLOTHING AND UNIFORM ALTERATIONS

A strong recommendation from Moth Kate Parr.

Should you need any alterations done or garments copied and made, please contact -

Pappa Poe Clothing

Cell No. 067 874 7496

(Situated opposite KFC;
next to Sharpes cafe)

Excellent sewing and good prices

FOUNDERS ROOM HOURS

Wednesday 17:00 - 23:00

Friday 17:00 - 23:00

Saturday 14:00 - 23:00

Public Holidays 14:00 - 23:00

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

Thank you for being a part of Battledress in either good wishes, visits or membership. We appreciate you all and wish you the best for you and your families in the year ahead.

Best wishes,

MIKE

Battlecry! Rag Bill

Moth Mike Wolmarans

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