

BATTLEDRESS

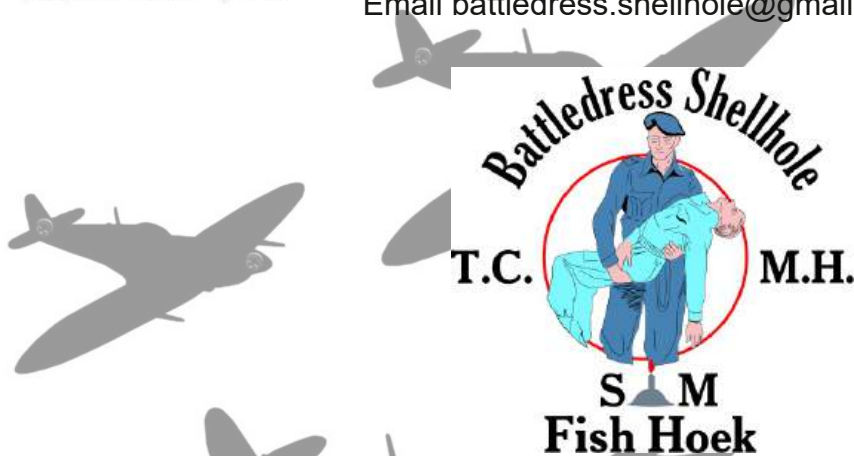
SHELLHOLE



We Will Remember Them...

CENTRAL CIRCLE, FISH HOEK

PO BOX 22033 FISH HOEK 7974
Email battledress.shellhole@gmail.com



BATTLECRY SEPTEMBER 2024

Greetings from your Ragbill

Welcome to Spring, the growing warmth in the weather is not matched to the warmth in my heart from the many kind words I received about my new position as your faithful ragbill. I promise to try my best to raise the bar or keep it steady at the very least. I hope you enjoy another bumper edition, with one or two special features and a guest article about a hot time in the old town!

Regards
Mike W
Battledress Ragbill



That look of contentment clearly means
he's reading Battlecry.

Sunset Calls to Service



This is a special entry regarding the passing to Higher Command of 19476 Moth Daphne Foster-Sutherland of the Marshal Smuts Shellhole. Moth Daphne was a staunch Moth, Life Member of Marshal Smuts Shellhole and the Shellhole's last living World War 2 member.

A fond farewell to another member of that greatest generation.

We will remember her!



INFIRMARY

A lot of members have been fighting the flu, cold and sniffles this winter and past month. We are not quite out of the winter woods yet, so be sure to eat your vegetables, drink your oxo and keep warm and get well.



ON THE MEND

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



Moth Bert Sachse

Moth John Lamont (physio)

Moth Ricky De Wet (physio, survivor of the goose driver)

John Lewis

Nadia Sadler

Cheryl Howie

Moth Neil Bright

Moth Vin York

SPECIAL MENTIONS

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

Moth Richard Evans

Moth Cindy de Kock

Moth Tony Stopford and Nicole Williams



Battledress Welfare Acts



A big thanks to Moths Vanessa Chambers and Ricky de Wet for magazine donations to Nerina.
As a fellow magazine enthusiast; I know how much it would mean to me as well.



A big congratulations to Marilyn Maloneys granddaughter who has been chosen to represent Western Province Schools Waterpolo!

General (Ret) Georg Lodewyk Meiring

General Meiring, on 09 September 2024, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on the morning of the 9th of September. He was the first Chief of the SANDF in the newly established democratic South Africa 30 years ago.

A difficult time in history, during which he held the mantle of leadership and put his duty above all else.
We will remember him.



Battle of Britain Commemoration and Remembrance Service 15th September 2024

On the 15th of September, Battledress had the privilege to attend a special commemoration service, held at the SA Naval Museum Chapel in memory of the great battles that took place in the skies of Britain. An excellent turn out by Battledress ensured a wonderful display of banners as we enjoyed the moving service hosted by the General Botha Old Boys Association and the South African Naval Museum. We were joined by a contingent of Sea Cadets who carried themselves with dignity as well as Naval Officers from both the United States and the United Kingdom. Afterwards we were invited for delicious food and drinks at the Simons Town Yacht Club. It was a well spoken, well attended event and I do feel sorry for anyone who was unable to attend. Please enjoy the images provided as a small comfort to missing out.



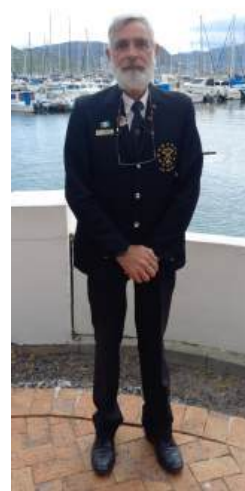
A moving tribute (image credit to Tony Nicholas)



The attendance was great to see



Battledress represent! (Thank you Helen!)



Patrick went on a recon mission but I managed to track him down



Beautiful scenery indeed! (Moth WA)



Doing us proud

The Downing of Puma 164



06/09 marked the 45th anniversary of the downing of Puma 164.

Operation Uric (or Operation Bootlace for the South Africans) was a cross-border raid carried out in Mozambique by Rhodesian Security Forces during the Rhodesian Bush War, with combat assistance from the South African Air Force.

During the operation, which took place from 1 to 7 September 1979, up to 200 Rhodesian and South African military personnel attacked bridges and a major staging point for Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) insurgents in Gaza Province.

Along with Operation Miracle, this was one of the largest Rhodesian external operations of the war.



Their great sacrifice will not be forgotten.

We will remember them.



SAAF Pumas taking off during Ops Uric

Rhodesian casualties and losses:

Rhodesian troops (mainly RLI & Engineers) were transported by helicopter to attack positions near the base.

During transport operations a South African Puma helicopter was hit by an RPG-7 killing all 14 Rhodesian commandos and the three South African Air Force crew on board.

This was the highest loss of life for the Rhodesian Security Forces in a single incident during the war.

The crash site was later bombed in an attempt to cover the South African markings on the Puma helicopter.

The bodies were never recovered.

The battle resulted in over 300 dead ZANLA soldiers and a number of damaged bridges, buildings and infrastructure.

Mozambican casualties were 22 killed

Flagfill: The New Storm Flag at Battledress

The small flag (storm flag) should be used during stormy weather when a larger flag, the halyards and the flagstaff, are likely to be damaged. This is especially used on ships.

We got the last storm flag about +/- 3 years ago. Unfortunately it does still take a beating in a storm and is at the mercy of various elements.

Information provided by Commander Julie Denham.



The moon rises over Battledress and our new storm flag. Image credit: Andy Howie

Christmas Cheer Donation Requests



Customised modification by Andy Howie.

As this year comes to an end
Lots of cheer and good will we should try to send
So how about donating to the Christmas Hamper?
Because it will surely make Santa a happy camper!

Another original work by yours truly, but this request is on behalf of the Playbill and Battle Axes.

Their Finest Hour

The following are excerpts from the 192 page simulation manual written by Victor Cross and published by Lucasarts in 1989. It is still highly regarded as one of the greatest and most detailed early flight simulations for the Battle of Britain. The manual served as both a control reference as well as documenting historical facts and details and actual pilot interviews from these warriors of the sky.



Spitfire Patrol painted by Philip E West

I will only be covering the fighters in this issue. If you readers enjoy it, let me know and we can tackle the fearsome dedicated bombers and pilots.

German Fighter Craft:

The Messerschmitt Bf 109 was a mainstay fighter of the Luftwaffe and was considered quite advanced for its time.

The Messerschmitt Bf 110, a twin-engined Zerstörer (destroyer, heavy fighter), fighter-bomber. A destroyer in every sense of the word. Long ranged with a heavy armament.

Top Speed, Fighters



British Fighter Craft:

The Supermarine Spitfire A short ranged, high performance interceptor. A plane much loved by both its pilots and enthusiasts. There are 70 still airworthy.

Hawker Hurricane The faithful warhorse. Overshadowed in the media by the Spitfire, The Hurricane inflicted incredibly heavy losses upon the Luftwaffe and fought in all major theatres of WW II

The Messerschmitt Bf 109



Performance

Top speed: 354 mph
Rate of climb: 3280 feet per minute
Ceiling: 34 450 feet
Range: 410 miles
Crew: 1

Dimensions

Wingspan: 32 feet 4 inches
Length: 28 feet 4 inches
Height: 8 feet 2 inches

Weights

Empty: 4 189 lbs
Loaded: 5 875 lbs

Armament

Guns: x2 20mm MG FF/M wing mounted cannons
60 rounds
x2 7.92mm Rheinmetall Borsig MG17 guns
mounted in fuselage 1000 rounds per gun

Warhead Load

x1 110 lbs bomb or x1 550 lbs bomb mounted under fuselage

The Messerschmitt Bf 110



Performance

Top speed: 340 mph
Rate of climb: 8 min to 18000 feet
Ceiling: 32810 feet
Range: 680 miles
Crew: 2 one pilot and rear gunner

Dimensions

Wingspan: 53 feet 4 inches
Length: 40 feet 4 inches
Height: 11 feet 6 inches

Weights

Empty: 9 920 lbs
Loaded: 15 290 lbs

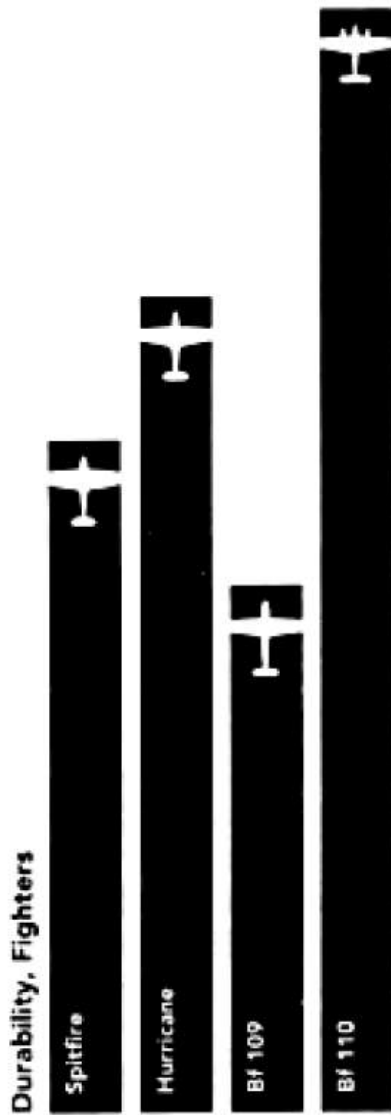
Guns: x2 20mm MG FF nose mounted cannons 128 rounds per cannon
x4 7.92mm MG 15 nose mounted machine gun 1000 rounds
x1 Flexible 7.92mm MG 15 rear mounted machine gun

Warhead Load

x2 550 lbs bombs mounted under fuselage

Bombload, Fighters





The Supermarine Spitfire (MK11)



Performance

Top speed: 370 mph
 Rate of climb: 2600 feet per minute
 Ceiling: 34 000 feet
 Range: 500 miles
 Crew: 1

Dimensions

Wingspan: 36 feet 10 inches
 Length: 29 feet 11 inches
 Height: 11 feet 5 inches

Weights

Empty: 5 142 lbs
 Loaded: 6 484 lbs

Armament

Guns: x8 .303 cal Browning machine guns x4 on each wing 300 rounds per gun

Warhead Load

none

Hawker Hurricane



Performance

Top speed: 320 mph
 Rate of climb: 2420 feet per minute
 Ceiling: 35 000 feet
 Range: 460 miles
 Crew: 1

Dimensions

Wingspan: 40 feet
 Length: 31 feet 5 inches
 Height: 13 feet 1 inch

Weights

Empty: 4 670 lbs
 Loaded: 6 600 lbs

Armament

Guns: x8 .303 cal Browning machine guns x4 on each wing 334 rounds per gun

Warhead Load

none

Heritage Day Celebrations

The 24th of September saw an incredible turnout at Battledress. Thanks to the sterling efforts of the Battle Axes and the stronghold of comradeship that is our Shellhole. A day (and night) of friendship, fun, prizes and malva pudding helped make it one of the most memorable days celebrating our collected heritage, further celebrated by the colorful ensembles on display.



Hy's 'n lekker ou!



Adrienne, even her drink is stylish.



Good friends and good cheer, you will find both at Battledress



A colorful bunch!



2 veterans of a 36 year marriage. Megan and Iain. An Inspiring couple.



Keith showing off his muscles after winning big.



Another victory, already thinking about the next.



Beautiful girls and a beautiful braai. Just a pity about that lout in the suspenders.

However it must be said, the best prize of all was having WW2 veteran Moth Ena Burnett joining us on that special day. As fun and beautiful as ever, she made us all winners with her presence. Thank you Ena.



1866 THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON A Guest Article Courtesy of Robby Abrahamse

The massive, city-wide fire that raged in London from Sunday 2nd September until eventually extinguished four days later on Thursday 6th September 1866, started at the Pudding Lane Bakery in London's East End. The flames fueled by strong winds quickly spread next door to a tar store, which exploded igniting the neighborhood.

When notified London's Lord Mayor refused to be disturbed by such a paltry matter as a fire and the following morning as it gripped the city, he was then reluctant to authorize the creation of a fire break by removing structures in its path.

By this time order in the streets had broken down and thousands of families, mainly French and Dutch immigrants fled their homes to seek safety in small boats on the river Thames and in the fields outside the city walls.

The strong winds and mass movement of people and their belongings through narrow streets and passages further prevented access to those fighting the fire and their equipment from reaching the fire. The only access to the fire was bucket chains passing water from the river.

By the fourth day more than 13 000 mainly wood and thatch homes, 90 churches, including St Paul's Cathedral, and numerous business and official buildings were destroyed, and 400 acres of the city, from the Tower to the Temple, was reduced to smoldering rubble.

After four days the blaze was prevented from spreading further by Navy teams aided by the London Tower garrison using their stockpile of gun powder, blew up a swathe of buildings in the path of the flames.

The official fatality count was eight, however it is believed that many more poor and undocumented foreigners perished with their bodies consumed by the heat the fire generated.



An eye-witness etching

London was still reeling from the previous year's great plague, which cost 75 000 lives. The fire cauterized the old wooden buildings that were still rife with disease. Now the homeless had to be fed and sheltered – and a better city built.

BATTLE AXES

The Battle Axes are a team of women from the Shellhole that have been formed to support the Shellhole in our fund raising efforts. Any ladies who would like to join are welcome to and they can contact Coral-Ann at 0766822244 to request to be added to the group

The work of the Battle Axes has been nothing short of incredible. They make magic...and then people buy that magic and eat it!

And their peanut butter sandwiches? PURE MAGIC! In fact, some believe that it was their combined efforts which helped lead to the recent massive Springbok victory over Argentina.



Andy about to braai his portion. They are all going on a single roll.



The Official Battle Axe Badge as made by Meggan Groom and assisted by Shannon Groom.

A recent example would be when the Battle Axes organised a large fundraising in exchange for incredibly delicious boerewors rolls. As long as the Battle Axes are in business I will never be a bored hungry hippo ever again. Hippo yes. Bored and hungry? NO!

Thank you ladies for all your incredible work! You deserve all our support and more.

Upcoming Birthdays for October

8th October Moth Robby Abrahamse

10th October Moth Charles Phillipson

12th October Moth Sean Du Plooy

12th October Moth Jacques Taljaard

15th October FOFR Alan Godsiff

17th October Moth Widow Daphne Smith

19th October FOFR Robert Reel

22nd October Moth Spouse Natalie Geldard

23rd October FOFR Gladys Currie



The October Market

Saturday the 5th of October is looking to be a great market. I'm still enjoying the fine selection of ties I purchased for next to nothing in August. If the thought of my fashionable ties drives you wild with jealousy, you should be sure to pick up your own amazing bargains this weekend!



General Knowledge Quiz Friday 4th of October

So you think you know everything? Prove it! Take up the challenge from quizmaster Alan. Even if you don't win, you will definitely have fun and hopefully learn something in the process!

Darts and Bingo

Both darts and bingo are going strong, with good laughs and happy winners at every event. Even if you don't get a prize, you will be scoring a good time and taking home some great memories. The next social bingo is on the **18th of October** and the next darts game is on the **26th of October**. Please come and join us, because you will always be welcome!



Even the chicken was happy to be eaten by a darts champion.



Joker Draw!

Yes it's true **the Joker Draw has still not been claimed!** This means 2 things: Your chances of winning are even greater AND the jackpot is even bigger. Personally I have my heart set on winning and buying a pair of deluxe shoelifts I had my eyes on but...it could be YOU! You just gotta be in it to win it!



A special guest took leave from her Yellow Submarine to give us a bit of Help!

Moths and Social Events in October

3rd October Battledress meeting

4th October General Knowledge Quiz

5th October Morning Market

11th October Joker Draw

18th October Social Bingo

20th October El Alamein Memorial Parade Castle of Good Hope

26th October Darts

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.

That is it for this Battlecry, let's all enjoy the spooky season together and welcome the approaching summer in good comradeship!

Best wishes,

MIKE

Battlecry! Rag Bill

Moth Mike Wolmarans

Email: battledressragbill@gmail.com

Website: www.moth.org.za

