



Marshal Smuts Shellhole

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BULLSHEET

MAY 2011

Editorial

After a busy March, April was a quieter month at the Shellhole, giving us time to reflect and plan ahead. The month of May is to our Shellhole synonymous with Jan Smuts. He was born on 24 May 1870, and he has to this day remained the subject of authors in Political History, as well as in Science and Philosophy. Most of us are aware of his political career and in some quarters debates of his politics still lead to heated discussion. I would however like to concentrate on his Scientific/Philosophical contribution. He coined the term Holism and his book 'Holism and Evolution' published by Macmillan and Co., in 1926 was so popular that a second edition was printed in 1927. According to Google Scholar this book has been cited 372 times. Over the next few months we will be including extracts from this book, starting this month with the preface to the first edition. Then we have the usual article of the war years and Shellhole happenings of years past.

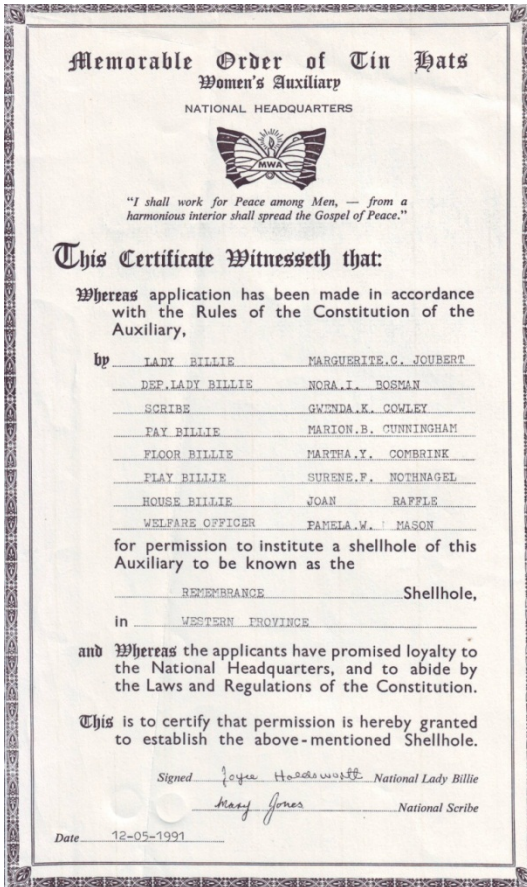
Furthermore, we have our next edition of "To live like a Moth" featuring John Sowter and a special contribution featuring the Mothwa's of Marshall Smuts who were represented by the Remembrance Shellhole. This Bullsheet is dedicated to the memory of all those selfless ladies who served at Remembrance MOTHWA Shellhole and the Marshal Smuts Ladies Auxiliary; they gave far more to our Memorable Order than they ever received!

Shellhole Calendar
15 May: Jan Smuts parade
Riebeek West.
20 May: General Meeting
18:00

Marshal Smuts MOTHWA – Remembrance Shellhole



Shortly after the official commencement of activities at Remembrance Shellhole the MOTHWA ladies from Somerset West attended their first National Conference.



On 12 May 1991, the now defunct Remembrance MOTHWA Shellhole was formed at Marshal Smuts Shellhole. The driving force behind the formation was the late Mrs Peggy Joubert, wife of Shellhole Life Member Moth Frank Joubert.

According to Moth Joubert, the blokes were against the formation of the MOTWA Shellhole and Peggy had to obtain permission from her old Shellhole to use their name. On many occasions the discussions at meetings became so heated that level headed Moths had to remind their Brothers of the three ideals of Mothdom.

For the most part during their existence, MOTHWA used the hall of the local Lions Club branch for their meetings. Relations between MOTH and MOTWA only improved when Moth Duncan Mackenzie became Old Bill of Marshal Smuts during 1996.

The Shellhole eventually closed during 2003, but in Mothwa Edith Lawson, we still have a regular visitor to our monthly meetings.

Jan Smuts – the other side of politics



This is an introduction to the non-political contribution of Jan Smuts. The issue of time magazine of 22 May 1944 had him on its front cover, which is an indication of his contribution to the War cabinet and to Allied forces. There are many less known facts about Jan Smuts that are overshadowed by his political life, his contribution to Science and Philosophy being one of them. As quoted from *Wikipedia*: “The term holism was introduced by the South African statesman Jan Smuts in his 1926 book, *Holism and Evolution*. Smuts defined holism as *The tendency in nature to form wholes that are greater than the sum of the parts through creative evolution*”. Here follows

the preface to this publication.

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION : HOLISM AND EVOLUTION

This work deals with some of the problems which fall within the debatable borderland between Science and Philosophy. It is a book neither of Science nor of Philosophy, but of some points of contact between the two. To my mind it is the surface of contact between the two that will prove fruitful and creative for future progress in both, and to which special attention should be directed. Some border problems between the two are here considered in the light of recent advances in

physical and biological science. And a re-examination of fundamental concepts in the light of these advances reveals the existence of a hitherto neglected factor or principle of a very important character. This factor called Holism in the sequel, underlies the synthetic tendency in the universe, and is the principle which makes for the origin and progress of wholes in the universe. An attempt is made to show that this whole-making or holistic tendency is fundamental in nature, that it has a well-marked ascertainable character, and that Evolution is nothing but the gradual development and stratification of progressive series of wholes, stretching from the inorganic beginnings to the highest levels of spiritual creation. This work deals with our primary concepts of matter, life, mind and personality in the light of this principle, and discusses some of the problems of Evolution from this new point of view. The discussion is not technical, specialist or exhaustive in any sense. It is intended to sketch and explain the general lines of argument rather than to go into details. It is especially the fundamental concept of Holism which I wish to explain and justify, as well as the scientific and philosophic viewpoint to which it leads. The detailed elaboration must be left to more competent hands and to those favoured with more leisure than I can find in a busy public life. I have tried to sketch the general lines of reasoning in a way which, while I hope scientifically accurate so far as they go, are yet popular enough to be readily understood by readers with a fair average reading in general science.

It is my belief that Holism and the holistic point of view will prove important in their bearings on some of the main problems of science and philosophy, ethics, art and allied subjects. These bearings are, however, not fully discussed in this work, which is more of the nature of an introduction, and is concerned more with the laying of foundations than with the superstructure. I have no time at present to do more than write an introductory sketch; but I hope in the years to come to find time to follow up the subject and to show how it affects the higher spiritual interests of mankind. The old concepts and formulas are no longer adequate to express our modern outlook. The old bottles will no longer hold the new wine. The spiritual temple of the future, while it will be built largely of the old well-proved materials, will require new and ampler foundations in the light of the immense extension of our intellectual horizons. This little book indicates the lines along which my own mind has travelled in the search for new and more satisfactory concepts.

A generation ago, when I was an undergraduate at Cambridge, the subject of Personality interested me greatly, and I wrote a short study on "*Walt Whitman: a Study in the Evolution of Personality*," in order to embody the results I had arrived at. This study was never published, but the subject continued at odd intervals to engage my attention. Gradually I came to realise that Personality was only a special case of a much more universal phenomenon, namely, the existence of wholes and the tendency towards wholes and wholeness in nature. In 1910 I sought relief from heavy political labours in an attempt to embody my new results in a study called "*An Inquiry into the Whole*", which also was not published. I had no time to return to the subject until, in 1924, a change of government released me from burdens which I had continuously borne for more than eighteen years. When I came to read once more the MS of fourteen years earlier I found much of the scientific setting out of date and I found my conception of Holism had also altered in certain respects. I therefore decided once more to make a fresh start with my study of wholes and Holism in nature. The present work is the first-fruits of this fresh effort. The aspects and bearings of

Holism in which I am mainly interested are not yet reached in this study, which, as I have said, is of an introductory character. But I feel that unless I now make a determined attempt to prepare at least a part of my inquiry for publication, it will in all probability never get beyond the incubation stage in which it has remained so many years. This I would personally regret, as I think that in Holism we have an idea which may perhaps prove valuable and fruitful, and which for better or worse should be lifted out of the obscurity in which it has so long remained in my mind. Whether my partiality for the idea, which has been my companion throughout a crowded life, will be shared by others, time alone will show. The work has unfortunately had to be written in somewhat of a hurry and amid the pressure of many other calls on my time. Nor in writing it have I had the advantage of consulting any expert friends on details. This must be my excuse for any incidental mistakes or slips which may be found in it.

J. C. SMUTS.

*Irene, Transvaal,
September 1925.*

To live like a Moth – Part 8 – John Sowter

All brawn and no brains, quick to use fists and baton; this is the popular and less than flattering image of a military policeman. The “redcaps”, like other law enforcement organisations, because of the very nature of their duties, have long suffered the dislike of other servicemen. Not surprising perhaps, if one peers back into the mists of time at the origins of the term Provost Marshall, which loosely translated designates an officer in the military police. We first meet this chap in the year 1066 when he toured the territory of the Norman invaders, dispensing swift and merciless military justice. Way back then, the Provost Marshall’s entourage of priests, judges, wardens, carpenters, hangmen and their equipment left one in no doubt as to what they were about.

However, since those dark days the military police have grown into a sophisticated and essential cog in the military machine. Today they are trained for a variety of specialised tasks: crime prevention, crime investigation, law enforcement, disciplinary patrols and protection of VIPs. But it is in wartime that the military policeman really comes into his own in a support role; he has to direct military traffic, keeping vital logistical and supply lines open, ensuring that convoys reach their destinations without hitches; in other words, guiding the military machine onto the target and back to safety again.



John Duncan Sowter was born on the 24th of May 1920 in Geduld. After completing his Junior Certificate at Paarl Boys High he joined the Special Service Battalion (SSB) at the beginning of 1937. When war was declared by the Union on Nazi Germany during September 1939, John transferred to the South African Corps of Military Police. The corps was established during 1938 when the first Provost School opened at Voortrekkerhoogte. At the outbreak of war the fledgling corps found itself hard put to meet the great demand for military

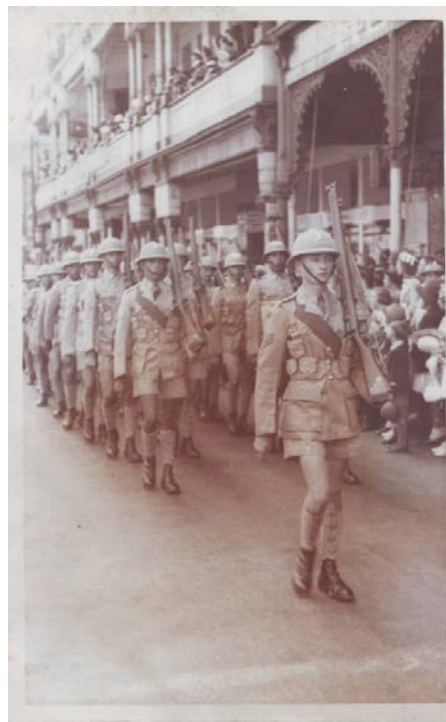
policemen. Subsequently early recruits found lance corporal chevrons in their kits when they were issued and were promoted to corporal immediately after completing their training. John enrolled and completed his training at Wynberg Military Base.



John Sowter 3 August 1947 Genoa

At the end of 1940 John was posted to serve in Egypt, attached to the British 8th Army. Issued with a Harley Davidson he served in North Africa until the Axis forces withdrew. Promoted to the rank of Sergeant his duties included, except for normal police work also the running of various Field Punishment Centres. These centres were normally stationed close to the Allied ammunition warehouses and John recalls that they were Stuka dive-bombed on many occasions; once he was able to rescue an Indian prisoner who had been hit and on another occasion losing an Australian prisoner he was trying to save.

From North Africa John landed with the first draught of the 8th Army contingent at Naples



SSB on Parade Cape Town October 1939

during 1943. He served in Italy from Naples via Rome all the way to Genoa until the end of the war. John recalls that he solved the first murder of an Allied soldier in Italy; the guy was a French-Algerian soldier who was stabbed to death in a Naples Nightclub. After the war John returned to the Union and remained with the UDF, losing his wartime rank and instilled as a corporal. During 1947 he again left for Italy, doing investigative work on the Black Market activities of the remaining 6th Armoured Division detachments. John recalls that these guys, from the Colonel downwards, were enriching themselves by selling government property to the Italians. Being part of a two man MP team there was not a lot that they could do about it.



King Mariut Station Egypt 1942

After completing his post war tour of duty John was posted to the South African Military College at Voortrekkerhoogte as an instructor. He retired from the UDF in 1960 with the rank of Staff-Sergeant. For his service during World War Two, 16064VE Staff Sergeant John Duncan Sowter received the 1939/45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45 and Africa Service Medal. For his twenty years of service with the UDF, John received the Union Medal.



Rimini Italy 1945

After leaving the UDF, John first joined Kelly Tyres and then Eveready from whom he retired during 1985. He was married to his wife Freda during April 1972 and they moved to Somerset West in 1988 where John became a member of our Memorable Order. At the end of 2009 John's left leg was amputated and though he cannot attend our Shellhole meetings regularly, in spirit this old soldier has never given up on his Brother Moths!

South Africa and the War against Japan 1941-1945 - Andre Wessels (part 1)

On 7 December 1941, the Second World War escalated dramatically when the Japanese launched a surprise attack against the American naval base at Pearl Harbour Hawaii and declared war against the United States of America and the British Empire. The South Africa government acted swiftly and on Tuesday, 9 December 1941, a proclamation was issued, stating that, as from 8 December, South Africa was at war with Japan.

Dr D F Malan and the Nationalists justified Japanese expansion and regarded Soviet communism as the real threat to the Union. However, while the Nationalists did not, on the whole, regard Japan as a threat, government supporters took a much more realistic view of the situation. Prime Minister General J C Smuts said that should Japan dare to attack the Union, he would arm all able-bodied blacks and coloureds.

A substantial amount of research has been done and much has been written about South Africa's role during the Second World War, especially regarding the role of the Union Defence Forces (UDF) in Abyssinia, North Africa and Italy, as well as the situation on the home front. However, the country's role in the struggle against Japan has so far received only cursory mention.

The South African home front, December 1941

Within two years, Smuts had consolidated his political position and had laid a sound economic foundation for the work that was to be done during the rest of the war years. Smuts' security measures, such as the National Emergency Regulations, played a very important role in maintaining relative peace and stability on the home front. By acting quickly and decisively, Smuts showed that there was a strong government in the saddle, a government which damped any sparks that might have led to a conflagration and had stabilised the internal security situation. By the end of 1941, there were even indications that the parliamentary and democratic forces in the opposition, as represented by Dr D F Malan's Herenigde Nasionale Party (HNP), were gaining the upper hand over the more militant ideological hotheads in, for example, the Ossewa-Brandwag (OB).

The Second World War brought the race question in South Africa to a head, and Smuts' United Party (UP) government apparently did not have a consistent '*non-white*' policy. If blacks wanted to make their grievances known on a dramatic scale, the war afforded them that opportunity, but nothing of the sort occurred; instead, black, coloured and Asian South Africans were, on the whole, committed to the Allied cause and many were directly or indirectly involved in South Africa's war effort.

By the end of 1941, the South African economy had not yet been affected much by the war, but the foundation had been laid for a war economy and for massive war production during the remaining war years. This was mainly due to the dedication of Dr Hendrik van der Bijl, who, on 24 November 1939, was appointed Director-General of War Supplies. By December 1941, the war had not really had any effect worth mentioning on social conditions in the country. The initial military success of the Japanese had a potential psychological effect on at least a portion of South Africa's population, for the '*non-white*' Japanese had inflicted serious losses on whites in the East, including those colonial powers who were driven from some of their colonies. As far as the local political scene was concerned, a possibility existed that the anti-war factions could step up their agitation against South Africa's continued participation in the war. (To be continued)

Selfless Army of Women – H.J. Martin and Neil Orpen

By far the biggest uniformed women's organization directly supporting the war effort, yet not actually part of the UDF, was the South African Women's Auxiliary Services (SAWAS). SAWAS consisted of 408 branches

with some 64859 members, each under command of a provincial Commandant. Working voluntarily SAWAS was running a variety of institutions that included junior clubs, canteens, after-care homes, crèches

and hostels that totalled 213 by December 1943.

One of SAWAS's most widespread schemes, leaving behind it a legacy of goodwill from which South Africa would benefit for years to come, was its hospitality scheme, under which its officers arranged private hospitality for servicemen on leave, including thousands of men from overseas who spent time ashore as convoys passed the Cape. By 1943, no fewer than 25000 officers and men had stayed in private homes around Cape Town alone. At no time during a Royal Navy ship's commission, was morale better than when men had just returned from leave arranged through SAWAS. Their name became synonymous with service to men in the forces and their dependants, even when Greeks or Poles unable to speak English or Afrikaans, visited SAWAS Soldier's Clubs. In the countryside, SAWAS drivers used their own cars to save servicemen train travelling time.

If SAWAS took care of men and women on leave, the efforts of the S.A. Gifts and Comforts organization – now registered as a fund – spread afield and concentrated more on providing actual goods which contributed to the physical and mental well-being and recreation of troops on service in the field.

Gifts and Comforts shipments to the Middle East, at a minimum of 20000 parcels per week, remained very regular and the men referred to it as *glory bags*. The parcels included warm socks, pipes, combs, shaving-sticks, toothpaste, cigarettes, matches, towels and other items. Knitting socks and garments for the troops kept many women busy and apart from small luxuries which helped to make the troops' rations more palatable, hundreds of paperback and other books were also provided.

Working very closely with the Red Cross in 26 auxiliary military hospitals as well as numerous convalescent homes in South Africa, the Order of St John Ambulance Brigade also staffed the three ambulance trains run by the Railways and Harbours Brigade. They financed a rest home in Alexandria and later in Italy and, like the Red Cross, provided a fleet of motor ambulances as well as looking after shipwrecked sailors. The two organizations so generously financed occupational therapy that centres were formed not only at auxiliary hospitals in South Africa but at Imperial military hospitals as well. In virtually all these projects, it was the women who played the major role, and in industry also their contribution had become indispensable

MOTH Doug Hurst Memorial Educational Trust Fund

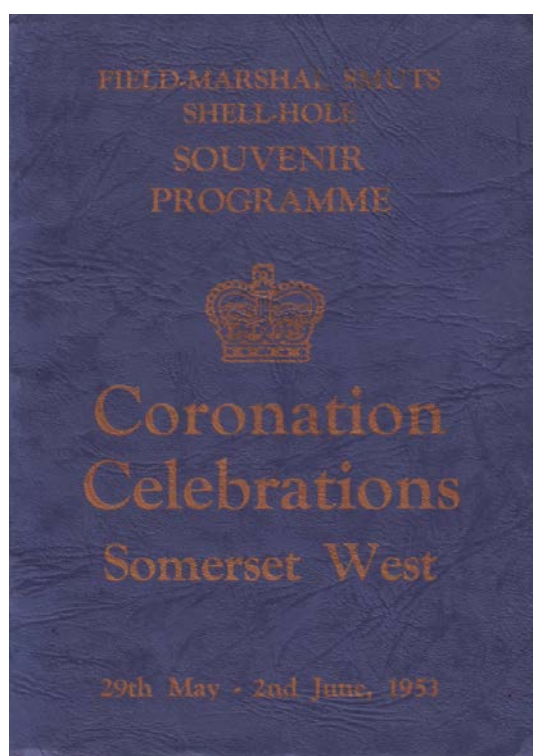
It appears to the Administrators of the MOTH GHQ Doug Hurst Educational Fund that not every MOTH Unit is aware of this Fund. It was started many years ago to give financial assistance to Moths requiring help with the cost of educating their children. The escalation in current educational costs has made this more important today than before. The Fund is administered through the MOTH GHQ Special Fund. The Administrators of the Fund are Moths Tony Munnik, Mike Adrian and Robert Pegram.

All Units are reminded that donations to the Fund, for whatever sum, will be welcomed by the Administrators who are annually faced with the problem of balancing grants against the limited funds at their disposal. Please note, all cheques are to be made payable to MOTH GHQ Special Fund. On the back of the cheque please write, "Doug Hurst Educational Fund".

Members in good standing are invited to submit applications for assistance, or Shellholes may submit applications for children of deceased members of the Order (grandchildren of Moths are not provided for in the fund), to reach MOTH General Headquarters by no later than the 16th December each year.

Coronation 29 May – 2 June 1953

Mothwa Edith Lawson presented this souvenir booklet from the Coronation celebrations of 1953 in which Marshal Smuts Shellhole was involved. The following words are quoted from the paperwork of the time:



"In keeping with the spirit of loyalty and enthusiasm which is moving the people of our Commonwealth on this occasion of splendid pageantry, the people of Somerset West join together in celebrating the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

From the earliest times the installation of a new ruler has called forth pageantry, celebration and prayer. It therefore behoves us here in South Africa, so far away from the centre of this great event, to play our part to the best of our ability and our means.

The organization of the Non-European Coronation Ball has been placed in the hands of the Coloured Branch of S.A.N.T.A. The Somerset West Branch of the MOTHS has undertaken the responsibility of arranging the Coronation Ball for Europeans on the evening of June 2nd. His Worship the Mayor, Mr S. Radloff and Mrs Radloff, will be present.

God Save the Queen"

District Mail 13 June 1986 – MOTH Diary (by the late Moth Doc Dockrall)

Hans Leip, the German who wrote the lyrics to the World War II song, Lilli Marlene, has died at his home in Fruthwilen aged 89. He was also an accomplished writer, painter and graphic artist. The son of a dockyard worker, Leip was born in Hamburg on September 22, 1893. The lyrics for Lilli Marlene were penned by Leip in Berlin in 1914 but remained incomplete until 1937.

Leip said he was stationed in Berlin in the German Army in 1914 and had two girlfriends, Lilli, who was the daughter of a Berlin businessman and Marlene, an Army nurse. Standing guard one night under a lamppost, the first three verses came to the author.

German cabaret singer, Lale Andersen, insisted on recording the song in 1939 over everyone's objections. She wanted it to be the B-side to the recording of Three Red Roses, which was being promoted as a hit. A drunken disc jockey on Radio Belgrade put on the wrong side of the record one night and started a wave of requests.

The Nazi's quickly saw the propaganda value of the song and asked Andersen to sing some new anti-American lyrics. She refused and was interned until after the war. The version of this song which became a wartime standard was recorded by Marlene Dietrich.

District Mail 8 November 1985 – MOTH Diary (by the late Moth Doc Dockrall)

The aftermath of war brings with it some fascinating tales of surprise contact being made in unbelievable circumstances. Corporal Matthews Letuka, a member of the South African forces was captured at Tobruk in 1942. As he spoke fluent German, he was posted as a POW to the 3rd Wing of 27 Fighter Squadron attached to the Afrika Korps. He served as driver and orderly to the famous air ace Capt. Hans Marseille.

After the death of Capt. Marseilles, Group Commander Franzisket took him under his wing until his disappearance in 1944. Nothing more was heard of Corporal Letuka until the beginning of 1984 when a South African newspaper reported that he had presented his medals to the War Museum in Johannesburg. This was brought to the attention of ex-members of the Afrika Korps and as a result, with the assistance of the South African Embassy in Bonn, he accepted an invitation to attend a reunion in Stuttgart on September 1, 1984 where he was treated as an honoured guest.

The month of May Light of Remembrance at Marshal Smuts

08 May 1915: K.L. Strangman of the King's Royal Rifle Corps

09 May 1915: F.H. Slow of the King's Royal Rifle Corps

15 May 1916: A. Loubser DCM and J. Morkel of the 1st S.A. Mounted Brigade

26 May 1916: P.B. Roos of the 5th S.A. Infantry Brigade

29 May 1941: F.R. Williams of the Instrument Meteorological Corps

03 May 1980: S.J. du Plessis of the S.A. Police

21 May 1985: Louis van Breda of 4 Reconnaissance Regiment

We will remember them



Important Dates for May

Events

7 May

07 May 1915: The German sub-marine, SM U-20 sinks the RMS Lusitania

07 May 1927: The **Memorable Order of Tin Hats** is founded in Durban

07 May 1945: General Alfred Jodl signs unconditional surrender terms at Reims, ending Nazi Germany's participation in World War Two

20 May

20 May 1873: Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis receive a U.S. patent for blue jeans with copper rivets

20 May 1891: The first public display of Thomas Edison's prototype kinoscope

20 May 1927: Charles Lindbergh takes off from New York on the world's first solo non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean

20 May 1983: First publications of the discovery of the HIV virus that causes AIDS in the journal, Science, by Luc Montagnier and Robert Gallo individually

20 May 2011: **Marshal Smuts monthly meeting at 18:00**

Interesting reads on the Internet:

www.samilitaryhistory.org

www.ninefoxtrot.org

www.dod.mil.za

www.firstworldwar.com

www.secondworldwar.com

www.61mech.org.za

www.redsockfriday.com

Contributions to gfj@sun.ac.za

Birthdays

15 May

1940: McDonald's opens its first restaurant in San Bernardino

1940: The Netherlands surrender to Nazi Germany during World War Two

1948: Start of the first Arab-Israeli War

1958: The U.S.S.R. launches Sputnik III

1958: **Moth Pine Pienaar** is born

24 May

1686: Gabriel Fahrenheit

1819: Queen Victoria

1870: **Field Marshal Jan Christiaan Smuts**

1920: **Moth John Sowter**

1942: Ali Bacher