



CYBER SHELLHOLE Newsletter



CYBERNEWS, November 2011

Fellow Moths ~

So here we are, one month away from having our credit limits tested in preparation for the Festive Season and in the Malls we are already being subjected to horrible renditions of Carols by songsters and groups, long past their sell-by date, who seem to thrive only on churning out sticky-sweet xmas ditties aimed specifically to irritate me.



November is also the month of Remembrance, when we – and especially the MOTH – pause in memory of those who Fell. Most cities, towns and centres throughout the Commonwealth will be hosting Remembrance services and parades and it is important that all Moths try to attend the one(s) in his area. Remember, too, that we should all be wearing a poppy until at least the end of the 2nd weekend of November in commemoration of those heroes we left behind. All funds raised from the sale of the poppies goes to veterans' assistance in your areas, especially within the Commonwealth. Don't be shy. Wear it with pride!

As I have already mentioned in previous missives: send photos of the service/parade in your area to me, so that a compilation may be presented for the December newsletter. I have committed to three services – all of which are important to me. The first will be at the Red Cross Children's Memorial Hospital in Cape Town on Friday 11th. This wonderful hospital was actually paid for through donations of the WW2 South African soldiers during the war, through the "docking" of a shilling from their monthly wages. Then, in the evening, I will be at Marshal Smuts Shellhole's Sunset Service in Somerset West. On Sunday (13th) I will be attending the service and parade in Hermanus, hosted by Seagull Shellhole and with log support from Regiment Westilike Provincie (RWP).

I have copied an article that was given to me recently, regarding the Silence at Remembrance Services: *"Over time it has become customary to remember the Fallen by observing a symbolic silence. Not only soldiers but also civilians are honoured in this way.*

In South Africa one of the first instances where this tradition was honoured was at a church service in Cape Town. The city was in mourning after the publication of South Africa's first casualty list from World War 1 in 1916. A local businessman, Mr. J.A. Eggar, proposed that the congregation at a church service should keep a minute's silence to honour the Fallen. At the time it received no publicity.

"The famous South African author, politician and mining financier, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, is credited with the idea of a two-minute silence. His eldest son, Major Percy Nugent George Fitzpatrick, was killed in action in Beaumont, France, in December 1917. On 27 October 1919 Sir Percy, through Lord Milner, the former High Commissioner for South Africa, proposed to King George V that a moment of silence be observed annually on November 11, in honour of the dead of World War 1. On 17 November, King George proclaimed that 'at the hour when Armistice came into force, the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, there may be for the brief space of two minutes a complete suspension of all our normal activities ... so that in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead.'

"The 1st minute of the silence period is in thanksgiving for those who have survived, while the second minute is to remember the Fallen."

The South African Legion celebrates 90 years of service this year and one function recently held at Gold Reef City was the 11.11.11 Concert which included the pipes and drums of the Tranvall Scottish and S.A. Irish, the local Welsh Male Choir and, believe it or not, Anabele Linde and The Bats. The Bats! These okes have been rocking on from when General Electric was still a Corporal. And they're still brilliant. The youngest member is "only" 62! The rest of them are bowling 70+. A brilliant show, indeed.

As far as the Rugby World Cup is concerned ... oh dear. Enough said. I suppose one should be magnanimous and wish the All Blacks one's congratulations but it still sticks in the craw a little.

November is also a month celebrated in some style by an organisation called Movember (www.movember.com). Grow your moustache for the month to raise funds for men's cancers, specifically, testicular and prostate. The wife might have something to say about it, but you could always say it's for a worthy cause, hey?



In Nothing news; Our fellow Cyber member, Moth Ken Meyer, has been quite pro-active in assisting with arrangements for a potential new Shellhole in the Upington area (that's in the North-West Cape, for the non-Sefricans). Ken is well-versed at this type of thing since he has been a Founder Member of 3 new shellholes in the past 10 years. Good one, brother!

The MOTH General Headquarters will host its AGM in Durban this month, with some interesting things coming out that may be added into next month's missive.

Cyber Shellhole sends congratulations to those who celebrate their birthdays in November. Many happies to..... well, I don't have everybody's date of birth so I don't know if any other Cyber member, besides myself, gets any older this month. Let's get those records up to date, chaps. Send your wife's (or significant other) D.O.B. along to me as well (not the year – just the month and date is fine).

I have organised logos to be embroidered onto shirts for Cyber Shellhole and, if you would want one, I could arrange for them to be made to order. The shirts are a light denim blue, in short or long sleeve with button-down collars and in cotton-type. All sizes are available. The MOTH badge is above the left pocket and the Cyber logo is on the right. They're great for casual wear and cost ZAR 220.00 each, including postage. I'll have some photos available in the next letter.

Right. I am still awaiting some info from all the Cyber members to include in future newsletters, so please don't be shy and send some stuff along. Remember the photos from the upcoming Remembrance services.

Okay, so that's all I have for now. Please pass MOTH Greetings to any/all veterans that you meet in your travels, and at any related Veteran Association Gatherings that you might attend. Wear your Tin Hat with pride!

Yours Under the Tin Hat

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In closing, chaps may find some pertinent information regarding the workings of this wonderful Order might come in handy.

The Salute of the Order is the "Rest on Arms Reversed" position and shall be used on all MOTH occasions. The Salute position entails standing at Attention with bowed the head and placing the right hand over the left (NOT slapped). The hands are held approximately at sternum height, or at about the length of a Lee-Enfield rifle.

The Salute is given on command by the Moth-in-Charge of a gathering and is usually prior to the rendering of the Last Post. The position is held for the duration of the Last Post, or until called to Attention by the Moth-in-Charge. At certain parades and services, the commands are given by a military Parade Sergeant Major, in which case we assume these commands to apply to Moths and we take our lead upon those commands. Listen for them and be smart. Nothing worse than sloppy drill. We were soldiers once and we should know what to do.