



Marshal Smuts Shellhole

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BULLSHEET

JUNE 2011

Editorial

Winter has settled in well and keeping most of us more indoors than usual. This has however not dampened the spirits at Marshal Smuts. During May we attended the Jan Smuts parade and successfully catered for two functions for non-moths who hired the hall. Thank you to Philip, Gerda, Pine and Penny, Bob and Pierre for all your hard work, thereby contributing to our income. Furthermore, our supper club on Wednesdays is as well as ever

The AGM is coming up next month. A nomination list is available on the notice board, so please do not hesitate to nominate members for the next committee so that we can have a full committee of enthusiastic new faces at the top table.

We will be hosting a winter lunch on 11 June for the widows and WWII veterans. The catering team will again be showing what they are made of. Please let Philip know by Wednesday if you will be attending. This month we have part 2 of the story of South Africa and the War against Japan and a quotation from D-Day.

Having completed our series on our own WWII veterans "To live like a MOTH", we feature an article on Moth Jim Peddie who was for many years a very active member of our Shellhole. Last month we started with Jan Smut's Book Holism and evolution and this month reproduce the summary from the start of the First chapter.

JAN SMUTS PARADE: 15 MAY 2011 RIEBEEK WEST



Danie Truter with two other Moths with covered heads from Cape Western form the first rank thereby acting as 'markers'.

The Jan Smuts Parade was attended by six members of the Shellhole and our wreath was laid by Moth Gerda Olivier.



Shellhole Calendar

11 June: Winter Lunch

Shellhole @ 11:30.

18 June: General Meeting

18:00

Remembering D Day

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

"You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened. He will fight savagely. But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men.

The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory! I have full confidence in your courage and devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good luck! And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

SIGNED: Dwight D. Eisenhower 06 June 1944

South Africa and the War against Japan 1941-1945 - Andre Wessels (part 2)

The Union Defence Forces (UDF), December 1941

Japan's entry into the war posed a very real threat to South Africa and emphasized the vulnerability of her coasts and harbours. The country's coastal defences had been planned to meet simple hit-and-run raids by enemy surface vessels and submarines, limited attacks by ship borne aircraft and raids by small parties of enemy soldiers or marines. With Japanese forces overrunning one area after the other in the East, however, there was the possibility of a full-scale invasion. The Union's only safeguard against a Japanese invasion was the ability of the country's more powerful allies to maintain themselves in the Indian Ocean, especially after the spectacular successes achieved by the Japanese during the first few weeks of war. The Japanese war machine was formidable. In December 1941, the Japanese army had some 1 400 000 men and the country possessed a total of about 2 400 aircraft (including naval aircraft).

It was the Japanese navy, however, that posed the greatest threat to the Allies. The navy consisted of some 325 000 personnel with ten battleships, eight aircraft carriers, eighteen heavy cruisers, twenty light cruisers, 108 destroyers, 67 submarines (including several large 'I' Class that could carry a midget submarine and/or a floatplane), several minor naval vessels, as well as many auxiliaries. Although the UDF underwent a metamorphosis in the course of the first two years of the war, South Africa itself remained very vulnerable and its local defences

not in the least adequate to withstand a determined enemy onslaught. By December 1941, a variety of coast artillery guns, ranging from quick-firing 6-pdr guns to heavy 9,2-inch guns, were installed at Walvis Bay, Saldanha Bay, on Robben Island, at Cape Town, Simon's Town, Port Elizabeth, East London and Durban, but these were not enough.

The Union's anti-aircraft capacity also left much to be desired. When war broke out in 1939, there were only eight 3-inch anti-aircraft guns and six searchlights in South Africa and when these guns and searchlights were despatched to East Africa, the Union was completely devoid of ground anti-aircraft defences. By the middle of 1941, there were still no modern anti-aircraft guns in the country - only machine-guns - and it was only in the course of 1942 that new equipment became available. The South African Air Force (SAAF) grew dramatically during the first two years of the war and, by December 1941, had a personnel strength of 31 204, including 4 321 of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Of the total personnel, however, most were trainees and only 2 074 officers and men were operationally employed in South Africa. The number of SAAF aircraft increased from 104 in September 1939 to 1 709 in September 1941. Nevertheless, in December 1941, the SAAF had no fighter squadrons in South Africa.

The threat of a Japanese invasion on the east coast was, for some time, considered a serious possibility and consequently the maritime patrol squadrons were reinforced by two fighter squadrons (No 6 and No 10) flying Curtiss-Mohawk IVs. As far as maritime defence was concerned, the South African Naval Service (SANS) grew from three officers and three ratings - obviously with no warships! - in September 1939 to a force with a personnel of 216 officers and 1 427 other ratings in September 1941. On 7 December 1941, the Seaward Defence Force (SDF) - as the SANS was known since 15 January 1940 - had fifteen small anti-submarine vessels and 39 minesweepers. By December 1941, the UDF, which, until then, only had to look northwards, had successfully taken part in the Abyssinian campaign and was then involved in the struggle against Rommel's Afrika Korps in North Africa. Henceforth, however, it would also have to take into consideration a threat coming from the East.

Japan's entry into the war meant that the conflict had truly become a world conflagration. The Indian Ocean and adjoining areas were then directly threatened by enemy actions. The possibility of enemy submarine attacks on Allied ships in the oceans around South Africa increased dramatically, as did the threat against the country's harbours and coasts. In the light of the weakness of the Union's coastal and anti-aircraft defences, industrial areas along the coasts were particularly vulnerable. Far away from the main operational areas, South Africa had been spared the brunt of the Axis offensives, but, by December 1941, she could not rely on much support, should the Japanese decide to launch an all-out offensive in the Indian Ocean. In more than one way, the Union was ill-prepared for a war against Japan and nearly three and a half years would pass before the country would be in a position to actively support its allies militarily in the East. In the meantime, South Africa had to prepare itself for a possible Japanese incursion into the Indian Ocean. (To be continued)

JAN SMUTS HOLISM AND EVOLUTION Part 2

Jan smuts introduces each chapter in this book with a summary of what is to follow. Although the English is not an easy read, it is amazing that this work was written in 1925.

CHAPTER I THE REFORM OF FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS

Summary.-In spite of the great advances which have been made in knowledge, some fundamental gaps still remain; matter, life and mind still remain utterly disparate phenomena. Yet the concepts of all three arise in experience, and in the human all three meet and apparently intermingle, so that the last word about them has not yet been said. Reformed concepts of all three are wanted. This will come from fuller scientific knowledge, and especially from a re-survey of the material from new points of view. The fresh outlook must accompany the collection of further detailed knowledge, and nowhere is the new outlook more urgently required than in the survey of these great divisions of knowledge. Take Evolution as a case in point. The acceptance of Evolution as a fact, the origin of life-structures from the inorganic, must mean a complete revolution in our idea of matter. If matter holds the promise and potency of life and mind it is no longer the old matter of the physical materialists. We have accepted Evolution, but have failed to make the fundamental readjustment in our views which that acceptance involves. The old mechanical view-points persist, and Natural Selection itself has come to be looked upon as a mere mechanical factor. But this is wrong: Sexual Selection is admittedly a psychical factor, and even Natural Selection has merely the appearance of a mechanical process, because it is viewed as a statistical average, from which the real character of struggle among the concrete individuals has been eliminated. Nineteenth-century science went wrong mostly because of the hard and narrow concept of causation which dominated it. It was a fixed dogma that there could be no more in the effect than there was in the cause; hence creativeness and real progress became impossible. The narrow concept of causation again arose from a wider intellectual error of abstraction, of narrowing down all concepts into hard definite contours and wiping out their indefinite surrounding "fields". The concept of "fields" is absolutely necessary in order to get back to the fluid plastic facts of nature. The elimination of their "fields" in which things and concepts alike meet and intermingle creatively made all understanding of real connections and inter-actions impossible. The double mistake of analysis, abstraction or generalisation has led to a departure in thought from the fluid procedure of nature. Abstract procedure with its narrowing of concepts and processes into hard and rigid outlines, and their rounding off into definite scientific counters, temporarily simplified the problems of science and thought, but we have outlived the utility of this procedure, and for further advance we have now to return to the more difficult but more correct view of the natural plasticity and fluidity of natural things and processes. From this new view-point a resurvey will be made in the sequel of our ideas relating to matter, life and mind, and an attempt will be made to reach the fundamental unity and continuity which underlie and connect all three. We shall thus come to see all three as connected steps in the same great Process, the nature and functions of which will be investigated.

Sound Memory – Roll of Honour and Wall of Remembrance Update

Moth John Patrick (Pat) Noone was born on the 13th of June 1915 and answered the Sunset Call on the 4th of August 2001. Moth Noone was a first cousin of Mr Aubrey Noone and he joined the S.A.R & H after leaving school. When war broke out, he joined the S.A.E.C. and was stationed in Abyssinia before going to Egypt. A skin allergy, caused by the desert sand forced him to return to the Union where he served out the rest of his tour of duty. Shortly after his death, Mrs Noone moved from Vonke House and took up residence at Helderberg Lodge. Mrs Kathleen Mary Spencer Noone was born on the 10th of September 1916 and the couple were married for more than 60 years, unfortunately they never had any children. Suffering from Alzheimer disease since 2004, Mrs Noone was housed in the frail care centre and answered the Sunset Call on the 7th of February 2011.

It was her wish to be cremated and this was done by her only living relatives, the three children of her late brother, Glenn Moore, Deane Moore and Brent Moore in private. The residue of her last will and testament devolves to: 15% Nazareth House Cape Town; 5% Boys Town Magaliesberg; 15% St Paul's Catholic Church Somerset West, for alterations or extensions of the Church and 5% to MOTHS, Marshal Smuts Shellhole, Somerset West.

The name of Mrs Kathleen Noone has been inscribed on our Wall of Remembrance and now appears with that of her late husband. Both of them were devout Roman Catholics and therefore we invited the St Paul's Parish Priest, Father Baartman, on Saturday the 11th of June, when we entertain the other widows, to say a blessing on her behalf.

Ex-Moth George Hopwood answered the Sunset Call on the 22nd of April. Mr Hopwood was already a serving member at Marshal Smuts when Aubrey Noone joined the Shellhole in 1960. George Hopwood was born on the 6th of May 1923; he was the older brother of the legendary Springbok eight man, the late Doug Hopwood, a lifelong member of the Red Cross and S.A Legion (the bar area at the local branch is known as Georges' Inn) where he also stayed for many years. His wife passed away two years ago and he then moved to Huis Jan Swart. He spent the last two years in a wheelchair and was losing both his sight and hearing. He was cremated and his ashes scattered at sea in a private function.

District Mail 15 August 1986 – MOTH Diary (by the late Moth Doc Dockrall)

The passing to higher service last month of Moth Mrs Tommy du Plessis ended a long-standing friendship with Moth Lionel Vigar. Tommy du Plessis joined the nursing services and Lionel Vigar was posted to the Natal Mounted Rifles where he served together with her brother Ernest Thompson.

In the advance after the Second Battle of El Alamein, Lionel Vigar sustained a slight head -



Moth Lionel Vigar and Alte Kameraden – November 1985

wound, but first aid rendered, soon had him on his feet again. Having lost his unit, he proceeded towards an officer standing in a mine gap only to discover it was Ninky Thompson. Given a direction to follow, he proceeded through the minefield until he overheard German being spoken on his right. He veered to the left and fell into a slit trench, to his amazement he found Ernest Thompson in the trench and he was pleased to be able to give him news of his brother. On being pulled out at El Alamein, Ernest and Lionel broke camp to visit Tommy in a hospital near Cairo. Once again, it was a very pleasant surprise for Lionel Vigar to find that Tommy du Plessis was a member of this Shellhole, when he came to live in the area.



Remembering Moth Jim Peddie

25:02:1914 - 01:01:2006

June 1982: The visitors included Moth's Jim Peddie of Boksburg and Chuck Charles of Oribi.

District Mail 15 August 1986 – MOTH Diary (by the late Moth Doc Dockrall)

The welfare officer for our Shellhole is Moth Jim Peddie whose experiences on the run after being freed by the guards from a prisoner of war camp near Venice when Italy capitulated during World War II – could well form the basis of an exciting novel. Together with other ex-Prisoners of War he joined and fought with Italian partisans until warned by a partisan leader that they were being sought by the Germans.

Under the leader's guidance, they caught a train heading north which to their consternation was boarded at a later stage by German infantry personnel. To his horror one of the soldiers approached him in conversation, but dressed as a civilian, he managed to avoid trouble by indicating in Italian that he was unable to speak German.

After leaving Italy, the group crossed the mountains via Austria into Yugoslavia. In Yugoslavia they fought for several months in operations with partisans until special permission was obtained from Marshal Tito for them to be taken by fishing trawler, travelling by night and sheltering by day to re-join the Allied Forces at Bari, Italy.

Collecting old Newspapers

Moth Peddie started this project during 1986 and the money was mainly used to improve the garden and for Mutual Help purposes. His right-hand for most of this project, including the garden work was Moth Guston Vassard, a homeless veteran that Moth Peddie took under his wing. By 1992, this project had already brought in more than 17000.00 ZAR for the Shellhole. He was co-donor of the Shellhole Cenotaph, with Moths Frank Joubert and Eddie de Kock, and also donated the little cannon that are on display in the front garden. During February 1996 Moth Peddie also started the Garden of Remembrance project, which has now been upgraded in his honour.



JIM PEDDIE AND THE STORY BEHIND THE DIFFERENT BATTLEFIELDS AS DEPICTED ON THE SHRINE AT MARSHAL SMUTS

Jim Peddie went to great lengths to obtain samples of soil from all the conflict areas depicted on the shrine at Marshal Smuts. Behind each plaque is a space where that soil is deposited. The story behind each sample is explained in notes and letters that he kept and reproduced here:

19 March 1998 - Mark Nebbie –

Dear Sir – On behalf of Marshal Smuts Shellhole, Somerset West, I beg a small favour from you. At the Shellhole, we have a MOTH Shrine and embedded in it, we have soil from different battlefields around the globe and we would like to add Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana. All we require is a thimble full of soil from Rorke's Drift and a thimble from Isandlwana. Enclosed find a cheque which I hope will cover postage and packaging.

Thanking you – Yours faithfully Jim Peddie

06 June 1998 – Dear Sir – Mr Peddie I would firstly like to apologize for not getting the soil to you sooner, but please accept my excuse and apology. After I spoke to you over the telephone, I mislaid your address and thus thought that I would wait for the cheque to arrive to get the address. Unfortunately our post goes to Dundee and not to Rorke's Drift and so when this post was delivered a few days ago by the curator who knows me well, I obviously hastened to get the soil to your Shellhole as soon as possible. Kind regards – M.A. Nebbie

Delville Wood – a portion of the branch of an oak tree taken from Delville Wood is embedded in the Shrine (see framed picture in Shellhole) – Jim Peddie Curator

30 November 1998 – Dear Moth Peddie – Thank you very much for the parcel of buttons and badges received. They will come in handy once we start sorting out our exhibits in the new museum. I am waiting for Steve Lunderstead to return from the UK, as he does the Battlefield tours all over the Northern Cape. I can, in the meantime collect some ground from Carter's Ridge where Colonel Scott-Turner was killed. I will also give dates etc. when sending the sand. – Kindest regards Moth Clyde Terry

31 January 1999 – Dearest James – Sorry that I have taken so long to send you the sand from Magersfontein and Modder River Battlefields. One cannot always rely on others to do you a favour, so a friend and I rode out on Wednesday and collected the sand ourselves. Hope this parcel arrives safely – Moth Clyde Terry

Arnhem – Soil from drop off zone and bridge organised by Moth Theo Matthews – Theo took part in the drop, saw action and was captured. He has friends living in Arnhem who sent us the sand sample.



Bridge over the River Kwai – a sample of soil taken from the Bridge on the River Kwai was taken by Moth Pierre Olivier while on a visit to Thailand

Dunkirk – Eric Russell of the 50th Division Engineers. When embarking for England at Dunkirk he took soil from Dunkirk to England. On a recent visit to London Ossie Baker met up with Eric Russell who kindly supplied the soil and the write up.

1 May 1999 – Dear Jim – As promised herewith a small container of earth which I collected from Pearl Harbour when visiting the Museum and Shrines of the infamous raid on Pearl Harbour by the Japanese on December 7th 1941. During the attack American casualties were high. They succeeded in sinking or badly damaging 5 Battleships and 14 other ships. Luckily for America most of the Carrier Force was at sea. In addition to ships, they also lost over 200 Aircraft. Kind regards – Moth George Gardiner

14 February 2000 – Dear Mr Peddie – I am writing to you with reference to your last fax dated 6 February 2000. As promised in my last correspondence to you on 18 November 1999, it is my pleasure and honour to enclose a sample of the El Alamein Battlefield soil to complete your collection. Your request has always been put into consideration and I could only manage to provide you with the soil sample now as I have just returned from a trip near El Alamein. Yours sincerely – Dr Frank T Mdlalose Ambassador of South Africa to Egypt

To the MOTH of Somerset West – the earth sample given to Moth Peddie was collected by my brother Marcel, on the Battlefield of Waterloo. L.J. Morton

Normandy Beaches – It is with a sense of pride that I am able to affirm that the sand from the shore area, together with a small number of sand grains from the Merville area, the Drop Zone of 6th Airborne Division, were mixed to give a small sample to cover the area which was the scene of the wonderful part played by the British Forces on D-Day, 6th June 1944. Theo Matthews – ex 1st Airborne Division 156 Battalion

Gulf War Certificate of Authenticity – Ondergetekenden, G.A. Huysmans, Site Manager Poms-site Vriezenveen en Chief Warrant Officer A. Avloyo-Pagan, Property Book Officer, 19th Combat Equipment Company, verklaren hierbij dat het bijgevoegde zand-monster is afkomstig uit Zuid West Asië. Het zand is versameld uit de tanks welke deelgenomen hebben aan de Golf-oorlog en welke thans ter repartie zijn aangeboden aan Poms-site Vriezenveen – 24 October 1991

Battle of Atlantic

Border War – Memorial earth sample taken from Ongiva Air/Army Base by Ossie Baker

Battle of Shangani River Mat abele Land – soil collected on the 25th of February 2003 by Moth Bob Palmer

The Light of Remembrance

18 June 1918: D.M. Tyndall – S.A. Native Labour Corps

24 June 1918: H. Lavell – 1st S.A. Infantry Brigade

28 June 1943: R. Anderson – S.A. Air Force

10 June 1980: Peter William Warrener – 61 Mechanised Battalion Group

We will remember them

Important Dates

11 June

1509: Henry VIII of England marries Catherine of Aragon

1944: USS Missouri is commissioned

1962: Frank Morris, John Anglin and Clarence Anglin allegedly become the only prisoners to escape from the prison on Alcatraz Island

1970: Anna Mae Hays and Elizabeth P Hoising officially receive their ranks as US Army Generals, becoming the first females to do so

2011: Marshal Smuts Winter Lunch at 11:30

17 June

1885: The Statue of Liberty arrives in New York Harbour

1987: The Dusky Seaside Sparrow becomes extinct

1991: The South African Parliament recalls the Population Registration Act

1994: O.J. Simpson is arrested following a televised low-speed highway chase

2011: Marshal Smuts Monthly Meeting at 18:10

Birthdays

04 June

1924: Dennis Weaver

1936: Bruce Dern

1942: Associate Member Roy Chester

1944: Michelle Phillips

1975: Angelina Jolie

29 June

1901: Nelson Eddy

1911: Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands

1941: Stokely Carmichael

1944: Gary Busey

1951: Moth Don Pengelly

30 June

1917: Susan Hayward

1933: M.J.K. Smith

1936: Tony Musante

1936: Moth Tony Goodyear

1941: Peter Pollock

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;

www.30degreessouth.co.za

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