

Savannah Dispatches



Edition no 2 January 2018

At the start of this New Year we wish all our readers a very successful and peaceful year ahead. Before we get away with ourselves on what is going to be another eventful year for savannah Shell Hole let us reflect on what has taken place since the last edition.

In the last edition mention was made of the attendance at the West Rand sports Day but no photos were available to publish. As promised here they are.



It came to our notice after the event that Moth Mike had been swallowing the “bokdrols” instead of spitting them, to those of us who know him well; this may just explain a thing or two.

We made an appearance at the MAG picnic in the Park held at the War Museum, the support was only fair in general but our contingent in Blue shirts stood out well. Moth Jimmy conducted the service.



Moth Jimmy doing his best to show this Gunner how a flag is hoisted without breaking it and causing embarrassment to all.....



We were very pleased to have Moth Jorge, Sgt Maj. of Dickie Fritz Shellhole join us, he does seem to have sneaked in well undercover and has his eye on Debbie, Moth Robin take note, Debbie belongs to Savannah.

Our next outing was to support the MMA with their annual Sun Flower Run help during September at the Dickie Fritz Moth Complex. This event raises much needed cash to fund the bone marrow test needed before transplants can take place. Our stand sold Brackwust Hot dogs which judging by the demand were well recieved . Thanks to all who assisted that day. The attached photos will show just how much fun we had. Please take note of the photo of Moth Trevor, beer in the right hand, we finally have proof. His excuse was he was just holding it not drinking it, yes Trevor we all beleive you.



Trevor, what colour is that shirt you are wearing? Our colour is blue, repeat after me blue!



X marks the spot!!!!

. September certainly was a busy month for us. I have made no mention of the Magnificent 7 or the Palaborwa Raid, the Specila edition newsletter covers that week end. Just incase you have forgotten a photo to remind you.



The image of the plaque Mine Fields shellhole presented us is on the righth and well worth a good look.

Once we got into late September we became very busy with activities going on all the time. We attended Cosy Corner Shellholes 90th aniversary dance which was a great succes and well attended by our Shellhole. Well done to Moth Rob and his Shellhole for a really great evening.



We thought that was it but up early the next morning and back to Cosy Corner for our Beer Fess. We were given a great location, a little out of the way but still very much part of the fete which was also taking place. Our sales of craft beer were very good and for those of you who didn't join us, no Savannah didn't drink all the beer.



The Savannah front line being suitably manned. Wonder what Moth Richard is doing? Taking photos or watching elicet postings on "Savichat"

The ever present SA Irish Pipe Band were there to entertain us with their wonderful music. Note Moth Geoff deep in thought



Moth Geoff still very deep in thought, not sure what the Obersturmbanfuher is up to but it looks serious. Old Bill Gavin is very pleased. Moth Trevor is actually wearing a blue shirt!!!!!!!



There we have it Trevor wearing the correct shirt and check how he is insisting that the photographer gets a picture, Moth Jimmy is still not convinced.

I do think mention must be made of the stout effort put in by the Savannah Moths. Cosy Corner is a long way out, any further and we would start smelling the ocean. It was almost a long distance raid. Hat's off to all who supported the Beer Fess and special thanks to those who tirelessly manned the taps. Well done all.

The next week end saw us all at St Benedicts College for our annual dinner dance. It was a special event especially when we consider that it's been a number of years since the last one. Another example of Savannah Moths working together to make it a very successful event. Special thanks to St Benedicts for allowing us the use of their hall. Thank you to the other Shell holes and associations who supported us.



That need for a Raid started to raise its head so off to Oasis to raid their annual garden party. An excellent event and something a little different. It also gave our wives a chance to join us and get to know each other better. Notice moth Richard smiling, shows what cold Lions can do. We all had a good time and look forward to next year's event. The last photo will really only have meaning for the Magnificent 7



Nothing like a cold Lion

He wants to drive!!!!!!!

Next comes the Sidi Rezegh parade and the Remembrance week end. Five or six parades to attend over two following weekends, we needed to be strong.

The Sidi Rezegh parade went off well with a decent size column marching on. The fete which followed is reported to have been a great success. Me being a resident at the complex was tasked with looking after the breakfast rolls and Prego rolls, thanks to the fellow Savannah Moth who helped; I wouldn't have managed without you.



Although very hot that day the actual parade went off very well. The old Bill Gavin and I proudly carrying the colours.



Well dressed Savannah Moths, Johnny your hat !!!!!

Yes Craig we really do understand, boys will be boys.



Note the skillful use of cooldrink cups as camoflague, works well, we dont really need beer..... Trevor, not again. "I heard voices or the devil told me to" just isnt going to cut it.....

Friday 10th November was to be something very new for us. We attended a remembrance Parade at Chartwell Country College where our Sgt. Maj. Moth Geoff is the Headmaster ! Yes i also wondered.....

What I think struck all of us was the solemn way the pupils participated. They each had a verse or poem to read and we followed with a sort of mini Moth service. Well done children, you appreciate what it all stands for and well done to Headmaster Geoff and teacher Claire for the well planned event. "We will be back..."



Moth ritual carried out very well in the field, its not where we do its how we do it



After Geoff had presented his piece Johnny and I went off to check the perimeter. What did we find? School dogs yes but school goats? "Johnny what does the goat say?" "Says he is looking for Robin" Seems goat bush telegraph is pretty good.

We left after a rather hot morning ,seems beer isnt allowed at schools, how times have changed, and headed for work/home but on the way we found a pup, and the craft beer there seemed to be in an overstock situation, so always willing to assist we stopped.....got home much later.

Hardly time to dust off our uniforms before the Shadow Parade which this was held at Jeppe Boys instead of the War Museum. It was a good opportunity for the general public to see the MOTH on parade. The column wasn't too big but probably a good size for the venue any bigger and there would have been problems forming up.



The SA Legion run this parade and according to them it was a success. We were all treated very good snacks in the Jeppe School.



The shadows being cast across our colours

Bright and early some of the brave ones or mad ones made their way to Revellie Shellhole for their annual Remembrance parade. This is an old MOTH venue and steeped in tradition. The column was not that big support coming mainly from the old East Rand shellholes



Getting ready to go on parade nothing like a few cold ones to motivate us. There is Richard laying a wreath for the MOTH. No Sgt Maj. You cant fine Moth Jimmy for his beret badge, he was doing it for the Navy.

There was some confusion as we had the only Colour on parade. I was carrying it and set off in front of the column. I followed the band, later to find the column had broken away and was on the opposite side of the parade ground, some quick drill manouvres took place. It was later said I was following the drummer girls in the band but I claim GPS failure, its up to you to decide.

Jimmy and I left Reveille and made a quick stop at Dickie Fritz to see the Minefields Moths as they were visiting.

It had become rather hot so some cooling down was needed, reminding Jimmy of the time he casually said, "They wont start without us".

We were also able to take the names of the defaulters would weren't on parade.

There are always mixed feeling regarding the Majors Parade what with the policts we have. Just to say it was a very good parade, not very big and the sermon was good totally devoid of of any politics, unlike previous years.

The new JHB council certainly is behind the veterans so without our support how can we expect theirs.



That all but brought the Novembers parades to an end. The parades were all well planned and certain people put in a great deal of effort to make them memorable. What I have to say next is personal , why are parades to poorly attended, some shellholes not even being represented? Did we just join the MOTH to have cheap drinks once a month. Remember what we stand for TC, MH and SM. Having vented off I will say Savannah always makes an effort to have Moths on parade and we are not after all a large Shellhole

As the year is fast drawing to a close we still have one event to take care off annual Childrens Xmas Tree. This function is not for us but for the children.

The day started a little cloudy with talk of rain which didnt come. We Blue Shirts set up the craft beer and food stalls for a hectic day ahead and it was. We had over 100 children receiving presents from our very own Father Xmas. He must have been very hot in the red suit on such a hot day. Fortunately we were able to rehydrate him with water purified by Famous Growse. Well done Porkie.

All the elves were kept very busy dishing out sweets and ice cream. The ice cream was only for the children, worse luck. Moth Robin said he found the one he asked me to turn into a Don Pedro. Debbie do you know about this?

This event would not be possible if it wasnt for the hard work put in by Wee Bill Robin and his wife Debbie, the Shellhole is very proud of you both.



We had our last Shellhole meeting in November. The year had come to a close and all were looking forward to good break. We did have a visitor, Old Bill Mark Louw from Shellburst. He was arrested and charged, you ask how that can happen? I do the bar for Shellburst and at their last meeting they put me on charge, no questions no recall. I was set upon and found guilty, no defence, no appeal. A punitive raid might just be in order early next year.



It seems the cunning Moth Mark had bribed someone. As I had laid the charge I thought all was well from here on when suddenly our own Sgt. Maj. One of us, put me on charge for not respectation the Old Bill enough. The matter moved up to senior command and the a stand off beer drinking contest was chosen to settle matters. Glass boots where filled the the contest began. Shellburst came second. Well done Mark you are a good sport.

I thought I would close this second edition of Savannah Dispatches when I came upon something that really does need reporting. As you all know I stay at the Dickie Fritz complex, we had our residents lunch on 16th December and very good it was. Moth Trevor was there, he is vice Chairman of the MESCA committee.



Voices in his head?

Wishing you all the very best for this year and looking forward another great MOTH year for Savannah.

Your under the Tin Hat

