



BATTLEDRESS SHELLHOLE
CENTRAL CIRCLE, FISH HOEK
PO BOX 22033 FISH HOEK 7974
Email battledress.shellhole@gmail.com



BATTLECRY! DECEMBER 2019

Hello, Everyone

This is the last Battlecry! newsletter for 2019 and I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy and Healthy New Year ahead.

Thank you for your kind comments regarding last month's Remembrance edition of Battlecry! I cannot think of a more heartfelt month when people came together to remember the tragedy and sacrifices of war. I truly appreciate the feedback that you have been passing on to me; it makes it worthwhile to know that you are enjoying the newsletters. Now, by the time you read this edition, December has all but come and gone. I hope it was indeed a season to be jolly and even if only for a short time, you were able to put any worries you may have had behind you.

Battledress Shellhole has had one of the most successful fundraising years in its history. You'll hear more about this later on in the newsletter, along with December events such as the River Plate Breakfast, the Joker Draw and of course, it's Christmas Cheer. Also in this newsletter, as promised, some memories from current Battledress Moths, men and women served in the Rhodesian Bush War.

So, for the last time in 2019, let's get that kettle on. Oh, and perhaps a mince pie, or two? It's still the festive season after all!



Sunset Call

We were blessed in that no-one from Battledress Shellhole passed to Higher Service in December. To the families who lost loved ones during 2019, we hold you in our hearts and continue to pay much respect to those who passed to higher service during the year.

We Will Remember Them

Sick Parade

There are Moths and FOFR who continue to struggle back to a level of good health. Keep them your thoughts and prayers this festive holiday time:

Moth Ena Burnett

Moth Smudge Smith

Moth Richard Evans

Moth Phil De Villiers

Moth George Van Willingham

Moth Sam van der Poll

Liz Killian (widow of Battledress Moth Bill Killian)

Thanks to Padre Errol Sadler and Adjutant/Welfare Officer Moth

Ian Scott for their continued visits to the unwell and those in need of care, company and compassion.



BIRTHDAYS

December

16 December - Mothwa Alice Laubscher

19 December - Moth Alan Green

24 December – FOFR Bridget Coney – 70th Milestone Birthday

January

01 January - Moth John Lamont

05 January – Moth/Sgt Major Neil Bright

10 January – Moth/Commander Ricky De Wet

12 January – FOFR Deon van der Merwe

18 January - Moth Eric Staine

21 January – Moth/Play Bill Leon Haralambous – 60th Milestone Birthday

24 January - Moth Gavin Cook



Many happy returns to you all and have a wonderful year ahead.

Congratulations!

Hearty congratulations to Battledress Shellhole's Padre, Errol Sadler, who celebrated 22 years of being ordained into the church on 16 December.

TRAINING

 By Moth Keith Galvin

GET TO KNOW YOUR ORGANISATION/ORDER (MOTH)

The MOTH website (www.moth.org.za) contains a wealth of information regarding the MOTH Order.

Moths and FOFR are requested to visit the website and learn about the Order, its ideals, its constitution, the organisational structures, the objectives, functions and much more.

Learn about your own Shellhole, other Shellholes in RSA and abroad, the cottage schemes, memorials, holiday accommodation, amongst many other items of interest. You can also keep up to date with the latest news from the Order. YOU will be pleasantly surprised at the extent of our Order and how you can benefit from your membership.

Note:

In last month's newsletter regarding Dress Codes for Moths and Non-Moths, there were some queries as to what was/not an acceptable dress code. It stands to reason that people should always be respectful of attending the Shellhole, and as examples the absence of footwear, wearing of vests and dirty clothes are not considered appropriate at any time, or reason.

World War II Snippets

The Nazis called them 'Night Witches' because of the whooshing noise their plywood and canvas airplanes made reminded the Germans of the sound of a witch's broomstick. The Russian women who piloted those planes, onetime crop dusters, took it as a compliment. In 30,000 missions over four years, they dumped 23,000 tons of bombs on the German invaders, ultimately helping to chase them back to Berlin. Any German pilot who downed a 'witch' was awarded an Iron Cross. These young heroines, all volunteers and most in their teens and early 20s, became legends of World War II but are now largely forgotten. Flying only in the dark, they had no parachutes, guns, radios or radar, only maps and compasses. If hit by tracer bullets,



their planes would burn like sheets of paper." So begins a NY Times tribute to one of the most famous "Night Witches," Nadezhda Popova, who flew 852 missions during the war, passed away in 2013 at the age of 91

Mary Ellis – WW II Spitfire Pilot

Mary Ellis, a prominent member of the ATA's female pilots during World War II and one of the "Glamour Girls" who flew more than 70 models of airplanes, amongst which was the famed Spitfire, died earlier this year at the age of 101. These amazing female pilots, featured in an earlier edition of Battlecry! flew much needed planes to the Allied front airfields.



MOVEMBER



Thanks to FOFR John Lewis, Moth Adjutant/Welfare Officer Ian Scott, Moths Glynn Murrell Patrick O'Reilly and Moth Richard Evans (not pictured) for their support for prostate cancer awareness during the month of **Movember**. You are good sports for growing the hairy beasts! Awareness is the start of identifying a cancer early enough to make it treatable and enabling you to spend extra years with loved ones. Don't deprive yourself, or your family of that precious time.

Remembering and Saluting the Rhodesians

♪ Rhodesians Never Die ♪

Here's the story of Rhodesia
 A land both fair and great
 On the Eleventh of November
 An Independent State
 This was much against the wishes
 Of certain governments
 Whose leaders tried to break us down
 And make us all repent

Chorus:
 But we're all Rhodesians and we'll fight through thick
 and thin
 We'll keep our land a free land from the enemy
 coming in
 We'll keep them north of the Zambesi, til that river's
 running dry
 And this mighty land will prosper, for Rhodesians
 never die.



"There is no such thing as closure for soldiers who have survived a war. They have an obligation, a sacred duty, to remember those who fell in battle beside them all their days and to bear witness to the insanity that is war."



The Clem Tholet song “Rhodesians Never Die”, remained a favourite of the armed forces personnel who fought, through the Bush War. With the exception of South Africa’s borders, the Bush War was fought along all of Rhodesia’s borders and later in cities, and its farms between July 1964 to December 1979. White fears in Rhodesia that total chaos would ensue if majority rule was granted by the ruling British government to its African colonies were stubbornly ignored. “The winds of change are blowing” and there would be no compromise on independence unless majority rule was agreed to. The policy was seen as leaving the Ian Smith led government

to declare Independence from Britain on the 11th of November 1965, essentially to preserve what it considered as its right to self government (which it had had since 1923). Ian Smith, a World War II Royal Airforce pilot and hero was however seen to be defending the Christian faith against the communist ideals, rule of law and that unlike the African Nationalist claims that the government wanted to preserve white colonial domination over black people, the Ian Smith led government believed that the country’s tribal chiefs were the true leaders of black people.

Most of the senior officers in the Rhodesian armed forces were Sandhurst and Royal Airforce trained and the discipline and standards throughout the armed forces were second to none. Many went to war against colleagues who had attended the military academy together. As the war intensified so did the call-ups for young and the next generation to follow.



The professional career service personnel needed the additional support of men through the call-up conscription policy, starting with compulsory service for 9 months and increasing to 24 months, as the war progressed. Glynn Murrell of the Guard Force had avoided call-ups as a result of his specialist expertise in designing mechanical mine protected vehicles and military communications equipment. Glynn provide a protective role within Protected Villages, and exercising Grey Scout horses so that they and their wounded soldiers received rehabilitation at Tsanga Lodge.

Women voluntarily ‘joined up’ and provided much needed administrative leadership and active service roles within the Armed Forces. In 1975, the Rhodesia Women’s Service was established and provided Officer’s and NCO personnel in Rhodesia’s Army and Air Force structures, RWS who passed a nine month Officer Cadet selection course participated in strategic and leadership roles. Despite the war, customs and traditions were adhered to, even the formal but always fun dining-in evenings in their stunning mess dress uniforms.

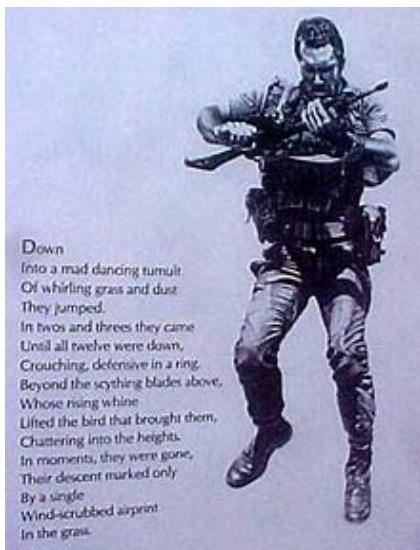
The country even had its own “Dad’s Army” with older men patrolling the suburbs whilst older women also did everything they could to “do their bit” in the war against terrorism. Sadly, despite many civilians believing that the war was being won, the number of armed forces being killed, together with the traumatic downing Air Rhodesia’s Viscounts and the killing of passengers who had survived the crash brought home the reality that the war was in fact being lost. Thousands of young men left the



country before they turned 18 years of age to dodge their call up papers, many never to return to the land of their birth. Others held Prime Minister Ian Smith in high regard but hindsight is 20/20 vision. The lack of political compromise by the Rhodesian government brought more severe economic sanctions and ultimately even “friendly” pressure by South Africa and America contributed to final capitulation. Many remember Ian Smith’s words of “Not in a 1000 years and Not in my lifetime”, whilst others remember his words “Rhodesia did not lose the war against its enemies, but rather we lost because we were betrayed by our friends.”



54 years on, Rhodesians remain proud of their service in the face of terrorist adversity. A small country took on the world and through a



united belief in a just war, managed to hold back the communist backed African Nationalists. In 1980, for a brief period when the country was known as Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, but after an election for all races, Robert Mugabe became the first black President of Zimbabwe. Derided as “When-We’s”, Rhodesians do not see themselves as such. They remain enormously proud of their victories, but saddened by the sacrifices - of losing a war and of course, the loss of loved ones. Rhodesians Never Die. We salute you!

Rhodesia - The Last Eden (by David Mead.

Shortened for space constraints only)

Our forebearer's manufactured our own steel, glass, ethanol, food, textiles, explosives, railroads and just about

anything you care to think about. We converted to metric in the sixties and educated more native people than any other nation in Africa despite the burden of fighting a guerilla war, sponsored by China and Russia and supported by all members of the United Nations. We were totally self- sufficient in food and agricultural supplies despite the blockade which the British Navy commanded over our supply lines. At Independence we handed over a nation where seventy percent of our armed forces were black indigenous people. Our currency although already devalued was equal to the British Pound, then the strongest currency on earth. Many of us were to bury our friends, heroes and loved ones in their sacred shrouds on hallowed ground. That those places have now been desecrated places a sad indictment upon the perpetrators, for their sins may be remembered "unto the third and even the fourth generation."



(On) 11th November we will remember our people who stood side by side with Australians, Kiwis, British, Americans and Scandinavians, French, Free Polish, Greeks and a multitude of brother nations during the First and Second World Wars

defending both civilisation and humanity. Who made sacrifices on the Western Front, in North Africa, Burma, India, Egypt and Malaya and the many gallant men who flew aircraft and manned ships which ultimately saved mother England from total obliteration? Many of our pioneers including Cecil Rhodes, Alfred Beit and Kingsley Fairbridge bequeathed their wealth to the world. To those valiant hearts who paid the ultimate sacrifice, you lie beneath the soil of Africa.



Battledress Moth 'Shamwari's'

Albert Masson, Julie Denham, Glynn Murrell, Skatie Fourie, Vanessa Chambers, Chris Smith Patrick O'Reilly

Snippets from the Rhodesian Bush War Experiences

From 2nd Lt Jackie Harris based at 4 Brigade near Fort Victoria: "I remember a dining in night at Llewellyn Barracks watching the newest Officers perform some hair- raising initiation rituals - like hanging on to a ceiling fan and trying to do as many revolutions as

possible. I think 94 turns was the highest before we were all covered in puke. We thought it was so wonderful."

And on another occasion: On one evening at the 4 Brigade Officer's Mess, the Colonel came in for a whisky (one never says a few drinks because Officers rightfully never have more than one drink) and he was greeted by a whining young Subaltern..... the Wines Member. Some booze could not be accounted for, in particular, rum, brandy and sherry. The Colonel instructed that all bottles of booze should be inverted and marked off, just to make sure that the Wines Member was right with his assumption. But the theft continued. All Officers were ordered into the pub and were told about the theft and should they be caught stealing they would face a punishment worse than death but the theft continued.

Eventually the young Lieutenants decided to take matters into their own hands and urinated in the open bottles of rum, brandy and sherry... but the theft continued. Finally, the Colonel called together every member of staff associated with the Officers' Mess and the meeting was well into its tenth minute when all of a sudden a voice boomed out from the crowd. It belonged to the Sergeant in charge of the kitchen. He stepped forward and asked if the Colonel and Wines Member had taken into account the amount of Sherry, Brandy and rum he used in the puddings for the Officers' Mess!

From Anonymous: "I hated the army and everything about it from the drilling to the shouting to the seemingly senseless waste of time of repetitive tasks shouted at you each day. If my uncle had not been in the Army and saw to it that I be called up to serve, I would have been over the border before the sun came up."

From Officer Cadet Vanessa Chambers: "Cadet Chambers "DON" T YOU FALL ASLEEP IN MY LECTURE!" (Lt. Colonel "Bullet" Stansfield, Army HQ Logistics).

From (Private) Julie Denham: "I was intake 1/20 in 1978. Before we experienced our first "prayer meeting" aka Pub night we were initiated.



We were drenched in syrup and then proceedd to through feathers at each other.

There was a "fowl" smell in the showers afterwards"

"Chickens Stand at Ease-Stand Easy!" Awaiting my syrup and feather initiation (front left)."

Green Badge & Certificate of Good Comradeship

At the December Moths Monthly meeting, It came as no surprise to everyone present, except to the recipient himself, that FOFR John Lewis be awarded the coveted Green Badge and Certificate of Good Comradeship. John has owned the responsibility of running with all raffles conducted at Battledress Shellhole and has done exceptionally well in contributing to the monies raised, accordingly. Congratulations, John, well deserved!



Exchange of Shellhole Pennants/Plaques



Commander Ricky De Wet and Deputy Old Bill Errol Sales of Vacant Chair Shellhole in Pretoria recently exchanged pennant and plaques on 20 December when Errol and his son, Chad, visited his old Shellhole, Battledress. Enjoying their stay and re-acquainting himself with old friends and making new ones, they stayed an extra day to join the festivities of the reknowned Battledress Shellhole River Plate Breakfast.



JONES SAFE HOUSE – Battledress Shellhole & Saveur Restaurant Give Jones Safe House A Wonderful Christmas 2019 Celebration

In November's newsletter we mentioned the incredible generosity of brothers Robert and Patrick De Wet of Saveur and Sav Café when they donated over 20 platters of food to the Remembrance Parade 's after function.

This December, the brothers and other generous contributors from Battledress Shellhole did it all over again. Receiving unanimous agreement to support the Jones Safe House for abused women and children in



season.

Kommetjie, food donations came in as soon as the word spread. Non perishable foods were received first and then a very large amount of freshly frozen chicken, meat packs, tuna and mince, fresh vegetables, rice, noodles and Christmas hamper goodies for everyone to enjoy for the festive





Cindy and Danie de Kock surprised us all when they said they had been to assist the Jones Safe House 3 years previously on an MMA Father Christmas bike run. You guys are heroes! Welcoming the delivery party to the Safe House, were Donovan Jones and wife Bernadette and Manager of the Safe House, Tarryn Barreiro – oh, and all the excited children who gave us warm and grateful hugs. The children had decorated their own Christmas tree and promised they had all been good boys and girls. The Naughty List was not lost on the youngsters! From Battledress there

was not a dry eye to be found between Commander Ricky Det Wet and his wife, Helen, FOMMA/FOFR Cindy and Danie De Kock, Moth Warren Cowan, FOFR John Lewis and partner Ros Barnett, and Ragbill Moth Vanessa Chambers.

A very merry Christmas to the Jones Safe House & Saver and Sav Café Restaurants and Staff.



Other December Events

Blitzbokke 7evens Rugby Championship 2020

Something we looked forward to after winning the Rugby World Cup Championship in Japan, was the start of the Rugby 7evens Championship in Cape Town. The BlitzBokke started well in Dubai but lost their home town final in Cape Town against the New Zealand team. Word has it though that we won the “Welcome to Cape Town” award and the visitors were thrilled, especially the Women’s 7evens rugby teams who were playing for the first time in the championship. Onwards as we follow our teams to New Zealand when the games re-start in January 2020.

Battledress River Plate Breakfast

We all know that the Battledress Shellhole River Plate Breakfast has become legendary over the years. Initially, the increasingly renowned breakfast was cooked in the outside braai area with attendees eating in the Founders Room area. This December, there was no such similarity - 80 confirmed bookings with 94 attendees. You get the picture? Even the Shellhole’s Playbill, Moth Leon Haralambous had to go and buy extra breakfast items to ‘save his bacon’ to cater for the extra people who arrived for the breakfast.

Outstanding work by the Shellhole Chefs, Warren, Craig, Keith, Neil and Mike had their patience taxed to the max when the electricity kept tripping, due to the overload of various electrical appliances working overtime. Undeterred, the breakfast was a huge success and will no doubt set an even higher bar for 2020.

Thanks to Helen De Wet, Denise and John Lamont, Ros Barnett and Joan Farmer, for the washing up of the crockery and cutlery; Shannon Bright, Norma Galvin and Ingrid Hopkins for serving up the feast, as well as thanks to the bar staff, Denise Thompson, Leonard Marais and John Lewis for ensuring no one went thirsty during the breakfast.

Alice Laubscher's 91st Birthday

Celebrating her 91st birthday at the Battledress River Plate Breakfast, Alice Laubscher has recovered well from her illness earlier this year, and though she says she is going to slow down, this avid social cards player and crossword fanatic still had enough breath to blow out a candle amongst a selection of cup-cakes for her birthday.

Happy birthday, Alice and we at Battledress wish you many more and a healthy 2020.



Joker Draw



The Joker Draw jackpot on Friday 13 December was not won and was rolled over until the Shellhole recommences with its regular functions in the New Year. At the last draw, the jackpot was over R1100 and will continue to grow with new rounds of tickets being bought when the Draw reopens. Remember, you need to be at the draw to win it. Someone's new year will be off to a good start if you draw the Joker! I'd start thinking of what you can do with that cash in the hand win.

Butterflies

Also on a break over the Christmas and New Year festivities are the Butterflies. The Ladies have had a very busy year and will be taking a well-earned holiday until the Shellhole reopens in February. Outings are guaranteed to be diverse, educational varied and fun-filled as they have been in 2019. We wish the Butterflies a happy and healthy New Year.



Do you want to join this lively group of ladies who enjoy an educational outing? Contact FOFR Bridget Coney at Battledress Shellhole for more information.

Who Are You?

FOFR/FOMMA Cindy De Kock



Born and raised in Paarl, Cindy, or "Sprout" as she was affectionately called by her father, completed her Matric and took a couple of years to discover new horizons in the UK before returning to South Africa. Cindy worked in the hospitality industry before enlisting with SAPS for a disciplined and team orientated career. By 2002, Cindy was stationed in Khayelitsha's Crime Prevention Unit during a volatile time. Working closely with her uniformed brothers -in-arms but losing friends and colleagues in the violence of the townships, Cindy also experienced a personal, brutal assault on herself just three weeks before her wedding,

Cindy called time and put aside the combative SAPS role, moving instead into the less traumatic world of administration. Currently working as a Broker's Assistant in Kirstenhof, Cindy and Danie moved into Fish Hoek in 2009, where together with their two boys – the four legged kind – they are happily settled. Cindy's passion from her tiny-tot days with her father, remains motor bike riding, and is a



part-time riding instructor on weekends. Cindy initially joined the MMA when she sold a pair of biker boots to a MMA/Moth which then led to her interest in joining the MOTH Order, in particular its three ideals. Having considered other Shellhole's Cindy decided to submit her application for Battledress, recalling "I immediately felt welcome at Battledress and just knew this was my Shellhole". You will also see Cindy from time to time as a Quartermaster in the Founder's Room, and having already experienced many of life's learning curves, her motto is "In a world where you can be anything, always be kind."

CONGRATULATIONS

Christmas Cheer Hamper Winners!

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Hampers! Your generosity was amazing!

The winners were:

Moth Les Smith won the main hamper prize and a second prize.

FOFR Eileen Cruywagen won the second prize hamper.

Mothwa Alice Laubscher won the third prize hamper.

FOFR Denise Thompson won a R500 Saveur meal voucher for two.



Others below all won smaller prizes:

Helen de Wet

Penny & Gavin Cooke

Sandy Smit

Tracey Munro

Keith Galvin

Donna Abrahamse

Well done to you all and may the joys and good tidings of Christmas follow you into the New Year.

Moth and Social Events in February 2020

Saturday 01 February – Burns Night. A fund raiser for the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band. The Burns menu consists of starters (Haggis and mash for the daring!), Main meal (Chicken ala King with veggies), Dessert (Ice Cream & Chocolate sauce) and a tot of whiskey.

Cost is R150.00 per person at the Shellhole 18h30 for 19h00. The Grand March at 18h45. Get your name down on the booking list on the notice board.

It's going to be everything Robbie Burn's would have wanted but seating will be limited as there will be bagpipe music and Scottish dancing, so book early and don't be disappointed!

Woolworth Gift Voucher

If you can match up the photograph of the Rhodesian soldier on Page 4 with one of the Battledress Shamwari's on Page 6, you will win a R100 gift voucher from Woolworth.

Answers to the Ragbill at battledress.shellhole@gmail.com by no later than 02 January 2020.

It is time to pack away my laptop and wish you a Happy New Year and may the whole of 2020 be a happy, healthy and rewarding one for you all.

And remember, life is all about perspective the sinking of the Titanic was a miracle for the lobsters in the ship's kitchen!

Until we meet again,

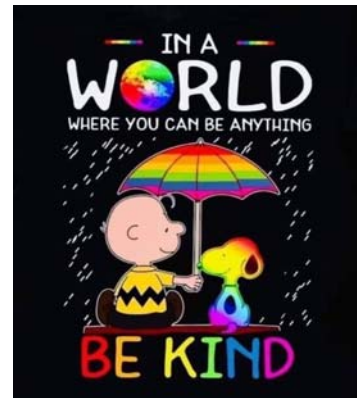
Vanessa Chambers

Battlecry! Rag Bill

Moth Vanessa Chambers

Email: battledress.shellhole@gmail.com

Website: www.moth.org.za



FOUNDERS ROOM OPENING TIMES

Wednesday 16h00 -20h00

Friday 17h00-22h00

Saturday 13h00 to 20h00

Sunday and Public Holidays 13h00-18h00

Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day

Monthly Quiz on the first Friday of the month
(General Knowledge and Musical Quiz is held on
alternate months)

Joker Draw on the second Friday of the month

Bingo on the third Friday of the month

Darts on the last Friday of the month

Weekend braais

The above are normally held every month except in
the month of January when the Shellhole functions
are on a break, but may change as and when needs be.

SPORT VIEWING TIMES ARE ON THE SHELLHOLE
NOTICE BOARD

**Approved opening times will be adjusted for certain events,
functions and televised sporting events
as per the Shellhole Notice Board.**