



**BATTLEDRESS SHELLHOLE**  
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## **BATTLECRY! MARCH 2020**

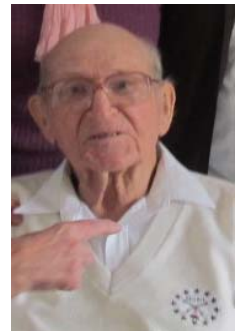
Hello One and All,

Welcome to the March edition of Battlecry! Have you noticed the chillier mornings, and are you staying in bed that half an hour longer yet? I think winter is sending an early notice of its arrival this year. It's not the only notice though because this month the Coronavirus reached our country. More on the virus and Covid-19 later on in the newsletter. Suffice to say, it is **extremely** important that you be informed and understand both the ramifications of the disease and your personal hygiene. You and your nearest and dearests remain fully informed about requirements for maintaining good health.



### **Sunset Call**

It is with regret that Battledress Shellhole was advised of the passing to Higher Service of Battledress Life Member and WW II Veteran Moth George P. van Willingham on 09 March. Well-liked and respected, George became a Moth on 01 September 1989, qualifying as a Life Member on 16 November 2016. Battledress Moths extend their condolences to his wife, Margaret, and his family, including his nephew, Moth Alan Hopfeldt, of Battledress Shellhole.



**We Will Remember Him.**

### **Sick Parade**

The following Moths and FOFR need your best wishes for a speedy return to good health:

Moth Ena Burnett  
Moth Smudge Smith  
Moth Richard Evans  
Moth Phil De Villiers  
Moth Donald Oliver  
Moth Minnaar van der Merwe  
Moth Sam van der Poll  
Mothwa Pat Scott (wife of Welfare Officer/Moth Ian Scott)  
Liz Killian (widow of Battledress the late Moth Bill Killian)  
FOFR Alan Godsiff  
FOFR Roger Farmer



Incidentally, the Scott's have had a very difficult time of late with Pat having been in hospital and Ian himself, running ragged between visiting whilst she was in hospitals, and tending to her needs when Pat returned home. If that was not enough, Ian also had to pack up their belongings to move to their new home at The Haven. We wish Ian and Pat a healthier, happier time ahead.

Thanks to everyone who has visited, or communicated with anyone in need of prayers, company or just a friendly face.

## BIRTHDAYS

### March

10 March FOFR **Chockie Herring** – belated birthday wishes and apologies for omitting his name from the March birthday list.

### April

02 Moth Andy Howie

06 FOFR Cindy De Kock

12 FOFR/GC Roger Farmer

24 GC(NM) Donna Abrahamse

18 Moth Leonard Marais

22 Moth Patrick O'Reilly

27 FOFR Theo Van der Merwe

**29 Moth Ena Burnett – congratulations on your 95<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

29 Moth Keith Galvin

### May

18 FOFR Pat Coombs\*

20 Mothwa Ingrid Hopkins

21 FOFR Johnny Blanchard



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

\*Pat Coombs will be running the Morning Markets from now on, after Mothwa Alice Laubscher retired.

## Congratulations – Certificate of Excellence



At the Moth's monthly meeting on 05 March, Commander Ricky De Wet was presented with a Certificate of Excellence for his service and duty to Battledress Shellhole.



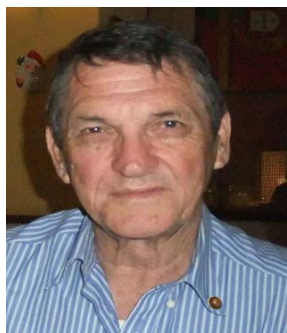
The Certificate and Badge were presented by CWP Deputy Old Bill Leon Robertson with the Old Bill of the Order, Dave Revell, Derek Berry (Tommy Rendle VC) and Dugout Adjutant Daphne Floyd, also present.

Proud recipient, Commander De Wet thanked the Executive Committee, Subcommittee, Moths and Friends of the Founder's Room at Battledress Shellhole and last but not least, his wife, Helen, for everyone's ongoing support. Congratulations, Commander!

## Wedding Anniversary Congratulations

Moth Les Smith and his wife, Daphne, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last month on 19 February. What a success story!

## Farewell



We bid farewell to Moth Skatie Fourie who had to make a hasty decision to leave the Cape before shutdown. He was offered a job in Stilfontein (near Klerksdorp in the Northwest Province) as a property manager/caretaker for the Flame Lily Foundation retirement homes from 1<sup>st</sup> April. There are 10 units in the complex, so that should keep him busy.

Skatie was vice chairman for The Flame Lily Foundation for 10 years and then stood down when his late wife Avril, fell ill. He then re-joined again as Chairman for the last 2 years.

Skatie joined the Moths in 1985 and held the post of Pay Bill and Wee Bill at Battledress Shellhole. He was also awarded 15 and 25 year Moth ties.

We wish Skatie all the best for the future and he promises to let us know how he is doing. All the best Skatie!

## CORONAVIRUS & COPID-19



This is certainly going to be a year to remember! Whilst the whole world, by and large, is experiencing the effects of the coronavirus, South Africa will be experiencing a 21 day shutdown from midnight on 26 March. Not since World War II has there been such a state of emergency and disaster declared. Taking extra care of your health is paramount. The coronavirus is new and as such there is

no current vaccine and the human body has no immunity to it – yet. COVID-19 is the disease it causes.

After canvassing a vote on whether to keep the Shellhole open for Moths and FOFR alike, or to close it temporarily, the vote was strongly in favour of closing. To further minimise any danger of contracting and/or unknowingly spreading the coronavirus, a deep clean exercise took place over four days in during which the whole of the hall, the whole of the Founder's Room, kitchens, toilets and hall office were thoroughly cleaned and sanitised by a team consisting of Commander Ricky De Wet,



Helen "the Goose" De Wet, Moth Vanessa Chambers and Cleaner, Glynnis Adams.

Commander Ricky De Wet cleaned and sanitising the whole of the outside braai area, tables, benches, and rubbish bins. Not once, not twice, not even three times – but every day of the deep clean. Realising how necessary the cleaning was to combat the virus, even the photographer did his part and he ensured his area was also cleaned with sanitiser. The De Wet's also cleaned all the fold-away tables and chairs, the baine marie, including office extension and second bar area. Walls

and floors were also washed and sanitised.

In following the government's guidelines regarding South Africa's State of National Disaster, Battledress Shellhole proactively sought to communicate the best means of protecting its Moth and FOFR members, particularly the elderly and those experiencing and/or who are susceptible to underlying health issues. The following article distributed by GHQ should be read carefully.

### **Personal Protection Against the Coronavirus**

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands by washing them with soap and water.

**This is the best method to stop the spread of the virus!** Use soap or hand wash but preferably the one without a lotion added. If hands appear clean please use a hand sanitizer or alcohol-based wipes after you have been in contact with other people.

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the virus if the person coughing has the disease.

Masks as a preventative measure do not work well. The reasons they do not work are as follows:

- The cheap variety, you may be able to buy, become moist very quickly after placing them over your nose and mouth and this allows the viruses to penetrate the mask more easily. In hospitals these masks are changed by staff after visiting each patient.
- When a healthy person wears a mask in a public place the infectious organisms are "sucked" onto the outside of the mask and after a short period this surface will be covered with these organisms. If the person touches the outside of the mask his or her hands will become heavily contaminated and this will lead to an increased chance of becoming infected with the coronavirus or another infectious organism on the mask.

Leave the wearing of the masks to those who may or are infected with the virus to prevent them infecting others or to the health workers working with infected people.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Your hands touch many surfaces which may be contaminated with the virus which can then enter your body via your eyes, nose or mouth.

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately. This way you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention but please call your Doctor in advance so that the Doctor can make the necessary arrangements to protect the staff in the rooms.

**DO NOT PANIC! We Will Get Through This Together.**

### **New Government Liquor Laws**

Battledress Shellhole will be conforming to the new government liquor laws for establishments such as bars and restaurants and any other practises which sell liquor and have liquor imbibed on their premises. NO liquor may be sold after the hours of 1800 – 0900 Mondays to Saturdays, and after 1300 on Sundays and Public Holidays.

'Spotters' will apparently be reporting on any transgressions of the new liquor laws.

The number of people at gatherings, events, concerts and yes, even weddings, funerals and correctional centres (those areas previously referred to as prisons), are restricted to under 100 people, whereas restaurants, bars and other social areas such as the library, are restricting entrance to a limited number of people at any one time.

The distance between people distancing should be one or two metres apart from one another. Thank heavens for telephone contact, emails if you have a computer, or smartphone, there is Skype and FaceTime to help you stay visually in contact with loved ones. Shhhh! Nobody mention load shedding!



This period of uncertainty and worry is going to be hard on us all, especially if you are not used to living 'confined to barracks'. However, as an elderly lady celebrating her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday said, "far better to breathe another day than not breathe at all". The consequences of not abiding to the new restrictions are too terrible to contemplate. Covid-19 kills. But one day, hopefully not too far in the near future, it will be treatable and come to an end. Until then, please, be kind to yourselves and to others.

## TRAINING

By Moth Keith Galvin

GHQ 2015/23 deals with sponsorship of potential recruits and visitors to a Shellhole. "The Sponsor must assume greater responsibility to ensure that recruits are properly informed of the basic workings of the Order, as well as that s/he be 'looked after' by the Sponsor until such time as the recruit deems to be integrated into the Shellhole. The Sponsor should also be expected to carry some accountability for the recruit's conduct, especially in the short term of membership".

From dress codes to simple good manners; respect for the Shellhole and the MOTH Order, **your** behaviour is initially what the recruit learns from and reflects. Don't let yourself, or the Shellhole down.

## Burns Night



Last month, Burns Night was the main event for Battledress Shellhole and the enormously successful fund-raising evening for the Caledonian Pipe & Drums Band. Erroneously, one or two names were left out of the article: It was also a day/night when loadshedding could have made the Burns Night meal a complete disaster. Fortunately, Moth Leonard Marais came to the rescue by providing a generator for the entire day. This ensured that "The Goose" was not only able to steam the 3 haggis's for 7 hours, but

also able to rotate the delicious chicken a la king, mash and vegetables, to be "pipeing" hot when served. The entire excellent meal was donated by Saveur restaurant and prepared by Chef Gary O'Neill.

Thanks also to regular assistants, Norma Galvin, Shannon Bright, Ros Barnett, Joan Farmer, Denise & Moth John Lamont and of course, "The Goose" for ensuring the 'behind the scenes' production line of clearing, washing and drying of 300 crockery and cutlery items was done in a Burns Night spirit. Och, aye!

## Birkenhead Commemoration Service, Banners & Wreaths



At the Commemoration service of the sinking of the HMS Birkenhead last month, 5 banners were on display, along with respective wreaths which laid by the following members of Battledress Shellhole:

Commander Ricky De Wet (Moths), Battledress Shellhole (Moth Leonard Marais), Ganges (Moth Keith Galvin), Royal Navy (Moth Vanessa Chambers), A

wreath was also made for Seagull Shellhole and was laid by Moth Peter Goldie of Seagull Shellhole, respectively.



A wreath for the MMA was laid by Moth Neil Bright.

## SAS President Kruger – Annual Commemoration

Another recent topic of discussion which was featured in last month's newsletter was the sinking of the SAS President Kruger and the loss of 16 lives. It is only fitting that as Battledress Shellhole partakes in the commemoration service of the sinking of the HMS Birkenhead, so too should the sinking and loss of the PK. The date will now be included in the Shellhole's annual calendar of events.



## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & St. Patrick's Day Party

Moths, FOFR, family and friends celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Battledress Shellhole on Saturday, 14 March, coinciding with St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Serving a meal of 300g steaks, salads and carrot cake and cupcakes, everyone was entertained by "Band On The Run". The band, comprising of Moths and FOFR members, got the party started and did not finish until very late in the evening.



Band members were FOFR Robbie Reel, Moth Ricky De Wet, Moth Leon Haralambous, Moth Warren Cowan, Moth Julie Denham, Moth Richard Evans, Christo Nel, Moth Julie Denham, and vocalist Candice Morgan. Sound Engineer for the band was Moth Neil Bright.

Guest of the evening, Old Bill of the Order, Moth Dave Revell and his wife, Maureen, joined in the festivities and gave a "thumbs up" to Battledress Shellhole for pulling out all the stops in celebrating the Shellhole's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and making a fun night for everyone who attended.



Some snap shots of fun and laughter from the evening.



They were not at the party themselves, but serviettes, "Happy Birthday" pennants and cake decorations were kindly supplied by Kerry Zillen (the "Goose's" daughter in Johannesburg)) and the birthday cake was donated by Richard De Wet (the Commander's son). Cupcakes were bought and donated by Commander Ricky de Wet. THANK YOU, ALL.





## Snippets

**Swallows: Tony and Sheilagh Barvir**, annual visitors to Battledress Shellhole, bade farewell to Moths and FOFR before returning to their (other home) on the Isle of White. They kindly donated a litre bottle of whisky which was raffled at the Shellhole's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/St Patrick's Evening.

Also returning to the UK was **Moth Donald Oliver**. Donald had been experiencing heart problems and had been unwell for some time. He managed to survive hospital food and said farewell at the last monthly Moth meeting on 03 February. All the best Don!

**Carol Robertson**, wife of FOFR Neil Robertson, also left our shores in early March and would be reuniting with Neil at their new home in Anglesey, Wales.

We wish all the Swallows good health and happiness until they visit the fairest Cape once again.

**Honours Boards:** Work is being conducted on the various Honours Boards within the Moth Hall to make them more aligned in shape, as well as the size of the lettering.

**Garden of Remembrance:** as far back as November 2018, the general state of the Garden of Remembrance in Fish Hoek has been a concern to Commander Ricky De Wet. Human excrement and theft by vagrants has made the maintenance of the garden an unwanted task. Despite reporting the issues, problems are ongoing and as yet unresolved. Advising Fish Hoek Councilor, Felicity Purchase, Commander De Wet stated that Moths will no longer maintain the Garden prior to a Remembrance Parade.

**FOFR Badge:** Dugout has advised that no FOFR badge may depict the MOTH emblem. Badges with such a design will not be able to be worn under any circumstances. However, FOFR who had already paid for such a badge can exchange it for one of an approved design. Moths only may wear a badge with the MOTH design.

**Jones Safe House Donations:** donations are still needed for the Jones Safe House in Kommetjie, and anyone with non-perishable items are welcome to bring the items to the Shellhole and deposit them into the red barrel in the Founder's Room.



**Marrieres Wood – 21 March 1918:** prior to Delville Wood, the South African brigade fighting in France during WW I was involved in a heavy defense against a German attack at Marrieres Wood near Bouchavesnes in France. Soldiers had held on for three days without any support. When only 100 men remained and who were out of ammunition did survivors surrender. In WW I, South Africans casualties were 15 000, with a third of the men

dead. Afrikaans speaking-units had their titles and ranks inscribed in the Afrikaans language on medals and military gravestones. Thanks to Moth John Lamont for bringing this piece of South African history to light. We Will Remember Them.

**“All Resistance is Futile”** No, it wasn't a statement made by any past or present enemy but that of the future in the sci-fi series Star Trek. It was said by the Borg, featuring South African actress Alice Krige, playing the Borg Queen. The article “The Movies” got some Battledress Moths and FOFR chatting and one theme led to another about resistance fighters during the world wars. The name of Odette Sansom came to light. Odette was the most decorated



woman (George Cross medal) in the Second World War and lived to tell her story despite being captured and tortured in 1943. Her life story featured in the 1950 movie "Odette" and along with her George Cross Medal, her writings which became books, and a leaf which she kept hidden in her cell at Ravensbrück concentration camp will now be on display at the Imperial War Museum. The leaf was her contact to the world outside the camp, and represented a powerful symbol of hope. The hope allowed her to survive her ordeal and she lived until 82 years of age. Two years before her death, Odette returned to the Ravensbrück where she dedicated a blue plaque to the memory of four female resistance agents who were executed there.

## Joker Draw



Whilst the Joker and his partner, Ros Barnett, were on leave in the Drakensberg, the 'Goose' Helen de Wet, made sure ticket sales for the Joker jackpot draw continued unabated. By passive-aggressive tactics and outright coercion, members and visitors alike were rabbits in the headlights in the Shellhole's 'Ambush Alley'! However, there was still no jackpot winner on 13 March, so the jackpot will roll over

until the Shellhole reopens, on a date to be advised. The Joker Draw normally takes place on the second Friday of the month, but in accordance with the government shutdown policy because of the Coronavirus, the Shellhole will be closed for the foreseeable future. As soon as restrictions are lifted, Moths and FOFR will be advised accordingly.



## Butterflies

Last month, nine Butterflies visited a lavender farm. Not finding a restaurant at the farm, they 'winged' their way to a previously visited wine farm, Vredenheim for lunch. Beautiful weather and gardens provided the Butterflies with an ideal place to relax and enjoy. The next visit will be to have a picnic at Vergenoeg. Like everyone during the shutdown, the Butterflies are making sure they communicate with one another via telephones and WhatsApp. Stay safe, ladies.



## Who Are You?

### FOFR Kate Parr

Katherine "Kate" Parr became a FOFR in July 2016. Born in Pietermaritzburg in Natal and at one with nature from a young age, Kate travelled with her father who advised farmers on various crops. When the family moved to Johannesburg, she was able to have her own "Katie's Farm" and began her love of gardening, too. On leaving school, Kate joined the South African Navy and after her basic training at Saldanha, she was appointed as a Telecommunications Operator at the Signal School in Simon's Town. Her married life took her to East London, where she was the only Swan stationed at Port Rex, but





subsequently moved back to Johannesburg when family matters required her to look after her younger sister. But the sea was calling to Kate, after a brief stint in Richard's Bay; she found her home to be in Fish Hoek. Involved with volunteer groups such as the Valley North Neighbourhood Watch, assisting the homeless by working with Circle of Compassion and being a "self appointed grounds-woman" for Steenbok Park, Kate cleans the park daily whilst taking her dog and cat, for a walk.

Kate has a love of the outdoors: gardening, hiking and braaiing, visiting wine farms (having studied at the Cape Wine Academy), cooking, reading and is more than a dab hand at pottery. Kate's other passion is her membership of the South African Water Warriors who collect water and essential items for drought-stricken farmers in Karoo towns. Featured in the Echo newspaper this month, Kate and other Warriors hope to take their convoy some 700 kms to Van Wyksvlei in the Northern Cape. The trip has unfortunately been delayed because of the national shutdown disaster, but Kate is passionate about delivering much needed water and goods, and continues to be positive in making the difference to people in need. We salute you, Kate !

### **Moths and Social Events in April**

For the time being until the Shellhole re-opens, NO activities, including those of organisations which rent the hall, will take place at the Shellhole. Safety and good health are paramount, and as we know, absence makes the heart grow fonder! For now, it's so long and tot siens and remember, be kind.

Until we meet again,

*Vanessa Chambers*

Battlecry! Rag Bill

Moth Vanessa Chambers

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