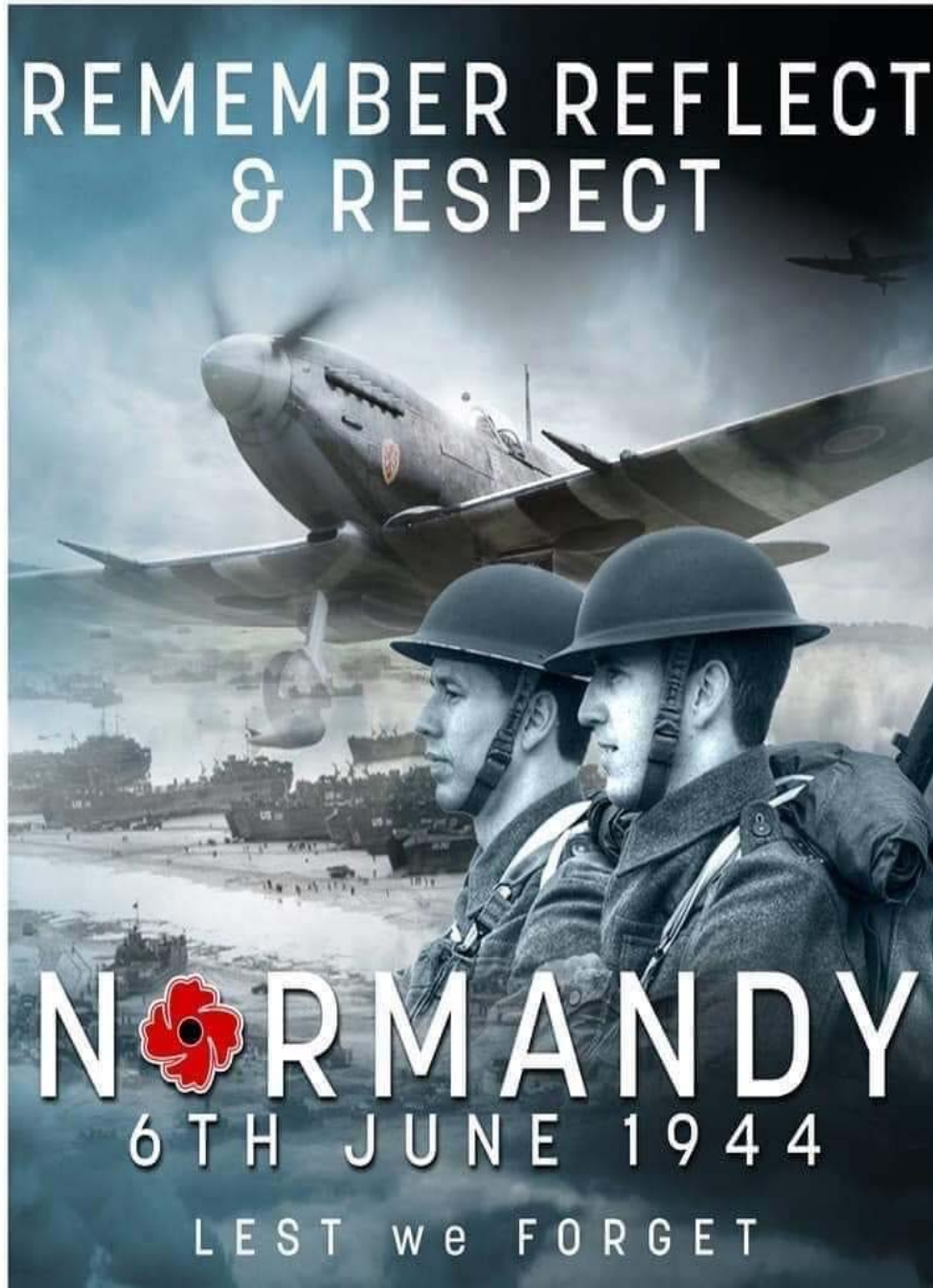




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BATTLECRY! JUNE 2020



Hello, Everyone

How are you all keeping? What a month it has been in one way or another. At the time of going to print the country is at Advanced Level 3 of the 5 official Lockdown levels. To think we started this State of Disaster on 27 March and now, some 91 days later at the time of finishing the newsletter, keep your fingers crossed that Level 2 may not be too far away. For those Moths/FOFR who had been struggling when your alcohol and/or cigarettes ran out, Battledress Shellhole, answering some prayers regarding the demon drink! It managed to sell off surplus bar stock, primarily in order to bring in much needed finances as the Hall has not been able to generate any income since March 27. Did some of you make do with making home brew, like the Internet's pineapple beer, potato vodka or apple cider? Hopefully no one spent the following day or two at your local Medi-cross! Did anyone have to break into their piggy banks (again) to pay black market prices for cigarettes, red wine and whisky? Still (no pun intended!), whatever has got you through the days, weeks and months, all well and good, but stay safe.

So here we are, almost at the end of June. The winter solstice has come and gone (21 June) and days will now start to get longer and warmer, and night's shorter. Let us hope the winter rains bless our dams, gardens and if you are so inclined, yourselves, whilst dancing naked under a full moon.

Did you put the kettle on? It's time to catch up on what has been happening.



Sunset Call Moth Vic Van Der Merwe

It is with deep regret that Battledress Shellhole announced the passing of Moth Vic van der Merwe who answered his Sunset Call to Higher Service on 02 June 2020. Vic became a Moth on 01 July 2006 and together with his wife, Mothwa Lesley, was a regular attendee of Remembrance parades and at Battledress Shellhole social functions before they moved to The Haven in Plumstead. At Mothwa Lesley's request, no service for Vic was requested. Sincere condolences to Mothwa Lesley and the family.



Moth Trevor Floyd

Also with deep regret was the news of the passing to Higher Service of Moth Trevor Floyd, husband of Dugout Adjutant Moth Daphne Floyd, on 11 June 2020. Trevor was a member of Blaauwberg Cuca and was admired and liked by many at Battledress.



Trevor was regarded as something of a legend and would have people enthralled as he recounted his many Special Service Forces exploits. Prior to the



commencement of Trevor's funeral service, the MMA made an honorary motorcycle ride-past in his honour. Commander Moth Ricky de Wet (left) conducted the Moth Service and paid his and the Shellhole's sincere respect and sympathies to Moth Daphne and their

respective families. You earned your wings, Trevor. Fly high.

We Will Remember Them

Sick Parade

Over the last couple of months, the Coronavirus has been on our minds and those of your loved ones and friends, alike. Now with winter upon us too, we should remember the following Moths and FOFR, and keep them in our thoughts and prayers:

Moth Les Smith

Moth Smudge Smith

Moth Richard Evans

Moth Phil De Villiers

Moth Minnaar van der Merwe

Mothwa Pat Scott (wife of Welfare Officer/Moth Ian Scott)

Liz Killian (widow of Battledress Moth Bill Killian)

Denise Lamont (wife of Moth John Lamont)

FOFR Alan Godsiff

FOFR Roger Farmer

Marieke Dutton (wife of Moth Adrian Dutton)

Moth George Ubsdell (Dawn Patrol and ex Battledress Member)



Thanks to Padre Moth Errol Sadler and Welfare Officer Moth Ian Scott who visit, telephone and keep everyone in their prayers who need compassion, and company during these difficult times. If you have recovered from your ill health and no longer feel a need to be on the above list, or know of anyone who should be, please let us know.

BIRTHDAYS

Just a reminder of whom amongst are celebrating birthdays in June and July, we raise a glass to you all.

June

03 Moth Mike Fields

17 Moth Lucas Nel

18 Moth Adrian Dutton

18 FOFR Michelle Slingerland

19 Moth Len Taylor

19 FOFR Joan Farmer

23 Shannon Bright (wife of Sgt. Maj. Neil Bright)

24 POB Moth Deon van der Berg

25 Sandy Smit 70th milestone (Partner of Moth Julie Denham)

July

01 FOFR Kate Parr

05 Moth Albert Massyn

08 Moth Greg Hutchinson

08 Moth Phillip Venter

10 Moth Alan Hopfeldt

14 Moth Skatie Fourie

22 Moth Vanessa Chambers

27 Moth Warren Cowan

28 FOFR John Lewis

29 Moth Julie Denham celebrates her milestone 60th birthday





Lockdown Competition Winner & Great Grandfather

Congratulations were in order when Moth Glyn Murrell won the R100 Woolworth's gift voucher for winning Battlecry! May's Lockdown Competition. Further congratulations are in order for Glyn and wife Brenda, when they became great grandparents for a third time in April 2020. Their first great grandchild, Lily was born a Kiwi, the second, Jackson was born a Wallaby and the third Hazel, also a Kiwi.

Congratulations Glyn and Brends and to your family.



A Letter from Commander Ricky De Wet

Greetings, All

I trust that you are all keeping well. Things are certainly a lot easier for many since moving into the risk-adjusted level 3 of lockdown, with ongoing relaxations being implemented. However, with the alarming rise in daily coronavirus figures, this all seems far from over. It did seem that the WC had problems with the rise in numbers, but it now appears that Gauteng, EC and even KZN also have major issues.

We managed to have an Exco meeting on 08 June and several pertinent issues were dealt with and I will mention a few of the most important issues we dealt with:

1). Several scheduled parades have been cancelled or put on hold for now. These include:

Delville Wood Service Parade: *there will be a virtual wreath laying service from the Company Gardens in Cape Town on Tuesday, 30 June, to commemorate the Battle of Delville Wood on 15 July 1916. Alan Green will lay a wreath on behalf of the Delville Wood Commemoration Museum Trust; Ricky de Wet on behalf of the MOTH Order, CWPD and John Lamont on behalf of the Naval Officers Association SA.*

Bomb Alley War Commemoration Service and the El Alamein Parade.

Blaize Away Raids *of Western Cape Shellholes (including that of Battledress); and Black Tot Day at Battledress Shellhole, are all on hold.*

2). The outcome of the Moth Referendum, which was to basically consider the future of the MOTH Order, resulted in a nationwide unanimous vote in favour of Option 2. It will be sometime yet before any new regulations in this regard will be received, as it will have an impact, above anything else, on the MOTH Constitution.

3). We have started processing the end of the Moth year documentation, some of which will be for auditing purposes, inclusive of the Nominal Roll vs Capitation Fees, which the Deputy Commander/Adjutant will address in a separate email to all Moths and FOFR dated 25 June 2020.

4). All nominations for the Executive Committee and Sub-Committee have been received and will be forwarded to the CWPD. It is still uncertain at this time as to what format the future AGMs will take. Generally, they all take place during the month of August.

5). I am still carrying out very regular security checks in and around the Shellhole, keeping regular contact with the Photographer and Cleaner, as previously mentioned.

6). On a personal note, as indicated in the Sunset Call of the newsletter, I was approached by Moth Daphne Floyd to conduct the MOTH Ceremony at the funeral of her husband, Moth Trevor Floyd, at Dawn Patrol on 16 June.

It was a huge honour, and my thanks go to the MMA and other Battledress members who attended. The Special Service Force members paid a fitting tribute to a soldier of distinction, with Pipe Major Tony Reis, who played the lament to conclude the funeral service.

8). My sincere thanks to the Exco members for their input and support, in particular to Deputy Commander Moth Julie Denham for all her ongoing assistance. Last but not least, to Moth Vanessa Chambers for always going the extra mile in compiling the Battlecry! newsletter.

Let us stay safe, stay positive and continue to do our very best during this challenging time. I wish you well and God bless.

*Commander Ricky De Wet
25 June 2020*

For those who missed the Deputy Commander's email dated 25 June 2020 regarding **Capitation/Membership Fees for 2020/21**, it is included below for your benefit.

Hi All

It is that time of year again!

The nominal roll is due in next week so I need to know if there are any Moth Members wishing to either transfer to another Shellhole, or resign from the MOTH Order, before I submit the return. Please let me know by Friday 26th June 2020 and I will send you the necessary documentation which needs to be filled in.

*The capitation fees/membership fee for MOTHs and Friend of Founders Room for the new **Moth year 2020/2021 is R380.00.** It is R30 more than last year. The breakdown being GHQ R350 and CWPD R30 for Smartedge.*

MOTHs and FOFR who qualify for a 50% discount must be over 80 years of age and have 5 years unbroken membership with Battledress Shellhole. MOTH Life Members are paid for by the Shellhole.

Collection of your fees can be organized if it is difficult for you to get to the bank or if you need a payment plan due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

If you are in financial dire straits and need assistance for your fees please feel free to approach any of the Executive Committee and Welfare Moths who are copied-in in this email.

We have not received the Membership cards yet from CWPD.

Please Note EFT payments can only be done from 1st July 2020 (i.e. new MOTH Financial year).

Remember MOTHs need to be in good standing i.e. have paid their capitation fees to be retained on the Nominal Roll and also to vote at the AGM in August.

If you have any queries please let me know.

Thank you for your support and contributions in the past year!

76th Anniversary

D DAY 6 JUNE 1944

The worldwide annual commemoration of the 76th anniversary of D Day events were not held this year as a result of the continuing affects of the coronavirus pandemic. Images of D Day landings in Normandy as part of Operation Overlord are largely remembered as the commencement of the liberation of Western Europe against German forces. Much has been written and documented, films and film stars made (The Longest Day, Saving Private Ryan, Band of Brothers, to name just a few) and both fiction and non-fiction books about the events leading up to and the invasion itself have kept us spellbound for years. As the largest sea and airborne invasion the world had known, D Day is embedded in the annals of history which the invisible enemy, the coronavirus, cannot erase.



David A Thorp's painting "Combined Operations Command – A Normandy Beachhead"

Normandy by Cyril Cain

Come and stand in memory
Of Men who fought and died
They gave their lives in Normandy
Remember them with pride.
Soldiers, Airman, sailors
Airborne and marines
Who in civvy life were tailors
And men who worked machines.
British and Canadian
And from the USA
Forces from the Commonwealth
They were all there that day.
To Juno, Sword and Utah
Beaches of renown
Also Gold and Omaha
That's where the ramps went down.
The battle raged in Normandy
Many lives were lost
The war must end in Victory
And this must be the cost.
When my life is over
And I reach the other side
I'll meet my friends from Normandy
And shake their hands with pride.

Nearly 5600 seaborne vessels took place in the landings carrying 160 000 troops across the English Channel. Crossing Allied casualties on the first day amounted to over 10 000 with 4 400 dead. German casualties varied between 4 000 – 9 000 military personnel. Despite plans to capture the beaches and other key advantage points on the first day of the invasion, the Allies were not successful until almost a week later. Nevertheless, the successful deception by the Allies regarding the proposed date for the Allied invasion was ultimately a life-saving factor, or the casualty and death toll would have been much higher.





Keep Moving (Lads) – Tony Chapman
 Keep moving lads ... *keep moving*
 Don't huddle on this beach
 Don't make yourselves a target
 For those guns up there to reach
 Keep moving lads ... *keep moving*
 There's the seawall ... over there
 Keep moving lads ... *keep moving*
 Don't falter ...or despair
 Don't look ... at comrades falling
 Around you ... everywhere
 Keep moving lads ... *keep moving*
 We can take this ... on the chin
 Keep moving ... *and keep praying*
 Before those guns ... they zero in

Operation 'Deception' Bodyguard

Through a series of deliberate falsely coded messages, the German forces led by Field Marshall Rommel, were fooled by the misinformation of intended Allied invasions of Norway and at Calais in France. Decoy dummy paratroopers had been deployed by groups of Special Air Services operators as part of the deception. The dummies, wearing metal strip shoulder patches of the fictitious First United States Army Group (right) which was supposedly under the Command of US General George Patton, were dropped over Le Havre and Isigny to



further disrupted German radar and the operators into believing an airborne attack would take place much later than June. The false messages indicated that General Patton would still be in England until early July. The German High Command was completely fooled and was not prepared for the invasion when it happened. Concrete fortifications of the Atlantic Wall in 1942 had proved effective and Rommel himself was convinced an invasion would come from the coast and wanted to further reinforce additional Panzer

tank reserves, as close to the beaches as possible. He was overruled and in a bid to change the minds of the more conservative German High Commanders Von Rundstedt and Geyr Von Schweppenburg, he flew to Berlin. Finally overruled by the Fuhrer himself. Instead, Rommel stayed in Berlin to celebrate his wife's birthday.

A break in the less than perfect weather, sheer guts, determination, exact planning and communication made the Normandy Allied invasion possible on 6 June 1944. Already delayed by 24 hours because of inclement weather, the order for the invasion was given. Had the order not been given, the invasion would have been set back a further two weeks.

Eight different navies took part in D Day, including the Merchant Navy. The men who served in the Merchant Navy were civilians and on ships which were not as protected against attacks as their counterparts in the Royal Navy. Over 185 000 men served in the Merchant Navy and casualties were as high as 30 000 from just 864 merchant ships.



Soldier

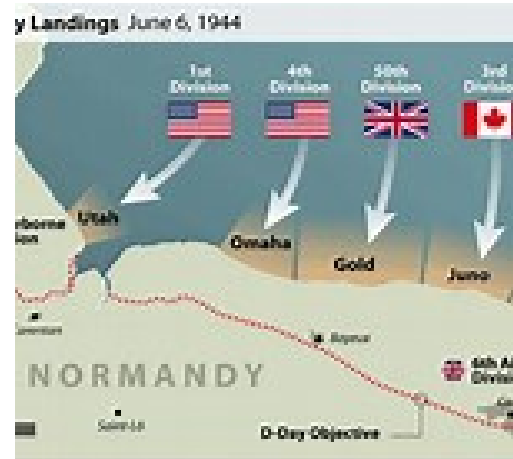
*I was that which others did not want to be.
 I went where others feared to go,
 And did what others failed to do.
 I asked nothing from those who gave
 nothing, and reluctantly accepted the
 thought of eternal loneliness...should I fail.
 I have seen the face of terror; felt the
 stinging cold of fear; and enjoyed the
 sweet taste of a moment's love.
 I have cried, pained, and hoped...
 but most of all, I have lived times
 others would say were best forgotten.
 At least someday I will be able to say
 that I was proud of what I was:
 A SOLDIER.*

Battleships HMS Ramillis and Warspite escaped being targeted by the Germans which were unable to detect them amidst smokescreens created by both the RAF and naval bombardments prior to the coordinated beach landings.

To ensure that troops landing on the beaches from the amphibious crafts were given the best opportunity to get onto the beaches themselves, the airborne operations were critical to seizing key roads, hills and bridges. British, Canadian and US airborne divisions attacked both inland and coastal targets. Low clouds caused some inaccurate drops and in some cases, paratroopers were killed before they could open their chutes because planes flew too low. Paratroops from the British 6th Airborne Division, and from the US 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions and the 1st Canadian Parachute Division all played parts in not only distracting German forces, but also in capturing key German posts.

The Beaches

Each of the 5 established beaches in the Allied landing invasion on 06 June 1944 have been documented, mapped, analysed, spoken about in documentaries and movies made with interpretations from all sides of the 'pond'. The memories of the day are even more amazing given that the planning of the invasion began a year earlier and the invasion was due to commence on 1 May 1944. Generals Eisenhower and Montgomery insisted that success of the invasion required the expansion of the initial plan until 39 Allied divisions, totalling just over a million troops prepared for the Battle of Normandy.



Success did not come easily and not until a week later did the soldiers on the beaches of Utah, Omaha and Sword join up with the troops from Juno and Gold linking the Allies, but many planned victories were not achieved because of weather, and some inaccurate bombings of German targets such as factories, fuel supplies and German held bridges and airfields.

South Africans on D Day Invasion

Like most British and Commonwealth defence forces which took part alongside each other in the D Day landings in Normandy, South African and Rhodesians were no exception, such as Lieutenant D.C. "Tommy" Thomas MC (pictured right) from the Transkei who served with the Royal Marine (RM) Commandos; Lieutenant Louis Fouche of East London (whose brother was killed in Italy whilst serving with the 6th South African Armoured Division). His landing craft was hit by enemy fire and



amongst the dead on the boat, he was thrown into the waves amidst more dead and those trying to reach the beach whilst vomiting and being shot at.

Amazingly, the Royal Marines allegedly ditched their steel helmets and donned their green berets when their boots hit the beaches.

*South Africans, past and present can be rightly proud of their links to the British Commandos, so named after the Boer *Kommandos* from the Anglo Boer wars.

Instrumental to the future creation of the British Commandos was Brigadier Dudley Clarke of Ladysmith, Natal. Having served with the Royal Artillery regiment, Brigadier Clarke championed the concept of an elite and mobile fighting unit. On ceremonial occasions since 1953, the Royal Marine Commandos play their adopted march "Sarie Marie" after the playing of their Regimental March.

Many other South Africans across the defence forces of South African played their part in D Day fighting; the South African Navy personnel were seconded to the Royal Navy conducted minesweeping activities to clear paths for troops to land on the beaches, and also contributed to the pivotal sea bombardment of Port en Bessin. Other South Africans were deployed to the Royal Air Force, one of whom was Group Captain "Sailor" Malan, along with members of 266 and 44 Rhodesian Air Force Squadrons flying Hawker and Lancaster bombers. Not least of South Africans were those serving in the British Army with at least 100 troops serving in the Royal Marine Commandos at their base in Plymouth.



Under heavy machine gun fire, the Allied troops fought inch by inch and received cover from naval bombardments as well as from the RAF bombers which strafed the beach concreted machine gun posts. Amongst the South Africans fighting and who were wounded in their efforts was (the late) Mothlan "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, receiving the French Medal d'Honneur.

We Will Remember Them



D Day Snippet

Jack Banks was so keen to join the British Army that he lied about his age and enlisted when he was just 15 years old, and not the required 18 years of age. After 6 weeks of fighting, Jack and two colleagues were tasked to take out an enemy machine gun post but sadly all three were killed by enemy mortar fire. Jack and his two colleagues lie buried in the Commonwealth

War Graves Commission, Jerusalem war Cemetery in Chouain, whilst others are buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Bayeux (above right).

Lockdown Snippets

Smoke Gets In Your Eyes

It's hard to believe that on 04 June **1995**, (that's 25 years ago for those struggling without a calculator!), it was alleged that anyone caught smoking in an office could expect to land up in prison! The National Anti-Smoking Lobby's Minister of Health, Dr Nkosazana Zuma (yes, the same one) was determined to stub out smoking in the workplace. Just give us the beer!



Channel Islands Lockdown -1940's: Imagine a 5 year lockdown during a Nazi occupation when German forces on the islands Jersey and Guernsey searched local houses and farms commandeering all fresh produce and animals to feed their own troops. A film called 'The Guernsey Literary and potato Peel Pie Society' should not be missed if you have not seen it. Children leaving school at the end of the occupation were found to be 5cm shorter than normal because food had been in such short supply, stunting their growth, as the occupying German forces commandeered most of the food the Guernsey and Jersey islands produced.

Dame Vera Lynne:

The Forces Sweetheart of WW II, Dame Vera Lynn, died on 18 June at the age of 103. Anyone who served in the forces during the war and who was stationed in areas such as Egypt, India, Burma, Singapore may have been fortunate to hear her singing with the Entertainments National Services Association. "We'll Meet Again", "The White Cliffs of Dover" and many, many more songs synonymous with hope and reunion with loved ones will remember



the Vera Lynn songs sung everywhere she travelled. Wherever it was felt people needed a morale boost, Vera Lynn sang; at the war fronts, in hospitals for the ill and wounded, munition factories and on her radio programme "Sincerely Yours" on which she read out personal messages from loved ones to troops serving throughout the war. She was made a Dame in 1975 for her outstanding charity works which continue today. *In the Rhodesia Bush War, a similar service of "Forces Requests" was made by the Rhodesian Broadcasting Service's Sally Donaldson, who's messages from family to the boys in the bush were often ended with 'go easy on the little brown bottles, boys!' Indeed, in South



Africa, Springbok Radio's 'Bosmoedertjie' Esme Euvrard provided the same home to Bush connection for South African forces. Dame Vera's, Sally's and Esme's radio conversations meant everything to the troops and to their loved ones at home.

Jones Safe House Under Lockdown



Many lockdown faces beamed with delight when Commander Ricky De Wet visited the Jones Safe House in Kommetjie and handed a R500 Pick and Pay gift voucher to Donovan Jones (left). Donovan expressed his gratitude on behalf of everyone at the Jones Safe House to Battledress Shellhole for its continued support during the lockdown.

Teaching the staff and children at the Safe House about the importance of washing hands, sanitising and social distancing has been uppermost in the minds at the Safe House.

Though we are at the Advanced Level 3 stage of the lockdown, it is encouraging to hear that many businesses are now about to re-open, including some sit-down restaurants and hairdressers (There *is* a God). Some International sports are back on television this month which we can enjoy watching while enjoying a beer, or two in the comforts of our own home. The idea of drinking in a beer garden wearing a mask does not bear thinking about! It may be a month, maybe two before Shellholes, pubs, clubs and other places open for businesses but in the meantime, enjoy the non- contact sports on the tele like Super Rugby, 3 Team cricket (welcome back AB, we've missed you!) and of course, football from the UK.

Okinawa – 21 June 1945

The Battle of Okinawa took place on 21 June 1945, the last major battle of WW II. Many Japanese soldiers believed that Americans took no prisoners so committed *seppuku* the following day. 241 281 names of those who lost their lives are commemorated on The Cornerstone of Peace in Itoman.

For them the Last Post has sounded – 27 June 1988

We stand to attention and salute the flag-draped coffins of 8 of the 11 Brothers from 8 SAI and 10 Armoured Car Squadron who were all Killed in Action on 27 June 1988 during a retaliatory air strike by Angolan Air Force MiG-23 aircraft on the SADF positions near the Calueque Dam after SADF Artillery had bombarded Cuban and FAPLA positions in the town of Techipa on 26 and 27 June 1988. A SADF Buffel troop carrier from 8 SAI together with an Eland 90 Armoured Car from 10 Armoured Car Squadron were completely wrecked when a Soviet 460kg (1 000lb) aircraft bomb landed between them, killing all aboard.



The casualties in the Buffel Troop Carrier were:

- 80468341BG Lieutenant Noah Tucker of 8 SAI. He was 23. (Lieutenant Tucker was born in Israel and moved together with his father to South Africa in 1968. His father, Norman Tucker was a Veteran of the Six Day War in Israel. Prior to joining the SADF, Noah had obtained a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from the University of the Witwatersrand).
- 84247501BG Corporal Ewert Phillipus Koorts of 8 SAI. He was 19.
- 84481994BG Lance Corporal Johannes Reinhard Gerhardus Holder 8 SAI Ops Medic. He was 19.
- 84241694BG Rifleman Johannes Mattheus Strauss Venter of 8 SAI. He was 19.
- 8448141BG Rifleman Thomas Benjamin Rudman of 8 SAI. He was 20.
- 84458074BG Rifleman Phillipus Rudolph Marx of 8 SAI. He was 19.
- 85434181BG Rifleman Andries Stephanus Johannes Els of 8 SAI. He was 19.
- 84382407BG Trooper Michael John van Heerden of 8 SAI. He was 19.



The casualties in the Eland 90 Armoured Car were:

- 84450683BG Lance Corporal Wynand Albert van Wyk of 1 SSB Attached 10 Armoured Car Squadron. He was 19.
- 84246024BG Trooper Gregory Scott of 2 SSB Attached 10 Armoured Car Squadron. He was 19.
- 84432756BG Trooper Emile Erasmus of 10 Armoured Car Squadron. He was 20.



Their names and sacrifice have not been forgotten.

Of Submariners and Ships

During the Second World War, it has been said that the worst living conditions aboard a naval vessel are those in a submarine, U-boats in particular. Unable to bathe, change clothes or shave, using just one toilet, must have been 'challenging for the crews'. In addition, when all fresh food had been used and the week's culinary choices were boiled cabbage or sauerkraut for days on end, the challenges got even bigger.



Some submariners were issued with 'foul smelling coats' to wear when they were tasked with surface duties. By comparison, the US Navy's submarines, although still relatively shorter than today's designs, were even installed with ice cream freezers which no doubt helped with the crew's motivation levels. The first known wartime submarine was the "Hunley" (left in a preservation tank) which had operated during the American Civil War between 1863-1864. It was also the first submarine to sink a warship. It was able to

accommodate 9 crewmen in a sitting position only and because of the heat inside, the crew were almost naked whilst propelling the submarine via a crank shaft. It sunk shortly after its successful torpedo attack on the Union ship Housatonic in 1864. The remains of the Hunley were discovered in 1995, 6 kilometres offshore in just 9 metres of water. There is still much controversy of how the crew of eight died, but once discovered the bodies were re-interred in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2004. A documentary on the men who were confined to that very small space brought to mind what the conditions South African submariners together with crew on board minesweepers and destroyers experienced some 80 years ago.

The South African Navy came into its own identity around 1940 when ex Royal Navy Admiral Halifax was responsible for the Seaward Defence Force, largely responsible for minesweeping and anti-submarine operations, including submariners. Subsequently to the breakout of the war, South Africans who volunteered for the Navy were seconded to the Royal Navy (RNVR) forming the South

African Naval Forces on 1 August 1942 (showing the naval ensign from 1922-1946 (left)). Heroism and courage demonstrated by the South African sailors and their Commonwealth counterparts on board warships such as the HMSAS Southern Floe, HMSAS Parktown, HMSAS Bever, and the HMSAS Treern being the last ship to be sunk just before the war ended. The only South African Navy ship to be lost, not in combat but by accident during exercise manoeuvres years later, was the SAS President Kruger (pictured right) and the sinking of it and the loss of some of its crew are also remembered at Battledress Shellhole in February each year.



We Will Remember Them.

So, these seafaring lads got me wondering what modern day navy living conditions are like: is it all "Hey, Calypso, I drink to your spirit ...? And what is the brig like (anyone going to own up?); what was the equivalent of 'walking the plank' and ... did anyone fall overboard – accidentally, or on purpose? How do sailors keep their dress uniforms so blindingly white without so much as a Red Heart, or Captain Morgan, or chakalaka stain upon them? Some weighty and other issues may prove to be weighty issues indeed!

WARNING! WARNING! The following pages carry a **Nudity** warning!



Lockdown Shopping



I cannot believe he isn't wearing a mask!

Moths/FOFR, some light-hearted humour about the effects of lockdown for you. Can you spot the difference between these seafaring lads doing their 5 a-day shopping, or waiting for their laundry to dry? Yes, we have our alcohol back, but sadly, it's not over until the fat lady (or fat man) sings, so to speak so stay healthy. On this 'lighter' note, I was reminded about a great fund-raising effort by some leading seamen in 2008,



Leading Signalman - Royal Navy - 1952 to 1963

With the kind permission of some of these UP-standing sailors, I was able to receive some information regarding the pin-ups. Moth Peter Turton's son-in-law was a member of the NSRI at the time and mentioned the organisation was in need of a new rolldown slip. It was estimated that the rolldown would cost



Petty Officer Mechanical Engineer - Royal Navy - 1956 to 1965

R30 000, so the idea for a "Once Navy, Always Navy" calendar was born. To re-warm the cock-les of your hearts here are "January's" Petty Officer Mechanical Engineer - Royal Navy 1956 - 1965 Moth Artie Elliott, (above right) and "October's" Leading Signalman - Royal Navy 1952-

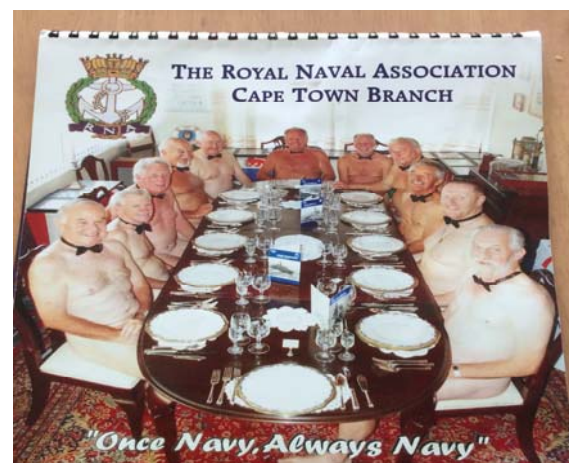
1963 Moth Smudge Smith (above left).

The R30 000 was raised for the NSRI and today that would equate to a value of R57 464.

Of course, there are others past and present in the calendar and we remember them for their humour, spirit and of course their cock--les, too!

Thank you to Moth's Peter Turton and Smudge Smith, and Artie Elliot for allowing me to reproduce your centrefolds!

Anyone interested in a 2020 fund raising calendar?



"Once Navy, Always Navy"

This it for now from this edition of Battlecry! Thanks everyone for your support and to FOFR Cindy de Kock for her "Soldier" poem. Stay safe, stay well and yes, until we do meet again let us remember all those who gave their all so that we can remember them today.

We'll Meet Again

We'll meet again,
Don't know where,
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Til the blue skies drive those dark clouds far away.

Vanessa Chambers

Battlecry! Rag Bill

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