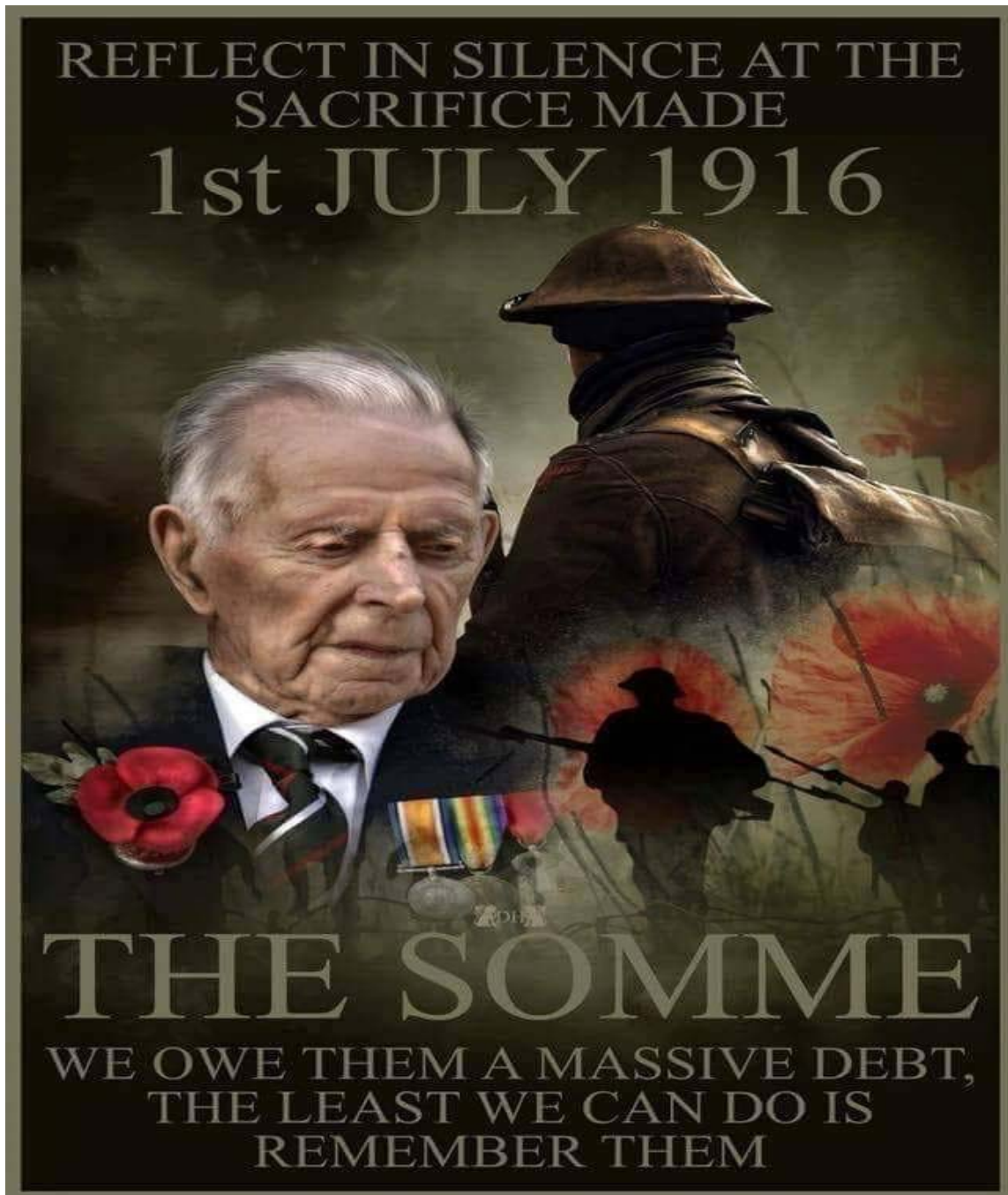




BATTLEDRESS SHELLHOLE
CENTRAL CIRCLE, FISH HOEK
PO BOX 22033 FISH HOEK 7974
Email battledress.shellhole@gmail.com



BATTLECRY! JULY 2020



Hello,

How is the winter of your discontent? I'm not sure in which Hamlet this newsletter finds you in, but hopefully you are staying safe and well. Despite the cold winter weather we have been blessed with some wonderful rainfall and with some (very) small mercies during this advanced phase of Level 3 lockdown. At least for those who have missed their regular meals at the Mugg & Bean or Spur, you can now get back to your old habits without any alcohol of course, but who enjoy your cups of coffee anyway. It's almost like being back to normal ... well, no, that's is a bit of a stretch!



Like the inmates Moth Smudge Smith and wife Pat (left) who are at home but 'behind bars', what is the new normal going to be like? Everything previously taken for granted is no more. Yet, if anything, we are a resilient group of people, who will rise and accept challenges from whence they come. Or are we? A world war is one thing, but you could still socialise with family and friends, yet this new enemy has different rules to engage by.

Apart from the 2nd sudden and unexpected ban on alcohol,

boredom seems to be the greatest difficulty people have to contend with. We commence our days, washing our hands, sanitising, perhaps going to the shops wearing our masks, practising social distancing, watching television, reading a book (or the depressing newspapers), or on the other hand "Darren" (rugby joke) reading this newsletter. By the way, the next Battlecry! newsletter will only be sent out at the end of September, as an August-September issue.



There is no word yet (at the time of going to print) as to the opening of Battledress Shellhole, but you can now have a sit down meal in a restaurant, or go to the cinema. July is normally a month I always associated with "Christmas in July" season, but no Jingle Bells at the moment. 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. Did you put the kettle on? It's time to catch up on what has been happening.



Sunset Call

Old Bill of the Order Moth Dave Revell

It is with regret that we inform you that Moth Dave Revell (Red Barn / Tavern of the Seas Shellhole) has been called to higher service after a battle with cancer.

Our Special thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Maureen, Michael and Steven. Fly high Dave on Angels wings, we will all certainly miss you at Battledress Shellhole.



The pandemic that is still the most memorable scourge of our time is yet to reach its peak and it is incumbent on us all to protect ourselves, but protect others as well by wearing masks, washing our heads with soap and still adhere to social distancing. Many Moths and FOFR classified as "at risk" as a result of their 'mature years' must feel it particularly frustrating when they are in many instances as fit as a fiddle. Be safe. Stay safe.

Sick Parade

Please remember the following Moths and members of the FOFR, and keep them in your thoughts and prayers:

Moth Donald Oliver (in the UK) has had recurring heart problems but hopes to visit us once flight regulations are lifted.

Mothwa Pat Scott (wife of Welfare Officer/Moth Ian Scott). Condolences to Mothwa Pat Scott who's mother recently passed away.



If anyone on the Sick Parade list is indeed back to good health, please confirm your health status with the Padre, Moth Errol Sadler and/or the Welfare Officer, Moth Ian Scott. Thanks to Padre Moth Errol Sadler and Welfare Officer Moth Ian Scott who make time to visit, telephone and keep everyone in their prayers.

BIRTHDAYS

Just a reminder of who has/will be celebrating birthdays in July and August, please raise a glass to the following:

July

01 FOFR Kate Parr

05 Moth Albert Massyn

08 Moth Greg Hutchinson

08 Moth Phillip Venter

10 Moth Alan Hopfeldt celebrates his milestone 60th birthday

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

August

09 GC (Non Moth) Norma Galvin

17 Moth Donald Grove

21 Padre Moth Errol Sadler



Farewell to the Venter's

After months of to-ing and fro-ing, elation and disappointment, the months of waiting are finally over for Moth Phil Venter (A Moth of 40 odd years) and his wife, Avrille left the Fair Cape on 31 July. Transferring to Battledress in July 2018, Moth Phil and Avrille were keen to return to KZN and will now transfer to Mdumbi Shellhole once they are re-settled in their new home. Best wishes, so long, farewell but not goodbye to the Venters.



MOTH Delville Wood Service Parade



Delville Wood
(Lcpl W.A. Beattie 4th SAI)

“From hour to hour the battled
raged and fearful tumult reigned
And still they fought as men inspired
and still their ground maintained;
And as their stricken comrades fell,
the shattered boughs dropped down
In pity for their mangled forms – and
made their laurel crown.”

A virtual wreath laying service was held at the Company Gardens in Cape Town on Tuesday, 30 June to commemorate the Delville Wood Service Parade with Moth Alan Green laying a wreath on behalf of the Delville Wood Commemoration Museum Trust; Commander Moth Ricky de Wet (above left) laid a wreath on behalf of the MOTH Order CWPD and Moth John Lamont, laid a wreath on behalf of the Naval Officers Association of South Africa. A further virtual livestream of the service was made available through the Delville Wood Trust Organisation on 12 July.

The Battle for Delville Wood

As one of the battles in the larger context of the First World War's Battle of the Somme, Delville Wood is a South African theatre of war. Fighting through dense thickets of birch, hazel and hornbeam trees, the 1st South African Brigade initially made slow progress against strong German resistance and heavy machine gun fire and with an immense loss of life; soldiers made under the command of South African Brigadier-General Lukin had been ordered to take the wood at all costs. Barely able to dig themselves into defensive trenches because of the devastation to the wood from heavy German artillery and machine gun fire at a rate of 400 shells per minute. Their numbers were decimated by intense German attacks and in some instances fighting in hand to hand combat. By 20 July, when soldiers from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were able to join them, only 2 Officers and 140 NCOs out of the 2 536 South Africans were able to walk out of the wood. Piper Sandy Grieve* of the Black Watch piped out the men in honour of their heroism and bravery.



*Grieve had himself been previously wounded by being shot through both cheeks, when he had fought against the South Africans Boers in the Battle of Magersfontein during the 1899 Boer War.

*Private William Frederick Faulds VC MC of the 1st Battalion, 1st South African Brigade (right) was awarded the Victoria Cross on 18 July 1916, as the first South African-born to be awarded the medal as a



serving member of The South African Forces. Private Faulds went on to fight at Ypres, earning the Military Cross. He achieved the rank of Captain and at some stage made his way to Southern Rhodesia where he died in 1950. His body was buried at the Pioneer Cemetery, Salisbury.



*After the battle was over, one German officer was heard to remark: "Delville Wood had disintegrated into a shattered wasteland, of shattered trees, charred and burning stumps, craters thick with mud and blood, and corpses, corpses everywhere, in places they were piled four deep. Worst of all was the lowing of the wounded. It sounded like a cattle ring at a Spring fair ..."

Black Tot Day Remembrance (31/07/1970)



Leading Mechanical Engineer - Royal Navy - 1962 to 1970

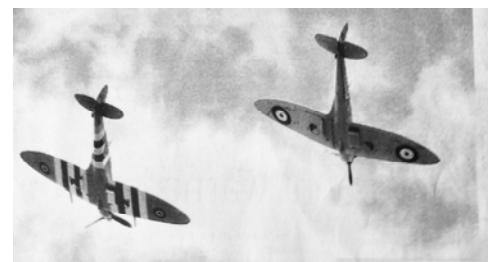
Unfortunately, there were no Black Tot Day "cheers and jeers" this year, though I am sure there were a few people with one or two rum tots hidden away to mark the event- that- wasn't. The tot was stopped in the Royal Navy 50 years ago. One special individual, who in all his glory (**Ronnie Gilbert** left) was no doubt celebrating along with other Battledress Shellhole members who have since passed into Higher Service.

One of the Calendar Boys of the NSRI 2008 Fundraising Calendar "Forever Tartan", Ronnie along with Moth Artie Elliot (now in Port Elizabeth) took their roles in the Shellhole's Black Tot Day with great seriousness and a tot or two of good humour as they measured out the rum tots to eagerly awaiting "sea crews." Gone, but not forgotten. Cheers!



Dame Vera Lynne:

The Forces Sweetheart of WW II, Dame Vera Lynn, died on 18 June at the age of 103. Her funeral in her hometown of Ditchling, East Sussex, was held on 10 July, the same date that the start of the Battle of Britain commenced some 80 years ago in 1940. Her coffin was draped in the Union flag, and was escorted by members of the armed forces, as well as a tribute of a flypast by two Spitfires and a Hurricane aircraft. Why the fuss, you ask? Loved by the Allied Armed forces both during and after the war particularly in areas such as Egypt, India, Burma and Singapore, anyone who heard her sing said they believed there was hope that they would be reunited with their loved ones when they returned victorious after the war. After the war she continued to remind people of what being united against an enemy could do and performed at fund raising events, and Royal Command Performances.





Vera had had to leave school at the age of 11 years old to become a bread winner in her family and from a young age really did have to sing for her supper. Tongue-in-cheek, Dame Vera was referred to as the 'Deputy Queen' as she had 'also done her bit' for the war effort, as had the Queen herself. Not to be outdone by pop and rock stars of today, Dame Vera's Greatest Hits album entered the Top 40 Album charts, making her the oldest singer to do so. On

the 50th anniversary of VE Day in 1995, she sang the songs of spirit and strength that continued to be sung just months ago for the NHS Heroes amidst the coronavirus which has seen more than 29 000 deaths within the UK.

Calendar Moth and Social Events in August

- 06 Battledress Shellhole AGM – Due to the number of the votes received the AGM did not go ahead
- 03 Battledress Executive Meeting (Current Executive)
- 23 Dugout AGM Red Barn
- 30 Bomb Alley Bellville War memorial (to be confirmed)
- 31 Battledress Executive Meeting (New Executive)

July Snippets:



"She wore an **Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie** yellow polka dot bikini", as the Brian Hyland 1960's hit song goes. But you might be surprised to know that the two-piece outfit "smaller than the world's smallest swimsuit" was shown to the world on **5 July** 1946. Partly motivated by the material rationing after World War II, mechanical engineer Louis Réard who ran his mother's lingerie business near Les Folies Bergères near Paris launched his bikini design to the shocked public. Named the

Bikini, (5 days after the first nuclear test over the Bikini Atoll), women initially rejected the design since it scandalously showed the wearer's navel. Thanks partly to the song and the '60's less conservative fashion sense, the bikini revolutionised the future swim wear market.

Dr. Eschel Roodie: Back in the good old-bad old days in **July 1979**, the former Secretary of the Department of Information and one of the key players in the Information scandal, Roodie was arrested whilst quaffing champagne at the French Riviera resort of Juan les Pins. After testifying about "Infogate", he was found guilty of fraud and sentenced to 6 years in prison. On appealing his sentence, it was overturned and Dr Roodie and his family emigrated to the USA in March 1992.

Arise, Captain Sir Tom Moore!



He did it. He bloody did it! Congratulations to Captain Sir Tom Moore who received his knighthood from the Queen at the age of 100 this July. He had hoped to raise £1 000 by walking, with the aid of his walking frame, 100 laps around his garden home in time for his 100th birthday. He raised an incredible £33 million (R836million) for the NHS and various charities. He made a special tribute to Dame Vera Lynn who he had seen singing to the Allied troops when he was stationed in Burma during World War II.



18 July Mandela Day: FOFR Kate Parr



In an attempt to break the world record for making the most sandwiches in an hour, FOFR Kate Parr lent a helping hand with other volunteers of the Ladies for Love in the southern suburbs. The non-profit organization provides healthy food to people in need. As with her Water Warriors project, Kate volunteered her assistance for the Mandela Day Challenge with an initial goal of making 125 000 sandwiches in an hour, but the volunteers achieved a total of **304 583**. The world record had been 57 662. Kate, in an article in The Echo

newspaper of 23 July said sandwich deliveries and collections were made from the Noordhoek Farm Village and added “The feeling of having been a small part of this unbelievable achievement was over-whelming enough for me to burst into joyful tears”. Well done, Kate!

Bridget Coney: Winter Blankets for Jones Safe House



Also keeping herself busy during the lockdown by making winter blankets and clothes is Butterfly Bridget Coney. Through Bridget’s kindness the Jones Safe House in Kommetjie will receive the blankets and clothes she has made. These gifts (right) will be greatly

appreciated by those in need of an extra blanket at night, or a new dress to feel extra special in. Thank you Bridget for your act of kindness during these very troubling times when so many people are doing without the things we take for granted. Well done!



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC): Labour Units

Honouring 1.7 million black South African men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who died in the First and Second World Wars is a project being launched as a public campaign by the CWGC. It is seeking information from survivors or from families of those who had served in the labour units on ‘African soil’ but who did not receive recognition for doing so. The labour units contributed to the British war efforts and many men died without being recognised, or remembered. In the current world wide Black Lives Matter campaign, perhaps their names, as with those who served on the SS Mendi, will also be honoured.

“V” for Victory! In July 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill launched the V for Victory campaign in Europe. Broadcasting the opening four notes of Beethoven’s 5th Symphony, which in Morse Code spelt “V”, the BBC World Service used the notes to promote Churchill’s V for Victory propaganda campaign during WW II very successfully.



On that “note”, I will leave you with the following philosophical quote which has been borrowed by many a celebrity over the years from John Lennon to author Deborah Moggach (The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel):

“Don’t worry. It will be alright in the end. If it isn’t alright, it isn’t the end.”

Vanessa Chambers

Battlecry! Rag Bill

Moth Vanessa Chambers

Email: battledress.shellhole@gmail.com

Website: www.moth.org.za

