



BATTLEDRESS SHELLHOLE
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HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY
LIFE MEMBER & WWII VET MOTH ENA BURNETT



FROM EVERYONE AT
BATTLEDRESS SHELLHOLE
29 APRIL 2024

Photo: Moth Ena Burnett - Copyright: Moth Ena Burnett

Hello, to you all

Welcome to April's Battlecry! newsletter. It's a stand-out month for so many memorable dates in April, not least of which is the 99th birthday of Battledress Shellhole's Life Member Moth Ena Burnett on 29 April.

It's been business as usual since the Shellhole reopened last month, what with Moths and FOFR being shocked at the electricity crisis that sent the Shellhole it into a total blackout. For those of you who are old enough to have lived through a blackout during WW II, you know what it was like. I don't imagine there were blackouts in South Africa at that time, but if I am wrong, please let Battlecry! readers know, and what your memories of the times are. I have often wondered what women did during the war years in South Africa whilst their husbands, boyfriends and others were fighting in North Africa, Europe or the Far East. Please send your stories to battledressragbill@gmail.com and they will be published in May's newsletter for others to read and enjoy. Now, what about making that cup of tea and making yourself comfortable to read April's Battlecry!



Sunset Call

To date, Battledress Shellhole is blessed not to have had any sunset calls to Higher Service during this month.

Battledress Shellhole Welcomes Moth Mike Wolmarans



Battledress Shellhole welcomed Michael "Mike" Wolmarans as its latest Moth member at its monthly meeting on 02 May. Sponsored by Moth Charlie Phillipson, Mike came up through the ranks of the SAPS, initially as a student

constable in 2007 then went undercover with anti-crime and cluster operations in the southern suburbs. This entailed searches resulting in confiscations of narcotics, various weapons, counterfeit materials and stolen property from Wynberg to Woodstock until 2010. Mike's parents and wife attended Mike's induction into Battledress Shellhole and were proud to see him receive his tin helmet and membership certificate from Commander Moth Ricky de Wet. Welcome to Battledress, Mike.

Sick Parade and Welfare from MSS Helen de Wet

The following Moths and FOFR are very much in our thoughts and continue to appreciate your best wishes:

Moth Bert Sachse is undergoing further chemotherapy treatment and we wish him strength and a good recovery.

Moth Leon Haralambous has been in hospital for various tests and we wish him a speedy return to good health.



Padre Moth Errol Sadler and his wife, Erna Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Moth Richard Evans reports that after seeing specialists there is no change to his current condition.

Moth Widow Wendy Kent continues to improve after her knee replacement operation. Well done, Wendy.

Remember Covid-19? Many people are wearing masks these days as winter is almost upon us, with people already suffering with snots and sneezes, colds and flu. Some of the pharmacies are already advertising the flu Injection, so make a note and get yours early. Please do not ignore your personal health!

If I have left anyone out, please know that you are always being thought of and I wish you all a speedy recovery.

Birthdays

Raise a glass of birthday cheer to those celebrating their birthdays in May and June.

May

08 Sonya Hopfeldt (wife of Moth Alan Hopfeldt)
08 Moth Coral-Ann Viviers
15 Henry Visser (husband of Moth Angelique Visser)
20 Moth Preston Barnard
24 Moth Vin York
30 Adrienne Godsiff (wife of Alan Godsiff)
31 MSS Judy Welthagen

June

03 Moth Mike Fields
14 Bergit de Villiers (widow of Moth Phil de Villiers)
18 FOFR Michelle Slingerland
19 Joan Farmer (wife of FOFR Roger Farmer)
23 Shannon Bright (wife of Moth Neil Bright)
29 Moth Malcolm Alexander

Many happy returns to you all with best wishes for a wonderful year.



Moth Market Fund Raiser



The Moth Market held on Saturday, 02 March was a bumper fundraiser of note. Well done to MSS Helen de Wet and Shannon Bright who managed to raise over



R2 040. The market has been getting busier and other vendors have said they too have seen an increase in business. Well done to Deputy Commander Moth Julie Denham in organising a full hall of vendors.

The next morning market will be held on 01 June, which will be the last of the Play Bill's Fundraising markets. Please donate and support the market.

Snippet: Fly Pass Over Cape Town



35 Squadron of Harvard aircraft flew over Cape Town in April – 1952. The squadron was part of the South African Air Force, which after World II became a fundamental role in maritime and submarine patrolling and transport services. An interesting view of the mountain and city compared to the view of the impact of suburban growth today.

Reminders:

Winter Dress Code

From 01 May, the dress code for Moths at Battledress Shellhole changes to “Winter Dress” which includes long sleeved shirts and ties with your Moth, MSS blazers.

Capitation Fees

There are still a couple of months left to pay your capitation fee of R370 per member by cash from 01 – 30 June; or by an EFT transfer from 01 – 31 July. Members who are 80 years or older and who have 5 years unbroken service are eligible for a 50% discount. Life Members fees are paid for by the Shellhole. Please note that YOCO payments are not permissible. Please contact MSS Helen de Wet should you have any queries/difficulty regarding your payment. You don't want to leave your payment too late, or you may can be considered to be not in good standing and be struck off the Nominal Roll and unable to vote at the AGM.

MMA Breakfast

Members of the MMA chapter will be holding their Chapter Meeting and breakfast on Sunday 04 May. Thanks to MSS Helen de Wet and Shannon Bright for again providing the MMA with support for the hungry bikers.

MOTHTWA 80th Anniversary



Celebrating the 80th anniversary of the MOTHTWA at The Haven in Plumstead were Battledress Commander, Moth Ricky de Wet and MSS Helen de Wet, together with Deputy Commander Moth Julie Denham and Moth Widow Pat Smith (right). With music supplied by John Watson, there was much singing and dancing during the evening. Congratulations, Mothwa!



Joker Jackpot Draw – 10 May

There was again no jackpot draw winner in May. If you are feeling lucky, why not buy a R5 ticket for the 10 May draw. Before the draw, Play Bill Helen de Wet and Shannon Bright will be serving up a limited number (three dozen only) of delicious hamburgers at just R35 each on a first come-first served basis. Why not join the fun crowd at the next Joker Jackpot



Draw and stand a chance to not only win the jackpot, but also a bottle of wine, too. John “The Joker” Lewis* will be handing out his sweets and toffees.

*As the Easter Bunny for the April Draw (centre and far right), what will the Joker be wearing at the May Draw?

Remembering Heroes

Commandant Captain Barbara Trow of the Rhodesia Women’s Services passed away a year ago on 05 April 2023. This hero of the Rhodesia Bush War, led the (young) women under her command to be disciplined, skilled and career oriented women in all spheres of the Rhodesian defence forces. Commanding respect and discipline she was not without a sense of humour, and is remembered with admiration for the fortitude with which she became the first female officer to be commissioned in the Rhodesian Army. Barbara’s extended family in Australia had no idea of the role she played during the Bush War. On discovering just how big that role was, they have displayed some of her credentials for ex RWS members to admire. Respect. (The Officer Cadet in the photo bottom left looks familiar. Any guesses?).



Corporal Hermann Carstens



There have been too many “last to die” in wars before the South African Border War but in every respect it seems to be the saddest when it is closest to home. Corporal Hermann Carstens died on 04 April 1989. Serving with 1 Reconnaissance Regiment and against heavily armed SWAPO insurgents Corporal Carstens lost his life at just 20 years old. The son of a military officer, who throughout his childhood wanted to be the

best of the best, had volunteered for and passed the elite Parachute Regiment course before joining 1 Recce Regiment.

Whilst driving his Casspir, SWAPO insurgents fired a RPG rocket hit the Casspir, which sent shrapnel pieces into his back and head, mercifully killing him instantly. At the age of 20, he had achieved almost everything he had wanted from a career in the SADF. Respect.

If you have a hero in mind, please send the name of the person and a short(ish) article as to why you are nominating him/her/them as your "Hero", as well as photo, if you have one. Military, or civilian, let's share your stories in the next edition of Battlecry!

Photographs of Moth Ena Burnett's 99th Birthday Celebrations



Wanting to make Moth Ena Burnett's 99th birthday a birthday to remember, fellow Moths, Julie Denham, Vanessa Chambers, Charlie Phillipson and partner Sue Bell drove to Kleinmond to take Ena for a Sunday roast lunch at Bistro 14. Ena was given a Bonsai potted plant, a chocolate flake cake into which her "99" candles were placed and lit. Bistro 14 manager and staff, as well as other Bistro customers joined in to sing "Happy Birthday" to Ena. They also presented Ena with a bouquet of flowers (above right). Last, but not least, Ena received a Certificate of Achievement on behalf of Battledress Shellhole. A truly wonderful birthday celebration. We cannot wait for her 100th celebration!

When asked what memory stood out in her 99 years, Ena immediately recalled an event in 1941. Whilst on her way to the munitions depot where she worked, a train was on the bridge preparing to cross the river once loaded with ammunition. Like everyone else, there was a great fear of being bombed, and that morning Ena after spending the night in a bomb shelter, saw that the fire station had disappeared and the train had been partially hit. Seeing billows of smoke and the smell of burning, Ena initially thought the smoke was gas, but it was the steam from the train's engine. 1500 homes had been destroyed. "Wars, Ena said, should never be forgotten, nor the people who fought for us to be here today."

Sea Cadets - Shannon Bright Initiative

Following on from the previous article regarding the Shannon Bright Initiative of assisting Sea Cadets, Shannon, her husband Moth Neil Bright, MSS Play Bill Helen de Wet and Rag Bill Moth Vanessa Chambers visited the Sea Cadets at their base at TS Woltemade in Lakeside. As new recruits were being put through their paces, we were fortunate to be shown around the base - seeing living quarters where cadets also sleep in hammocks strung across the lecture rooms. The kitchen and food hall are used on a Saturday to provide the cadets with a lunchtime meal such as macaroni and cheese, or spaghetti bolognaise, whilst during the week they have a full weeks training so receive breakfast, lunch and dinner.



To improve their knowledge they are also beginning to build a library* where cadets can read and learn extracurricular subjects. 60% of cadets live in shacks with their extended families, with no source of income. Yet they still turn up at the base. The Shannon Bright Initiative aims to make a difference to these young lives by helping collect and deliver much needed provisions. Lt Gaylene Jacobs of TS Woltemade can certainly be proud of the standard of Sea Cadets who graduate from the base and Battledress Shellhole takes great pride in supporting the Shannon Bright Initiative to assist in this venture. If you are interested in supporting this Initiative, please speak to Shannon at Battledress Shellhole and she will let you know what provisions are needed for the next visit to the Sea Cadets.



Snippets: April Events

- April 04 1917** - the USA enters WW I on 4 April 1917 as a response to American ships being attacked by German submarines.
- April 04 1989** – the last soldier to die in the SA Border War Corporal Hermann Carstens of 1 Reconnaissance Regiment
- April 12 1861** the first shots are fired starting the beginning of the American Civil War.
- April 14 1865** – USA President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.
- April 15 1912** – The “unsinkable” RMS Titanic sinks with the loss of 1500 lives.* see Titanic auction below.
- April 27 1994** **South Africa’s first democratic election “Freedom Day”!**
- April 30 1945** Adolf Hitler, born on 19 April 1889, commits suicide in his German bunker.

* Titanic Auction – April 1912

On the evening of 14 April going into the early hours of the next day, the “Unsinkable Titanic” did indeed sink. The disaster has been documented since the great ship sank, then it was discovered in 1985 at a depth of 12 500 feet. Followed by the un(forgettable) movie launching careers for Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. On 26 April, a violin played by the Titanic’s bandleader, Wallace Hartley and a pocket watch owned by Lord Astor were auctioned and reached a price of \$1.7million and \$122 345, respectively. The floating panel which “Rose” floated on and which “Jack” clung to in the movie, was sold for \$718 000!



BINGO! and DARTS NIGHTS

Yes, both Bingo! and Darts are still played on the respective Friday evenings.



Moths and Social Events in May

29 April Exco and Sub Committee Meeting at 1730

02 May Moth Monthly Meeting at 1900

03 May Music Quiz at 1900

10 May Joker Jackpot Draw at 1900

17 May Social Bingo! At 1900

19 May Jan Smuts Remembrance Sunday, Jan Smuts Birthplace, Riebeeck West
1100 (seating by 1045). Appropriate Parade Dress.

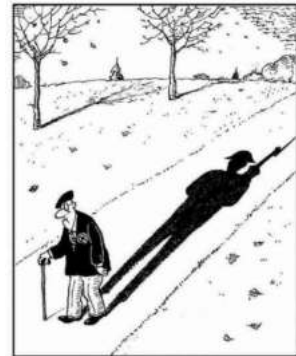
31 May Darts at 1900

REMINDERS

*80th ANNIVERSARY OF D DAY – 06 JUNE

It's just 1 month away until the Battledress Shellhole commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D Day in June. Keep a look out for emails and information for the D Day function from the Play Bill in the May edition of Battlecry! A meal of BBQ chicken with rice, a green salad and ciabatta bread will be on offer, followed by ice cream cones for dessert.

We Will Remember Them



BLACK TOT DAY – 27 JULY

A delicious chicken curry and rice will be on offer and if there are any thespians amongst you (I did say 'thespians'!), why not volunteer for this year's fun skits and make it a memorable Black Tot Day.

That is it for this month's newsletter, so until next time, look after yourselves and keep a smile.

Vanessa

Battlecry! Rag Bill

Moth Vanessa Chambers

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FOUNDERS ROOM OPENING TIMES

Wednesday 17h00 -22h00

Friday 17h00-23h00

Saturday 14h00 to 23h00

Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day Closed

Other Public Holidays as for Saturdays

Last rounds are called one hour before closing times,
or at the Bar Manager's/Barman's discretion.

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