

BULLSHEET – SPECIAL EDITION



**Marshal Smuts Shellhole
28 November 2020
Alpha Company 6 SAI Memorial Service
Yesterday's Heroes**

2nd Lt. Peter Frick

On Saturday 28 November, a group of veterans from 6 SAI A Coy 1981, family, friends and relatives gathered at Marshal Smuts, to pay tribute to one of their fellow comrades, 2nd Lt. Peter Frick who had Answered the Sunset Call during 1996, tragically in an auto accident.

The delegation was led by Stan Bezuidenhout who is also the MOTH National Vice-Chairman.



Stan Bezuidenhout

The proceedings utilised “Zoom” technology and the overseas members in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada and elsewhere could share in the service.

Stan thanked our Old Bill Philip McLachlan and his team for making the Shellhole available and assisting with the arrangements.

He explained that they were here to honour and pay tribute to one of their officers of 6 S.A.I. A man of exemplary character who had played a major role in their lives during the Border War.

Stan then handed over to Steve de Witt who sketched a brief history of how they came to meet and became friends .They were called up In 1981 with other conscripts and commenced their basic training. Steve had served with Stan and Peter Frick on the Border during Operation Phoenix 15 February – 15 April 1983.



Steve de Witt

Their task was to find, neutralise and destroy any insurgents who came into their area.



Oosie

Steve then asked Oosie to come forward and to describe the major event that led to today’s service.

Their platoon was stationed at a fire base and was guarding a critical water tower. They had not yet had contact with any insurgents, so they were fairly relaxed. That night they celebrated a birthday party and eventually retired at approximately 23h00

There were two other platoons nearby but were not at the party During the early hours of the morning they were attacked by a large force of insurgents. A major firefight ensued.

It was pitch dark and tracers were flying, mortars were exploding as the startled platoons awoke and returned fire. It was chaotic, as they were firing in the dark, at an unseen enemy. A machine gun had been installed on the water tower to cover the clear ground to the base perimeter. A Sergeant Major was yelling to get that machine gun operational.

Peter Frick then leaped to his feet and ran. He sprinted across that 30 metre death trap of open ground with bullets flying around him. He miraculously reached the water tower unscathed and scrambled to the top. The offending machine gun was jammed. He cleared the jam and commenced firing at the insurgents who by then were to close for comfort.

It was this action that turned the tide of battle and drove the insurgents back. He saved a lot of lives that night, his own men and also those of the other two platoons.

The operation concluded with "mopping up" and ended on 15 April 1983.



Stan then handed over the Certificate of Bravery to Dave Bosman

It was an emotional moment when Dave presented it to Mrs Frick on behalf of Alpha Company.

Francois Frick then said a few words paying tribute to his brother, Peter.



Mrs Frick receiving the Certificate of Bravery from Dave Bosman



Old Bill Philip McLachlan



Lampies & Cassie

*The party then stood while the Last Post and Reveille were sounded
The Old Bill concluded the service by reciting the Moth prayer.*

*They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them*



Stan and Philip



DAVE BOSMAN

