

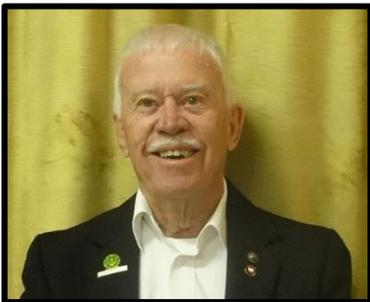
Ok ! Contact Contact Dickie Fritz Bull Sheet



June 2017 Vol 8

Dear Dickie Fritz Moths,

Sadly we start this month's Bull Sheet with the news that two Dickie Fritz Shellhole members answered the Sunset Call.



Moth Gordon Wallis
07.07.1922 - 12.06.2017

Moth Gordon Wallis answered the Sunset Call on Monday 12th June 2017. Moth Gordon would have celebrated his 95th birthday on 7th July. He was our last standing member that served in WWII.

Moth Gordon was inducted into the Order on 1st September 1961 and during his time as a Moth held the position of Old Bill of Dickie Fritz Shellhole as well as Old Bill of Platinum Province. Moth Gordon always ensured he was actively involved in all things pertaining to the Moth including being Chairman of MESCA at one stage. Moth Gordon handled the financial books for Dickie Fritz Shellhole and only stepped down from this position about a year prior to his death.

We will remember him.

Moth Pip Erasmus answered the Sunset Call on 19th June 2017. He was 81 years of age. Moth Pip was inducted into the Order on 2nd July 2015. He had served in various military units including the Royal Swazi Police and the Grey Scouts.

Moth Pip will be fondly remembered as the Moth who always insisted that the animals that gave up their lives during times of war were always honoured during the toasts. In memory of Moth Pip, the Shellhole will continue to toast the animals at each meeting. **We will remember him.**



Moth Pip Erasmus
21.12.1935 - 19.06.2017

We would like to extend our sincere condolences to resident Mothwa Marion Whiston on the passing of her sister Daphne.

At the beginning of June 2017, Moth Ron De Roche, the Complex Manager for Dickie Fritz Ex-Servicemen's Cottage Association (MESCA) submitted his resignation. His last day of service will be 30th June 2017. On behalf of MESCA we would like to extend our thanks to Moth Ron for his commitment and dedication whilst on staff and wish him and his wife, Dee, every success in their new venture.

Moth Eddie Louw will stand in as the Complex Manager until further notice.

Rand Water Board have yet to advise when they will proceed with the demolition of the cottage at the far end of the complex, behind the aircraft. In the interim Moth Eddie Louw has refurbished the cottage vacated by Moth Kelvin Jensen and Trevor and Lynn Guy will take occupancy of this cottage. Once we have received information from Rand Water Board regarding their plans, we will advise you accordingly.

Dickie Fritz Shellhole Member, Moth Dawn Losper, attended the Boer War Memorial on 4th June in Australia and laid a wreath on behalf of the RLI. The service was to commemorate the 115th Peace Treaty Anniversary. A wreath, dedicate to Emily Hobhouse, an English woman that helped the Boer women and children in the concentration camps, was laid at the service. A horse also went up with its handler and laid a wreath to honour the horses that lost their lives during this time.



Emily Hobhouse Wreath



Moth Dawn Losper represented the RLI



SAMVOA Flag

On Father's Day, 18th June 2017, Dickie Fritz Shellhole hosted their Annual Bowls Day at Edenvale Bowls Club. The event once again turned out to be extremely successful, with a full field playing. Numerous players commented on the great food, wonderful ambience and great prizes. We are thrilled to advise that over R22 000.00 was raised and this money will be used to maintain and upkeep the Cottage Complex. A very special thanks to Moth Trevor and Mothwa Cheryl Hartwell for their continued commitment and extremely hard work in ensuring the day was such a great success. Thanks are also extended to everyone who assisted on the day and to everyone that was kind enough to donate prizes.



The Winning Team



Kelvin Jensen won the hamper



A beautiful display of all the prizes

Residents Rob and Elaine Sweeting have experieined a highly emotional week. On Saturday 17th June 2017, Deputy Lady Bill Mothwa Elaine Sweeting of Dickie Fritz Shellhole was sworn in as House Billie on the Provincial Executive Committee. This is an amazing honour as Dickie Fritz Mothwa Shellhole only celebrated its 2nd Anniversary at the beginning of June. Well done Deputy Lady Billie Mothwa Elaine!! You have done us proud!!

The celebratory emotions quickly turned to ones of concern on 22nd June 2017 when Elaine received a phone call from Siberia advising her that hubby Rob had been airlifted by helicopter and taken to a hospital for an emergency operation

following his appendix bursting. Currently Rob is recuperating in Siberia and will shortly return back to South Africa. On behalf of us all Rob, we wish you a speedy recovery.



Mothwa Elaine being sworn in



The Provincial Executive Committee



Moth Rob Sweeting

32 Battalion Veterans' Association - Savate Weekend

32 Battalion Veterans' Association hosts its annual Savate Weekend from 19 – 21st May, to commemorate the Battle of Savate in Angola on 21st May 1980, which was one of the notable attacks against FAPLA and Cuban forces by the notorious 32 Battalion.

Background:

In early 1980, FAPLA (The then Soviet backed Angolan army) occupied all the small towns along the Kavango River as far north as Caiundo. Until the end of 1979, the US and South African backed movement, UNITA had applied a scorched earth policy against all towns and territory captured from FAPLA, but in line with a political decision by the organisation's leaders, it then became customary for UNITA to occupy and defend former FAPLA strongholds.

As part of the plan, Jonas Savimbi asked the South African authorities to authorise the attack and destruction of Savate, a major FAPLA base 75km (47 miles) inside Angola on the Cubango River, by 32 Battalion. 32's commander, Cmdt Deon Ferreira, was provisionally ordered to plan an attack, based on UNITA intelligence that an under-strength battalion held the base. Savate was also home to FAPLA's brigade headquarters, and two more battalions were deployed upstream at Caiundo.

The 32 assault force would consist of three rifle companies (one to be held in reserve), a mortar platoon and reconnaissance teams acting as stopper groups. The element of surprise was crucial to success, so no air support could be relied on. Pumas would be on standby at Rundu to evacuate casualties, and a Bosbok spotter aircraft would be available if needed.

At 02h00 on 21 May, the force began moving towards Savate in single file, with Charlie and another company on the left shoulder of the road, the third company, HQ, the recce teams and the mortar platoon on the right. It was dark moon and the bush was dense, making for slow progress. The troops had to hold on to one another to avoid getting lost, and a further setback occurred when the column leaders ran into a FAPLA vehicle patrol just five kilometres from Savate. At least five FAPLA troops escaped, and Ferreira realised that they would raise the alarm at the base, costing him the element of surprise.

The pace of the advance was immediately stepped up, and by 09h00 the mortars were in position, the ten three-man recce teams in stopper groups to the north. Only then could Willem Ratte inform Ferreira that he and his men had found a somewhat different situation to the one on which the battle plan was based. But it was too late and the mortars open fire, immediately drawing heavy counter-bombardment as the rifle companies, armed with assault rifles, machine guns and 60-mm mortars, advanced towards the trenches, trying to dodge the bombs exploding around and among them. At the airfield, two platoons from Charlie Company unsuspectingly took on a full FAPLA air defence company, using the 14,5mm gun in a ground role. The first salvo killed three Charlie troops and seriously wounded four more.

At the main base, FAPLA was pouring everything it had at the rifle companies, pinning them down. Ferreira's command group was one of those unable to advance, and his intelligence officer was shot and killed just two metres from his

side. One of the companies managed to break through into the trenches, where they were forced to fight hand to hand.

Close combat had become the order of the day in the trenches, shacks and buildings. It was now evident that the entire FAPLA command structure had collapsed, and by 14h00, mopping up could start. A nominal roll-call among the 32 Battalion assault force accounted for 15 dead and 22 wounded. FAPLA had 558 dead. This amounted to 32 Battalion's heaviest casualties in a single engagement.

The next morning a small UNITA advance party arrived to claim victory and to hold the captured base. In the aftermath of the battle, it was established that FAPLA had grouped a full brigade at Savate three weeks before in anticipation of a possible UNITA advance from the south. UNITA was acutely aware that this was the situation, but deliberately failed to inform 32 Battalion, knowing that the authorities would never agree sending 32 up against an entire brigade. Captured documents showed that at the time of the attack, Savate held at least 1066 heavily armed troops – a far cry from the 300 estimated by UNITA.

Gala Dinner:

This year, 32 Battalion Veterans' Association held their Gala Dinner on 19th May at Dickie Fritz Ex-Servicemen's Cottage Association Complex as the gathering "Herd of Buffalo's" descended into Johannesburg. The camaraderie amongst our fighting forces is always a very poignant moment, as many only meet up again, some 4 decades later. The air is



electrifying and emotions run high, as soldiers gather from Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iraq, and around SA.

Guest Artists performing were the sensational Samantha Peo, (recent Judge on Strictly Come Dancing) and a special brand of humour, music and bush talk, from Norman Anstey and Ian Roberts (Notorious for their depiction of Ja Boet & Swaer, from the old Castrol TV commercials!)

The Dickie Fritz Hall was decorated with Stretch Lycra fabric and gold and black table cloths, with the stage reminiscent of a bush garage.

A sumptuous meal and eloquent guest speakers, help us to relive our most famous battles from the Angola Bush War.

The bar seemed to have taken its toll on Eddie Louw and Bruce Green, who were only allowed to close shop at 02h00!

Skouerskuur:

In order for the 32 Battalion Veterans' Association to look after its veterans, we hold a number of gathering that raise funds for our causes. The Skouerskuur was held at the The Ridgeback area on Saturday 20th May.

15 stalls selling military memorabilia did a brisk trade... The Spitbraai fed the hordes...The Ridgeback, bled liquid...

Band played 1980's music – especially "Buffalo Soldier"

And it culminated in an auction of "Once-Off" items specifically made for 32 Battalion and for the 2017 Skouerskuur.

A supreme dagger with a Damascus steel blade, a Longbow, A special Axe, as well as various smaller items, were bid on from as far as Afghanistan and Iraq.

All funds raised will be used to support our Veterans.



Fun was had by all



The knife that was auctioned to raise funds

Upcoming Events

Delville Wood Parade – 16th July 2017

Please note the details for the Johannesburg Delville Wood Parade - 16 July 2017.
The step off is at 10H50, so be there early to get parking.
Parking will be next door at the Coke offices.
As usual the cash bar will be done by TS both inside and outside the View buildings.

Dress: Moth Blazer with full medals (No ribbons or miniatures allowed)
Headdress is optional, and if worn, only the official Black Beret with the MOTH badge is permitted (No backings, hackles, etc.) All members are asked to make every effort to attend this Parade.

Christmas in July – 23rd July 2017



Dickie Fritz Mothwa will be hosting Christmas in July on Sunday 23rd July from 12h30.
A full 3 course meal will be served.
Cost per ticket is R120.00 – Booking is essential as seats are limited to 100.
Get into the Christmas spirit and come and join in this really fun filled event!!!!

Booking is essential. Please contact Lady Billie Mothwa Daphne Hodgson on 072 119 6591 or at daphnehodgson39@gmail.com to book.

Remember to mark your calendars with the following events. Your support at these events is always sincerely appreciated.

- 30.06.17 - Mothwa Sop and Dop Evening
- 01.07.17 - RLI Prayer Meeting
- 01.07.17 - Rugby at Ellis Park
- 06.07.17 - July Prayer Meeting
- 16.07.17 - Delville Wood Parade
- 23.07.17 - Christmas in July
- 09.09.17 - MMA Sunflower Fun Run
- 04.11.17 - MESCA Annual Sidi Rezegh Parade and Fete

Have a great month and don't forget that if you want to advertise any services or have items to sell, we will happily include the information in the upcoming Bull Sheet. Contact Adjutant Moth Cheryl Grover for further information.

Leon and Cheryl

Adverts

MOTORCYCLE FUEL TANKS REPAIRED / RELINED

Damaged Fuel Tanks Repaired - Sandblasting, lead loading then primed.

Motorcycle Fuel Tanks Relined – Rust is removed from inside fuel tank.

When tank is cleaned, the inside is then lined with a Sealant.

Classic Fuel Tanks are also repaired and relined.



Before and After repair

MOTORCYCLE EXHAUSTS - MAKE UPS & REPAIRS

Exhaust Make ups on Four-Stroke Motorcycles & Quads - Stainless or Mild

Exhausts Repairs on Four-Stroke Motorcycles & Quads



CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE ACCESSORIES - MAKE UP AND REPAIR

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Make up | - | Exhaust Systems, Storage Bins, Number Plate Holders, Oil Tanks |
| Repair | - | Exhaust Systems, Headlight Holders, Primary Chain Guards, Fenders, Oil Tanks |
| Repair & Reline | - | Fuel Tanks |



For all of the above, contact Andre 072 456 6161. COLLECT AND DELIVER ANYWHERE IN GAUTENG!!

