

Edition 36 - BULLSHEET - May 2013

Wie nie kan lees nie moet maar prentjies kyk!

Marshal Smuts Shellhole - since 1946 - 105 Drama Street - Somerset West



The Memorable Order of Tin Hats – Defined by E. Herbert Bysse – Old Bill Cape Province

The Order was started in Durban by an ex-serviceman who saw the need for an organisation quite different from any other. All ex-service associations serve certain needs, but the MOTH neither compete with them nor overlap their functions.

The MOTH was formed purely for the purpose

of keeping alive old war-time friendships and for maintaining the real brotherly spirit of the trenches. It does us good sometimes, to drop back a few years and think of the many fine things we can remember. Maybe you can recollect the time when you were cold, wet, fed up and far from home, when some bloke blew along and shared his last Woodbine¹ or gasper² with you. You may remember something more serious – some great sacrifice which was made for you in that cheery spirit which made even the biggest things small. It is all too

¹ Woodbine Cigarettes

² Slang for other cigarettes

good to be forgotten; that is why the MOTH call to every ex-serviceman – no matter what war he fought in or upon what front – to come round and join up with those who once put up with the same sort of RSM's and other unnatural discomforts!

The Order is one of the most elastic in the world – all swank is prohibited! It does not matter whether you were a full private or a General – as long you were not a "Conchie"³ you are welcome. I don't know how many Generals have joined, but I can name six at least and they came in on the same level as any other man.

The Order is really an association of a number of small groups called Shellholes. Half-a-dozen chaps get together and form a Shellhole – then they get as many to join it as they can. Some of them get the use of an empty garage, an unused loft, a spare room, a disused reservoir (this actually happened and it is now fitted up with electric light and other nuisances). No attempt is made to obtain luxury; the idea is to try to reproduce the conditions of those other days. Thus, the seats may be a few old sacks filled with sawdust, to resemble sandbags; the table may be a few empty small arms ammunition boxes, an old shell case forms a good gong, but, above all, an old tin hat that has seen service, is the centre-piece!

Many of the Shellholes exercise their ingenuity in designing their own flags, bearing the name of the Shellhole and some very creditable results have been obtained. Each Shellhole has an Old Bill (Commander) and Adjutant (Secretary) – this is simply for the purpose of organisation and the distribution of news. These are elected by the members and act just as long as they fail to annoy anyone to much. A Tin Hat Badge is supplied to every Moth and he is given an Attestation Form which is alone worth the small subscription. The name adopted by a Shellhole rests with the members and the keynote of the Order and Shellhole is freedom. Those wishing to join should communicate with MOTH G.H.Q. Box 73, Durban, South Africa.

³ Conscientious objector

Editor's note: *As reported in the April Bullsheet, Colonel E.*

Herbert Bysshe (pronounced bish as in dish) was the man who brought Mothdom to Cape Town when he called a meeting of ex-servicemen at the St George's Hotel during March 1928.

The above article was published in the MOTH Annual 1928 and seems to be the brief that he gave to prospective members before new Shellholes and the Cape Western Dugout came into being.

*"The news spread that I was on way my and when the ship docked at Cape Town there was the reception committee in force led by Cape Province Old Bill Herbert Bysshe. After riding around the mountains we went to the MOTH rally at one of the largest hotels in the City. The enthusiasm was identical as in the morning and the singing shook the hall. In time this enthusiasm became known as The MOTH Spirit." **Moth "O"***

August 1914, saw the commencement of the Great War for civilisation, the war which was to end all wars. Notwithstanding the terrible price paid in human lives and suffering, after 21 years of uneasy peace, a second world war for freedom had to be fought, this time by the sons of the 1914/18 veterans. In these two world wars 35 million were slain and millions maimed. Mostly breadwinners, they contained the flower of humanity.

The veterans of the Great War have now all gone and those of the Second are in their late 80s and early 90s, as also are their wives and widows; disablement grows with age. More than ever they need the kind of Comradeship and Mutual Help fostered by the MOTH!

In the 1914/18 holocaust there was born a spirit of comradeship and understanding which in South Africa inspired the founding of our great brotherhood by Moth "O". During the past nine decades the MOTH has spread into even wider fields of goodwill and benevolence, regardless of creed, tongue, religion or race; but it has never lost its personal nature, which gives it a unique quality we should always endeavour to preserve. In helping others we learn the joy of service and gain the happiness of friendship.

After 86 years of Mothdom, it is still the *Spirit* that counts!

Home Front June 1977: On Thursday May 12th the meeting of the Pip-Ack Shellhole had a special significance. It was the Unveiling and Dedication of the Roll of Honour on which are the names of the members of Pip-Ack who have passed to Higher Service since its foundation in March 1928. There were some 80 Moths, wives and friends present when the

Commander, Moth Johnny Kirkland opened the meeting with the usual ceremony. Among those present were POB Lloyd Williams, PPB Graham Thorne and our 3 remaining foundation members, Moths Frank Drummond, Smiler Bryington and Nobby Clarke, the last coming from Pretoria, where he is now with Grenade Shellhole.

BULLSHEET in SHORT

Calendar

Tuesday 06 May: MOTH 86th
Birthday

Friday 17 May: 671st General
Meeting at the Shellhole (18h10)

Sunday 26 May: Quarterly
Commanders Meeting at TRVC
(10h30)

Birthdays

06 May 1926: Moth Harry Bent

17 May 1958: Moth Dirk Conradie

24 May 1920: Brother Moth John
Sowter

Apologies

Moths Fergus O'Brien and Jimmy
Gill for omitting to publish their
respective birthdays

Membership

Moths Gail Jordaan, Pine Pienaar
and Brian Porter have successfully
transferred membership to Bomb
Alley Shellhole

Home Front October 1977: Admiral Halifax weighed Anchor at 20h00 (so reads the log of our good ship)! 12 Matelots and – wait for it – 32 Stowaways! The galley hands all turned to and managed to provide enough salt pork and ships biscuits to feed the motley crew. With full bellies the stowaways were introduced to the old naval custom of “Up Spirits”; all were soon singing rousing sea shanties (ably led by Moth Harry Bent) and the deckhead reverberated to lusty voices raised in song!

Home Front August 1978: Minutes of the GHQ National Executive Meeting held on Sunday 2 July; during the opening ritual the meeting paused at the MOTH Salute in memory of Moths Wally Cully and Les Smith of Cape Western Provincial Dugout, Past Old Bill of the Order and Old Bill of the Order respectively.

In memoriam: It is with deep regret that we have to inform the sudden passing to Higher Service of Moth Wally Cully, a Past Old Bill of the Order and the last surviving founder member of the Western Province Dugout on Wednesday 7th June. Well known to all Moths throughout the Republic and Rhodesia; having devoted fifty years of his glorious life to the cause of Mothdom, he proved himself to be a truly dedicated Moth and a highly respected gentleman. With the highest honours of our illustrious Order bestowed upon him, he was also a much respected member of the 1st SA Infantry Brigade Association and during the Great War served his country with valour and distinction; being the youngest survivor to emerge from the Battle of Delville Wood.

In memoriam: It is with deep regret that we have to record the passing to Higher Service of the Old Bill of the Order, Moth Les Smith, who answered the Sunset Call on 23 June, after a long illness bravely borne. A highly respected, sincere and dedicated Moth, Les served his Shellhole (Red Barn) as well as Cape Western Dugout as Old Bill with diligence and integrity for many years. He was the holder of both the Certificates of Comradeship and Merit and the crowning glory of his MOTH career came when he was appointed the Old Bill of the Order at Convention in Port Elizabeth. It is a tragedy that he could only enjoy such a short time in this honourable position and he will be sadly missed by all his comrades throughout the Republic and Rhodesia.

CITY EXTENDS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AROUND LIQUOR BY LAW

The City of Cape Town’s Economic, Environmental and Spatial Planning Portfolio Committee approved an additional public participation process as part of its consideration of possible amendments to the Liquor Trading Days and Hours By-law. The provision for another round of public participation follows a request from Council that the Portfolio Committee consider and initiate an amendment to the relevant

CITY DRAFT BUDGET TABLED

The City of Cape Town tabled its draft budget totalling R31, 8 billion. R26, 4 billion is allocated to Operating Expenditure and R5, 4 billion is allocated to Capital Expenditure; for public comment.

CITY CUTS THE FAT

As part of the City of Cape Town's commitment to financial probity, a number of austerity measures have been introduced in the 2013/2014 draft budget, tabled before Council on 27 March 2013.

These cost-cutting initiatives include a reduction of R103 million in the general expenses category. This includes a reduction in spending on, amongst others: travel, office furnishings, excessive catering and public relations projects. The use of consultants has also been reduced.

The City has found further savings by reducing the number of vacancies by R46 million on its staff budget, thereby streamlining the organisation for delivery.

sections of the Liquor Trading Days and Hours By-law relating specifically to the implementation of revised trading hours and a Sunday prohibition for the sale of liquor from licensed premises for consumption off-site (e.g. shops and bottle stores).

The by-law states that, for off-licensed premises, a licensee may sell liquor for consumption off the licensed premises from Monday to Saturday from 09:00 to 18:00. No liquor may be sold by any off-licensed premises at all on a Sunday. The only exception is wineries, which may trade from their tasting rooms on Sundays.

Last week Council recommended that off-consumption sale of liquor be permitted on application by licence-holders in certain location categories, excluding local business and residential areas. This would enable licensees in these categories to apply both for the extension of trading hours as well as the extension of trading days (to include Sundays).

Furthermore Council requested that, while the possible amendment to the by-law is being considered and during the public comment period, enforcement of the by-law relating to trading on Sundays by current licence holders (in the relevant location categories) be suspended. All other aspects of the by-law, including trading hours, are still enforceable.

RESTITUTION FOR VICTIMS OF GROUP AREAS ACT

The City of Cape Town and the Regional Land Claims Commission have recommended that ERF 724 in Somerset West be released for restitution purposes at the current municipal value of R480 000. In 1969, under the Group Areas Act, many people and entire communities were forced to move from their homes and relocate elsewhere. The area in which ERF 724 in Somerset West is located was proclaimed one such area. The land then belonged to the Langenhoven family who will soon be allowed to return after being forcibly removed in 1969. Many families who had been part of the community, such as the Gordon-the Prag- and Hindley families were forced out of their homes in Victoria and Church Streets between 1969 and 1970. Most of these families had to relocate to the areas set aside for by the apartheid government for coloured people like Kleinvlei in Eersteriver, Strand, Tarrentaalplaas and Macassar.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) released the names of the soldiers who died in the Central African Republic:

"The minister of defence and military veterans, chief of the South African National Defence Force, chief of joint operations and chief of the South African Army wish to extend their sincerest condolences to friends and families of the deceased"

Their names are as follows:

- Corporal Mokgadi Darius Seakamela
- Corporal Ntebaleng Andrew Mogorosi
- Lance Corporal Daniel Sello Molara
- Lance Corporal Lukas Mohapi Tsheke
- Rifleman Lesego Maxwell Hertzog
- Rifleman Zamani Jim Mxhosana
 - Rifleman Xolani Dlamini
- Rifleman Vusumzi Joseph Ngaleka
- Rifleman Karabo Edwin Matsheka
- Rifleman Khomotso Paul Msenga
- Rifleman Maleisane Samuel Thulo
- Rifleman Motsamai William Bojane
- Rifleman Thabiso Anthon Phirimana

President Jacob Zuma confirmed that 13 SANDF members died during clashes with Seleka rebels in the Central African Republic on the 27th of March 2013:

"It is a sad moment for our country. We are truly proud of our soldiers – about 200 of our men fought a force of more than 1000 bandits for nine hours."

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

SHELLHOLE NEWS

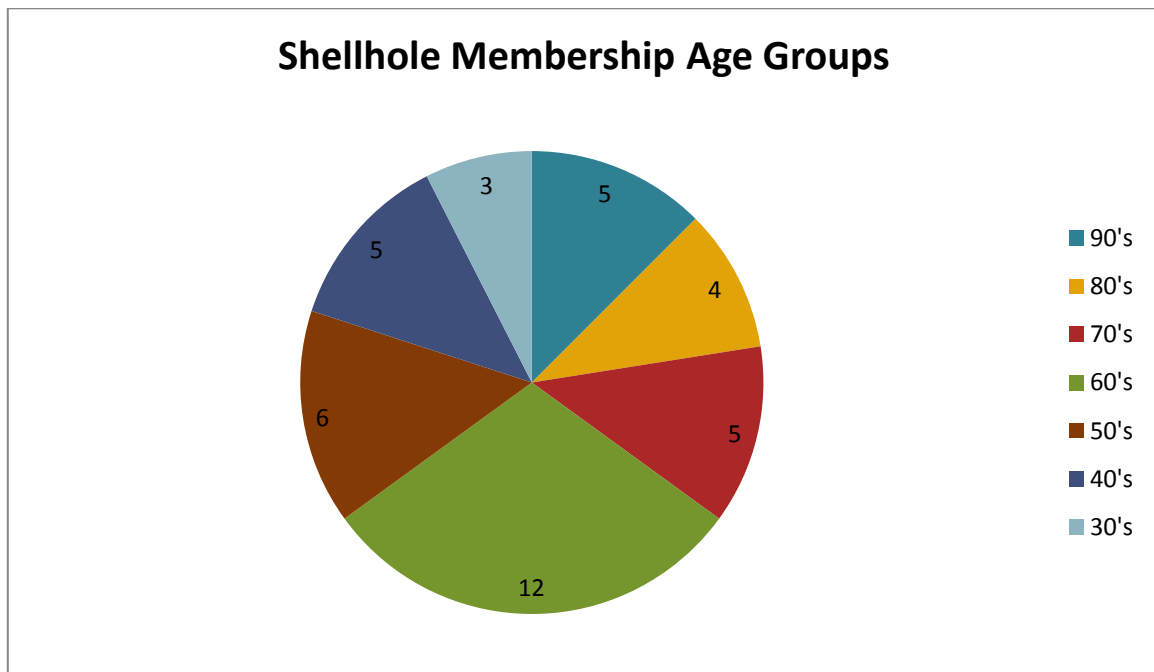
Moth George Mann (pictured to the right) celebrated his 90th birthday in style with a function hosted at the Shellhole on Friday the 12th of April.

Accompanied by son-in-law Drew Donald and grandson Martin Zedler, Moth Mann behaved himself well and managed to deliver a short speech without swearing once! Grandson Martin, a Danish citizen by birth, served with the Danish Forces during the Kosovo Campaign. A wonderful time was had by the 25 guests in attendance.



With Moth Mann turning 90 during April, the Shellhole now has five members over that age; the others being Moths Bert Johnson, Frank Joubert, John Sowter and Derek McLean.

A simple analysis of the membership age groups makes for interesting reading and should remind us constantly, that the battle for recruiting new members should never stop. As indicated below (including recruits), 22 members are under the age of 65 with 18 members who have already passed the benchmark!



THE WARSAW GHETTO PARTISAN SONG

Hirsh Glick was born in Vilna in 1922. He began to write Yiddish poetry in his teens and became co-founder of *Yungvald* (Young Forest), a group of young Jewish poets. After the German assault on the Soviet Union in 1941, Glick was imprisoned in the Weiße Wache concentration camp and later transferred to Vilna Ghetto. Glick involved himself in the ghetto's artistic community while simultaneously participating in the underground and took part in the 1942 ghetto uprising. In 1943 he wrote his most famous work, the song *Zog nit keynmol*, which became the anthem of the Jewish partisan movement. He was inspired to write this work by news that arrived of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Glick managed to flee when the ghetto was being liquidated in October 1943, but was re-captured. He was later deported to a concentration camp in Estonia. During his captivity he continued to compose songs and poems. In July 1944, with the Soviet Army approaching, Glick escaped. He was never heard from again and was presumed captured and executed by the Germans (reportedly in August 1944).

English translation of *Zog nit keynmol*

*Never say this is the final road for you
though leadened skies may cover over days of blue.
As the hour that we longed for is so near
our step beats out the message: we are here!*

*From lands so green with palms to lands all white with snow.
We shall be coming with our anguish and our woe
and where a spurt of our blood did drop on the earth
there are courage and our spirit have rebirth!*

*The early morning sun will brighten our day
and yesterday with our foe will fade away
but if the sun delays and in the east remains
this song as password generations must remain.*

*This song was written with our blood and not with lead
it's not a little tune that birds sing overhead
this song a people sang amid collapsing walls
with pistols in hand they heeded to the call.*

*Therefore never say the road now ends for you
though leadened skies may cover over days of blue.
As the hour that we longed for is so near
our step beats out the message: we are here!*