



the Generals Voice

TIM LUKIN SHELLHOLE NEWSLETTER



No: 05 of 2025

JULY 2025

Our July meeting drew 37 members on parade, including the Top Table, and 12 visitors. While we received several apologies, the gathering maintained its supportive spirit.



"Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?"
George Carlin

Sergeant Major Craig Herwill led the assembly in a moment of remembrance, calling on MOTH Kevin Fenton to honour our fallen comrades:

☒ S52948	Maj	Watkins, W W	QSC	02 – April – 1946
☒ 223305	Cpl	Visagie, T E	SACMP	18 – July – 1941

We Will Remember Them.

TRYING A NEW LOOK.



Following a recent member suggestion, we're experimenting with a new flow newsletter format. Instead of our usual column layout where text flows from top to bottom in two columns, we're now writing horizontally across the full width of the page. This change represents a departure from the traditional newsletter style that many publications use, where readers typically scan down the left column before moving onto the right column.

We'll continue with this horizontal format for the next few issues to give everyone time to experience the difference. Your feedback during this trial period will help us determine the best approach moving forward.

Please share your thoughts on this format change. Does the horizontal, full-width layout feel more comfortable to read, or do you find the traditional column structure easier to follow?

BIRTHDAYS — AUGUST

Happy Birthday!

☒ Vincent Marino	10 th August
☒ Martin Thompson	14 th August

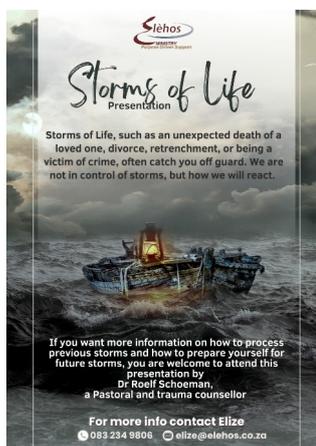


Wishing you all the best on your special day. May it be filled with joy, laughter, and wonderful memories!

GUEST SPEAKER:

Guest Speaker Spotlight: Dr Roelf Schoeman

Our July meeting featured an inspiring presentation from Dr Roelf Schoeman, who delivered his powerful "Storms of Life" talk to our members and guests.



Dr Schoeman addressed the universal experience of facing life's unexpected challenges. Whether dealing with depression, divorce, job loss, trauma, or grief, we all encounter storms that can leave us feeling unprepared and overwhelmed. (The full video presentation is available on the Tim Lukin Facebook page.

(<https://www.facebook.com/TimLukinMothShellhole>)

Key Learning Points from the Presentation:

- ⊗ How to process and learn from past difficulties
- ⊗ Strategies for preparing mentally and emotionally for future challenges
- ⊗ Practical techniques for building personal resilience during tough times

The presentation resonated strongly with attendees, offering both practical tools and emotional support for navigating life's inevitable difficulties. Dr Schoeman's approach combined professional expertise with genuine empathy, creating an engaging and helpful session.

Members found the content particularly relevant, with many expressing appreciation for the practical strategies shared. The interactive elements allowed for meaningful discussion about building strength through adversity.

We thank Dr Schoeman for his valuable contribution to our July meeting.

THE BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD AND GENERAL TIM LUKIN

Background

The Battle of Delville Wood was fought during the First World War between 15-20 July 1916, as part of the larger Battle of the Somme. Located northeast of Longueval, France, this small wood became the scene of one of the most devastating battles involving South African forces on the Western Front.

General Henry Timson "Tim" Lukin

Major-General Sir Henry Timson Lukin (1860-1925) was born in Fulham, England, the son of a barrister. At age 19, he sailed to South Africa, where he would build a distinguished military career spanning over four decades. After failing to gain entry to Sandhurst, Lukin obtained a commission in a native cavalry contingent during the Zulu War of 1879 and was later commissioned as a lieutenant in the Cape Mounted Riflemen (CMR).



Lukin's colonial service included campaigns in Zululand, the Basuto War (1881), the Langeberg campaign (1896-97), and the Second Boer War (1899-1902), where he received particular distinction. He was appointed commandant-general of the Cape colonial forces in 1904, and in 1912 became inspector-general of the permanent force of the Union of South Africa. By the outbreak of World War I, Lukin commanded the 1st South African Infantry Brigade.

The Battle

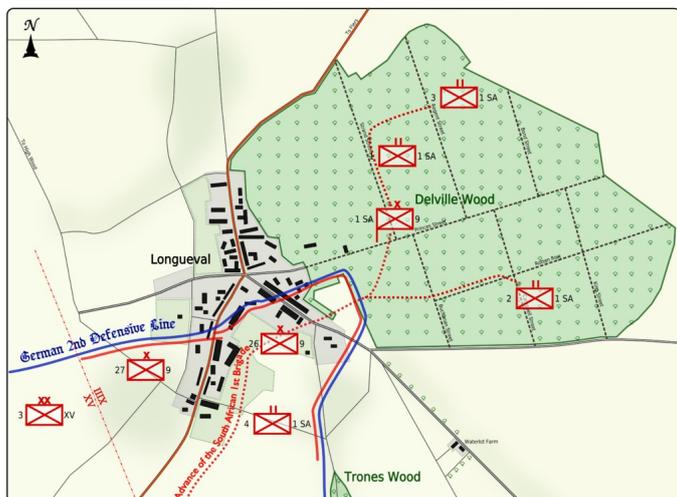


Figure 1: Position of the South African Brigade

On 15 July 1916, the South African Infantry Brigade under Major-General H.T. Lukin received orders to clear Delville Wood of German forces and hold it "at all costs." The wood was tactically vital as it covered the flanks of British forces and was key to the offensive on nearby Longueval.

The South African Brigade, consisting of 3,153 men, entered what would become known as their "Devil's Wood." What followed was six days and five nights of relentless combat, with casualties so severe that one soldier died every minute, and one South African soldier every three minutes. The Germans launched fierce counter-attacks, determined to recapture this strategic position.

Under Lukin's leadership, the South African forces faced an unprecedented barrage of 400 shells per minute. Despite suffering casualties of up to 80%, the "Springboks" held their ground with extraordinary tenacity. The battle became a testament to the courage and determination of the South African forces under extreme conditions.

The Outcome

By 20 July 1916, when the survivors were finally relieved, the South African Brigade had paid a devastating price. Of the 3,153 men who entered the wood, only 768 emerged unscathed. The casualties included 763 dead and 297 prisoners of war, with wounded bringing the total to 2,435 casualties — representing over 75% of the brigade's strength.

Despite these horrific losses, the South Africans had achieved their objective. They held Delville Wood long enough for British forces to consolidate their positions, contributing significantly to the eventual Allied success in the area.



Figure 2: Photograph, courtesy of Jack Alexander.

Lukin's Leadership

General Lukin's leadership during this battle exemplified the highest traditions of military command. His ability to maintain unit cohesion and fighting spirit under such extreme conditions demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities. After the war, Lukin brought back timber from surviving Scots pine trees that had grown in the wood before the battle, creating a lasting memorial to the sacrifice made there.

Legacy

The Battle of Delville Wood remains one of the most significant military engagements in South African history. It demonstrated the commitment of South African forces to the Allied cause and

established a reputation for courage and tenacity that would endure throughout the war. General Lukin continued to serve with distinction, later commanding the 9th (Scottish) Division and the 64th Division before retiring in 1919. He was knighted for his war service and remains remembered as one of South Africa's most distinguished military leaders.

The battle is commemorated today at the Delville Wood Memorial in France, serving as a permanent reminder of the sacrifice made by South African forces under General Lukin's command during those terrible days in July 1916.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

Tim Lukin Shellhole commemorate the Battle of Delville Wood

Throughout July, MOTH Shellholes across South Africa hold commemorative parades to honour the fallen at Delville Wood. These solemn gatherings remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice at this significant World War I battlefield, survivors of the battle, and comrades who have since passed away in the years following the conflict.

On Sunday, July 13, Tim Lukin Shellhole and fellow members of the MOTHS participated in the 109th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Delville Wood. This ceremony took place at the Scottish Memorial in Parktown, Johannesburg, where they paid tribute to the 2,435 South African soldiers who died during the intense fighting in July 1916.



Figure 3: MOTHS of Tim Lukin Shellhole

Simultaneously, on the other side of the province, Jean Swart, our "Lone Wolf MOTH," represented Tim Lukin Shellhole at the Turbi Hills Shellhole. There, she joined fellow MOTHS members in their own commemoration of Delville Wood, demonstrating the widespread nature of these remembrance activities across South Africa.



DATES TO REMEMBER 2025

Platinum Meeting – every last Sunday of the Month

District Meeting – every 3rd Saturday of the Month

Founder's Day	07 – May
Jan Smuts Remembrance Day	24 – May
Delville Wood Remembrance Day	16 – July

Platinum Provincial Dugout meet on the last Sunday of every month at 9h30, at Evenden House, 139 Glover Avenue, Die Hoewes, Centurion.

East Rand District Dugout meet on a alphabetical (*MOTH shellhole name*) rotational basis at 9h30 on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

El Alamein Remembrance Day	23 – Oct
Cosy Corner Remembrance Day	10 – Nov
Rhodesian All Forces Parade, (Dickie Fritz)	10 – Nov
JHB Mayor's Parade JHB, Military Museum, Saxonwold	10 – Nov
SA Legion Shadow Parade, Casino Rd, Foundershill, Modderfontein	11 – Nov
MOTH Remembrance Day	11 – Nov
MOTH Shadow Parade (War Memorial)	11–Nov

Shellhole Charter Dates:

MMA East Rand:	17 th January	2017
General van der Spuy:	02 nd June	1991
Shellburst Shellhole:	13 th July	1958
East Rand District Dugout:	21 July	2016
Cosy Corner Shellhole:	01 st September	1927
Savannah Shellhole:	04 th September	2002
Windy Corner Shellhole:	27 th September	1938
Dickie Fritz Shellhole:	11 th September	1955
Sphinx Shellhole:	17 th October	1938
Tim Lukin Shellhole:	24th October	1938

JOIN THE MOTHS – WE NEED YOU!



Looking to Get Involved?

If you're interested in learning more or attending a meeting, reach out to your local Shellhole for details.

**For information on how to join TIM LUKIN MOTH Shellhole Contact:
Deputy Bill Jose: 082-561-2990**

Useful Links

[Visit M.O.T.H. Home Page](#)

[Tim Lukin Shellhole Facebook Page](#)

[Tim Lukin Shellhole Official Page](#)

[East Rand District Dugout](#)

[MMA's Facebook Page](#)

[MOTHTWA Home Page](#)

[MOTH Beginnings](#)

Tim Lukin's Business Directory

(To place your advert contact Vincent on 082-257-3213)

Support Your Shellhole Community.

Are you a member, supporter, or friend of Tim Lukin Shellhole? Help strengthen our community by supporting one another's businesses. We're creating this comprehensive business directory to help members find the services they need right within our own network. Whether you're looking for a butcher, baker, candlestick maker, or anything in between, our directory will have you covered.

How to Submit Your Listing:

Keep it Simple: A clear and concise message will do.

Submit Your Business Logo: Send us a high-quality JPG of your business card/logo for a consistent look.

All your contributions / donations will directly benefit Tim Lukin Shellhole and our Mutual Aid Fund.

Help strengthen our community and let's work together to build a thriving MOTH network!



Dust Off Those Records – We're Buying!

Got a stack of old vinyl lying around?

We're on the lookout for classic Rock, Pop, Jazz, Blues, and Metal records.

No fuss, no pressure — just honest deals and a Fair offer.

Friendly service. Sell your records today!

WhatsApp Vincent on 082-257-3213