

MEMORABLE ORDER OF TUN HATS.

50th Anniversary Brochure Committee.

FLAME LILY SHELLHOLE

The story of Mothdom in your District/Shellhole is as follows:-

In February 1967 two former Rhodesian Moths arrived in Durban simultaneously. They had served together on the Mashonaland District Dugout during the late fifties and early sixties and were both life members of Pegasus Shellhole in Salisbury. Each of these blokes joined Shellholes in Durban.

In August 1967 Bert Mirfin and Vernon Corbishley contacted the then Rhodesian proxy, Cyril Herisson, and suggested to him that the time had come for a Rhodesian Shellhole to be established in Durban. After discussion with the National Chairman, Jimmy Scott, it was agreed that the forming of such a Shellhole in Durban would not require blokes forming the new Rhodesian Shellhole to disassociate themselves from the Shellholes they had joined on arrival in Durban. This smoothed the way for the formation of the new Shellhole as blokes would not feel dissatisfied with having to leave Shellholes of which they were already members but could join up with old colleagues without breaking new links.

The word was put about and very quickly a number of former Rhodesians were found and an inaugural meeting was held in September 1967. The new Flame Lily Shellhole was launched on the 4th October 1967 and apart from the new members joining the Shellhole there were a large number of wellwishers. The aim of the Shellhole was to keep in contact with former Moths from Central Africa and to a large degree membership was confined to such people. One or two strays came along to the inaugural meeting who expressed a desire to join and were accepted, and have proved to be excellent members of the Shellhole.

The Rhodesian proxy, Cyril Herisson, was among those who joined the Shellhole and the inaugural executive were as follows:-

Old Bill	-	Vernon Corbishley
Deputy Old Bill	-	Jack Smythe
Adjutant	-	Bert Mirfin
Pay Bill	-	Wally Smith

Since then a number of other blokes have served on the executive in various capacities including Doug Barlow-Jones, Harry Davies, Artie Wilson, Ron Morrison, Horace Porter, Jimmy Williamson, Popeye Tanner and Harold Cuddy.

In November 1967 Bert Mirfin persuaded Dennis Matthews, Harry Davies and Vernon Corbishley to link up with him in forming a Skiffle Group. Virtually their first outing was at the former Moth hotel, The Chevron, at Umhlanga Rocks. They had been asked to perform as a special turn whilst the regular band had a rest. Their wives were present and listened in trepidation when these four "volunteers" went on to the bandstand. The dining room guests seemed to thoroughly enjoy the presentation and when the regular band returned, rather than push

out the Skiffle Group they asked if they could join them so that a larger group could entertain the people present. Obviously the Skiffle Group had made an impression and over the years since then they have performed on well over 700 occasions and have assisted many organisations apart from the Moths in raising a substantial sum of money. It is estimated that as a result of their efforts the organisations that have employed them have raised well over R30.000 and the benefit to Flame Lily Shellhole has been considerable. The composition of the Skiffle Group has been changed over the years and blokes who have played in it have included the following - Hoot Gibson, Norman Knowles, Len Brown, Doug Bisset, Horace Porter and many other chaps who have been inspanned to give temporary assistance.

When the Flame Lily Shellhole was formed in Durban the executive of the Shellhole had one objective in mind. They were going to bring a revival to Mothdom in Natal. The way that their members have infiltrated various organisations in and around Durban probably proves that they have gone a long way towards achieving their objective. Members of the Shellhole serve on the National Executive, General Headquarters, Natal Provincial Committee, Durban & District Dugout Committee, Moth Memorial Centre Committees, Home Front, etc. etc.

In due course the blokes of Flame Lily requested permission from the D & D Dugout executive to form a Raiders Group under the D & D Charter. Permission was readily given and blokes from many Shellholes have got together to make it the successful unit it now is. Raids have been conducted to Rhodesia, South West Africa, Orange Free State, Border & Transkei and to the Transvaal. This Raiders Group have helped raise money for the Benevolent Fund, the Memorial Centre, Bartle Road Cottages, as well as easing the financial burden of the District Committee in looking after incoming raiders.

Apart from this the Shellhole has set up a welfare organisation which was first called the Flame Lily Ex-Servicemen's Cottage Association. This organisation was set up as the potential extension to the Bartle Road Cottage Scheme which at that time was stated to be nearing full development. A number of other Shellholes have linked up with Flame Lily in getting this MESCA organisation going and it has been taken over by the Moths at large with the headquarters of MESCA now being based in the Transvaal. The Durban MESCA unit is known as the Flame Lily Branch. The funds in this local branch drawn largely from donations from the Flame Lily Shellhole and mainly from donations by the Skiffle Group, amount to R9.000.

The Flame Lily Shellhole members number some 50 although in addition they have a number of unofficial country members who keep in touch with them when they come to Durban. Rather than forming a Mothwa unit the wives of a number of the members of the Shellhole decided to form a Ladies Group and they have done sterling work in supporting their menfolk in their various fund raising efforts. The ladies are also "old folk minded" and they have accumulated funds over the years amounting to ± R9.000 which they are holding against the day when the new cottage scheme goes into action somewhere in or around Durban.

The contacts with the Rhodesians are still being well maintained.

Nominal Roll of FLAME LILY Shellhole as at 31st August, 1967.  
 District Dugout DURBAN Provincial Dugout NATAL  
 Meeting Place D.L.I. CLUB Day and Time of Meeting 20.00 HRS.  
 Old Bill VERNON CORBISHLEY Phone No. (bus:) 21961 (res:) 77187  
 Postal Address 27, RICHMOND AVENUE, KLOOF  
 Deputy Old Bill JACK SMYTH Phone No. (bus:) (res:)  
 Postal Address 82, SAXONY, ALIWAL STREET, DURBAN  
 Adjutant BERT MIRFIN Phone No. (bus:) 20591 (res:)  
 Postal Address 22, MACKEURTAN AVENUE, DURBAN NORTH, DURBAN  
 Pay Bill Phone No. (bus:) (res:)  
 Postal Address  
 Trustees

Date Shellhole Charter issued (NOTE.—Every Unit must possess a Charter.)

Shellhole Total membership on roll as at 31st August 18

Title Deeds and other valuable Shellhole Documents lodged at:

	NAME AND INITIALS ONLY		NAME AND INITIALS ONLY
1	E.V.H. CORBISHLEY		41
2	J. SMYTH		42
3	B.C. MIRFIN		43
4	W. SMITH		44
5	N. KNOWLES		45
6	H.A. DAVIES		46
7	D.E. MATTHEWS		47
8	S. WENEZKY		48
9	J.K. JONES		49
10	H.A. HARDY		50
11	L.A. PARKER		51
12	J.K. TWIGG		52
13	S.J.B. MANNING	New	53
14	W.J. DONNELLY	"	54
15	L.D. BARLOW-JONES	"	55
16	F.W. PHILLIPS	"	56
17	P. COWAN	"	57
18	S.G. RIDER		58
19			59
20			60
21			61
22			62
23			63
24			64
25			65
26			66
27			67
28			68
29			69
30			70
31			71
32			72
33			73
34			74
35			75
36			76
37			77
38			78
39			79
40			80

TO THE PROVINCIAL ADJUTANT THROUGH THE DISTRICT ADJUTANT

Nominal Roll of "FLAME LILY" Shellhole as at 31st August, 1968  
 District Dugout D U R B A N Provincial Dugout N A T A L .  
 Meeting Place D.L.I. CLUB, DURBAN. Day and Time of Meeting 1st WEDNESDAY 20.00 Hrs.  
 Old Bill E.V.H. CORBISHLEY. Phone No. (bus:) 21961 (res:) 77187.  
 Postal Address 27 Richmond Avenue Kloof, Natal.  
 Deputy Old Bill H.A. Davies, Phone No. (bus:) 819611 (res:) 49297  
 Postal Address 20 Grafton Place 49 Musgrave Road Durban.  
 Adjutant B.C. Mirfin. Phone No. (bus:) 20591 (res:) 839213  
 Postal Address 22 Mackeurtan Ave., Durban North.  
 Pay Bill W. Smith, Phone No. (bus:) 22776 (res:) 29196  
 Postal Address 1409 Arncliffe, Victoria Embankment Durban.

Trustees \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Shellhole Charter issued SEPTEMBER 1967.  
 (NOTE.—Every Unit must possess a Charter.)

Shellhole Total membership on roll as at 31st August 1968.  
 Title Deeds and other valuable Shellhole Documents lodged at: \_\_\_\_\_

	NAME AND INITIALS ONLY		NAME AND INITIALS ONLY
✓	1 Barlow - Jones, L.D.	DOB	41
✓	2 Bach F.		42
✓	3 Corbishley E.V.H.	Old Bill	43
✓	4 Cass L.W.		44
✓	5 Callow R.F.J.		45
✓	6 Chapman L.		46
✓	7 Davies H.A.		47
✓	8 Donnelly W.T.		48
✓	9 Eland K.		49
✓	10 Harrison J.C.	Ray Bill	50
✓	11 Harrison J.F.		51
✓	12 Hawitt, W.		52
✓	13 Knowles N.	S/MR	53
✓	14 Levy N.J.		54
✓	15 Judd B.		55
✓	16 Merais C.S.J.		56
✓	17 Matthews, D.E.		57
✓	18 Mirfin, B.C.	Adjutant	58
✓	19 Morrison R.		59
✓	20 Moon, M.		60
✓	21 Mc Loughlin M.J.		61
✓	22 Mc Donald, R.C.		62
✓	23 Parker, L.		63
✓	24 Porter, H. E.	Leason Officer	64
✓	25 Stratford, G.		65
✓	26 Smith, W.	Pay Bill	66
✓	27 Doyle R.V.		67
✓	28 Thomas K.		68
✓	29 Tosh P, J.C.		69
✓	30 Wakeford, E.O.		70
✓	31 Wenesky S.		71
✓	32 Williamson J.A.		72
✓	33 Wilson A.F.		73
✓	34 Yates, R.		74
	35		75
	36		76
	37		77
	38		78
	39		79
	40		80

24/10 Present at first meeting of shellhole on 4th October 1967  
 Charter dated 10th Sept 1967  
 "Foundation" Members still on current nominal roll

TO THE PROVINCIAL ADJUTANT THROUGH THE DISTRICT ADJUTANT