



Marshal Smuts Shellhole

P.O.Box 246, Somerset West, 7129
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BULLSHEET

MARCH 2011

Editorial

Well the month of birthday celebrations is finally here and Pay Bill Philip and his team who made up the birthday committee will be seeing the fruits of their labours. They have put in a great deal of effort and I am sure it will be a very memorable event. Although our charter was signed on 7 April 1946 practical considerations encouraged us to celebrate the event this month.

I would like to say a special word of thanks to Lionel Crook who shared some of his Robben Island research with us in the last two issues, viz., the Robben Island Guns and the Ferry called *Isie*. I am sure that when his work is complete we will publish another jewel of his research.

Part 6 of our 'To live like a MOTH' series features Frank Joubert who was also awarded Life Membership of the Shellhole last month. Finally we have part 2 of the article on the first two years of WWII as published in the SA Military History Journal of June 2000

Shellhole Calendar

**6 March : Visit by
Dawn Patrol to MSS**

**12 March : 65th
Birthday celebrations
10:00**

**18 March: General
Meeting 18:00**

Happenings at Marshal Smuts

Celebrating 65 years of Marshal Smuts

As part of our birthday celebration discussions we decided to prepare two tiles to be presented to other Shellholes during visits by one or more of our members. One is a generic version which is presented instead of a banner, while the other will only be presented on the occasion of our Birthday celebrations on 12 March 2011. The first Marshal Smuts tile was presented to Old Bill Bruce Michler of Gorgeous Wrecks Shellhole in Pretoria by Old Bill Brian Porter who visited Pretoria in February.





Sound Memory

The Roll of Honour at the Shellhole has been updated and now includes the 6 missing names to make up the 179 Moths who served at our Shellhole and passed to higher service. These 6 members were:.

C.I. Maloney & M.W. Dickens

Both these Moths were mentioned in the Old Bill's report for 1979/80 and 1980/81 respectively, but due to administrative mistakes their names were never affixed to the Roll of Honour.

Gerry Halfwerke

Moth Halfwerke was a Dutch Resistance Fighter who settled in South Africa after the Second World War. He was a recipient of the Dutch Resistance Memorial Cross and he took part in Operation Market Garden. He died alone in his apartment during 2006.

Decima Flanagan (Mrs)

Moth Flanagan was born on the 1st of January 1920 and served with the Women's Auxiliary Army Service during the Second World War. She was married to Moth Frank Flanagan, the Australian-born Moth who joined our Shellhole as a member during November 1981. Like her husband she was a staunch supporter of the Shellhole before becoming a Moth herself during 1993. The couple lived at 11 Union Street Strand and had no children. She answered the sunset call during August 2009 and her ashes were scattered at sea by her neighbour's daughter, Mrs Ann Neill.



Decima & Frank Flanagan

Tom Trim

Born on the 25th of September 1922 at Cardiff, Moth Trim immigrated as a young boy to South Africa and grew up in Mossel Bay. At the outbreak of War he joined the SAAF as an Aircraft Technician and served throughout the War. Moth Trim answered the sunset call on the 20th of July 2010.

Reg Taylor

Reg Taylor was born on the 12th of December 1925. He joined the RAF during 1944 and was sent to Canada for pilot training at various Operational Training Units. By the time he had completed his training, the war in Europe had finished. Stationed at 208 Squadron; he underwent further weapons training and flew all the different Spitfires, receiving various commendations for his flying ability. During the 1960s he became an Instructor for the RAF before settling in South Africa during 1970. He joined the SAAF with the rank of Captain and was a pilot on various Transport and Rescue planes; he answered the sunset call on the 16th of September 2010.

We will remember them

True Comradeship

The Border Boys Parade

The eighth annual Border Boys Parade was again hosted by Dawn Patrol Shellhole on Sunday the 6th of February. This year the guest speaker was Moth General Constand Viljoen and Marshal Smuts was well represented.



Moths Gerda Olivier and Angus Walker, Marshal Smuts' oldest serving Border Boy Veteran

What ever happened to: "Maag in bors uit, nek teen die kraag, gee volledige 27 duim treë en swaai daai arms skouer hoogte. Kyk voor jou troep!

Judging by this photograph, Old Bill Brian Porter enjoyed himself!



The MMA

Veterans from Robertson House



Marshal Smuts Standard Bearer: Adriaan van Zyl

General Viljoen as MOTH squad marker



To live like a Moth – Part 6 - Frank Joubert



Frank Joubert was born on 17 March 1920. During 1938, at the age of 18, he joined the Special Services Battalion (SSB), or the *Soldate Sonder Broek*. At the beginning of 1939 he qualified to go to the Technical Services School, where he enrolled for an apprenticeship as an Aircraft Technician. Then war broke out...

← *Frank Joubert and Bert Johnson*

"We were not even 20 years of age and this business of qualifying as Aircraft Technicians did not really appeal to us, seeing that there was a war going on. A friend and I decided to join the 1st SA Irish Battalion to make sure that we could be in on the action that war promised. My friend had bad eyesight and I took the test on his behalf. The plan was that I would go back the following day to do my own test. However, before this could happen I was arrested by the Military Police and kept overnight in the Detention Barracks. The following morning our Sergeant Major from TS came to bail me out. He never laid charges against me, just told me that if I want to go north, I should wait for my turn and keep on studying because in that way, they might be able to find some use for me one day. For all the trouble that I went through I was made an acting corporal, in other words, I could wear the rank but will not receive any extra pay.

At this stage the campaign in Abyssinia was drawing to a close and elements of the South African Air Force were already being posted to Egypt. We sailed on the *New Amsterdam*, a ship of the Holland-Africa line and stopped over in Mombasa. Lying at anchor with us in Mombasa was the *HMS Repulse*. Within a week after saying our goodbyes at Mombasa, the *Repulse* was torpedoed and sunk. Landing at Alexandria we were first attached to the Fleet Air Arm at El Daba before joining 2 Squadron SAAF.

2 Squadron together with 4 and 5 Squadrons SAAF and 260 Squadron RAF formed 233 Fighter Wing of the Western Desert Air Force. At this stage the Squadron flew Tomahawk IIIB aircraft and not one of us had ever seen an aircraft manual, let alone worked on these aircraft before. We had to learn quickly as we criss-crossed the Desert over the next year as we drove Gerry out only to be driven out by Gerry again. Thankfully, just after the fall of Tobruk the Americans came to the party and we received Kittyhawk I fighter aircraft.

During the Desert Campaign we were always stationed in the frontline, preparing air strips, working on aircraft and were shelled on many occasions. I remember once near Tobruk after we had received another heavy bout of shelling and the ground crews were beginning to feel the effects, Sergeant Major Coetzer instructed Jimmy Harper and me to roll out the barrel of Brandy. We had a most enjoyable night and most of the guys could forget about the constant shelling. Once near Benghazi, we sent in some Ghurkhas to go and shut the Gerry artillery up.

By October 1942 all preparations were underway for the Second Battle of El Alamein. For as long as I live I will never forget the artillery barrage that rained on Gerry. The ground shook as though it was an earthquake. Moving through the cleared minefields, you could see young Gerry lying dead in their Shellholes. I took care of a lovely Border collie dog that had remained with his dead boss, renamed him Alamein and he travelled with me all the way to Tripoli.

From Tripoli we landed at Malta, then Sicily before landing at Bari on the Italian mainland. From Bari we slowly worked our way up the Adriatic coast until we reached Foggia. At Foggia I contracted a bout of Malaria but we had to continue with the work. By this time I held the rank of Flight Sergeant and we were employed mainly in doing maintenance work on Spitfires. I served with a lot of brave and skilful SAAF personnel, many of them lost their lives, I have remembered them all, especially Eric Saville DFC and Bar."

During the Italian Campaign, 2 Squadron SAAF formed part of 7 Wing of the Northwest Africa Air Forces.

Aircraft used by the Squadron: (June 1941 to May 1942, Tomahawk IIIB; June 1942 to June 1943, Kittyhawk I; July 1943, Kittyhawk III; August 1943 to March 1944, Supermarine Spitfire Vc; April 1944 to May 1945, Supermarine Spitfire IX).



SAAF Roundel 1927 – 1947

For his service during the War, Frank Joubert received the following medals: 1939/45 Star, Africa Star with El Alamein clasp, Italy Star, Victory Medal and the South African Service Medal.

After the War Frank Joubert joined South African Airways, lived in Kempton Park and retired at the end of March 1980. He joined our Memorable Order during July 1953 at Wadi Shellhole. During 1954 he transferred to Remembrance Shellhole, he served for many years on the Shellhole Executive and did more than one tour of duty as Old Bill. After retiring Frank and his wife Peggy came to live in Somerset West and he became a member of our Shellhole on 16 February 1981.

The cenotaph in the garden of Marshal Smuts Shellhole was erected by Frank Joubert, Eddie de Kock and Jim Peddie, in remembrance of their fallen comrades. One only has to meet Frank Joubert to come to the simple conclusion – he is a humble human being that has lived a life of extreme value to the human race! We salute you Moth Frank Joubert!

For his services at Remembrance Shellhole, Frank received the Certificate of Comradeship; at the Marshal Smuts Shellhole, Gigi, the dog of Moth Frank and Mothwa Peggy Joubert, received a Certificate of Friendship on 31 December 1993. On 18 February 2011 Frank Joubert completed 30 years of service at Marshal Smuts; we are now proud to include him on our nominal roll as a **Life Member**.



Ash scattering Moth Willem Burger

The wind finally died down long enough for a small group of Moths to fulfil Willem Burger's wish that his ashes be scattered at sea. We had a moving MOTH ceremony lead by Old Bill Brian Porter in the middle of False Bay and the Trumpeter, Chrisjan Cruywagen, a former colleague of Willem's did his memory proud playing the Last Post and Reveille onboard the yacht 'Dream Catcher'. Back on land we met at the Shellhole and made a toast to Willem one last time.



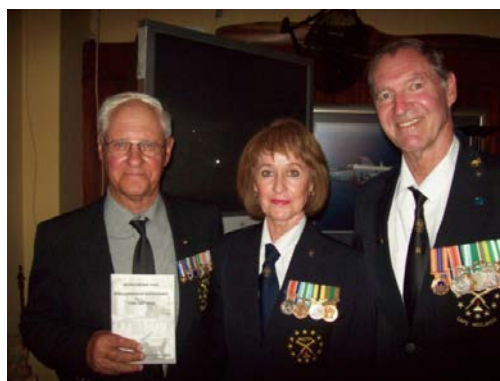
Willem believed in long service. He joined the SA Legion at age 18 and was an active member his whole life, retired from the University of Stellenbosch in 2001 after nearly 40 years service, left the service of the SA Army Reserve Force with the rank of Colonel and was for a number of years a very active member of our Shellhole until his death in November 2009.



We will remember him

Presentation of book to Gen Viljoen

Pierre and Gerda Olivier presented a copy of the book Stellenbosch Kommando 1700 to 2005 to General Constand Viljoen at the Border Boys Parade.



The first two years of war - development of the Union Defence Forces September 1939 to September 1941 - Andre Wessels – (Part two)

The South African Army and Air Force in action, June 1940 - September 1941

When Italy entered the war on 10 June 1940, that country had about 95 000 white and 160 000 'non-white' troops in East Africa, plus 35 226 naval, air force and other personnel, supported by about 400 pieces of artillery, a few tanks and 383 modern aircraft. The Italians conquered British Somaliland without encountering much opposition and penetrated northern Kenya, at some places as deeply as 100 km.

Three SAAF squadrons had been sent to Kenya during the first few months of 1940.

When South Africa declared war against Italy on 11 June, these units immediately attacked Italian positions, air and ground forces, petrol and ammunition dumps and lines of communication in an effort to offset the Regia Aeronautica's numerical superiority in the air and to prevent Italian land forces from gaining more ground.

In the meantime, 1st SA Infantry Brigade was mobilised on 20 May 1940 and left the Union on 16 July under the command of Brig D H (Dan) Pienaar. In due course, the other

brigades of 1st SA Division, plus artillery, the Engineer Corps, Medical Corps, and other units followed. Before the end of 1940, about 30 000 South Africans were deployed in East Africa under the overall command of Lt-Gen Alan Cunningham. On 16 December 1940, the South African Army took part in its first noteworthy action of the war when it helped in capturing an Italian post at El Wak. It was one of the first Allied land successes of the war, albeit not much more than an operational training exercise, but greatly exaggerated for propaganda purposes. Supported by the SAAF, South African army units drove the Italians out of Kenya in January 1941. Subsequently, 5th SA Brigade was sent to Egypt, while 2nd SA Brigade invaded Italian Somaliland and helped in capturing Mogadishu on 25 February, before being sent to Egypt in May 1941.

In the meantime, 1st SA Brigade took part in the triumphant Allied advance to Addis Ababa, which was captured on 6 April 1941. After further operations in the vicinity of the capital, the Duke of Aosta, Italian Viceroy of Italian East Africa, capitulated with about 5 000 soldiers on 19 May. After a protracted low-intensity campaign in the lakes region south of the capital and in the Gondar regions, in which South African units participated, the last Italian forces in East Africa surrendered in November 1941.

Amidst setbacks in other operational areas, the East African Campaign was the first large Allied success of the war. For Smuts and the UDF, it was also a noteworthy triumph, with the UDF playing the biggest role in the Allied victory. The Italians lost about 170 000 soldiers and vast amounts of military material, the South African Army lost only 73 members killed and had 197 other battle casualties, while the SAAF flew 6 517 sorties, destroyed 71 Italian aircraft in the air and many more on the ground and lost only 79 members killed and five reported missing.

Although the UDF combat units performed admirably throughout the East African Campaign, the various UDF support units perhaps contributed even more to the final victory. The chief problems of this campaign were more administrative, technical and logistical rather than of a purely military nature. Improvisation was called for and enthusiasm and individual initiative overcame all disadvantages. The East African Campaign might well be described as the UDF's dress rehearsal for the struggle which would follow farther north.

While the South African soldiers marched on Addis Ababa, Field Marshal Erwin Rommel arrived at Tripoli on 12 February 1941 and built up his Afrika Korps into a formidable fighting machine. By mid-1941 the UDF transferred its attention to North Africa. Once again, it was SAAF units that first saw action, lending support during the Allied withdrawal from Crete, and helping in relieving the garrison at Tobruk during the first siege of that town. In the course of 1941, the SAAF flew 5 727 sorties, shot down 102 enemy aircraft and played a significant role in gaining air superiority for the Allies. On 10 June 1941, 2nd SA Division left South African shores for Egypt, where they joined the 1st SA Division's units already deployed there and underwent strenuous training in desert warfare. Before the end of 1941, more than 100 000 UDF personnel were deployed in Egypt and Cyrenaica.

By September 1941, no South African land forces had yet gone into action in North Africa. Having weathered the East African Campaign with almost negligible losses, the UDF - as well as the folks back home - were psychologically ill-prepared for the inevitable shocks they would experience once battle was joined against the Afrika Korps. The most notable of these shocks was probably the battle of Sidi Rezegh in November 1941, during which the 5th SA Brigade was virtually annihilated and the fall of Tobruk on 21 June

1942, which saw the capitulation of Maj Gen H B Klopper with a force of about 33 000 soldiers, including 10 722 South Africans (nearly the whole of 2nd SA Division).

As part of the 8th British Army, South Africans took part in the capture of Bardia, Sollum and Halfaya, and fought with distinction during the first and second battles at El Alamein. After September 1941, the UDF also took part in two other campaigns, namely the capture of Madagascar (June – November 1942), 7th Infantry Brigade and the Italian Campaign (April 1944 - May 1945). For the Italian campaign the 6th Armoured Division was raised and it was attached to the 8th British Army and the 5th U.S. Army during the campaign. Although the Union was soon ready to counter a Japanese threat, the UDF only planned to become actively involved in the Far East after the war had been won against Germany and Italy, but Japan was defeated before any soldiers and airmen could be sent.

Although, owing to political considerations, *'non-whites'* were not used as combatants during the war, many played a very important non-combatant role nonetheless, for example as drivers, stretcher-bearers, hospital orderlies, batmen and servants. The (coloured) Cape Corps was re-formed as a volunteer non-combatant unit of the ACF in May 1940 and the following month the Native Labour Corps was established. This unit was later known as the Native Military Guards Brigade and still later as the Native Military Corps. There was also an Indian and Malay Corps.

Regardless of their loyalty and devotion to their country, however, these men remained subservient to the whites beside whom they were called upon to serve. The standard of training in the various *'non-white'* services was poor and the pay low. The black, coloured and Indian servicemen also often found themselves under the command of whites who were not always very sympathetic

toward them and there were many frustrations and disciplinary problems as a result.

Throughout the war, a number of South Africans also served in the Royal Air Force and about 4 000 served in the Royal Navy. South Africa was ill-prepared for war in September 1939. The UDF was in a sorry state and South Africans were not only divided along racial, ethnic and language lines, but were also in a state of transition, with an ever greater proportion of the population moving from rural to urban areas. The country had not yet completely recovered from the devastating depression of 1929 to 1933 and it was an open question whether the economy would be able to sustain a war effort. Politically, the Union was probably also more divided than ever before in its troubled history. Afrikaner nationalism, which reigned supreme in these years, gave rise to the founding of several organisations and thus complicated the political scene. In the meantime, black consciousness also grew, placing the government's race policy under more pressure.

However, it can be concluded that the first two war years were, in fact, decisive in the development of the UDF and in South Africa's continued participation in the Allied war effort. By September 1941, the UDF had been transformed into an efficient battle-trained fighting force, poised to play a significant role during the rest of the war. Within the space of two years, the South African economy had been transformed into a war economy with a vibrant armaments industry, which was not only able to satisfy most of the needs of the UDF, but also to export military material to other Allied countries. After two years of war, South Africa was fully committed to and involved in the struggle against the Axis powers. Smuts had not only laid the sound economic and military foundations for the success which was to follow during the rest of the war, but

had also consolidated his political position in the country and had emerged as a leading figure amongst the Allied statesmen and commanders.

All told, 211 193 white (including 24 075 women) and at least 123 131 black, coloured and Indian South Africans took part in the war as full-time volunteers and 63 341 persons of all races as part-time volunteers. More than one out of every ten of the white population - men, women and children - took part; one out of every three of the white population in the age group 20-60; and about 62% of the white male population in the military age group, 18 - 44, took part. As time went by, many Afrikaners responded to the call to arms, not because they necessarily agreed with the war policy, but in many instances because of economic considerations.

Total casualties amounted to 12 046 dead (including 4 347 killed in action or died of wounds), 14 363 others wounded, and 16 430 captured or missing. More than 7 000 South Africans were decorated or mentioned in despatches. Far away from enemy bases, the Union suffered no civilian casualties or physical damage. Women of all races played a significant role during the war, both in the services and at home by releasing men from industry and other sectors to fight. They served in, inter alia, the South African Women's Auxiliary Service, Women's Auxiliary Air Force, Women's Auxiliary Army Services, Women's Auxiliary Naval Service and the South African Nursing Service.

Some notes on the South African Military Nursing Services - Neville Gomm

For a period of five or six years immediately preceding World War II there were no Nursing Assistants in the service. In February 1940, the attestation of Nursing Assistants again took place. They were designated "*Female Probationer Nurse.*" This remained unchanged until 1944 when the present term "*Nursing Assistant*" was adopted. After one year's service and subject to recommendation they were upgraded to "*Senior Female Probationer Nurses.*" In 1939 there were 150 Voluntary Aid Detachments comprising 3000 members. They were not part of the SAMNS but came from the S.A. Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Brigade movements.

The service reached its peak during World War II. In 1944 the strength was recorded as being 1886, of which slightly more than 1000 were Nursing Assistants. Elsewhere mention is made that at the height of its strength approximately 2500 nurses were serving and of this number 1453 were probationers - 1283 in South Africa and 170 in the Middle East. Major-General A.J. Orenstein, CB CMG, CBE, Director-General of South Africa's wartime medical services has said that, at the peak of the war period, there were in employ 3691 female nursing staff, of whom 300 were seconded Canadians.



The Four Horsemen Ride Again

by Bob Connolly

Rand Daily Mail September 4, 1939

SA Legion News

Legionnaire Hennie Hendrikse has retired as Chairperson of the SA Legion Strand-Somerset West Branch, after serving 12 years at the helm. Legionnaire Jimmy Seaman was appointed as the Acting Chairperson at the Legion's monthly meeting on the 1st of February. Legionnaire Seaman has served with the local branch since 1950, and as an old sailor we wish him God speed and fair winds.

6th Letter from the Home Front

September 1980: The following members were duly appointed to the executive committee – Old Bill Moth Taffy Lloyd, Wee Bill Moth Aubrey Noone, Adjutant Moth Tubby Hobart, Pay Bill Moth Malcolm Bouwer and Sgt-Major Moth Harry Russell.

October 1980: Pay Bill Bouwer asked that a member take over the duties of Custodian of the hall, and Moth Clarke volunteered for this duty. Moth Hartman requested as convenor for the Shellhole Bowls, that a team be formed and names submitted of interested members, for the MOTH National Bowls Tournament in Port Elizabeth.

November 1980: The R.A.F.A. has issued a challenge return Darts match. (Interested members are to contact Moth Waring). Moth Dalgarno spoke about members being accosted by supposed Moth's asking for money at this time of year, and warned the members not to get caught unnecessarily.

January 1981: Old Bill read the following relevant reports from Dug Out: "1) the term White has now been eliminated from the MOTH Constitution and Coloured South Africans may now become members of the Order, if eligible and accepted by the Shellhole members. 2) The Old Bill of Germiston District has a house in Swellendam and is looking for a tenant, preferable a Moth." Old Bill notified the blokes that the next Dug Out meeting would be at Marshal Smuts on Sunday 25th. Moth Herbst said he would be able to get cheaper sweets for the meeting than the one's proposed by Moth

Hartman. The cleaning up outside would be left to the Custodian who has contacted the Municipality in this regard. According to Moth Clarke, some of the obnoxious trees will also be removed.

February 1981: Before the meeting proper, it was announced that Moth's Eddie De Kock and Frank Joubert have been transferred to our Shellhole. Arising from the correspondence, the Shellhole agreed in general with the proposed MOTH Cottage scheme for Hottentots-Holland, but requested more information from Dug Out. The second proposal from Dug Out asked for a MOTH fund to be established for hospitalised troops. This proposal was turned down as the members felt that government saw to it that the troops were well provided for. Moth Clarke requested permission from the Shellhole to let the hall to two ladies to run a crèche. Moth Calder reminded us to be careful, because government enforces strict regulations to be met. The meeting decided that permission would be granted to the project, if no objections came from the relevant authorities.

March 1981: Arising from the correspondence Moth Clarke informed the meeting that the two ladies who had requested permission for a crèche on the premises, were turned down by the municipality. Old Bill spoke about the Cottage Committee being formed and that the maximum charge for a meal at the cottages will be 2.00 ZAR.

April 1981: Regarding the availability of land for the proposed cottages, the Adjutant reported that he had written to all three local municipalities and none of the mentioned authorities has any land available.

May 1981: Arising from the correspondence, Pay Bill Bouwer informed the meeting that the municipality have given the green light concerning a crèche on the premises. He also stated that a 12 month lease of tenure, were signed with the relevant parties. Before closing the meeting, the Old Bill paused for a moment, in respect of Moth's Dickens and Croft who have answered the Sunset Call. We will remember them.

June 1981: Before the meeting proper, there was a round of applause for Orderly-Sergeant Moth Tom Holder, who was celebrating his 84th birthday. Old Bill said that the memorial plate was being updated. Moth Wiehan proposed that the names of all ex-members of our Shellhole, who have been called to higher duty, should be engraved on our honours list. Moth Calder proposed that the names of ex-members should be brought to Shellhole meetings for review, where after the meeting will then judge on the merits of each case. This proposal was seconded by Moth Dockrall.

July 1981: Moth Clarke asked the Shellhole for permission to build a shelter, to protect the main entrance door. He stated that Moth Vigar has volunteered to do the erection and that Moth Hartman has agreed to assist him in this task. The meeting granted 87.00 ZAR for this project. Moth Nomell proposed that the Welfare Officer be given 10.00 ZAR per month for expenses. Moth Clarke seconded this proposal, but Moth Waring replied, "Running around in one's car nowadays costs a lot of money, I therefore propose the

amount to be 20.00 ZAR". This proposal was seconded by Moth Hartman and carried by a show of hands.

August 1981: Moth Paris said that the Shellhole should claim from Dug Out the amount of 5.00 ZAR capitations that was paid for the new member. Arising from Dug Out, 1) all games played inside the Shellhole must be called donations, 2) if a member raises a point at the meeting, the member must be answered in the language that the point was raised. Moth Clarke has counted the crockery and cutlery and asked for permission to replace the missing items. Answering the Old Bill's question as to how long it would take to pay off the new items, Moth Clarke replied, "approximately two years". Moth Carpenter informed the members, that there would be no increase in bar prices for the coming year. This information raised many cheers from the blokes.

Old Bill Report 1980/81:

Members (66)

Average meeting attendance (29)

Meetings: 3rd Monday at 20:00

8 Members transferred in

6 Members transferred out

3 New recruits

Sunset Call: Moths F.C. Croft and Dickens

Numerically we are the largest Shellhole in the Cape Midlands Dugout, concern can however be felt in the fact that we are not attracting the new generation of ex-servicemen, without whom there can only be, in time, one result and that is the end of Marshal Smuts Shellhole.

Yours under the Tin Hat

Taffy Lloyd – Old Bill

Important Dates

Birthdays

07 March

189: Publius Septimius Geta – Roman Emperor

1671: Rob Roy Macgregor – Scottish folk hero

1904: Reinhard Heydrich – senior Nazi SS officer

1920: Moth Bert Johnson

1925: Rene Gagnon – US Marine shown in photograph of the Raising of the Flag on Iwo Jima

17 March

1834: Gottlieb Daimler – German Engineer and inventor

1902: Bobby Jones – American golfer

1919: Nat King Cole

1920: Moth Frank Joubert

1938: Rudolf Nureyev – Russian-born dancer

24 March

1820: Fanny Crosby – American hymnist

1855: Olive Schreiner – South African writer

1874: Harry Houdini

1912: Dorothy Height – American social activist

1924: Moth Carine van Zyl

Events

6 March

1899: Bayer registers aspirin as a trademark, by 2011; this will allow the Moths at Marshal Smuts to host the Moths from Dawn Patrol for lunch!

12 March

1664: New Jersey becomes a colony of England

1894: In Vicksburg Mississippi, Coca Cola is sold in bottles for the first time

1913: The future capital of Australia is officially named Canberra

1938: Anschluss – German troops occupy Austria

2011: Marshal Smuts 65th Birthday celebrations at 10:00

18 March

1940: Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini meet at the Brenner Pass in the Alps and agree to form an alliance against France and the United Kingdom

1992: White South Africans vote, in a national referendum, overwhelmingly in favour of ending the policy of Apartheid

2011: Marshal Smuts's monthly meeting at 18:00

The Light of Remembrance

To the memory of the men of the Hottentots-Holland Area who fell in the Great War, the Second World War, the Korean War, Border War and in South Africa during the month of March.

Name	Unit	Date of Death
W. Coleman	3 SA Infantry Brigade	9 th 1917
C.J. Alberts	1 SA Infantry Brigade	24 th 1918
C. Mountford	Royal Army Service Corps	3 rd 1919
A. Williams	Cape Corps	20 th 1943

Name	Unit	Date of Death
P.H. Griffiths*	Regiment Botha	8 th 1944
Reverend H.C.M. Grebe	GSC (Captain) - 11812	7 th 1945
W. Hugo**	Regiment Western Province	25 th 1977
H.J. Uys**	Regiment Western Province	25 th 1977
Owen John Doyle***	SAAF 12 Squadron	14 th 1979
Daniel Johannes Louw****	1 SA Cape Corps Battalion	27 th 1981
Willie van Copenhagen*****	SAAF 1 Squadron	20 th 1988
John Lagesen*****	5 SA Infantry Battalion	11 th 1990

* Captain, died while P.O.W.

**Died in freak train accident near Keetmanshoop on their way to do Border service

*** Killed in action, in Angola, shot down in Electric Canberra no 452. Left on a bombing mission on the evening of 14 March 1979 at about 17:00; five Canberra's flew in formation and while doing a low level tree top flight and dropping bombs something from the ground fired and hit the Canberra on the side killing the pilot instantly. Navigator Doyle flew the plane from the navigator's position for about 12 minutes with bomb bay doors open until the plane went straight down into the ground. His body was never recovered.

**** Died in a shooting incident at Mapacha

***** Killed in action, in eastern Ovamboland returning to Rundu from a night strike on Baixa Longa in Angola, in Dassault Mirage F1AZ no 223

***** An Ops Medic, he died in a Military Vehicle Accident, Samil 20 rolled 11 kilometres north of Komatipoort

**They shall grow not 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**



Interesting reads on the Internet:

www.samilitaryhistory.org

www.ninefoxtrot.org

www.dod.mil.za

www.firstworldwar.com

www.secondworldwar.com

www.61mech.org.za

www.redsockfriday.com

Contributions to gjf@sun.ac.za