

THE MOTHS "Dugout Orders" of 1927, the year of the establishment of the Order, bore the unmistakable imprint of Eyo and his basically Aussie sense of humour. The entrance fee of 2/6 and annual subscription of a shilling sound like highly attractive terms. . .

## Memorable Order of Tin Hats

### DUGOUT ORDERS

1. No Moth shall change his socks during a Dugout Entertainment.
2. Moths are forbidden to kill insect pests with a shovel.
3. Reading of Vests is also taboo in Dugouts.
4. When the Gas Alarm sounds during a Dugout Entertainment every Moth shall cease talking: A gong will be used for this purpose.
5. Live stock hunting is not allowed in the Dugout.
6. Shellhole Commanders are advised to save at least one "Rum Ration" for Armistice night, although refreshments will be available in the Dugout.
7. Moths are granted the privilege of trench language.
8. All Moths must join in the Moth Hymn when in the Dugout.
9. When visiting the Dugout any old kind of dress is allowed, except straw hats and scarlet pyjamas.
10. No Moth will be considered genuine until he develops a good grouse.

### DUGOUT MEMORIES

All Moths must immediately cease talking in the Dugout when the Gas Alarm is sounded. Upon the stage shall be set a table draped with the Union Jack. On the table shall be placed a Tin Hat that has seen Active Service. A candle is set upon the top of the Tin Hat. Simultaneously with "Old Bill," or his deputy, lighting the candle all other lights in the Dugout must be instantly extinguished. The Moth Band (or other music) shall then strike up the verse of "Tipperary," or "Pack Up Your Troubles," Moths remaining silent. Then, as the Band sweeps into the chorus all Moths shall raise their voices vigorously and sing with the Band. When the chorus is finished the candle shall be blown out and all lights turned on.

### GENERAL ROUTINE ORDERS

(1)

**M**EMBERSHIP of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats is open to "Cooks' sons, Dukes' sons, sons of Belted Earls"; in fact, to any old son of a gun. The only qualification is that members must have served in one or other of the following little scraps:—

The Great War  
 The Crimean War  
 The Boer War  
 The Trojan War  
 The Battle of Trafalgar  
 The Battle of Hastings  
 The Wars of the Roses

The American Civil War  
 The Zulu War  
 The Battle of Jutland  
 Eureka Stockade  
 Maori War,  
 The Battle of Bannockburn  
 The Battle of Quebec, etc.

**MOTH Dugout Orders, 1927 (continued)**

- (2)  
**A**LL women who were engaged on War Service in the Great War are eligible for membership.
- (3)  
**T**HE Badge of the Order shall be a miniature Tin Hat, which shall be worn on the coat, the tie, the garter, or otherwise.
- (4)  
**A**NY person caught wearing a Tin Hat who is not an attested member of the Order shall be vigorously dealt with by District Court Martial.
- (5)  
**T**HE object of the Moths is to keep alive the great spirit of comradeship, good fellowship, and mutual help engendered by War-time Service. One of its aims will be to ensure that Armistice Day (November 11) shall never be allowed to pass by without a Grand All Services Reunion, which will take the form of a Soldier's Binge—a real Back-of-the-Line Soldiers' Concert—organised by each Base or District Dugout. Another aim is the strengthening of all existing ex-Service organisations.
- (6)  
**T**HE organisation of the Order shall be by means of Shellholes and Dugouts. A Shellhole shall consist of 25 or less attested Moths. And any number of Shellholes may constitute a Dugout. Where two or more Shellholes exist in any district or locality it shall be their duty to form a Dugout.
- (7)  
**T**HE Order being founded in Durban, South Africa, the Durban District Dugout will be known as "Base Dugout, Durban." Persons eligible for membership in towns and cities outside that District are invited to apply to Base Dugout, Durban, through a responsible ex-Serviceman, for permission to form their own Dugouts, which will be named after the district, town, or city in which they are formed. Every facility will be given by Base Dugout for the easy and simple formation of other Dugouts. Each Dugout will act as Moth Headquarters for its own District, and will conduct its own affairs without further reference to Base Dugout, whose only concern is to ensure that the Rules of this Order are strictly enforced.
- (8)  
**A**NY Shellhole may adopt a distinctive name by mutual consent of the Moths therein. For example, a few veterans of any of the ships engaged in Jutland can band together under their own Shellhole Commander and name their Shellhole after the ship. Similarly with regiments, messes, veterans of Majuba, of Tel-el-Kebir, of Waterloo, of Crecy, or of the Spanish Armada, etc., etc.
- It shall be the duty of Shellhole Commanders to convene convivial gatherings of their Shellholes periodically during the year. And once a year it shall be the duty of Base Dugout or any District Dugout to mobilise all Shellholes within a District for a grand fraternization at an Armistice Reunion Concert organised by the Dugout.
- (9)  
**S**UBSCRIPTION.—There shall be an entrance fee of 2/6, and then a minimum annual subscription of 1/-. This entrance fee and subscription must be sent either to Base Dugout or to the Dugout of the district where Moths are attested. After the bare cost of miniature Tin Hats, Certificates, and administration have been deducted the balance of the funds will be formed into a Moth Ex-Service Comforts Fund for distribution at the discretion of the Dugout, and to the provision of entertainments at the Armistice concerts organised by the Dugout.

**MOTH Dugout Orders, 1927 (continued)**

(10)

**A**LL European ex-Servicemen can join the Moths, irrespective of religion, politics, or participation in or refusal of rum rations.

(11)

**IMPORTANT.**—Any Moth challenged by any other Moth with the words "WHERE'S YOUR HAT?" shall immediately produce his Tin Hat. Should he fail to do so he shall immediately give sixpence to the challenger, who, in turn, is put upon his honour to hand the sixpence, at the first opportunity, to his own Shellhole Commander. When the Shellhole Commander has in hand enough sixpences he shall invite his Shellhole to a Rum-Ration, which may be true to name, or otherwise, as agreed upon by the Shellhole.

(12)

**T**IN HAT symbols if lost shall be replaced by the Dugout upon production of Moth certificate and payment of a bob.

(13)

**E**ACH Dugout shall publish the state of its funds yearly at Armistice time.

(14)

**T**HE name of "Old Bill" shall be bestowed upon the ex-Serviceman in charge of each District Dugout.

(15)

**R**ECRUITING.—For five recruits a Moth shall have his certificate endorsed by "Old Bill" in this fashion. "One Pip Artist." For ten recruits: "Two Pip Artist." For fifteen recruits: "Three Pip Artist"; and a pip for every extra five and so on. Subscription fees must be first brought in before Tin Hats and Certificates are issued by "Old Bill." Reasonable precautions shall be taken that none other than genuine ex-Servicemen be admitted to the Order. Any War! Any Service!

(16)

**B**RASS HAT.—On an individual Moth securing 100 others to join the Order he shall have his certificate endorsed "Brass Hat" by "Old Bill," and be awarded a gold Tin Hat. Issue of these special hats will be registered to prevent fraud.

(17)

**M**OTHS forming Shellholes shall notify "Old Bill," or the Hon. Secretary, of the name chosen for their Shellhole, together with the Shellhole Commander's name and address. This is for registration purposes, and to prevent duplication of Shellhole names.

(18)

**W**HILE attending a Dugout Concert every Moth must wear the Tin Hat badge in a conspicuous position. This will operate against an unauthorised person entering the Dugout.

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