

## Ok ! Contact Contact Dickie Fritz Bull Sheet



Dear Dickie Fritz Moths,

February 2017 Volume 4

The New Year is now well under way and activities at Dickie Fritz are starting to pick up again and return to normal. Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February saw our first Shellhole meeting for 2017. The meeting was well attended with some 60 members and visitors being present. We had our first installation for the year; all the details are in our Shellhole Minutes. Note was taken of the changes to Sanctuary, with a great deal of tidying up and rearranging having taken place. This is ongoing under the direction of our Old Bill.



Something new to most of us was the introduction of Cyber members. For the first time at Dickie Fritz Shellhole, we were able to allow members not present at the meeting, to take part via the internet, with two members joining us.

We hope this will be a regular part of our future meetings.



Although covered in our Minutes, it is opportune to make mention of Moth Gordon Wallis as he bids us farewell, following a distinguished and extensive service to Dickie Fritz Shellhole and the MOTH. Moth Gordon, now 95, finds travelling at night very difficult. We do hope to still see Gordon from time to time.

The hall bookings are also starting to pick up for this year, with a few functions having already taken place. All the Shellholes have had their first meetings, as have the SAVSA who held their first Family Day. Something worth noting are the preparations for events held at our venue. Earlier this month a 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday party was held at the Ridgeback with a theme of "Under the Sea." The attached photos show just how effective our venues can be made to look.



The Mothwa continue to do amazing work with their theme evenings at the Ridgeback. Last Friday saw the Valentine's Evening take place. We should never take for granted just how hard these ladies work to provide us with something special. Although the weather looked a little threatening and it was mid-month, the turnout was excellent and those who attended had a great time. Make sure not to miss out on next month's Donkey Derby.



The first Saturday of February saw the RLI starting to fill up the venue. This day is a very special one for them as it marks the anniversary of their Regiment's formation. This was a grand event with a pipe band and parade taking place. The RLI are no strangers to Dickie Fritz as they meet on the first Saturday of every month for a Prayer Meeting. These are great fun and well worth attending. You don't have to be ex RLI or even Rhodesian to attend as all Ex-Servicemen and visitors are always made to feel very welcome.





As the RLI hosted their annual parade, it has been decided to feature them as the “Shellhole Regiment” for this month. The description will be brief as space does not permit the full account this fine Regiment deserves.



The Rhodesian Light Infantry was formed at Brady Barracks during 1961 as a Light Infantry Regiment. The light infantry horn in the badge is typical of the light infantry. The Regiment was then part of the army of the Confederation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Shortly after formation the unit moved to its home at Cranborne Barracks where it would remain based until its disbanding. It was known as a Commando Battalion and formed part of the Southern Rhodesian Army after UDI in 1965.

Unlike normal infantry battalions, the RLI had Commandos instead of Companies. These were specialist sub-units to counter the terrorist threat that had loomed after UDI. The Regiment received the Queen’s Colours during 1965. The Fire Force concept was introduced during 1972, again with very specialised tactics being used to counter the communist backed terrorists who were invading Rhodesia. Up until 1973 the RLI was a regular army unit but after that date National Servicemen started to fill the ranks, as did many foreign volunteers. From 1976 serious consideration was given to training certain members for airborne operations. They certainly were unconventional in their operations and when disbanded following the formation of Zimbabwe in 1980, they were considered one of the finest counter insurgency units in the world.

We often hear the well known tune “When the saints go marching in” here at Dickie Fritz as this was their Regimental March. A replica of their “Tropper” statue has pride of place at the Dickie Fritz complex, near the Cenotaph.

“Pugnamus amo Leo”

Now for something a little different. The following took place last week in the Bush Veld but concerned two residents from Dickie Fritz complex. A joint operation involving former members of the SA Artillery and British South Africa Police was taking place near Northham in the North West. The Recce group proceeded off the main road into the veld where upon the former BSAP member took control of the vehicle saying that he knew the terrain. The former Gunner accepted this and concentrated on alternative targets. Neither saw the trench which had advanced in from the north! The trench suddenly appeared unnoticed in the vehicle's path and the former BSAP member had no option but to drive into it, while naturally the former Gunner was blamed. Apart from seriously bruised egos there were no injuries and some Bush Veld Irregulars came to the rescue.

It is very interesting to see what our residents get up to when left unsupervised?



This rounds it up for this month's edition of the Bull Sheet. We all look forward to seeing a good attendance at our forthcoming Border Boys Parade on Thursday 2nd March. Please make an effort to attend.

One last thing! We have recently been handed a Swot Analysis form by GHQ. It is very important that we all complete this for the future well being of the MOTH. It is safe to say that there is no use complaining about things when you haven't taken the trouble to fill in the form.

From the Quartermaster, there are still some stocks of Poppie Bush Hat pins available but stocks are running out. Please don't forget to hand in your details, if you haven't already done so, for your name tag.

Lastly, thanks to Moth Alan Strachan for pointing me in the right direction with regards to information on the RLI. Alan, sorry I couldn't go into more detail on the subject.

Yours under the Tin Hat

Leon and Bruce