



Memorable Order of Tin Hats
Gorgeous Wrecks Shellhole
[Founded in Pretoria on 14 April 1936]



THE GORGEOUS WRECKS SHELLHOLE INFORMATION BROCHURE

THE MEMORABLE ORDER OF TIN HATS

1. Moth "O" (CA Evenden) founded The Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTH) in Durban on 7 May 1927. By July 1927, some 500-600 blokes set the ball rolling here in Pretoria as prospective Pretoria District Moths.
2. The MOTH is an independent brotherhood of serving, ex-servicemen and -women who have served their country in an active theatre of war.
3. The MOTH is based on concord and harmony and operates in a non-political, non-racial and non-sectarian manner in the same sense as front-line service.
4. The name and independent character of the MOTH is entrenched in perpetuity, as a memorial to and lasting reminder of all Moths - past, present and future - who have served the Order.

OBJECTIVES

5. The objectives of the MOTH are:
 - 5.1. To maintain the living spirit of front-line comradeship;
 - 5.2. To dedicate actions to the sound memory of gallant comrades of all services, and to those they left behind;
 - 5.3. To protect the interests of war veterans and their kin;
 - 5.4. To pursue benevolent activities of an ex-service nature; and
 - 5.5. To handle all funds incidental to the above objectives appropriately.

THE THREE IDEALS

6. The Three Ideals of the MOTH are True Comradeship, Mutual Help and Sound Memory.
 - 6.1. **True Comradeship** (TC): is to be perpetuated by the application of front-line friendship to civilian life.
 - 6.2. **Mutual Help** (MH): means the personal and collective obligation to help each other as in front-line service.
 - 6.3. **Sound Memory** (SM): is to remember the fallen; to serve them as they served us, in practical actions, which rise above divisions of social status, rank and/or creed.

THE EMBLEM

7. The emblem of the MOTH is:
 - 7.1. A **Tin Hat** surmounted by a **Lighted Candle** signifying our resolve to perpetuate **True Comradeship**;
 - 7.2. Flanked by **Reversed Crossed Rifles** signifying **Sacrifices Remembered** through service; and
 - 7.3. Surrounded by **Twelve Stars** in an unending circle signifying eternal harmony, unending life and opportunities of rendering **Mutual Help**.

THE FLAG AND THE SALUTE

8. The Flag of the MOTH consists of three equal perpendicular panels of dark blue, red and air force blue representing the three Services from which the Order originated and carries the Tin Hat and Candle symbol in the centre.
9. The MOTH Salute, used by Moths only, is the "*Rest on Arms Reversed*" position - right hand over left.

THE BADGE OF MEMBERSHIP

10. The registered Badge of the MOTH is a miniature Tin Hat bearing the letters MOTH. The Tin Hat, which is worn on the left lapel, always remains the property of the Order.
 - 10.1. The **Bronze Tin Hat** signifies membership of the Order.
 - 10.2. The **Silver Tin Hat** signifies a Wee Bill, Adjutant or Pay Bill on duty.
 - 10.3. The **Gold Tin Hat** signifies an Old Bill on duty.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE MOTH

11. Application forms are available from the Adjutant. The completed application forms - in duplicate, signed by sponsors in good standing, together with the appropriate capitation fees must be handed to the Adjutant. The capitation fees will be returned if the application is unsuccessful.
12. Each application will be considered by the Shellhole Executive at its monthly meeting. If supported and approved in principle, it will be submitted to District for their consideration and approval. This process takes at least three months during which time a recruit is expected to attend all Shellhole meetings as a visitor.
13. Subsequent to District approval, the recruit's final acceptance will come from the Shellhole floor, based on based on their impressions during three attended meetings. At this stage, the Wee Bill will inform the recruit of the outcome of his application. The successful applicant will then be informed of the date of his initiation into the Order.
14. On the specified date, the recruit will be initiated into the MOTH as a member of this Shellhole. At this ceremony, the new Moth will receive his Moth Badge, Membership Certificate, Membership Card and a copy of the Moth Constitution.

HISTORY OF OUR SHELLHOLE

15. As recorded on page 17 of the *Home Front* dated May 1936, the original 25 Wrecks held their first regular meeting at the Imperial Hotel in Pretorius Street on 14 April 1936 under the watchful eyes of District Old Bill Hobbs and District Wee Bill Pearcey.
16. The floor elected the following officers: Old Bill, CW Henderson; Wee Bill, J Glenday; Scribe, J McG Rousseau; Pay Bill, A Mabin; Adjutant, JEW Beyer; Sergt- Major, J Kriste; Play Bill, E Bosch; Quartermaster, J Marais; and Sentry, A Pringle.
17. As most of these World War I veterans served with the Royal Corps of Engineers at the time when King George V was on the throne, the name "Gorgeous Wrecks" - derived from "George Rex" - was chosen for the Shellhole and the RE Badge became the first Wrecks' badge.
18. Although the original Gorgeous Wrecks plaque at GHQ is dated 1936, our Shellhole Charter - signed by Moth "O" - is only dated 22 September 1938 and at that time, the term "Dugout" was used instead of the present term "Shellhole". Our Old Bills' Honours Board, which currently has 32 names, is displayed in the Pretoria District Dugout at Evenden House. This makes the Wrecks the second oldest, currently still existing Shellhole in the Pretoria District.
19. Our Shellhole has produced several leading figures in the MOTH. Moth Jimmy Scott succeeded the founder of the Order, Moth "O", as National Chairman of the Order serving from March 1961 to May 1972. Moth Nip Levy served as National Secretary and also Old Bill of the

Order after moving to Natal in 1963, while Moth TJ (Espie) Espitalier also served on the GHQ committee in Durban.

20. The Gorgeous Wrecks Old Bill at that time, Moth F Geldenhuys, had the honour of leading and conducting the District Parade at the opening of the Pretoria Moth Memorial Club, van Boeschoten Ave, by General Jannie Smuts on 03 July 1948.

21. In more recent times our Shellhole has been well represented at all higher levels in the Order:

Moth National	
National Executive	Moth Bruce Michler
PMC Chairman	Moth Bruce Michler
PMC Treasurer	Moth Dave Berry
Platinum Province / former Transvaal Province	
Provincial Old Bill	Moth Andy Carstens
Provincial Wee Bill	Moths Bruce Michler and Dave Berry
Provincial Pay Bill	Moths Bruce Michler and Dave Berry
Pretoria District	
District Old Bill	Moths George Gillig and Dave Berry
District Pay Bill	Moths Bruce Michler and Dave Berry
District Sergeant Major	Moths Gus Calder, Andy Carstens and Willie Viljoen
Pretoria Sound Memory Cottages	
JMB Chairman	Moth Bruce Michler
Cottages Chairman	Moths Les Marais and Bruce Michler
Cottages Vice-Chairman	Moth Bruce Michler
Cottages Treasurer	Moth Bruce Michler

22. At the AGM held in Durban on 20 November 2011, the National Executive appointed Moth Bruce Michler as the Old Bill of the Order for the 2011/2012 Moth Year - a first for the Wrecks!

SHELLHOLE EXECUTIVE AND OFFICE BEARERS

23. The Shellhole Executive includes the Old Bill, Wee Bill, Adjutant and Pay Bill.

24. The other Shellhole Office Bearers include the Sergeant Major, Sentries, etc.

SHELLHOLE REGULATIONS

25. Our Shellhole has its own Standing Orders that govern the running of the Shellhole in line with the Constitution and the Standing Orders of the MOTH.

26. The following extracts may be of assistance to visitors and new recruits:

26.1. Shellhole Meetings:

The Shellhole meets in the Dungeon at the Pretoria High School Old Boys Club in Queens Crescent, Lynnwood, Pretoria, at 19:30 on the first Monday of every month, except in January.

26.2. Behaviour:

Always in keeping with the dignity of the Order's Ideals at all times.

26.3. Summer Dress:

Moth lapel badge, white shirt, grey slacks, socks and shoes.

26.4. Winter Dress:

Moth blazer, Moth lapel badge, Moth tie, white shirt, grey slacks, socks and shoes.

26.5. Formal Dress:

Winter Dress, as set out above, with full Orders, Decorations, Medals and Awards.

26.6. Finances:

The appropriate capitation fee, as determined by the Pay Bill, is payable on submission of an application for membership. The annual Shellhole subscription fee is determined by the Shellhole Executive and must reach the Pay Bill electronically asap. The Shellhole's and the Order's Financial Year are fully aligned, i.e. from 01 July to 30 June.

26.7. Regalia:

All official MOTH regalia can be ordered through the Pay Bill. Orders will, however, only be executed once the items have been paid for.

26.8. Procedure at Meetings:

- Arrive, correctly dressed, at the Shellhole by 19:15.
- Have your valid and signed MOTH Member's Card on you.
- Only Moths salute the Vacant Chair.
- Sign the Shellhole Attendance Register, and contribute to the Swindle at the door.
- Liquor is not allowed in the Dungeon during meetings.
- Smoking is not allowed in the Dungeon at any time.
- Be upstanding when addressing the Old Bill.
- Only leave after the Toasts to "*The Order*", "*Our Shellhole*" and "*Absent Friends*" have been drunk.
- Remember to toast with your glass in your left hand, and never drink a Toast with an empty glass. Water is quite acceptable.

26.9. Visitors:

Any Moths in good standing are welcome at our monthly Shellhole meetings, but they have no vote on any Shellhole matters.

Members of the Shellhole in good standing may invite a non-Moth to a meeting as a visitor. The relevant member will be responsible for such visitors, as their host. All non-Moths will, however, be asked to leave the Dugout during an Initiation Ceremony.

CORRESPONDENCE

27. Address all correspondence to the Old Bill, Gorgeous Wrecks Shellhole, PO Box 1993, Garsfontein, 0060.

CONCLUSION

28. You are cordially invited to approach any member of the Shellhole's Executive at any time if you require assistance and/or any additional information.

29. The current Shellhole Executive members are:

Old Bill: Moth Eddie Penzhorn
Wee Bill: Moth Bruce Michler
Adjutant: Moth George Butler
Pay Bill: Moth Dave Berry

30. The other Shellhole Office Bearers are:

Sar'Major: Moth Lindley Oberholster
Sentries: Moth Adam Loock and Moth Hennie Bresler

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When you're Good, you're Good; When you're a Wreck, you're the Best!