

MEMORABLE ORDER OF TIN HATS



CAPE TOWN 06 TO 08 MAY 2022

CELEBRATING OUR 95th BIRTHDAY

WEEKEND PROGRAM

Friday 06 May 2022

1. 09H00 Full National Executive Meeting at the Officer's Mess, Cape Town Highlanders Regiment, Castle of Good Hope
2. 18H00 Harmony and Back-of-the-line concert at Red Barn / Tavern of the Seas Shellhole

Saturday 07 May 2022

1. 08H30 MOTH General Headquarters Meeting at Dawn Patrol Shellhole
2. 18H30 MOTH Formal Dinner at Kelvin Grove

Sunday 08 May 2022

1. 10H30 MOTH Commemoration Parade at the Castle of Good Hope

Where Camaraderie and Harmony may be enjoyed during this period:

1. Blaauwberg Cuca Shellhole, MOTH Boma, Killarney Raceway.
2. Tommy Rendle VC Shellhole, 345 Koeberg Road, Rugby.
3. Pip-Ack Shellhole, 164 Campground Road, Newlands.
4. Red Barn / Tavern of the Seas Shellhole, 39 Tramore Road, Southfield.
5. Dawn Patrol Shellhole, 20 Childrens Way, Bergvliet.
6. Battledress Shellhole, MOTH Hall, Central Circle, Fishhoek.
7. Marshal Smuts Shellhole, 105 Drama Street, Somerset West

Welcome to Cape Town – just after lockdown!

THE THIRTY SECOND RULE

Founded in 1927, the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTH) is a benevolent organisation that takes care of Military Veterans and their next of kin. With three simple ideals at its core, True Comradeship, Mutual Help and Sound Memory, the MOTH provides shelter for Veterans who seek assistance and friendship.

Utilising World War I language, the Order is managed and guided by a body known as General Headquarters which includes the Full National Executive. Administration takes place at Provincial and District level where Dugouts are established and MOTH-dom happens at local “clubs” known as Shellholes.

Shellholes provide that very important element of Camaraderie, through which benevolent funds are raised. These activities in return leads to the partial funding of Mutual Help projects which have seen the Order providing a home for more than 1, 000 individuals nation-wide. To honour those who never returned from battle, the MOTH hosts regular Memorial Parades to keep their memory intact.

For more information, please visit our website: www.moth.org.za



Moth 'O' Charles Evenden - Evo

ORIGINS

As with 2022, the year 1927 began on a Saturday. King George V was the Monarch, The Earl of Athlone served as his Governor-General to the Union of South Africa and Barry Hertzog as the Prime Minister. Stanley Baldwin was the British Prime Minister and Calvin Coolidge the US President. On the 11th of May, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences came into being, Charles Lindbergh flew from New York to Paris non-stop on the 20th – 21st and on the 26th production of the Model T Ford ceased. And, in the Union of South Africa, the Memorable Order of Tin Hats was founded.

London-born Charles Evenden served at Gallipoli in the Australian armed forces. After being demobbed, he settled in Durban where he worked as the cartoonist on the staff of the Natal Mercury. His cartoons were published under the pseudonym “Evo”, a name by which he would soon become popularly known. In 1927, at a time when memories of the sacrifices made during the Great War were beginning to dim, he saw a war film that included an impressive scene of marching troops wearing tin hats and muddy uniforms. Looking at the scene, he wondered what had become of his comrades in the army, where they were and what they were doing. This line of thought inspired a cartoon on “*Forgetfulness of Comradeship*” which was published in the Natal Mercury on the 7th of May 1927.

From this one idea, by an extraordinary man determined to continue the spirit of mutual assistance and the lessons of fraternal support learned in the trenches of Gallipoli and the Western Front; others came to the fore. Following discussions with colleagues and friends, it was suggested that the time was ripe to form an association of old soldiers, to keep alive the memory of fallen comrades. It was to be an organisation like no other – clubs would be called Shellholes and chairmen became Old Bills. Most importantly, there would be no rank within the Order. In Durban, Pietermaritzburg and the rest of the old province of



Forgetfulness - the cartoon that started the MOTH

Natal; Shellholes quickly mushroomed as veterans started to join!



Old Bill the curmudgeonly soldier created by Bruce Bairnsfather during World War I

Outside of Natal, the Transvaal with its gold, coal, industries and governmental offices was the first Province to receive the MOTH with open arms. As early as the second half of 1927, Shellholes were already established in Johannesburg, Pretoria, the East Rand and Witbank. By 1965 control and administration of the province had to be split in two and, Southern Transvaal Provincial Dugout came into being.

On the 2nd of March 1928, Colonel E. Herbert Bysshe called a meeting of ex-Servicemen to brief them on the formation of a MOTH Province, centred in and around Cape Town. The meeting took place at the St George's Hotel and the enthusiasm was so great that Moth Bysshe was elected as the first Provincial Old Bill. Growth was slow and during the first decade; Mudheap and Ypres Shellholes disbanded before the end of the 1930s. Then World War II came about and the returning Veterans brought hope for a brighter future with them. The Dugout soon expanded and by 1946, Cape Midlands became a Province in its own right.

The MOTH started out in Port Elizabeth when Fray Bentos Shellhole was established in 1928 with Old Bill Schultz. In 1937, Crown & Anchor Shellhole with Old Bill Charlie Facer was established in Uitenhage and Queen Mary Shellhole with Old Bill Will Pindale in Port Elizabeth.

The MOTH made its first solid impact in East London on the 25th of April 1935; 25 blokes met in the S.O.E. Minor Hall in North Street and founded the first Shellhole, known then as the East London District Dugout. The membership grew rapidly until the Cambridge blokes felt that it was time to start their own Shellhole and in 1938, Packdrill came into being with Dixie Shellhole following shortly.

Early during 1928, Springbok Redoubt Shellhole was established in Bethlehem and with the opening of Salaita Shellhole later during the year in Bloemfontein; MOTH-dom had gained a permanent foothold in the Orange Free State. By 1977 three District Dugouts administered the affairs of twenty-five Shellholes throughout the Province.

MOTH-dom reached the Northern Cape by 1938 when some “*Old Soaks*” of the 14 – 18 vintages formed a Shellhole named Kimberley Moths and held several meetings. Proper Shellholes originated from 1940 and soon thirteen Shellholes were in operation in and around Kimberley. Due to the vast distances that had to be travelled, Frontier Provincial Dugout was established and headquartered at Mafikeng. The province consisted of seven Shellholes, two in the Transvaal, two in the Northern Cape and three in Botswana.

Outside of the Union of South Africa, MOTH-dom also spread to neighbouring countries; two of which became Command Dugouts on reaching independence. Namibia: The first Shellhole in SWA was established at Usakos during 1928. At the end of World War II rapid growth ensured that a Provincial Dugout was established and 13 Shellholes existed within the territory at one time and another during the years since 1946.

Zimbabwe: The spirit of the MOTH penetrated the vast expanses of Rhodesia soon after the foundation of the Order, and Old Kit Bag (Salisbury) and Salaita Hill (Bulawayo) are recorded as being inaugurated in late 1927 and early days of 1928 respectively. The end of World War II saw rapid growth and a Command HQ was established at Bulawayo. The Command included District Dugouts for the Mashonaland, Matabeleland and Midlands provincial areas and the Shellhole in Francistown (Botswana) also reported to the Command Dugout.

The Order also gained membership through Shellholes in England, Malawi, Zambia (Northern Rhodesia), eSwatini and more recently Ireland. To keep up with the ever-changing modern world; Cyber Shellhole was Chartered in April 2010, providing a home for those who live in far-away places.

During 2009 the Order underwent restructuring of its management systems when it was decided to divide the South African Moths into six Provincial Dugouts. Today there are still 146 active Shellholes throughout South Africa with 41 of them owning property. Through the MOTH Ex-servicemen's Cottage Association (MESCA), the Order manages 23 Cottage complexes nationwide.

MOTH GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

GHQ is the governing body that administers and manages the affairs of the Order and consists of the ten members of the Full National Executive and the representatives of the six Provincial Dugouts. Currently these members are:

FULL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE: Moths Andy Boden (National Chairman) Platinum, Stan Bezuidenhout (National Vice-Chairman) Eastern Cape, Koos Jooste (National Treasurer) – GHQ appointment, David Gush (Chairman Property Management Committee) – GHQ appointment, Mike Lee (Chairman MOTH Memorials and Museums Committee) – GHQ appointment, Philip McLachlan (Marketing and Public Relations) Cape Western, Stuart Howie (Recruitment) Platinum, Glenn Smit (member) SKZN, Marius (Bone) Geldenhuys (member) Free State and Northern Cape and John Goodrich (member) KZN

Provincial Old Bills: Moths Spencer Beckley (Eastern Cape), Eric Clarence (KZN), Dave Berry (Platinum), Leon Robertson (Cape Western), Callie van Loggerenberg (SKZN) and Manfred Duvel (FS & NC)

Provincial Deputy Old Bills: Moths Dewald Ferreira (Eastern Cape), Ray Walker (KZN), Kevin Gradidge (Platinum), Ricky de Wet (Cape Western), Rob Buchanan (SKZN) and Div de Villiers (FS & NC)

Provincial Adjutants: Moths Mike Soutter (Eastern Cape), Jurick Krajewski (KZN), Richard Wilson (Platinum), Derek Berry (Cape Western), Jeff Barnes (SKZN) and Wollie Wolfaardt (FS & NC)

Provincial Paybills: Moths Dave McMahon-Panther (Eastern Cape), Graeme Thorold (Platinum), Leon Maree (Cape Western), Gary Wessels (SKZN), Johann Greeff (FS & NC) and Mothwa Louisa Hitchcock (KZN)

Old Bill of the Order: Moth Johan (Dup) du Plessis (SKZN)

Ex-Officio members of the FNE: Moths John Jenkins, Cas Aucamp, Bruce Michler, Brian Coward, Andre Coetsee and Tony Munnik (History & Archives)

MOTH Office and Warriors Gate: Moth Brian Porter (General Secretary), Moth Cedric Carr (Custodian Warriors Gate), Ms Colleen Freemantle and Ms June Hodgson



Warrior's Gate MOTH Museum - the Shrine of the Order - Durban



The MOTH Sanctuary in the Drakensberg - Mount Memory

The MOTH Badge



- The tin hat and lighted candle signify the perpetuation of front-line comradeship, which transcends race, rank and material worth.
- The rifles with fixed bayonets, leaning as if thrust into the battlefield soil is crossed to signify sacrifice and are reversed in a token of remembrance.
- The circle of stars denotes the eternal universe, forever the divine example of harmony.
- The twelve stars as in a clock indicate the hours of the day, reminding us that every hour presents opportunities of promoting harmony among mankind through Tolerance and Mutual Help.

The MOTH Flag and Colours

- The flag comprises three equal perpendicular panels of dark blue, red and light blue and carries the Tin Hat and Lighted Candle symbol in the centre in white.
- The three panels are in harmony with the three ideals of the Order and also represent the three forces – dark blue for Navy, red for Army and light blue for Air Force.
- The red panel also denotes the sun which rises and falls on the world's battlefields above all known and unknown graves.

The MOTH Salute

- The only salute of the Order is the “*Rest to arms reversed*” position; right hand over left hand with elbows parallel to the ground.

The Three MOTH Ideals

- Embodied by the three dice (Crown and Anchor) displayed at all MOTH meetings

True Comradeship
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practising front line comradeship in civilian life• Concord, Harmony and Good Humour

Mutual Help
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledging the personal and collective obligation to help each other as in front line service• Selfless service

Sound Memory
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remembering the fallen as a living companionship• To serve their memory in practical actions

The Tin Hat Lapel Pin

- The Tin Hat is the recognised emblem of the Order and this is worn on the left-hand lapel of the blazer or shirt collar.

Remembrance Sunday

- The most important date on the MOTH calendar, commemorated annually on the Sunday closest to the 11th of November

MOTH Credo

I shall pass through this world but once, therefore, any good thing I can do or kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now, let me not defer it nor neglect it; for I shall not pass this way again

In memory, in honour, in silence do we pause, our humble tribute to those who died for freedoms' cause – by their sacrifice in passing, when comrades true went to rest – Moths vow they will be remembered, of our kind the best

MOTH Prayer

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!

Traditions

During the founding decade of the Order, much emphasis was placed on "*Harmony*", the cordial friendship found at Shellhole meetings. The tradition of always enjoying liquid refreshments by holding the glass in the left hand comes from this era; this enables the member to spontaneously greet fellow members. Whilst this is still important, the emphasis within in the Order has now shifted to "*Mutual Help*" by way of providing accommodation and welfare services for ex-servicepersons and their families. At present more than 2, 000 people are accommodated in MOTH and MESCA cottages throughout the Republic.



Weeping Cross - Garden of Remembrance - Pietermaritzburg

MOTH 50th NATIONAL BOWLS TOURNAMENT, PIETERMARITZBURG, JULY 2022

It has been decided that the above tournament will be held in Pietermaritzburg, commencing on **Sunday 3rd July 2022 with the opening parade**. The tournament proper will commence on the Monday morning 4th July and continue until the finals – this date to be decided once the number of teams entered are confirmed. The tournament will take place at Maritzburg West Bowling Club (Headquarters) and at Lynwood Bowling Club. Accommodation has been arranged at a very reasonable price at Voortrekker High School and the organisers will be approaching various B+B's in the area for alternative accommodation. Sponsorships for the tournament are also being arranged. All interested units and players are requested to diarise the above details (provided, of course, that we are not placed in a lockdown situation due to the on-going pandemic).

HISTORY OF MOTH MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION

The MOTH Motorcycle Association was conceived in Cape Town by a group of Moths with a common interest in biking. After what seemed an eternity

of preparation, communication, and proposals, the MMA was finally born on the 6th September 2008 with Rules and Standing Orders approved by GHQ Durban on the 17th May 2009. The “bikers” were now on the road with a patch proudly displayed on their backs, and the wide-open road before them with many new friendships, and prospective new Moths ahead.

The MMA grew rapidly and soon the guys in Gauteng came to hear of the “new” association and, immediately showed interest in joining up. Subsequently in 2010 a small group of Pretoria Moths were seen on the roads and so the Platinum “chapter” of the MMA was born on the 13th February 2011.

Two and a half years later the MMA established a “chapter” in SKZN on the 16th November 2013, followed by the inevitable inauguration of the KZN Chapter in Durban a little over three years later on the 27th February 2016. More recently, the expansion of the MMA even further afield has seen the establishment of a presence in Phalaborwa as well as a new Lowveld District Chapter on the 22nd of May 2021. It is worth noting that the MMA is an association of Moths with a common interest in biking, that is; First a Moth, then a Biker, hence the membership prerequisite that one must be a Moth in order to become an MMA member.



Founded in 1937, the objectives of the MOTHWA are:

- To assist the MOTH socially, in their benevolent activities in the interest of Serving- and Ex-servicemen/women and their dependants.
- To erect and maintain Homes for the Aged and to provide accommodation, meals, nursing or other amenities and to assist indigent persons.