



# Contact! Contact!

**February 2012**

A monthly sitrep for the

## **Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated**

*Registered under the 2005 Charities Act in New Zealand number CC25203*

*Registered as an Incorporated Society in New Zealand number 2055431*

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**To view all previous publications go to our [Archives](#)**

Greetings,

Welcome to 2012 and let us hope that it is a prosperous and fulfilling one.

You will have seen from the email that you received that this is a new format and delivery method for our very popular newsletter.

I was forced into making these changes following the upgrading my computer system from XP to Windows 7 at the beginning of December. Frustratingly, there is a world of difference between the two operating systems, in particular with the email operation. This caused me endless frustration, time wasting and not to mention expense in order to get the all-important Address Book sorted out which involved countless man hours manually re-entering all addresses back into their distribution groups. I would like to extend a big "thank you" to all who offered advice and to Tony Griffiths and Chuck Osborne who sat reading out endless names while I typed them in.

The upshot of all this palaver was that I was not able to completely focus on the Rhodesia Regiment book project over the Christmas/New Year period as had been planned, which is very annoying. In reference to the Rhodesia Regiment book project, please have a look at the section as we are still seeking some bits of information and particularly need someone with time to spare to join our team who is skilled at extracting images from Google Earth.

Diana and I received an unprecedented number of Christmas cards and well wishes this year. Thank you to all who took the trouble to do this, your efforts are much appreciated in this electronic age.

We have been asked to set up a place for people to list stolen medals. This has been done on our website at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/stolen-medals.htm> Hopefully, it might bring about some information for those affected.

As you know, we have a Facebook group which you are welcome to join. We have loaded up a lot of photographs from various events, as well as others from our museum displays which people find interesting. We have found that Facebook is another platform assisting our purpose of preserving Rhodesian history. If you want to find us, search for Rhodesian Services Association on Facebook.

Please use these links on our website [www.rhodesianservices.org](http://www.rhodesianservices.org) for the following resources:

Guest Book <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/guest-book.htm>

Guest Map <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/guest-map.htm>

Events <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/events.htm>

## Obituaries

The Rhodesian Services Association holds a large Rhodesian flag for use at funerals. Please contact me at [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) to arrange delivery if required.



**Phaedon Nicholas Criton Constan-Tatos**, commonly known as **Fred Tatos**, or just Freddie, died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011 in Cape Town.

It was with sadness that I learned of Fred's death via the Rhodesian network, initiating with Harold Bernic in Perth. Fred was a generous supporter of this Association as well as contributing to the Rhodesia Regiment book and donating items to the Museum Collection. Fred had been diagnosed with a brain tumour some months ago. I can understand the hole that he has left in the lives of his family and friends. Go well Fred – it was a privilege knowing you.

This obituary was written by his friend Graham 'Dusty' Miller:

*"Fred was born to Greek parents in the small town of Gwelo and started shooting at the age of six with a BSA Meteor air rifle, a gift from his father who owned Tatos Bros Arms and Cycles Gwelo. He was around firearms all his childhood, receiving his first rifle, a .22 Brno, at the tender age of nine, followed by a Webley and Scott 12g shotgun when he was 10 years old. Firearms, hunting, fishing and competitive shooting were his lifelong passions.*

*Fred was a renowned big game hunter having shot throughout Southern Africa for many species of game including elephant, lion, leopard and buffalo.*

*Educated at Guinea Fowl High School in Gwelo, he shot for the Cadet Shooting Team in the Service Rifle category.*

*On the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1964 he reported to the Royal Rhodesia Regiment Depot for his call-up training and service. He served with D Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Rhodesia Regiment until 1969. During this time he shot Service Rifle for the Rhodesia Regiment Service Rifle Shooting Team and was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Bisley Team.*

*He served his country with zeal and determination and ended up a Sergeant and as a Shooting Instructor in battle camps with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Rhodesia Regiment.*

*Fred was a magnificent clay target shooter and in 1975 represented Rhodesia in the Munich World Moving Target Championships, shooting ISU Skeet and obtaining his Rhodesian Colours for Clay Target Shooting.*

*He was selected for the team to shoot at the Moscow Olympics in 1980 but immigrated to South Africa and withdrew from the Team. Whilst in South Africa he obtained his Western Province Colours for ten years of Clay Target shooting.*

*Fred was a passionate supporter of all shooting sports and was involved in the administration of the sports side of shooting as well as the Firearms Dealers Association of South Africa. He was a Founder Member of the World Shooting Federation, which is a strategic advisory body for the Shooting Sports, which was founded in 2000 in Nurnberg Germany at the IWA Exhibition.*

*He was the most effective and vital chairman of Cape Gun Club, Clay Target Shooting Club, from 2000-2005. Many new members benefited from his experience, coaching and generosity. His after shooting snacks and drinks are legendary with all former club members and visitors.*

*Fred owned and ran Suburban Guns, Plumstead from 1979 until he sold it in July 2002. He was one of the largest dealers in South Africa, wholesaling throughout South Africa and the surrounding countries. As a dealer he became the Chairman of the Firearms Dealers Association from 1995 until 2001. He actively interacted with the Police to protect Firearm Ownership in South Africa.*

*His was a personal friend of General Mihail Timeofeyvitch Kalashnikov (inventor of the AK47), who was a house guest of Fred's when the Russian General visited South Africa. Fred was invited to General Kalashnikov's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in Russia where they enjoyed a shot or two of vodka.*

*Mostly though, Fred was known to his friends as a hard working businessman, a loyal and generous friend, and great company with a few drinks.*

*He was a strongly family orientated person and leaves behind his wife Athena, three daughters and a grandson aged five who he has already given an air rifle to. Let's us hope the genes run true and a leader and a sportsman follows in his grandfather's huge footprints.*

*He was extremely proud of his Greek origins and the fact he was a Rhodesian. He always emphasised that being a Rhodesian was not merely a matter of birth but a state of mind, with morality, loyalty and a sense of doing what is right, influencing his way of life.*

*We all know Rhodesians are a special breed of people, who live beyond their limitations achieving what would seem to others to be impossible. Well Fred was a true Rhodesian.*

*RIP Fred."*

### **Phil 'Pops' Gentry**

This information came in from Roger Newnham:

*"Phil Gentry was born on the 1/8/1931 and died on the 25/9/2011 in Hereford, England.*

*I found him living in a ditch in the UK in 1984. I gave him a job in construction put him in better digs and sorted out his medical needs of which there were many.*

*Phil joined the British army in 1949 serving three years on the Russian border with Germany, then into Malaya for four years, back to Germany and Ireland. In 1960 he joined the Australian Army for six years, spending one of these in Vietnam. In 1967 he re-joined the British army. In 1969 he joined the French Foreign Legion. In 1974 he joined the Rhodesian Army, ending up at Tsanga Lodge with back injuries. He stayed on at Tsanga helping Dick Paget with other war wounded. Phil or Pops was in the RLI 1 Commando with a friend of mine, Fraser Brown."*

Anne Paget and Heather Powell helped with this information from the book 'Tsanga – Place of Reeds, Place of Healing' where on page 99, Dick Paget wrote:

*"He (Phil Gentry) was a rough diamond, .. a tough bugger, his family had been wiped out in the London Blitz, and he had served in the French Foreign Legion... He came to Tsanga with a back injury after a parachute accident.. I had a few run-ins with him, but amazingly once he joined the Tsanga staff he had the patience of Job.... I would not have had the patience he had (with one particularly uncooperative and rude patient)."*

### **Chris van Zyl**

Billy Wiggill writes:

*"It is with regret that we inform you that Chris van Zyl, ex 3 Commando passed away on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Chris is survived by sister Liz and brother Willie."*

**Blake Few** died on 13<sup>th</sup> January in Auckland New Zealand. This Association extends condolences to his wife Jane.

This from John Pringle:

*"Flight Lieutenant Blake Few joined the Rhodesian Air Force in 1964 as a member of number 18 Pilot Training Course. Throughout the course Blake was plagued by air sickness and his determination and sheer guts endeared him to all - instructors, peers and superiors alike. He was commissioned and re-mustered as an Air Traffic Controller serving mainly in Thornhill, Gwelo where many airmen had occasion to be grateful for his calm professionalism in the control tower. He played rugby for Thornhill and excelled at squash.*

*Throughout his twenty odd years in Military Air Traffic Control, Blake worked quietly at gaining a Private Pilot's Licence and ultimately a Commercial Pilots Licence. When he retired from the Air Force he flew a myriad of small commercial aircraft. "Stick and Rudder stuff" he said, "None of this button-pushing in Jumbo Jets." He flew throughout the African continent and it was while flying for a (probably dodgy) employer in the diamond industry that he became troubled by the plight of the lower end employees, working long hours for minimal pay. With single-minded determination he moved to fly for Red Cross in Africa, and also for the United Nations. He advanced to twin engine jets and landed some really interesting jobs, including the delivery flight of a new Corporate Jet from America, over the North Pole, to its base in Central Africa.*

*Blake retired to New Zealand where he became a regular and proud attendee at the Hobsonville RSA ANZAC parades. He lost a lengthy battle with cancer in January, typically remaining cheerful and positive right to the end. Hamba gashle, aviator of note."*

**Dave Templeton** died in Timaru, New Zealand in early January 2012 of a heart attack after a very short illness.

This from John Pringle:

*"Squadron Leader Dave Templeton joined the Rhodesian Air Force in the 1960s as an Accounts Clerk, rising through the ranks he served in New Sarum, Thornhill and Air Headquarters as an Accounts Officer, with a stint as ADC to Clifford du Pont, President of Rhodesia. He played water polo for Rhodesia and the Air Force and will always be remembered as an outstanding sportsman."*

## Off The Radar

Some recipients may find that their copy of **Contact! Contact!** gets rejected by their Internet Service Provider or it is consigned to their Spam Bin. When this happens I find it extremely frustrating as I (along with others) have put the time and effort into producing a quality publication that we work hard for and are justifiably proud of, only to find that it is not reaching the intended destinations. More time is then spent trying to rectify things. In a lot of cases it is work addresses that are a problem.

We want this publication to reach as many people as possible, so if you are able to, please check your systems or have your technical people check and ensure that these addresses below are cleared as friendly or white listed:

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[hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz)

Please also check with your friends and if someone is not getting **Contact! Contact!** help them to sort the problem out. Providing us with a private email address, such as Gmail, is sometimes the best solution.

This month I am not listing anyone as I have updated the address book and I want to see if the new format has any effect on reducing the number of deliveries that get consigned to Spam.

**Please remember to let us know if you are changing your email address.**

## Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings and compliments of the season to you all.

I trust you all had a good Christmas wherever you are in the world and that you are well rested to tackle 2012 and all it will throw at us.

On the sporting front it is pretty quiet at this time of year (unless you enjoy watching the English Premiership). The Indians have been a damp squib in the series against Australia and I personally am happy to see them on the receiving end. These days they tend to throw their weight around in world cricket and normally get whatever they want. Proof of this is New Zealand hosting Zimbabwe this month for a test match and number of One Day games. It was with the support of India and a few others that Zimbabwe was let back into world cricket and countries are forced to play them or they are made to pay unsustainable fines. So good on ya Aussies for giving them a good old fashioned hiding.

I was recently tipped off by one of our readers on a fellow countryman who is making waves on the basketball courts of England. His name is Creon Raftopoulos and by all accounts he is in the headlines for all the right reasons. Some of his exploits can be seen by going to this link [Creon Raftopoulos](#).

This year I aim to cover all of the rugby and the main sporting events. I also aim to do a few articles called 'A Blast From The Past'. These will be sporting events or stories from yesteryear. I would appreciate your input on this so if you have any events or personalities you want covered please email me at [fourstreams@clear.net.nz](mailto:fourstreams@clear.net.nz) I really look forward to your feedback so please keep the emails coming in.

Till next month, go well

Regards

Grunter



**Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980**  
**by Gerry van Tonder**



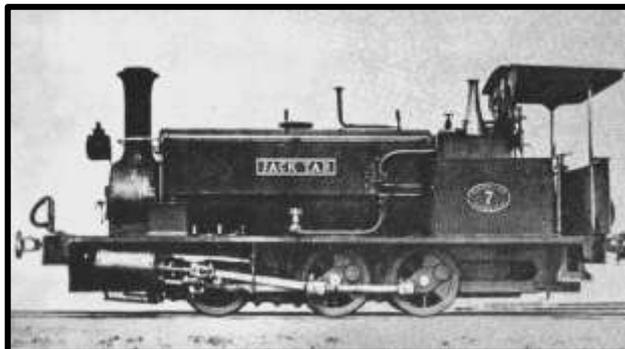
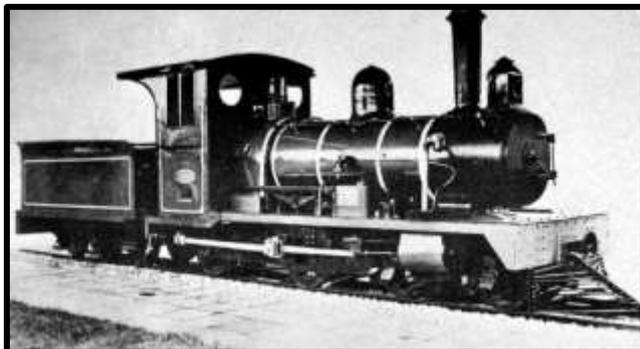
## February

**Newsflash Headlines** +++ 21 January 1942 The Salisbury Area Air Raid Distress Fund, for the purchase of a mobile canteen to be used in Britain, tops £1000 +++ 21 February 1958 The flooding Zambezi River destroys the road bridge across the gorge at Kariba +++ 11 January 1958 The whole of Premier Garfield Todd's cabinet resigns in a gesture of no confidence in his leadership abilities +++ 20 February 1967 University of Rhodesia lecturer John Andrew Conradie

is sentenced to 20 years in prison after being found guilty in the High Court of conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism  
+++ 02 February 1973 Returning Zambian residents stranded in Rhodesia as Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda closes the border with his southern neighbour  
+++ 07 February 1977 A gang of twelve terrorists murder seven white missionaries at St Paul's Catholic Mission at Musami  
+++ 24 February 1977 Justice Minister Hilary Squires, within hours of Bishop Donal Lamont's prison sentence being reduced from ten to four years, informs parliament that the government will seek to have the bishop deported.

**In Brief**

On 04 February 1898 the 2ft-gauge Beira to Umtali railway line is officially opened. The 19 ton No.7 "Jack Tar" of the Mashonaland Railways was used on the construction and the slightly heavier small class locomotive No.15 operated in service on the line itself.



**Small Class 2ft-gauge locomotives used on the Beira-Umtali line**

At the same time, contractor George Pauling was taken on by Cecil Rhodes to construct a 3' 6" gauge line between Salisbury and Umtali.

On 21 January 1975, the first full intake of Internal Affairs National Servicemen (IANS) passed out at Chikurubi. A Ministry Memo of the time states... *"Our role has emerged principally as a part of the security forces, whose task it is to negate terrorist pressures and activities, whilst winning over the confidence and support of the tribal population."*

Centralised training commenced in February 1974 at Tomlinson Depot with an intake of 40 DSAs who received four weeks instruction. Two more intakes followed (one of 120 men) before the BSAP Support Unit commitment made it necessary to seek a new venue, and training accordingly commenced at the Prisons Services Farm at Chikurubi.



**IANS 1 Cadets on the Drill Square, Chikurubi Barracks, Salisbury**

On 28 February 1962, No 7 Squadron of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force officially came into being. This helicopter unit would be the home of the ubiquitous stalwart of the country's airborne troop strike-force, the French-built Alouette III. These "Cyclone 7" machines and their pilots would also be the saviour of men wounded in combat in its alternative casevac role.



**Alouette III's on stand-by at Nyakasoro, Mrewa. (Photo L Walter)**

**Rhodesia Goes to the Polls: February 1980**

At the end of February 1980, the country which had briefly reverted to the legal entity of the British Colony of Southern Rhodesia, complete with a Governor, went to the polls to choose a new government. A settlement accord had been signed at the Lancaster House Conference by all belligerent participants in the Bush War, to allow for the fulfilment of the democratic process in an environment of relative peace.

By the end of the first week of January 1980, more than 17,000 guerrillas had already assembled at various pre-designated points throughout the country for processing, a daunting task for Major General John Acland's Commonwealth Monitoring Force of just over 1,200, drawn from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya and Fiji. They were also tasked to monitor the JOCs throughout the operational areas, providing essential communications needs between the two longstanding antagonists. Both sides remained under their respective command structures, placing great demands on the diplomatic skills of the numerically inferior monitoring forces to defuse potential situations of conflict. The Commonwealth operation was codenamed Agila, described afterwards by Acland as one of the most successful of its type in the history of the British army.



**Monitoring Force medal and shoulder flash**

Amazingly, the ceasefire held, and eventually, some 22,000 guerrillas were contained, and dug in, in the assembly points. However, it soon became evident that many were not in fact combatants, but mujibas ordered in to swell numbers to acceptable levels. It was estimated that 7,000 fully trained and armed ZANLA insurgents remained on stand-by outside the assembly points. In addition, ComOps estimated that some 27,000 ZANLA and ZIPRA cadres still remained in rear bases in Mozambique and Zambia.

Of growing concern to Governor Soames however, was the large increase in the number of incidents of crime and banditry in areas adjacent to many of the assembly points. This, together with escalating reports of political

intimidation and violence, led Soames to give the go ahead for the deployment of regular Security Forces and auxiliaries into such areas.



**ZIPRA terrorists at an Assembly Point in Matabeleland**

Rhodesian Light Infantry Fire Force units were placed on standby, in the event that Commonwealth Forces based in assembly points needed emergency extraction.

British Election Commissioners and Supervisors were the next to arrive who, together with British uniformed policemen, or Bobbies, would monitor the fairness of the democratic process.

Intimidation was to be a major issue with the Rhodesians, who strongly and continuously lobbied Governor Soames to take action by disenfranchising known areas where intimidation of the rural population continued unabated. In particular, ZANLA's network of informers and mujibas would, in many cases, curtail the canvassing activities of other legitimate parties.

However, the general consensus amongst the British election supervisors, many of them ex-colonial civil servants, was that certain levels of intimidation were a legacy of a freshly ended armed conflict, and therefore did not warrant drastic measures against offending parties.



**Former antagonists Maj. Gen. Bertie Bernard and Rex Nhongo meet at a ZANLA Assembly Point**

One such election supervisor in the east of the country, David Glendening, was to report to the British election commissioner, Sir John Boynton, that intimidation might only increase ZANU(PF)'s share of the vote by ten per cent, and that the majority of the black electorate in the area would vote for Mugabe as they wanted a peaceful existence to return to their disrupted lives. He added that the tribespeople believed that only Mugabe could end the war.

In the absence of a voters' register, it was estimated that less than three million would be entitled to vote at the more than 650 static and mobile polling stations throughout the country. The British policeman, in his almost iconic Bobby

uniform and helmet, would provide a law-enforcing element at the stations, and it would be his responsibility to ensure the safety of ballot boxes.



**A ballot box is loaded into a Kudu under the watchful eye of a BSAP Field Reservist at Morgenster Mission, Victoria Province**

All arms of the combined Security Forces, numbering 60,000, were deployed as a massive presence at key and strategic areas and installations. Conventionally equipped troops and armoured vehicles stood watch at radio and television stations and by government offices in the centre of Salisbury.

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1980, a total of 571 British Bobbies flew into Salisbury Airport in batches, on various commercial flights. On arrival, they were shuttled to the New Sarum Air Force Base, adjacent to the Salisbury Airport apron. The RAF component of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force was based at New Sarum, their operational HQ for the duration of their mission. At New Sarum, the Bobbies were briefed and then deployed to their designated districts, where they would be the "Election Observers" - the eyes and ears on the ground.



The British could have put the election process on hold but did not. They declared the election to be free and fair. It was not, as admitted later by the Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington who, in his memoirs "Reflect of Things Past" wrote, "*Intimidation was certainly not confined to any one faction, but the activities of Mugabe's followers, in particular, led to considerable revulsion, and there were many voices - not confined to white Rhodesians. Some British civil servants felt the same saying loudly that Mugabe's further participation in the Election should be forbidden.*"



**Elements of the British Monitoring Force at their camp near Salisbury Airport**

The general elections were carried out in two stages. Polling day for the "White Roll" seats was to be on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1980, two weeks before the "Common Roll" election dates scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March 1980. This allowed for the maximum manpower to be available in support of the "Common Roll" election process.

Mugabe's ZANU(PF) won 57 seats; Nkomo's Patriotic Front 20; and Muzorewa's UANC 3.

### **Above and Beyond**

On 11 February 1975, 21149 Constable Constance Kamupaundi was travelling in a Rhino which was part of a convoy that was ambushed on its way to Rusambo. In spite of his injuries as a result of an RPG rocket striking the Rhino, he returned the terrorists' fire from the rear of the vehicle, protecting the other injured inside. Climbing out of his seat, he repelled another group of terrorists approaching the disabled and vulnerable Rhino. He then, without hesitation, followed an order to run more than eight kilometres through hostile countryside to seek assistance from the base at Rusambo. The hazardous journey took him one and a half hours, resulting in a rapid rescue response from the base.



**The Police Cross for Conspicuous Gallantry (PCG)**

His immediate retaliatory actions and subsequent disregard for his own safety by returning to base saved the lives of many others in the convoy. He showed courage and conspicuous gallantry of the highest order. Constable Kamupaundi was the first recipient of this highest BSAP gallantry award. Until the end of the Bush War, there would only be another four recipients.

### **At the Going Down of the Sun**

At 1430 hours on the afternoon of 28 February 1976, eighteen members of One Commando, RLI, after following terrorist tracks in the Chibara Hills area of Mt Darwin since early that morning, walked into an ambush. L/Cpl Doug Cookson was killed and Cpl Dave Hosking and Lt Paul Morpuss wounded.

As the afternoon progressed, the troops engaged the enemy another five times, but in these contacts Sgt Peter White, Tpr Chris Diedericks and Sgt Richard Smith, a RHU territorial tracker, also lost their lives. Troopers Dipenaar and Wilkinson were also wounded. Nineteen terrorists were killed.

This was a dark day for the Commando, and one which would always be remembered in the renaming of their base camp pub to "The 28th."

We remember...



726854 L/Cpl. Douglas John Cookson (20)

727333 Tpr. Christopher Diedericks (22)

725494 T/Sgt. Peter Cyril O'Brien White BCR (24)

PR63559 Sgt. Richard Mark Smith (26)

### **Across the Globe**

- On 14 February 1929 Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin
- On 06 February 1952 King George VI dies and Elizabeth II becomes Queen
- On 09 February 1969 the Boeing 747 airliner takes its first test flight

### **And.....**

On 02 February 1949 the first 45 RPM vinyl record is released

## Alan Bryant and the Bulawayo War Graves – a special report by Gerry van Tonder

Over the last three years, as Adrian Haggett and I spread our net and searched the internet looking for data for our book 'Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour 1966-1981', we have met up with many folk from all corners of our planet. Without fail, all were generous in their assistance with our project.

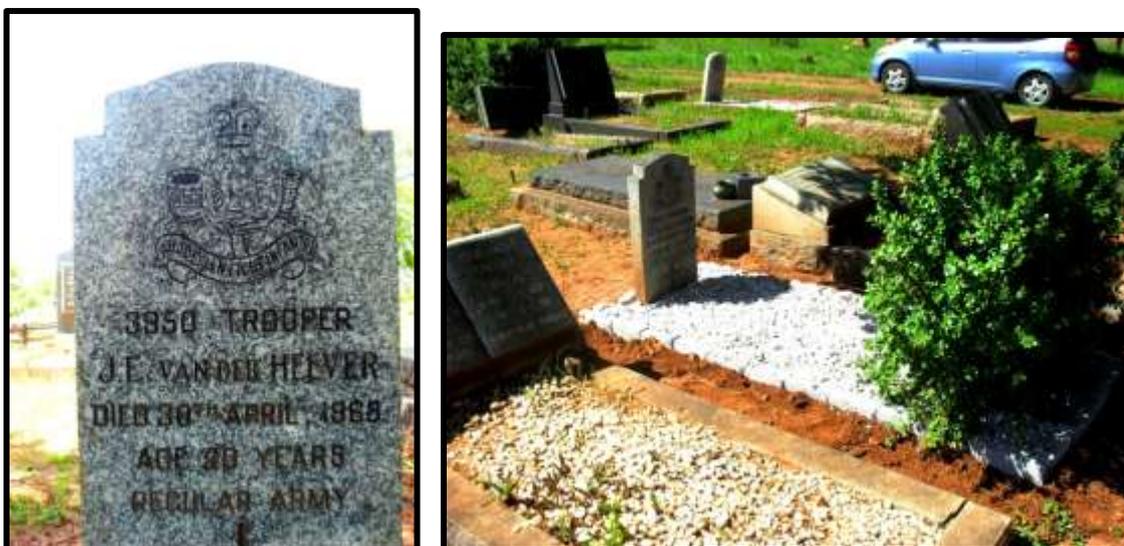
Alan Bryant and ex-Rhodesian Richard Perry (now living in the UK) provided me with lists and photographs of the graves of those who fell during the Bush War. Photographs of headstones are an invaluable source of accurate information for the Roll, so we are extremely indebted to them.

It was only more recently, however, that I discovered that Alan has been quietly working on the maintenance and restoration of these graves. He has been renovating seventy three graves in the Athlone Cemetery in Bulawayo, this includes one or two pre-UDI ones. Below is an example of Alan's remarkable achievements on the renovation of the headstone of WOII JG Palmer of the Rhodesia & Nyasaland Army Service Corps who died on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1960.



**WOII Palmer's headstone: Left - before and Right – after**  
(Photos Left - R Perry and Right - A Bryant)

The last of the Bush War graves that Alan worked on was that of Trooper JE van der Heever of the RLI. The photograph below on the right clearly shows how the grave has been tidied up.



**Headstone and grave of Tpr. van der Heever with fresh gravel**

As his work took him to various parts of the cemetery, Alan came across one belonging to a Trooper Frank William Baxter, prompting him to send me a photograph of this very old grave.



**Trooper Frank William Baxter Grey's Scouts, Killed in Action: 22 April 1896**  
(Photo A Bryant)

It did not take long for my love of Rhodesian historical research to make me see if I could find anything about this member of the original Grey's Scouts. What I found was phenomenal; a direct link with the brave man lying in this grave. This is Trooper Baxter's story...

The Matabele uprising was well underway as white settlers sought refuge in forts and the relative safety of Bulawayo. The population of Bulawayo comprised 632 women and children and 915 men, with many of the latter enrolling in the Bulawayo Field Force. The Matabele Times of 6<sup>th</sup> April gave the total number available to restore normality in Matabeleland at close to 800.

On Wednesday morning 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1896, a small force under the command of Captain Bisset left Bulawayo for the Umguza River, with the objective of dislodging a strong Matabele presence in the area. The 120-strong mounted patrol included twenty scouts under Captain Grey; forty men of the Afrikaner Corps under Captain van Niekerk; twenty each under Captain Meikle and Captain Brand, with another twenty unattached horsemen. They were joined by Johan Colenbrander and one hundred colonial natives. Frederick Courteney Selous accompanied the expedition which was also armed with a Hotchkiss and a Maxim gun.

As the patrol approached the Umguza River, it came under heavy fire from concealed Matabele positions. Running skirmishes resulted, forcing the Matabele back towards a more secure position in a bend of the river.

This position was outflanked by Grey's Scouts from across the river, forcing two to three hundred warriors to flee into the open, but apparent confusion arose amongst the various elements of the patrol and advantage was not taken of the opportunity to make a major impact on the Matabele. In the process, Selous became separated from his mount, and with only two of his original thirty rounds of ammunition left, found himself in a very dangerous situation. Lieutenant Windley came to Selous' assistance and, with a group of Matabele less than one hundred metres away, he pulled Selous on to his horse and the two made good their escape, bullets striking around them as they rode away.

Selous was indebted to Windley for his gallantry in saving his life that day, but states that Windley was not the only member of the patrol to perform a brave and "self-denying" deed.

As the Grey's Scouts retired from the Umguza to consolidate their position, they were fired upon from scrub to the left of their line of retreat. Trooper Wiseman was struck high in the back by a bullet, the round exiting near his collarbone. At the same time, his horse stumbled, dislodging the wounded Wiseman and galloping off back towards Bulawayo.

Trooper Frank William Baxter immediately came to Wiseman's aid, dismounting and helping his badly wounded comrade on to his horse. This act undoubtedly saved the life of Trooper Wiseman, but in so doing, placed Baxter's own life in serious jeopardy as Matabele warriors closed in.

Captain Grey and Lieutenant Hook came back to assist. As Baxter tried to join Hook on his horse, Hook was also shot, the bullet passing through his buttock and out through his groin. Grey sustained a bullet graze across his forehead, leaving him momentarily disorientated.

With the situation worsening by the moment, Trooper Long, a well-known member of the Scouts, arrived on the scene, and managed to get Baxter to take hold of his stirrup leather, but fate intervened once more. As Long was struggling to move Baxter away, Baxter was wounded in the side, causing him to let go of the stirrup and fall to the ground. The Matabele moved in and killed Baxter.

Hook nearly also fell victim to the advancing Matabele after his horse was shot out from under him. The desperate scene would witness another selfless act of bravery on that day, as Crewe surrendered his horse to the badly wounded Hook. Crewe bravely fought his way back on foot, assisted by covering fire from other Scouts.

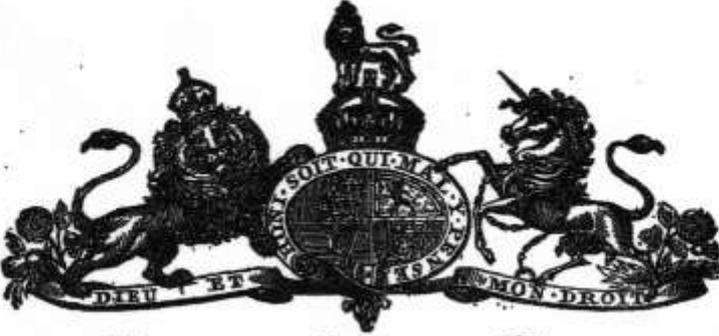
Wise and Hook both recovered from their wounds.

Frederick Courteney Selous, from whose book *Sunshine and Storm in Rhodesia* research was undertaken, states, "*The splendid gallantry and devotion to one another shown by Captain Grey and his officers and men on this day will ever be remembered in Rhodesia as amongst the bravest of deeds performed by the Colonists in the suppression of the present rebellion.*"

(Note that Selous refers to Trooper Wise, but the London Gazette gives his name as Wiseman, so I have settled for the latter official version.)

At that particular time, posthumous awards of the Victoria Cross were not made, and in the London Gazette of 7<sup>th</sup> May 1897, his citation appeared, but with the statement that he "...would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross *had he survived*" (my italics). Fortunately, King Edward VII changed this qualification to allow for the Victoria Cross to be awarded posthumously, and in the London Gazette of 15<sup>th</sup> January 1907, Baxter's award of the Victoria Cross was listed.

Numb. 27986. 325



**The London Gazette.**

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**Published by Authority.**

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1907.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>War Office, January 15, 1907.</i></p> <p>The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the Decoration of the Victoria Cross being delivered to the representatives of the undermentioned Officers and men who fell in the performance of acts of valour, and with reference to whom it was notified in the London Gazette that they would have been recommended to Her late Majesty for the Victoria Cross had they survived:—</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>London Gazette, 27th May, 1899.</i></p>	<p>save his brother officer's life, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had they survived."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>London Gazette, 7th May, 1897.</i></p> <p>"Trooper Frank William Baxter, of the Bulawayo Field Force, on account of his gallant conduct in having, on the 22nd April, 1896, dismounted and given up his horse to a wounded comrade, Corporal Wiseman, who was being closely pursued by an overwhelming force of the enemy, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had he survived."</p>
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The London Gazette listing Baxter's VC in the second column

There is the grave of another VC recipient in this cemetery - Trooper Herbert Henderson VC. Henderson's VC was also from the Matabele Rebellion. Alan's work is evident here below.



**The grave of Tpr. Herbert Henderson VC (Photo A. Bryant)**

Alan Bryant was born in Bulawayo in 1955, attending Hamilton High School before doing an apprenticeship with Puzey and Payne in 1970. His grandfather served in the BSAP and then the Staffordshire Regiment in WWI. His father served with the LRDG in WWII. Alan did his National Service with 5 (Indep) Company and then 2 RR. In 1978 he joined one of the Special Forces. His son is with the Royal Artillery.

When I shared the excitement about the Baxter grave and story with Hugh, he suggested that it would be very appropriate to let our readership know about the fantastic work Alan is doing in Bulawayo. This then is a tribute to Alan for so magnanimously honouring the memory of Rhodesia's fallen.

Alan, we your fellow countrymen salute you.

### **Queen Elizabeth II keeps the Flame burning**

It would appear to the casual observer, such as your correspondent, that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II finds favour with the diamond and platinum Flame Lily brooch that was gifted to her by the schoolchildren of Southern Rhodesia on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

You will recall that it was reported in this newsletter in November 2010 that The Queen wore the Southern Rhodesia Flame Lily brooch at Ascot earlier in the year. It was therefore a pleasant surprise to many who noted that The Queen wore the brooch for the whole of Christmas Day 2011. She wore it on her outfit while visiting Prince Phillip who was in hospital, and the brooch was on her changed outfit that she wore for her televised speech in the evening as see below.



**Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II delivers her Christmas Day 2011 address.  
The Southern Rhodesia Flame Lily brooch is clearly visible**

It is wonderful to see that it appears that The Queen holds this brooch in such high esteem. I expect we all hope that when she wears it that she does reflect on the injustices in the world.

### Flashback

This Christmas card is in our museum collection. It was produced at the School of Infantry in what seems 1970. Does anyone have any details about it?



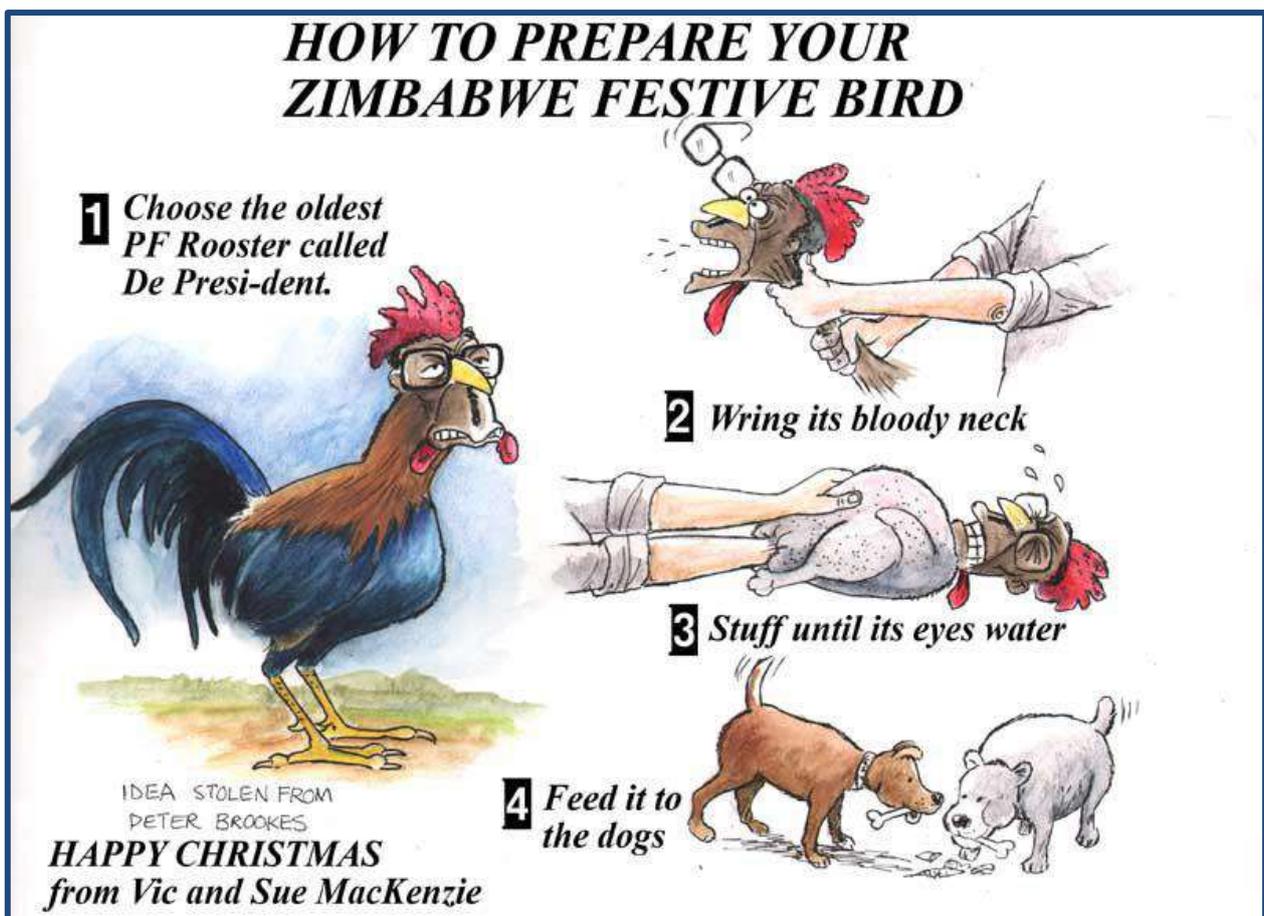
*To Doc, The Marshal, The Strong Brothers,  
"Pancho" Ben, Shualie and the hoose at the Pad -  
Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
and a  
Prosperous New Year  
from  
EDITOR <sup>and family</sup>  
SCHOOL OF INFANTRY  
P.O. BOX 734  
HWELD  
HOOTERVILLE HERALD*



## Fowl Play or How to Prepare Your Zimbabwe Festive Bird

This Christmas greeting from Vic and Sue Mackenzie is not your usual recipe for a Christmas feast. As I am sure you will agree, it is very amusing and had to be shared with a wide audience.

Good on you Vic – laughter is the best medicine.



## What's On In New Zealand

### AUCKLAND

If you reside in the Auckland area please email Wolf and Alison Hucke at [whucke@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:whucke@slingshot.co.nz) for more details of the monthly social meetings generally based around the Hobsonville RSA. All are most welcome.

## TAURANGA

The Garrison Club which is run by the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hauraki Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. 'Graze and Movie Evenings' run by members of the Rhodesian Services Assn. are normally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month with proceeds being donated to the Hauraki Museum. Email me at [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) to get on that mailing list, to see what is on and notification of any changes. Other local events are also advertised via email. The next Movie and Graze evening is 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

## CQ Store

Visit [www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm) to see what is in store for you. Please give our CQ Store consideration when buying a present for friends or family. Profits from the sale of these items go towards the Museum Fund.

All prices are in NZ\$ and do not include postage.

To order:

Email [thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org) with your requirements. We will get it weighed and priced and get back to you with a total.

Payment

NZ customers can pay by direct deposit with bank details being supplied on request

Overseas customers - we prefer payment by PayPal, personal or bank cheque. We can accept personal cheques from most countries with the exception of South Africa. If you elect payment by PayPal, we will bill you from [thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org) Please note that we can only process credit cards via PayPal. We do not accept postal orders or Western Union transfers. Rest assured, if you want to make a purchase we will make a plan to enable you to pay!



[Clothing](#) - shirts, jackets, caps, beanies, aprons, and regimental ties.



[Berets & Badges](#) – most Rhodesian units available.



[Medals & Ribbons](#) – an extensive range available.



[Posters & Maps](#) – high quality reproductions.



[DVDs & Phone tones](#) – historical footage, unique cell phone tones.



[Other goods](#) - flags, bumper stickers, lighters, and more, as well as quality products direct from our contributing supporters.

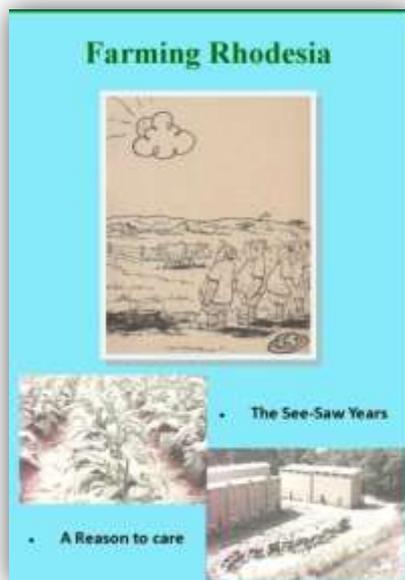
### New products:

We were donated film material by Steve Addison and Chuck Osborne. Over the last couple of years we had this film converted to digital format by Park Road Productions in Wellington, New Zealand which is connected to Sir Peter Jackson and the Weta group. I mention this in order to illustrate the lengths that we will go to in order to produce a high quality result.

The digital tapes were then sent to Harmon Cusack of Msasa Enterprises in South Africa who, at his own expense, kindly put the digital material into PAL DVD format for the DVDs for us which we now have for sale in our CQ Store. In

addition to this we acknowledge John Horbury, former GM of Rhodesian Farmer Publications, who gave us permission to use Spud drawings for one of the cover designs.

**Farming Rhodesia** features *The See-Saw Years* and *A Reason To Care*.

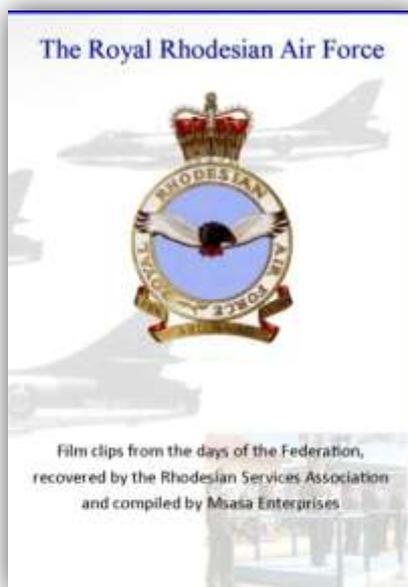


*The See-Saw Years* (27 minutes run time) was a film produced by the Central African Film Unit in around 1962 with the assistance of the Tobacco Export Promotion Council of Southern Rhodesia and the tobacco farmers of Umvukwes. It is a light hearted look at the development of farming in the area. The original film was donated by Steve Addison to the Rhodesian Services Association.

*A Reason To Care* (20 minutes run time) is a documentary format look at conservation and game integration into Rhodesian farming. Made in the 1970's with the cooperation of the late Norman Travers and others.

- Full sound track on both features.
- A great historic package.
- Price \$30 plus postage

### **The Royal Rhodesian Air Force**



Made from film clips from the Federation days and includes various parades, an aircraft flying display, some good aerial views of Salisbury and Sir Roy Welensky presenting medals. The original 8mm films were donated by Chuck Osborne to the Rhodesian Services Association. Run time is approximately 15 minutes.

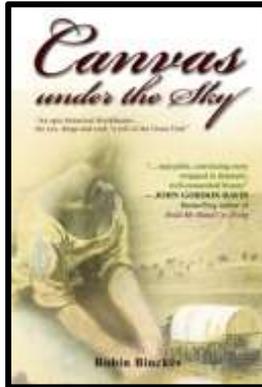
- There was no original sound track but Harmon Cusack has put in background music.
- A great historic package.
- Price \$30 plus postage

## Books for Africa

I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at [www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm) These sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, the Association does benefit indirectly from these sales. A great selection of books, many with a Rhodesian connection, can be found on the link above. All prices are in NZ\$ and do not include postage.

This month's recommended buys:

**Canvas under the Sky** by Robin Binckes – softback

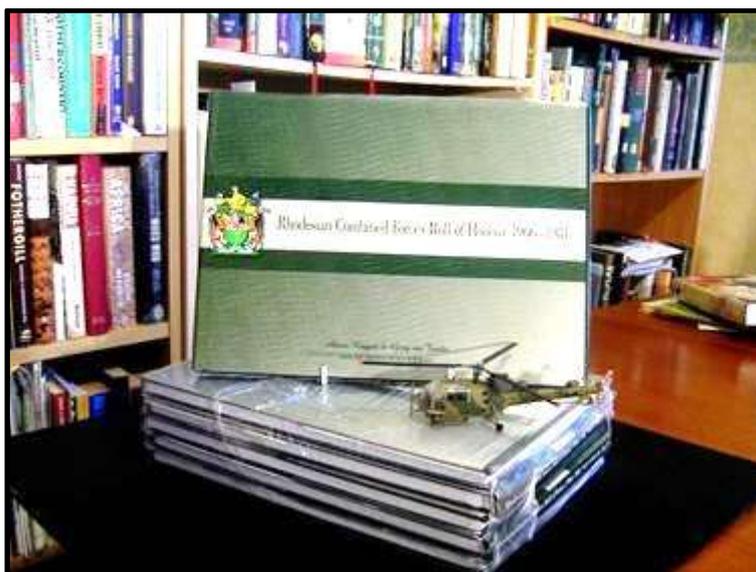


“... enjoyable, convincing story wrapped in dramatic, well-researched history” — John Gordon Davis, bestselling author of *Hold My Hand I'm Dying*

It is 1834. The Eastern Cape frontier is burning. Rauch Beukes, a young Boer of 17, returns to the family homestead to find it razed, the livestock gone and his mother and sisters slaughtered by the marauding Xhosa from across the Great Fish River. So begins a tale of violence and warfare and love and lust across racial divides, painted against the grand backdrop of the Boer migration north into the hinterland that became known as the Great Trek, the result of British duplicity and injustice.

Price \$32 plus postage

**Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour 1966-1981** by Adrian Haggett & Gerry van Tonder - hardcover



The intention of this publication is to honour all who lost their lives in action, or while on active service, with the Rhodesian Security Forces during the period 1966–1981. This publication represents the single most comprehensive Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour covering the so-called Bush War. Many people have researched the casualties of the Rhodesian Bush War and it is highly unlikely that a single researcher will ever compile a definitive list

of all those who perished. Dr JRT Wood produced the first 'most comprehensive' Roll of Honour of the Rhodesian Combined Forces while many others, including Gerry van Tonder and Adrian Haggett, have used his roll as a base for expansion, correction and addition. It is, therefore, thanks to Dr Wood's original work that the Roll of Honour has been improved to this point.

This book is not just a list of names and dates; it is eminently readable on account of the well-researched personal information on many of these Rhodesians who died serving their country. The way that this book has been compiled and produced is a credit to all concerned.

Price \$70 plus postage



## The Rhodesia Regiment Book Project



This project is on the path to publication but there is a lot of work still to do to finish off the illustration cataloguing, editing of the text and completing various rolls. Publication will be late 2012 or 2013.

We require information on the following:

- ❖ 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Rhodesia Regiment beret badges – it has been recorded that 6RR wore the full size Rhodesia Regiment badge in silver form on their berets. We have not been able to find sufficient photographic or verbal evidence. Only 1 member of 6RR has come forward so far. If you were 6RR please contact me at [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz)
- ❖ National Service Intake numbers, dates and details – please email Gerry van Tonder at [g.van-tonder@sky.com](mailto:g.van-tonder@sky.com) with details.
- ❖ Leadership details – CO, 2I/C and RSM of all Battalions; OC, 2I/C and CSM of all Independent Companies up to 1978 - please email Gerry van Tonder at [g.van-tonder@sky.com](mailto:g.van-tonder@sky.com) with details.
- ❖ We require someone skilled on Google Earth to extract and mark some maps for us. Please email [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) if you have the time (labour of love) and skill.
- ❖ We require information on the 1 RR and 2 RR pipe bands. A principal question is what tartan they wore. Please email [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz)

## Our Supporters – please also view our webpage <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/our-supporters.htm>

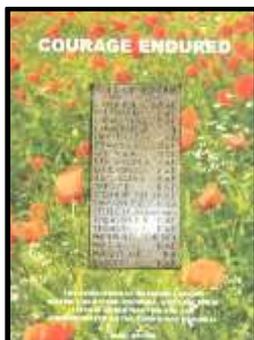
This section is for individuals and businesses who support this Association either by giving us something for auction at the RV in October; by donations from sales generated from our listings of their product or service; by offering discount to buyers who mention the Rhodesian Services Association when making a purchase; contributing material to our Museum and Archives.

Email me at [theeditor@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:theeditor@rhodesianservices.org) for details of how you get a mention here.

The Association is very grateful to all our contributors, please reciprocate this support by supporting them in turn. Please don't forget to mention where you saw their advert.

### Museum & Archives contributions:

#### **Courage Endured by Alan Harris**



For many years Alan Harris has researched the graves in the Marandellas (Marondera now) area. This book is the culmination of his research into the Marandellas War Memorial and specifically those who lost their lives in WWII whose names appear on the memorial. A valuable record of national and local history.

To purchase a copy contact Alan Harris PO Box 594, Kwelera, 5259, South Africa or email [courageendured@gmail.com](mailto:courageendured@gmail.com)

Editor's Note: If anyone has knowledge of where the bronze plaque removed from this memorial which recorded the names of those who died in the Bush War is now, please contact me on [theeditor@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:theeditor@rhodesianservices.org)

### **Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour 1966-1981 by Adrian Haggett & Gerry van Tonder**

The authors donated a copy of this valuable record together with the certificate illustrated below to our archives. A longer description of the book can be found under the Books for Africa section of this newsletter.



### **Roan Antelope Music special for February 2012**

You can see what is being offered on special by John Edmond and our friends at Roan Antelope Music if you use the contact details below.

This message from Roan Antelope Music:

*'Dear Friends,*

*On our side love is in the air and we have music to express our love with – 'That's What I Call A Love Song' CD by John Edmond.*

*It is an age old custom to express your love for someone special in your life on Valentine's Day which is just around the corner on the 14<sup>th</sup> February.*

*Love has been expressed with cards, flowers, gifts, chocolates, dinners, secret love letters, weekends away etc. Be different this time and say it in song with music.*

*Did you know that:*

- ♥ *"To wear your heart on your sleeve" actually has a very literal origin. In the middle ages single men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their Valentine would be and they would pin the name of the person drawn on their sleeve.*
- ♥ *In the late 1800's the first Valentine's Day candy box was designed by Richard Cadbury.*
- ♥ *Each year more than fifty million roses are bought. The only other holiday that comes close to this is Mother's Day.*
- ♥ *On Valentine's Day in 1876 Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone.....Hello, hello .....don't phone.....rather buy a CD!*

*Roan Antelope will have 'That's What I Call A Love Song' CD by John Edmond as a special for February 2012. It is a stunner and would melt anyone's heart. John Edmond is at his absolute romantic best with a sixteen track album. Some of the tracks include 'Little Green Apples', 'Unforgettable', 'The Most Beautiful Girl In The World', 'The Wedding', 'Honey' and 'I'll Have To Say I Love You In A Love Song'. Plus guest tracks by Grant, Gillian and John Ross Edmond.*

*Price: R135 delivered in South Africa. Postage to UK + R105; USA + R100; Australia + R140; New Zealand + R145'*

Roan Antelope Music [www.johndmond.co.za](http://www.johndmond.co.za)

Email: [info@johndmond.co.za](mailto:info@johndmond.co.za)

Tel: +27 (0)14 735 0774 / +27 (0)71 699 0362 Fax: +27 (0)86 273 5492



If you had any rural background in Rhodesia or Zimbabwe then many familiar names and places will tumble out when you open this book. *The Way We Were* is a book of forty five featured Country Districts clubs, personalities and golf courses. There were fifty one, but for six of them it was impossible to locate personnel with sufficient information. The features are based on humour, anecdote and history, adding up to the characterisation and nostalgia for Country Districts, a concept all ex-Rhodesians will understand as being unique, emanating as they did directly from the Pioneer settler columns 120 years ago to forming the lifeblood of the country's economy. Probably half no longer exist, having returned to bush through neglect after Mugabe's land reforms, which all but destroyed agriculture and much mining. Many of the features formed part of "The Zimbabwe Golfer" magazine of a decade or so ago, also by John Kelly, which was wiped out by "Gono's trillions" inflation. After digging the twenty four issues out of a cupboard earlier this year and noting that many district courses had disappeared, John decided a book was necessary for the sake of posterity. *The Way We Were* is illustrated with full colour pictures and artwork.

John Kelly still lives in Zimbabwe, having immigrated to Rhodesia in 1969 with his wife and two young children. He is now 80 years old and with a lifetime in journalism after a printing apprenticeship and three years RAF service 1952-55, mainly Malaya and Singapore. He has been Sports Editor for the Salisbury Sunday Mail; News Editor of The Herald; free-lanced during the Rhodesia war, writing and broadcasting for twenty two clients worldwide, mainly the UK Express group, ITN TV and to agencies and several radio stations including 2WS Australia. In recent years he has worked for Agence France-Presse and Associated Press USA. He was invited to join the AFP team at the last four Open golf championships in UK and covered much Test cricket as well.

Price is US\$30 with twenty per cent of income going to retired farmers and widows in Zimbabwe.

To order email John at [treaclemine@zol.co.zw](mailto:treaclemine@zol.co.zw)

#### **Debi Cohen Fine Art**

Debi has offered to do a painting for this Association that will be auctioned in October. You can view some of her other work at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Debi-Cohen-Fine-Art/114904448599058> and <http://www.saa.co.uk/art/debicohen>

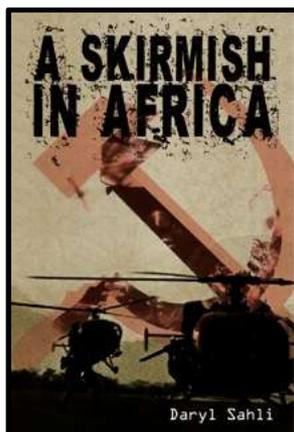
Debi Cohen writes:

*"I want to do a series of paintings using the Rhodesian war as my subject. If anyone has any pictures I can use please will you email me on [cohen90@btinternet.com](mailto:cohen90@btinternet.com) Please ensure you have permission to give the pictures to me to paint."*

Debi Cohen was born in Rhodesia in 1958. She attended Jameson and Oriel Girls. She first exhibited lino print works at the Salisbury Art Gallery while still at school. After going to South Africa to study Pattern Cutting and designing she hitchhiked around America earning money speed sketching people in the markets before moving to Israel to live on an artist orientated kibbutz called Kfar Hanasi to study Art and Calligraphy.

In 1994 Debi arrived in Oxfordshire England, by then married with two children and attended art courses in Chipping Norton to gain experience in a range of mediums. In 1997 Debi with her family moved up to Cheshire and attended Macclesfield College part time studying Life Drawing for two years. Although Debi does still paint in Acrylics and Water Colour Pencils, she has fallen in love with soft Pastels. Debi currently specialises in painting Portraits of people, figures, pets and animals from photographs where she happily accepts commissions between painting studies for future exhibitions.

## A Skirmish in Africa by Daryl Sahli



Review by Ian Livingston-Blevins:

*"Daryl Sahli served in the Rhodesian Army as a National Serviceman (Intake 163) in 4 Independent Company, Rhodesian African Rifles. The novel he has written, whilst fiction, is based on true events. A great deal of effort has gone into ensuring that details of weapons and military procedure are factually correct. Where this book stands out from other Rhodesian war accounts is that it is written through the eyes of a National Serviceman serving in a unit run by regular officers and senior NCOs who had little respect for part-time soldiers. These nineteen year-old men were expected to perform against the enemy as professionals and in most cases they did exactly that. Many of the characters in this book did exist and for someone who was there, it makes for a good read.*

*Daryl Sahli's novel is a great action thriller and an authentic account of a war, now forgotten and unknown to many. This book is as enthralling as any war novel I have read."*

Ian Livingston-Blevins

For more information and to purchase, go to [www.mystorypublishing.com.au](http://www.mystorypublishing.com.au)

### **Buckles and Tees** [www.bucklesandtees.co.nz](http://www.bucklesandtees.co.nz)

Mike Vivier has a number of Rhodesian related lines which include the 'Advice to Terrorists' image on t-shirts and aprons as well this stunning Rhodesia Regiment belt buckle which sells for NZ\$24.95 excluding postage. 100% New Zealand made.



Mike donates a portion of his income from all Rhodesian related items sold to the Rhodesian Services Association. Please email Mike at [mike\\_jovivier@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mike_jovivier@xtra.co.nz) with your order or query or go to [www.bucklesandtees.co.nz](http://www.bucklesandtees.co.nz) and do it on-line.

## **The Global Forked Stick - Snippets and Requests**

### **RLI Nominal Roll**

Alan Strachan advises that the RLI Assn. is endeavouring to compile a Nominal Roll listing all those ES/NS who served with the Rhodesian Light Infantry between 1961 and 1980. He will be working with Craig Fourie, Mark Adams and Robin Tarr to get as comprehensive a Roll as is possible. Please email Alan at [strachan@wol.co.za](mailto:strachan@wol.co.za) if you can offer any information.

### **Boet Swart life story**

From Craig Fourie:

*"Boet Swart also known as Mathew Black and Lt. Col. Mattheus Jacobus Swart OLM served with SRSC, 2 KAR, SAS, RhAF, 1 RLI, Selous Scouts and SA Recces is a legend and a true gentleman.*

*I am compiling his life story encompassing this fine military career. I would welcome any recollections of Boet - there are a million stories to be told. I will share these all with him to show him he is still remembered. Any help is most appreciated."*

Please email Craig at [rhodesia@telkomsa.net](mailto:rhodesia@telkomsa.net)

### **Nine Foxtrot – Military Veteran’s Newsletter**

The Nine Foxtrot newsletter is South African based with a number of Rhodesian and international links. This from Godfrey Giles:

*"Dear Hugh,*

*I am sure by now you have received the tragic news of Rowley Medlin's passing early in December. He was the founder and editor of the Nine Foxtrot weekly newsletter that was sent out to thousands of interested folk.*

*If you did not know about the Nine Foxtrot newsletter, let me explain what it is. Anyone can send in an email with news items, looking for information or a lost comrade, memories of campaigns and times in the military, report who is sick and what their progress is, alert us to those that transferred to Higher Command, review books, mention parades, functions and gatherings, a joke or thought for the week, etc. These are then collated together and sent out weekly via email and placed on the website [www.ninefoxtrot.org](http://www.ninefoxtrot.org) It has proved to be a great communication channel for keeping everyone in touch and the network has grown. The idea is to keep the Nine Foxtrot newsletter going, but first we would like to speak to the family and get their blessing. This will be done early in the New Year.*

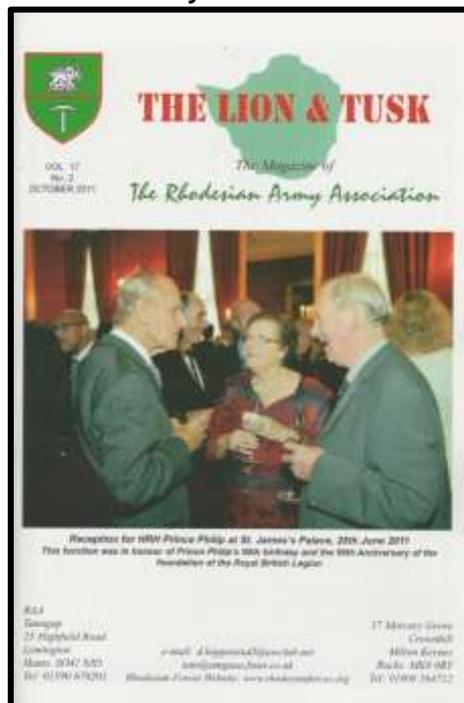
*Having assisted Rowley over the years and sponsored the website I am honoured to have been considered by the main group to carry on the Nine Foxtrot newsletter as the editor. This would surely be the best tribute we can give to Rowley, to carry on his life's work and build it to greater heights. So as not to lose the momentum that Rowley created I am sending you this email to see if you would be interested in receiving the Nine Foxtrot newsletter or not? Please assist me in building up the contact list by copying this email to all your friends, which you think might be interested, so that they can get involved in the network. Please note: this database will never be sold or given to anyone. Should someone want your details their request will be forwarded on to you so that you can decide if you want to make contact or not. Any offers or communication will be done solely by us.*

*All the best for the New Year 2012 - may you have health and wealth.*

*Godfrey Giles*

*Email: [godfrey@ninefoxtrot.org](mailto:godfrey@ninefoxtrot.org) "*

### **The Lion & Tusk – magazine of the Rhodesian Army Association**



The front cover features a photo of the reception for Prince Philip at St. James's Palace in June 2011 which was held in honour of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday as well as the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the British Legion. The photo shows David and Anne Heppenstall talking with Prince Philip who, we understand, was inquiring about their new life in England.

The magazine is, as always, a credit to the joint authors, David Heppenstall and Iain Harper. To subscribe please email David at [d.heppenstall@uwclub.net](mailto:d.heppenstall@uwclub.net) or Iain at [iain@umgusa.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:iain@umgusa.fsnet.co.uk)

### Rhodesia Native Regiment – Rhodesian African Rifles Memorial

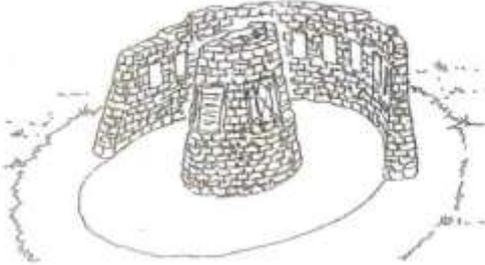
I write to you on behalf of Maj. Gen. Mike Shute OLM and myself as the two members of the RAR Association (UK) responsible for raising the funds necessary to construct a Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire UK to Honour the fallen members of the RNR and RAR. We are looking to raise approximately £60,000-£70,000 to complete the Memorial.

We would be most grateful if you would advertise our appeal in your next issue of **Contact! Contact!** We have a brochure outlining our project which we would like to send to Rhodesians who may be interested in assisting us with our efforts.

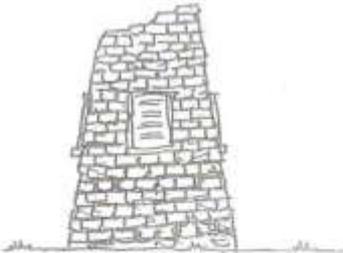
Those interested to receive our brochure are asked to contact either of us using the details below.

Mike Shute, Chairman, Regimental Memorial Committee: [michaelshute@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelshute@btinternet.com) Tel: +44 (0)1622 820-676  
Chris Vincent: [chris@salabonani.com](mailto:chris@salabonani.com) Tel: +44 75 00 375 217

### RNR & RAR WALL OF REMEMBRANCE



- This design is based on the stone structures at the Zimbabwe Ruins.
- The Wall of Remembrance tapers back at an angle, as per the Zimbabwe ruins.
- Structure made from impervious stone.
- The base to be made from smooth stones.
- Rolls of Honour to be inlaid into the surrounding wall.
- Dedication Stone, RNR Badge & RAR Badge and brief history to be inlaid into the column.
- Structure to be 6' 6" to 7' high.
- Base approx 18" across
- Column base 5' across tapering to 3' 6" approx
- Dedication stone to be in Chinyanja or Chichewa, Shona, Ndebele and English



### National Memorial Arboretum

The National Memorial Arboretum honours the fallen. It is a spiritually uplifting place as a world renowned centre for Remembrance.

A unique haven of peace, contemplation and hope, the Arboretum consists of 150 acres of trees and memorials set within the National Forest in Staffordshire. Website: [www.thenma.org.uk](http://www.thenma.org.uk)



The National Memorial Arboretum's Trustees have approved, in principle, the proposed memorial to the Rhodesia Native Regiment and Rhodesian African Rifles. They have already approved, and arrangements are in place for the planting of a tree and a memorial plaque in the area allocated to the East Africa Regiments.

### Seeking Clifford Griffiths

Dennis Shaw writes:

*"An old mate of mine was in the Rhodesian Para's after Vietnam. He is originally from Kenya and went to Australia when he was a boy. I think he would have been in Rhodesia in the early 70s. His name is Clifford Griffiths. His parents lived in Maylands, Perth WA. I lost touch with him some years ago and another good mate of his and myself*

would like to find out if he is ok and rekindle our mateship. I am an Aussie Vietnam Vet and met Cliff through a Kiwi airborne vet called Dave Semms, now deceased. Cliff would be in his early 60's he is 4-5 years younger than me."

Please direct replies to Dennis at [djsbiz@westnet.com.au](mailto:djsbiz@westnet.com.au)

#### The name lives on.....

One of those much passed on emails that do the rounds interested me. It stated:

*"We are running the Brit Cricket (Andy Flower), Navy (George Zambellas), and Defence (Sir Gen Micheal Walker), and if the Pound starts slipping, we can ship Gideon Gono over to sort the Bank of England out!! Harold Wilson is going bananas in his grave and Ian Smith is dancing like a youth at a rave concert."*

I followed up to try and straighten out some facts and this is what I found:

Andy Flower – Was born in Cape Town in 1968. He attended Vainona High School in Salisbury. He went on to captain the Zimbabwe Cricket side.

George Zambellas - His early years were spent in Rhodesia, before going to England to attend Stowe School and Southampton University to study Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. He worked in the aerospace industry for a time before joining the Royal Navy in 1980, qualifying as a helicopter pilot in 1982 and clocking up 1500 deck landings and 2000 flying hours in three tours. Promoted Vice Admiral in January 2011, he was appointed Deputy Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Chief of Staff to Navy Command Headquarters, and Chief Naval Warfare Officer. Vice Admiral George Zambellas will be Commander-in-Chief Fleet from January 2012

General Sir Michael Walker – Was born in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia in 1944 to parents William Hampden Dawson Walker and Dorothy Helena Walker (née Shiach), Walker was educated both in Southern Rhodesia and in Yorkshire, first at Milton School, Bulawayo and then at Woodhouse Grove School, West Yorkshire.

#### Troopie Statue

I field a lot of emails asking for directions to view the Troopie Statue. The statue is on Lord Salisbury's estate, Hatfield House which is twenty one miles north of London. See [www.hatfield-house.co.uk](http://www.hatfield-house.co.uk) for visitor details etc.

Until then  
Cheers  
Hugh



**Celebrate 'Rhodesia Day'\* on the 11<sup>th</sup> November each year**

\*The concept of 'Rhodesia Day' originates from Eddy Norris and family. During the 90 year life span of Rhodesia we experienced the best of times and the worst of times. I encourage everyone to use this day to remember the good times as well as remembering those who are no longer with us.

#### Rhodesian Services Association donations.

You can make a donation to the Rhodesian Services Association by clicking on our 'Collection Hat' below which is a typical slouch hat of the type used by the Rhodesian Army up until the 1960's. Click on the hat or this link:

[https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=MLMB2B8Y2UY3G](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MLMB2B8Y2UY3G)

and if you are registered with PayPal the process will be immediate. If you are not a PayPal member you will be given instruction on how to make a credit card payment via PayPal. Thank you - every bit helps.



This newsletter is compiled by Hugh Bomford, Newsletter Editor of the Rhodesian Services Association. It contains many personal views and comments which may not always be the views of the Association or Committee.

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