



Contact! Contact!

March 2012

A monthly sitrep for the

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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

Greetings,

Work on the Rhodesia Regiment book project is proceeding with urgency now with a number of people working through the first version of the manuscript. Consensus is that our contracted author Peter Baxter has done a sterling job. We must not lose sight of the fact that this project would not be where it is without the input of hundreds of people around the world, as well as the memory of our family and friends no longer with us. They provide the inspiration that drives us on when some of us sit in front of computers at some stupid hour in the morning, only to nod off in front of the TV or wherever we find a moment to have a cat nap - a bit like back in the day when you found time to sleep whenever the situation presented itself. It is a job that has to be done and we have the people to do it - be assured.

We still have various requests for information in relation to the Rhodesia Regiment book. Please refer to the section on the book further on in this newsletter.

ANZAC Day is just around the corner. Please view our Events Page at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/events.htm> for a list of known contacts for parades in main centres in Australia and New Zealand. Anyone organising assemblies or advertising for other Rhodesians in their area is welcome to email me details which I will put up on the page.

We are still getting to grips with the computer upgrade in relation to the new format and delivery of the newsletter and address book, please bear with us and check with your friends to see that they are receiving it.

Rhodesian Services Association Purpose & Web Links

The Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated is an Incorporated Society as well as a Registered Charity under the New Zealand Charities Act 2005. The purpose of the Association is to provide benefit and education to the community. For detail and disclosure please refer to the opening page of our website www.rhodesianservices.org

We also 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. 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 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 to arrange delivery if required.



From the RLI Regimental Association:

*"It is with regret that we advise you of the death of **Roger Blain** on 22nd January 2012. Roger served in 3 Commando between 1961 -70."*

*"It is with regret that we inform you of the death of **Leon Du Rand**. Leon was murdered in his home in the early hours of Tuesday morning (14 February 2012) by what appears to have been burglars. Leon lived in George, South Africa. A manhunt is still underway.*

Leon was 2 Commando, 8 Troop. Our most sincere sympathies go to Merle and the girls."

From the Selous Scout Association:

*"It is with great sadness that we report on the death of **Jim Lafferty**. He passed away on 11th February 2012 in Bulawayo, without recovering from the brain injuries he received in a motorcycle accident in November last year.*

Whispering Jim was one of the real characters of the Selous Scouts, and will be remembered for his fearless and long serving dedication to the regiment.

Our condolences to his family, friends and comrades.

Pamwe Chete good friend"

*"**Piet Opperman** died yesterday morning on his 55th Birthday. It appears that he was killed in a motor accident. Tim Bax discovered this when he sent birthday wishes and was later advised that Piet had died earlier in the morning. Piet was initially 2 Commando RLI, then Scouts and then 5 Recce, Phalaborwa and from what I can gather also 1 Recce before giving up his military career. Another really good Ouen departs from us."*

From Cherith Roberts:

Anthony (Tony) Rowell – ex RLI passed away 6th January 2012 after many years of severe paralysis following a stroke. Tony lived out his last days a lonely man at Athol Evans Hospital. Divorced, he had two daughters who reside in the UK.

Trevor Sydney Wright 06/09/1940 - 27/01/2012. Tony served in the BSAP from 1958 to 1966 where he was Top Recruit/Top Shot. He subsequently served in the Rhodesian Air Force where he was a Warrant Officer and managed a farm in the Centenary area.

He was awarded the following medals:

Exemplary Service Medal.

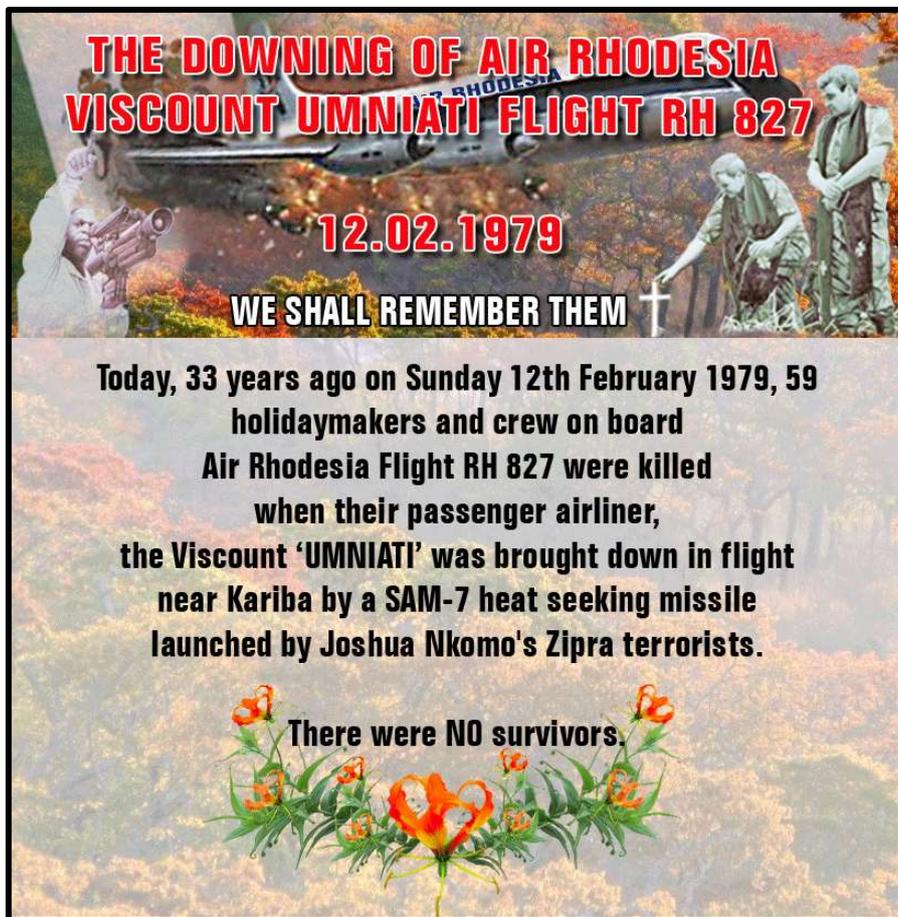
Rhodesian General Service Medal.

Zimbabwe Independence Medal.

Trevor was a member of Air Force Rifle, Pistol & Skeet Clubs and passed away 27th January after many years of illness. He is sadly missed by his wife of 50 years Denise, and daughters Tracey in South Africa and Hayley in Australia; his sons-in-law Douglas Alexander and Gregory Rosati; grandchildren Kelly, Kathleen and Erin Alexander and Sebastian Rosati.

In Memorial

The basis of material below supplied by Bronwyn Grey



The Viscount "UMNIATI" Flight RH 827

Pilots:

Captain Jan Andre du Plessis, 50
First Officer Michael Thomas Moolman, 37

Air Hostesses:

Kathryn Jan Creigh-Smith, 29 Que Que
Caroline Lynette du Chemin, 21 Bulawayo
Regina Chigwada, 23 Bulawayo

Passengers:

Mrs Lynnette Ballentyne, 25 Rhodesia
Mr Arthur Bensusan, 66 Rhodesia
Mrs Brenda Betts, 36 Rhodesia
Mark Betts, 11 Rhodesia
Russell Betts, 9 Rhodesia
Mrs Annette Billington, 35 Rhodesia
Miss Martha Blignaut, 37 South Africa
Mr Desmond Boyd, 53 New Zealand
Mrs Gladys Boyd, 49 New Zealand
Noel Boyd, 26 New Zealand
Ian Boyd, 25 New Zealand
Andrea Boyd, 16 New Zealand
Leonie Boyd, 14 New Zealand
Mr George Dardagan, 44 Rhodesia
Mrs Ursula Dardagan, 47 Rhodesia
Miss Margaret Davies, 35 UK
Francis Deleplanque, 50 Belgium
Mrs Pauline Delpont, 26 Rhodesia
Mr Ian Dempsey, 34 Rhodesia
Mr Bertrand De Rham, 27 Switzerland
Mr Jules Descampe, 67 Belgium
Mrs Adele Descampe, 66 Belgium
Mr Derek Ebben, 59 Rhodesia
Mr Edwin Fairlie, 76 Rhodesia
Mrs Nancy Fairlie, 66 Rhodesia
Mr William Francois, 30 Unknown
Mr Christian Gobey, 52 Unknown

Mr Donald Goldin, 46 Wankie
Mr Peter Gray, 67 UK
Andrew Hardinge, 14 Rhodesia
Mr Michael Harraghy, 37 UK
Patricia Ings, 36 Unknown
Mr Ronald Isitt, 55
Mr Ide Maere, 54 UK
Mrs Stephane Maere, 56 Belgium
Lt Andrea Mason, 32 Rhodesia
Miss Susan Morgan, 25 Rhodesia
Miss Beauty Muzondo, 25 Rhodesia
Mr Robert Plouvier, 55 Belgium
Major Neville Powell, 45 Rhodesia
Mrs Nerene Quinsee, 32 Norton
Miss Lynn Rees, 21 Rhodesia
Miss Gillian Tabor, 22 Rhodesia
Mr Paul Tasker, 19 Rhodesia
Mr John Teede, 54 Rhodesia
Mrs Sheila Teede, 54 Rhodesia
Mrs Linda Thomson Mann, 22 Unknown
Mr Hendrik van der Merwe, 33 Unknown
Mrs Johanna Viljoen, 53 Kamativi
Miss Denise Viljoen, 17 Kamativi
Mr Robert Vergette, 30 Unknown
Mrs Deirdre Wakefield, 41 Rhodesia
Mr Edward Wigg, 37 Unknown
Mr Loris Zucchini, 54 Rhodesia

The Downing of the 'Umniati' was the second occasion of such atrocity, only five months earlier, the Viscount 'Hunyani' on Flight RH 825 was also shot down by Nkomo's ZIPRA terrorists with a SAM 7 missile, causing the deaths of forty eight passengers and crew, including ten crash site survivors who were shot and bayoneted to death by a second group of terrorists.

Just as before, leaders of the Western Governments cowered in silence, without a word of condemnation - for the sake of their political careers while supporting the terrorist forces of Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe.

Appropriately, their unacceptable hush was identified as "The Deafening Silence" by the Reverend Da Costa in his Memorial Service; that silence prevails to this day.

The destruction of Rhodesian passenger aircraft in flight was successfully employed to demoralise the entire population and to intimidate the government into submission. History shows that these events were noticed and favoured by other terrorist groups as a means to achieve similar results elsewhere in the world and were the forerunners of the Lockerbie and 9/11 style attacks that followed.

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:

thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org

theeditor@rhodesianservices.org

thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org

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.

The following subscriber's addresses have gone dead. If you are in contact with them please have them contact me or relist from the link on this page <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.php>

- **Alex & Cheryl Anderson** - New Zealand
- **Jacque Loney** – New Zealand
- **Clifford Brown** – New Zealand
- **Richard Hall** – New Zealand
- **Heather Euinton** – New Zealand
- **David Rockingham-Gill** – Zimbabwe
- **Glyn Thomas** – Canada?
- **Ray Robertson** – Australia
- **Rod & Karen McLean** – New Zealand
- **Frank Tunney** – Australia
- **Lew Lloyd-Evans** – South Africa

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

From the Secretary's Desk

Felicitations,



Bidding on the auction for the original painting by Craig Bone, kindly donated by the artist to help raise funds for the Association's museum has started slowly. This painting which features a Fish Eagle is framed in solid oak, and measures 1730mm x 1060mm (approx. 68 inches x 42inches).



Please go on line to <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/craig-bone-painting-auction.php> to view more details, register and bid. The auction will close at midnight on 30th April 2012 (New Zealand time) – don't leave bidding to the last minute – an internet technical glitch may result in you losing out. Come on people; let's see the colour of your money.

Talking about money - just a quick reminder to those who haven't renewed their subscriptions - only NZ\$10 and it was due last October. Email me at thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org to obtain payment details best suited to where you live. We intend to send out an email reminder however this has been held up due to the computer upgrade.

Lila Griffiths, an existing Committee member, has taken on the Treasurer's role from Tinka Mushett who has stood down from that position but who will remain on the Committee. Many thanks to Lila for volunteering and big 'thank you' to Tinka for her hard work over the past five years - much appreciated.

The BSAP Association NZ members were offered Associate membership of our Association and this has been accepted by quite a few of their members. Good to have them aboard.

The Alouette III will be relocated (from my garden in Hamilton) to Tauranga soon for the ever willing volunteers at Classic Flyers Museum, who will shortly be finishing their present project, and are looking for something else to work on. It will become part of our display at the Classic Flyers which is also on the move. All of our Rhodesian displays are to be moved out of the main hanger and into Hanger #2. The Alouette, along with all our displays (and some new ones hopefully, will be joining the operational Hawker Hunter. Once again, Hunter and Alo in combination - exciting times ahead!

As you saw from last month's newsletter, we have two well-presented DVD's for sale from the CQ store - 'The Federal Air Force' and one on farming in the Centenary area. They are only NZ\$30 each. Have a look for them on the CQ Store page of our website.

Ciao for now
Chuck

Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings Everyone

Zimbabwe seems to have been the watchword in sport over the last month. Most of it was good and some of it was terrible, so let's get the terrible out of the way first.

I know my fellow countrymen around the world were embarrassed by the display of the Zimbabwe cricket team recently on their tour of New Zealand. I know there are some who will say "ah, but they are a young side and they are still learning" but for me they just did not cut the mustard. Whether playing as Rhodesia or Zimbabwe, we never had the best line up of batsmen or the best attack, but we could match anyone in the world in the field. Watching Zimbabwe fielding recently you could be forgiven for not knowing that this is the country that gave Colin Bland to the world. Veteran Kiwi commentator Grant Nisbett described on air that fielding was a "severe" problem with this

Zimbabwean team. Sadly, ever since politics tore up the Zimbabwean team (and the country) back in 2003 they have never been, and will never be, the same. Well, that is the bad news out of the way so let's look at some more positive events in the last month.

Colin de Grandhomme from Zimbabwe made his debut for New Zealand, coincidentally against his home country of Zimbabwe, in this last series. Some of you may remember his dad Laurence who played for Zimbabwe in the 80's. Laurence's uncle Norman de Grandhomme also played cricket and hockey for Rhodesia, so there is a lot of sporting pedigree in that family. Colin is a big hitting batsman and right arm fast medium bowler who promises much and we wish him all the best as we follow his career.

In the recent Calcutta Cup match played at Murrayfield there were two Zimbabweans playing opposite each other for rugby's oldest trophy. Making his starting debut for Scotland at No 8 was David Denton who had a very good game and looks to be a promising player in the future. He certainly never let the occasion get to him as he won man of the match despite being in the losing team. Should he remain injury free and keep his current form he is a player we will be hearing a lot more about in the years to come. Opposite David, playing Centre for England, was Brad Barritt who was also making his run on debut. While Brad was born in Durban there will be many of you who remember his dad Bruce (Ox) Barritt who played prop for Zimbabwe. We wish both of them the very best of luck in their careers and look forward to following them. For a country with such a small population we certainly have left our mark around the sporting world.

I have to make mention of the men's final at the Australian Open last month. What an epic final by two outstanding sportsmen at the top of their game. It really does not get much better than that.

The Proteas have arrived in New Zealand for a hugely anticipated series against the Black Caps. Super 15 starts next week-end and, along with Six Nations rugby, there is a lot to look forward to after a relatively quiet period over the Christmas holidays.

I would love to hear your feedback, please send me your thoughts to fourstreams@xtra.co.nz

Till next month, go well
Regards
Grunter

Stop Press: It has just been brought to my attention that Dereck Chisora who fought Vitali Klitschko for the WBC world heavyweight title today is also a Zimbabwean. Chisora became only the fourth challenger to take Klitschko the distance and by all accounts put up a credible attempt at the title, despite his antics outside the ring.



Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980 by Gerry van Tonder

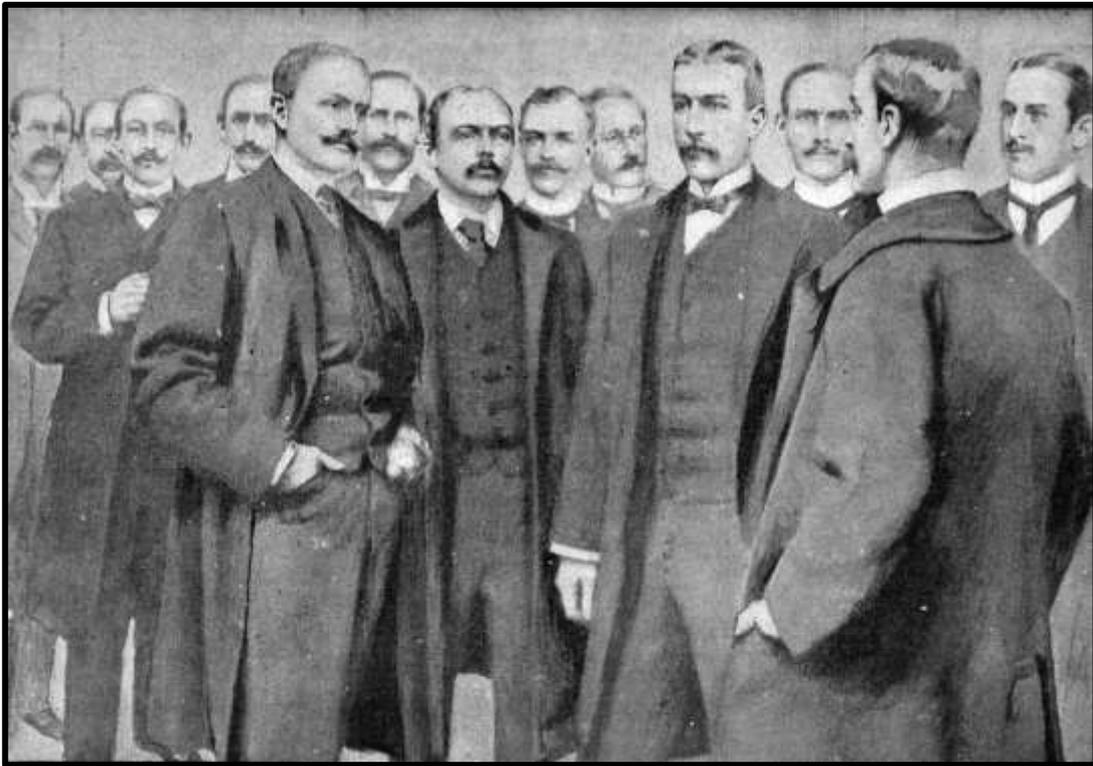


February

Newsflash Headlines+++15 March 1920 The Rhodesia Railways Workers Union leads a strike which brings the country's railway system to a complete halt +++ 24 March 1932 The Government announces funding of £118,000 for roads and public buildings, including a concrete strip road between Salisbury and Beatrice+++15 March 1957 A rampaging Zambezi River in flood drowns 15 and swamps the coffer dam at the Kariba wall construction site+++11 March 1958 Governor General Lord Dalhousie officially opens the Tobacco Producers' Floor which will supplement the sale of 168 million lbs. of leaf across the three floors+++ 02 March 1964 There is growing unrest in Salisbury African township schools as gangs of thugs intimidate pupils into staying away from school in protest over higher school fees+++13 March 1972 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mr John Wrathall says the country will not devalue its currency as prospects of an Anglo-Rhodesian settlement grow+++

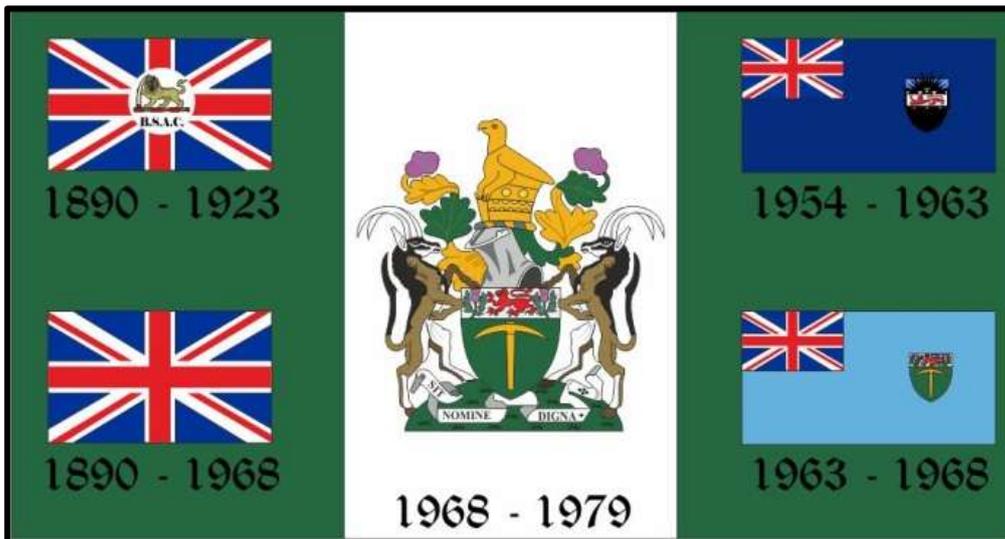
In Brief

In March 1896, Dr Leander Starr Jameson and other members of the infamous Jameson Raid stood trial in Bow Street Court London. The impetuous actions by Jameson led to his capture by Boer forces just outside of Johannesburg. Paul Kruger would hand his captives to Britain for trial. Jameson was found guilty and sentenced to fifteen months in Holloway Prison; he served eleven months. The BSACo was ordered to pay £1 million compensation to the Transvaal Republic.



Jameson and fellow officers of the Raid await trial at the Bow Street Police Station in London.

On 02 March 1970, the Officer administering the Government, Mr Clifford Dupont, enacted the new constitution, effectively severing Rhodesia's 80-year link with the British crown. The only other person present at the historic event which saw the birth of the Republic of Rhodesia, was Prime Minister Mr Ian Smith.



Flags of Rhodesia by Dudley Wall.

On 03 March 1978, the agreement to an internal settlement was signed at the Public Services Training Centre in Salisbury, initiating the process which would lead to a black-ruled Zimbabwe by the end of the year. The signatories included Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith, Bishop Abel Muzorewa (President UANC), Rev Ndabaningi Sithole (President ANC-Sithole), and Senator Chief Jeremiah Chirau (ZUPO).

Reflections on an Unseen Enemy.....



Rhodesian Ministry of Information photo of test explosion.

An intense fireball surrounded by black smoke, choking clouds of dust and metallic debris - the signature of the devastating force of a landmine detonation. In the aftermath the dust settles and a stricken mine-protected vehicle lays several metres from the site of the blast, one set of rear double wheels and the fuel tank separate from the capsule which is largely intact.



Rhodesian Ministry of Information photo of test explosion.

This was one of many tests conducted by the Rhodesian authorities and commercial contractors at the Cleveland Range just outside Salisbury. This particular test, carried out in 1978, concluded that occupants in the capsule would most likely have survived the blast, further evidence that the Rhodesian Forces were more successfully countering the threat from landmines with an array of "home-made" protected vehicles.

Early in 1971, an RLI Ford F-250 truck detonated a landmine just across the Mukumbura River in Mozambique, resulting in the deaths of Trevor Wentzel, Leonard Moorcroft and George Meyer, all of Support Group, the Rhodesian Light Infantry. Three others survived. They were the first Rhodesian landmine casualties.

The first civilian landmine incident occurred in the Mana Pools Game Reserve on 30 August 1972 when farmer Maurice Ellement and his family detonated a ZIPRA-laid landmine. Incredibly, they all survived, his wife and son unscathed, but Mr Ellement later lost a leg as a result of the explosion. Two other children in the car sustained minor cuts. Their car was a Citroen DS19, an unconventionally designed car for its time, but the "veldskoen" shape saved their lives as the front right wheel which detonated the mine was far enough away from the passenger cab so that the blast largely missed its occupants.

Pictured below is part of a small display in the Rhodesian Services Association Museum and Archives. The photo is of the Ellement's car as well as metal fragments. Jeremy Davies, a schoolboy from Marandellas, was holidaying at Mana Pools when this incident occurred. He, and others, were taken to the scene by the BSAP. Jeremy took a photo of the Citroen and also extracted metal fragments, probably part of the landmine, from the blast crater. Jeremy gave these to his school friend Hugh Bomford, who squirreled them away and later took them to New Zealand in 1981 from where they ended up with the Rhodesian Services Association. A unique piece of Rhodesian history, I am sure you will agree?



Ellement's Citroen and landmine fragments. Photo Rhodesian Services Association and J Davies.

The Bush War would witness the design and manufacture of a plethora of mine-protected vehicles, from the early Land Rover based Rhino to the large troop carriers such as the Crocodile and the Puma. Individuals such as Don Hollingworth and Dave Perkins of the BSAP were leading pioneers, particularly in the conversion of Land Rover chassis in a way which would offer the occupants greater safety. Standard Land Rovers with roll-bars and armour plate protected cabs were common place, as were the more robust capsule-protected Rhinos.



A very early Rhino, carrying "INTAF 1" number plates (note the Alfa Romeo grill in front)

SDO Dudley Wall, a 'veteran' of three landmine detonations, relates his first in the book INTAF: Paramilitary Civilians in Rhodesia's Bush War. Driving a typical government mine-protected Land Rover...

"Being the driver, I felt that the Land Rover lifted suddenly into the air and was completely uncontrollable. A loud sharp crack accompanied thick dust and sand in an upwards-swirling mass, both in and outside of the Land Rover. Bits of metal flew all over in all directions. Hot oil from the engine came up through the now almost non-existent floorboards and burnt into the skin of the back and inside of my thighs. The windscreen became cracked in hundreds of places and became an instant opaque dull colour, covered with the mixture of water from the radiator and the dirt. My safety belt snapped, and once the Land Rover came to earth with a thud, the driver's door crumpled like tissue paper, and the glass window disappeared in a puff of dust and smoke.

My rifle was jammed between the accelerator pedal and the now buckled door and, in fact, was also a bit bent in the process. The anti-tank land mine was detonated by the right front wheel directly in front of my feet.

Only the metal mine protection plate was between me and being converted into instant mincemeat. Later I discovered from the sappers that the mine had been a Russian TM 57 type.

Rob was still sitting in the passenger's seat. He had been holding his FN rifle between his legs with the butt resting on the floor between his feet. The impact of the land mine had lifted his rifle and it had hit Rob in the face. The flash eliminator had gone into the socket of his eye and had forced the eyeball to pop out. It was now dangling on the end of some sinew in the vicinity of his nose and there was blood everywhere.

The escort vehicle behind us had stopped in the meanwhile and the DAs had debussed and taken up all-round defence. As per drills they had fired several rounds into the thick undergrowth along both sides of the road. I tried to get my rifle out of the now totally destroyed Land Rover, but could not do so due to its new shape and position. Luckily I also had a pistol with me, but it was of little comfort.



Photo by Dudley Wall

In the meanwhile, more rounds were being fired and I was not quite sure if we were now being ambushed. Poor old Rob got out of his side of the Land Rover and was yelling to me to sort his eye out. I tried to shove the eyeball back into the socket but it did not work as the sinew was too long and got in the way. I wrapped a shell dressing over it and told him to hang on. All he wanted to know was if it was bad. Naturally it was, but I could not really tell him this, as there was no time for idle chitchat.

We had not yet been issued with decent radios, so I consolidated our position, appointed the sergeant to take charge and defend the scene, and then ran off with a lance corporal on foot to a business centre some four kilometres away to use their telephone. We got through quickly and by the time we got back to the scene of the incident an Air Force Alouette helicopter was circling to land. Rob was casevaced and we were picked up by vehicle after the sappers swept the road again. The Land Rover was recovered later but was never ever the same again!!"

Ernest Konschel would lead the field in the development of a monocoque vehicle, characterised by offset front and rear wheels and engine, thereby moving the main impact of the blast away from the armoured capsule and its passengers. His efforts culminated in the birth of the ubiquitous Leopard, used by the security forces, government

departments and commercial farmers alike. Konschel, who would also design the mainstay of the Engineers mine-detecting equipment, the Pookie, was awarded the Medal for Meritorious Service in recognition of his outstanding work in this field.



During the eight years of the Bush War, passenger fatalities from landmine detonations involving mine-protected vehicles amounted to less than two per cent, attesting to the effectiveness of Rhodesian innovation. Tragically however, and as is inevitably the case in any situation of conflict, the innocent suffer the most. Fatalities resulting from landmine explosions where unprotected, mainly civilian vehicles, were involved, amounted to twenty three per cent.



As a sad footnote, just before Christmas 2011, Ernest and Daphne Konschel, both in their eighties, were to be deported from Australia back to South Africa, as they were deemed to be a burden on the taxpayer. The Australian immigration minister overturned the decision on "compassionate or common sense grounds."

Above and Beyond

On 24 March 1978 the award of Rhodesia's highest gallantry medal, the Grand Cross of Valour, to 780762 Acting Captain Christophel Ferdinand Schulenburg S.C.R. was gazetted



Grand Cross of Valour

One of only two recipients ever to receive this top accolade for bravery, Chris Schulenburg's citation refers to his "extraordinary powers of tenacity" and the "ability to sustain the extremes of physical and mental pressures." In his

countless high-risk tasks in very dangerous and lonely situations, he has "displayed a brand of cold courage which has inspired members of his unit and served as an example to us all."

We salute a true Rhodesian warrior.

A Snapshot in Time

In this month's column I am introducing something new, which I am simply calling A Snapshot in Time, in which a photo from Rhodesia's military past will be presented with a view to having our readers identify and comment, either to the Editor Hugh, or directly to me. These photos will not carry captions.

This month's is a dramatic, lively photo, "At the Charge!" (Spot the 5th member of the patrol).



Photo from JD White collection

At the Going Down of the Sun

28 March 1978

Killed about forty minutes flying time by chopper directly south of Shabani and not far to the west of Buchwa Mine (map ref TM 119599) in the Op Repulse area. Elements of C Coy 9RR, on protection duty at a nearby mine, were called in to assist with a 3 Cdo RLI fire force action. Contact was made with 8 ZIPRA terrorists; four were killed and two captured, but not before four members of the Security Forces were killed. Andriolakis (who was posthumously awarded the BCR for bravery in this action), Hancock, Boschin and Mtandwa were all killed in this engagement.

(Source: Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour as related by Lt John Cronin, who directed the contact from a K-Car helicopter.)



We remember...



PR65886 Cpl. Leonidas Andriolakis BCR (Posthumous)



700707 Rfn. Ugo Boschin (posthumously awarded the MFC-Ops)



42691 Rfn. John Hancock



651418 Pte. Cephas Mtandwa

Bryant Update

One of Alan Bryant's latest highly commendable restoration projects in the Bulawayo cemeteries is the grave of Major Joseph Cyril Brundell of the BSAP, who passed away in 1938. 1142 Brundell was attested into the force on 11 June 1901. He would become Officer Commanding CID in Bulawayo.



Another fine transformation of a neglected grave (Photos A Bryant)

Across the Globe

- On 09 March 1932 the Sydney Harbour Bridge is officially opened
- On 10 March 1969 James Earl Ray assassinates Martin Luther King Jr

On 29 March 1973 the last United States troops leave South Vietnam

And.....

On 09 March 1959 Barbie Doll makes her debut at the American Toy Fair in New York, costing \$3!

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 for more details of the monthly social meetings generally based around the Hobsonville RSA. All are most welcome. Next social is: Friday 9th March 2012 from 6pm onwards at the Massey Archery Club, Redhills Road, Massey North (just off Don Buck Road). You can purchase snacks at the Archery Club - toasted sandwiches, chips and whatever may be on the menu. The bar will be open. Wolf will sign you in. We look forward to seeing you all again after a hectic Christmas and New Year.

TAURANGA

The Garrison Club which is run by the 6th 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 2nd Friday of every month with proceeds being donated to the Hauraki Museum. Email me at 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 9th March 2012.

ANZAC Day Wednesday 25th April 2012

Services and parades are held throughout the country. Contact your local RSA to see what is done in your town.

The Rhodesian Services Association gathers at the Hobsonville RSA, Auckland in force. Please be at the RSA by 9.30am. After the parade we hold our own service and then socialise in the RSA. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CQ Store

Visit 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 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 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.



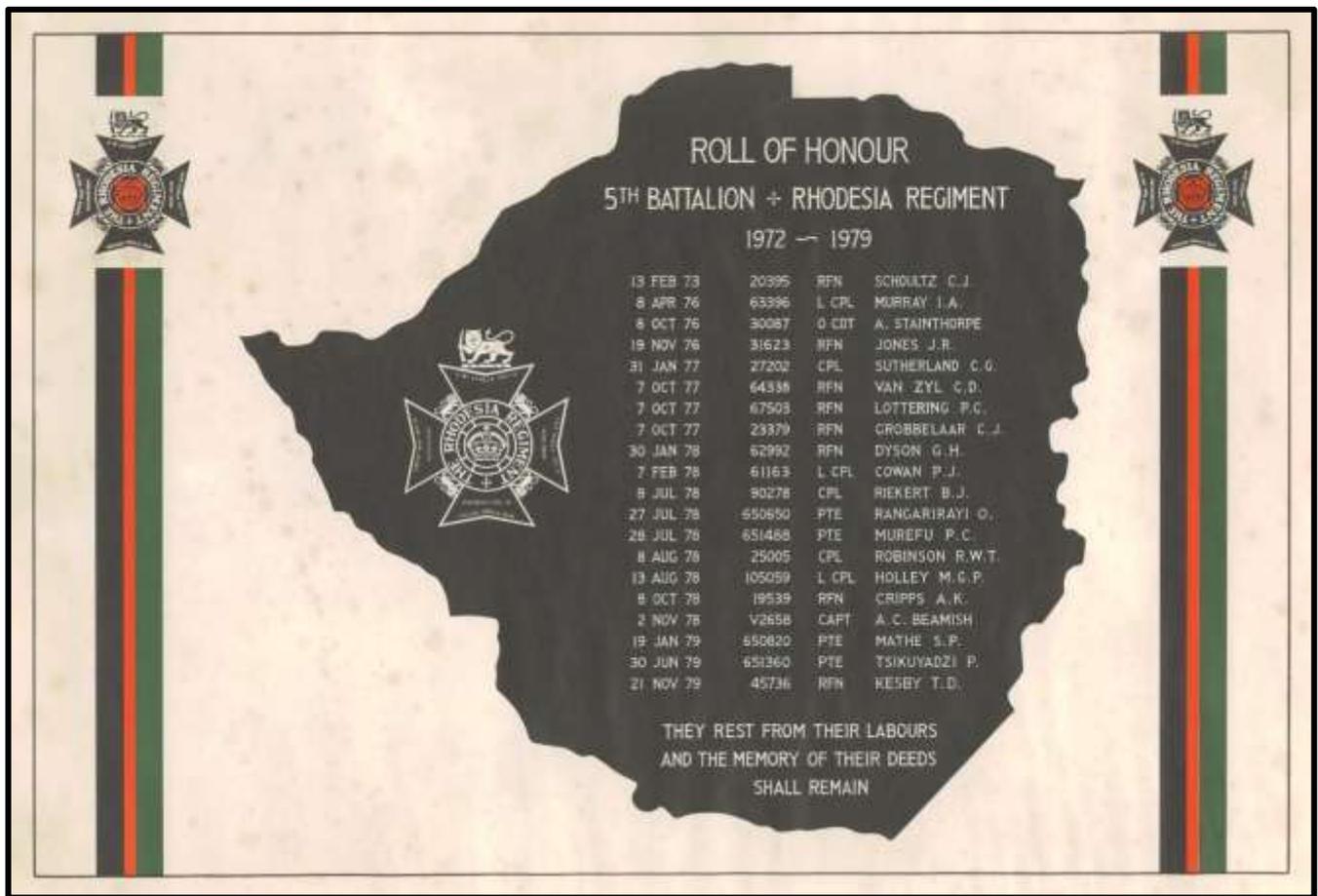
[Other goods](#) - flags, bumper stickers, lighters, and more, as well as quality products direct from our contributing supporters.

New product:

5th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment printed Rolls of Honour 1972-1979. Main printed area is approximately 340mm x 230mm. The unprinted section outside the border line is larger than what is illustrated below.

These 5RR RoHs were originally produced in 1979 in honour of those who gave their lives whilst serving with 5RR. They have been donated to us by Buck Jones who served in 5RR.

Price \$25 plus postage.



We have a good stock of Rhodesian Rugby jerseys in all sizes with short or long sleeve – one price for all: NZ\$125. Our costs are high and margins small, so we like to keep our stock turning over. Our jerseys are the most authentic reproductions of the Rhodesian Rugby jersey on the market. We are awaiting your orders!



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. 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.

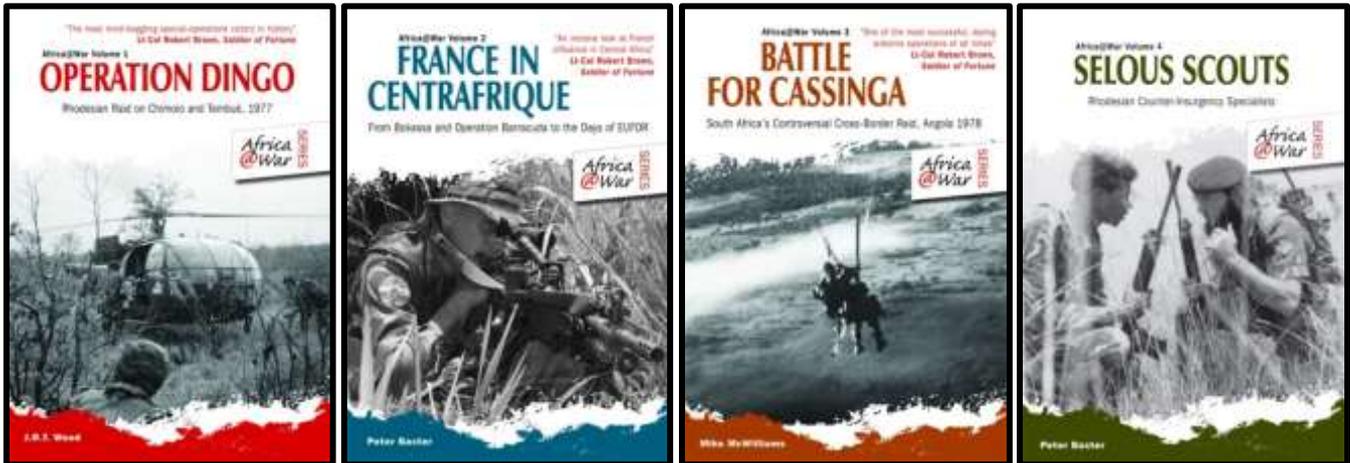
This month's recommended buys:

Africa @ War Series

The first four volumes of the much anticipated series of short histories produced as a result of a joint venture between 30 Degrees South Publishing in South Africa and Helion & Co in England are now in stock. Helion & Co are one of the world's leading specialist publishers and sellers of military history.

Collect the whole series – don't leave it too late and run the risk of finding some of the books are out of print.

Each book is \$30 plus postage.



Volume 1 Operation Dingo - Rhodesian Raid on Chimoio and Tembué 1977 by JRT Wood

Startling in its innovation and daringly suicidal, Operation Dingo was not only the Fireforce concept writ large but the prototype for all the major Rhodesian airborne attacks on the external bases of Rhodesian African nationalist insurgents in the neighbouring territories of Mozambique and Zambia until such operations ceased in late 1979. Fireforce as a military concept is a 'vertical envelopment' of the enemy (first practised by SAS paratroopers in Mozambique in 1973), with the 20mm cannon being the principle weapon of attack, mounted in an Alouette III K-Car ('Killer car'), flown by the air force commander, with the army commander on board directing his ground troops deployed from G-Cars (Alouette III troop-carrying gunships and latterly Bell 'Hueys' in 1979) and parachuted from C-47 Dakotas. In support would be a propeller-driven ground-attack aircraft and on call would be Canberra bombers, Hawker Hunter and Vampire jets. On 23 November 1977, the Rhodesian Air Force and 184 SAS and RLI paratroopers attacked 10,000 ZANLA cadres based at 'New Farm', Chimoio, 90 kilometres inside Mozambique. Two days later, the same force attacked 4,000 guerrillas at Tembué, another ZANLA base, over 200 kilometres inside Mozambique, north of Tete on the Zambezi River. Estimates of ZANLA losses vary wildly; however, a figure exceeding 6,000 casualties is realistic. The Rhodesians suffered two dead, eight wounded, and lost one aircraft. It would produce the biggest SAS-led external battle of the Rhodesian bush war.

Volume 2 France In Centrafrique - From Bokassa and Operation Barracuda to the Days of EUFOR by Peter Baxter

France in Centrafrique explores the early colonial and post-colonial history of French Equatorial Africa with a particular emphasis on the role of the Central African Republic in the Second World War and the Free French Movement. One of the key figures to emerge from this period, and a man who would shape the modern destiny of the Central African Republic, was Jean-Bédél Bokassa. Bokassa served alongside the Free French under General Charles de Gaulle and later in the metropolitan French military as an NCO in Indo-China. The narrative traces his ascent from these humble beginnings to his position as one of the region's most notorious dictators, exploring both his excesses of violence and personal aggrandizement and the role played by France and the wide-reaching Foccart intelligence network in his rise and fall. Baxter examines the past and present relationship of France with her erstwhile African colonial possessions, giving substance to the cause and effect of the many French interventions and the play of various individual personalities, both French and African, and how this has affected the current complexion of the region and its ongoing relationship with France. The book traces the overt and covert French military actions in the region, the rise of internal violence and insecurity and the increasing involvement of the international community in the series of coups and counter-coups that characterized the 1990s and the new century. Featured are Operation Barracuda, Operations Almandin I, II and III, Operation Boali and the various regional, international and European regional interventions.

Volume 3 Battle For Cassinga - South Africa's Controversial Cross-Boarder Raid, Angola 1978 by Mike McWilliams

Battle for Cassinga is the first-hand account by a South African paratrooper who was involved in the 1978 assault on the Angolan headquarters of PLAN, SWAPO's armed wing. The battle, although a resounding success, suffered setbacks which could have proved disastrous to the South Africans had they not maintained the initiative. The improvisations made by Colonel Jan Breytenbach ensured that a flawed jump and inadequate intelligence did not adversely affect the outcome. The unforeseen Soviet-supplied SWAPO anti-aircraft guns used devastatingly in a ground role also threatened to derail the attack. A late appearance by a large Cuban/FAPLA (Angolan regulars) armoured column, from the nearby town of Techamutete, threatened to engulf the lightly armed paratrooper force still

on the ground. A fierce rearguard action, together with the almost suicidal actions of the South African Air Force pilots, ultimately saved the day.

McWilliams examines why the South African government took the political risk in attacking 'Fortress Cassinga' in a cross-border operation that would clearly attract the ire of the world. He studies SWAPO claims that Cassinga was a refugee camp guarded by only a few PLAN soldiers, explaining why Sam Nujoma, the SWAPO leader, had no option but to perpetuate this falsehood. He looks dispassionately at all the players involved: SWAPO/PLAN and their commander Dimo Amaambo who fled the field of battle; the Cuban and FAPLA intervention; and the South African paratroopers, led by Breytenbach, who not only had to combat a determined enemy but also senior South African staff officers. Above all, it is a soldier's tale which pays homage in equal parts to the bravery of the paratroopers and the determination of the PLAN fighters who stood to their guns until annihilated.

Volume 4 Selous Scouts - Rhodesian Counter-Insurgency Specialists by Peter Baxter

Formed in 1973 by legendary Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Reid-Daly at the behest of Rhodesian military supremo General Peter Walls, the Selous Scouts were to write their name into the annals of military history as one of the finest counter-insurgency units of all time, through their innovative pseudo-guerrilla tactics, brilliant reconnaissance operations into Zambia and Botswana and daring flying-column raids into Mozambique.

Fearing and hated by the liberation movements ZIPRA and ZANLA, the Scouts wreaked untold havoc and destruction on their Soviet- and Chinese-backed enemies, accounting for 68% of guerrilla casualties within Rhodesia alone during the bitter bush war of the 1970s. Uniquely ahead of its time, the regiment - a brotherhood of men that traversed cultural and racial barriers; their Shona motto was 'Pamwe Chete' (together only) - was to produce the type of soldier that earned for the unit one Grand Cross of Valour, nine Silver Crosses and twenty two Bronze Crosses of Rhodesia.



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:

- ❖ 6th 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
- ❖ National Service Intake numbers, dates and details – please email Gerry van Tonder at g.van-tonder@sky.com with details.
- ❖ We have some conflicting information relating to Intakes 120 to 125. Please can anyone from those intakes, who has not already contacted Gerry van Tonder do so urgently on email g.van-tonder@sky.com
- ❖ 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 with details.
- ❖ We require someone skilled on Google Earth to extract and mark some maps for us. Please email 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
- ❖ We require photos and details of rifle grenades and hand grenades used in the 1970's. Email 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 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.

Roan Antelope Music special for March 2012

Hi Folks,

We have in store for you, not a shirt, not a cap, not a CD, but a book - a very unique book titled "Behind the Songs" by John Edmond.

This compact publication contains the words of 237 of John Edmond's most popular recorded compositions and includes stories about each song describing how it came about and what inspired John to write it and the underlying philosophy behind each song. For the non-musician it is a very interesting and pleasant read; almost like a poetry book. For the musically minded the guitar chords of every song are included. At the back of the book are charts of forty eight different chords and how to play them. The book also catalogues which CD the songs are available on.

A must have for every John Edmond music fan - indeed a unique collector's item.

This unique publication and life's work of John's covers all the various topics and subjects that he has written about, from war, wildlife, romance, humour, aviation and human stories.

We have had other books on the market before, but this one will surpass them all because it is complete and one of a kind.

All our friends, Rhodies and countrymen, go on to our website to order and to see more on the book.

Our launch price for "Behind the Songs" by John Edmond will be ZAR275. For P+P add the following to the price: SA free; UK R105; USA R100; AUS R140; NZ R145

We would like to let the cat out the bag to all our Rhodie friends.... please visit our Kunkuru web site www.kunkuru.co.za for the Rhodie weekend planned for September 2012. See you there!

Roan Antelope Music www.johnedmond.co.za

Email: info@johnedmond.co.za

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

Buckles and Tees 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 with your order or query or go to www.bucklesandtees.co.nz and do it on-line.

The Global Forked Stick - Snippets and Requests

The Late Air Zimbabwe

This article that follows was published earlier this month (February) on a number of websites:

"It flew profitably through twenty three years of United Nations-imposed sanctions. It carried on without a blip after black nationalist guerrillas shot down two of its Viscounts in the late 1970s, the last years of white-ruled Rhodesia. After independence in 1980, its name was changed from Air Rhodesia to Air Zimbabwe. It was comfortably in the [financial] black with sixteen aircraft, and a reputation as a clever, durable little African airline. It has taken President Mugabe thirty one years without war or economic sanctions to finally drive it into the ground.

The last Air Zimbabwe domestic flight was three weeks ago. Late last year it cancelled international flights after a Boeing 737 at Johannesburg's Oliver Tambo Airport and a Boeing 767 at Gatwick were impounded for unpaid services.

On Friday last week lawyers for the National Airways Workers' Union and the Air Transport Union filed for the airline to be placed under judicial management. Court papers said they had not been paid since January 2009 and were owed

US\$35 million. Air Zimbabwe executives who asked not to be named said the company owed a total of US\$160 million.

Among the many reluctant benefactors who bailed it out in emergencies is Nicholas van Hoogstraaten, the former London rack-renter who has recreated himself as one of Zimbabwe's most influential businessmen. "The demise of Air Zimbabwe is a disgraceful waste of a valuable asset, which is now beyond redemption," he said.

The "disgrace" he refers to is the blundering mismanagement and greed Mr Mugabe and his cronies have visited upon every enterprise they have touched since he came to power in 1980. From the outset, Mr Mugabe used Air Zimbabwe as his personal air taxi. The abuse was legendary. Passengers were ordered off their flights when he turned up at thirty minutes notice with a crowd of hangers-on. Or if they managed to keep their seats, they would be flown to wildly out-of-the-way destinations to drop off the president. On one trip, he circumnavigated the globe.

Political appointments fill the senior executive positions, and relatives much of the rest. Air Zimbabwe has a staff of 1,400 where experts estimate 400 would be ample. Fares were kept unsustainably low, and charged in worthless Zimbabwe dollars until they were phased out in 2009. It has no board of directors. The company is in the hands of a coterie of executives who, staff say, pay themselves US\$20,000 a month and drive the latest Mercedes Benz models. "They are law unto themselves," said one. Early this month a long-unpaid pilot won a court order for the seizure of company property in lieu of his salary. The sheriff entered Air Zimbabwe headquarters and left with three of the limousines.

"It's become the ZANU(PF) (Mr Mugabe's party) carrier," said a senior technician. Each time the Mugabe "royal family" return from a trip abroad, a 10-tonne truck and several pick-ups can be seen to drive up to the aircraft's hold to be loaded with the Mugabe's goods. Last year, Grace, the president's wife, flew into a rage when her flight was late. Acting CEO Peter Chikumba presented her with US\$10,000 "spending money" by way of an apology. Since the government took control of the fabulously wealthy Marange diamond fields in the east of country, cabin staff say, pilots are regularly given small sealed parcels by Mrs Mugabe's staff for personal delivery to Asian businessmen in the Far East. Just ahead of elections in 2008, an Air Zimbabwe plane flew tonnes of ZANU(PF) T-shirts from Beijing.

But as Air Zimbabwe (Pvt) Ltd crumbles, a new development is secretly unfolding. A plain white 150-seat Airbus A320 with French markings arrived at Harare airport ten days ago and was quickly concealed in an Air Zimbabwe hangar. Company and transport ministry officials have been tight-lipped.

The plane is on loan from Sonangol, a Chinese company with enormous interests ranging through oil, air transport and diamonds, Air Zimbabwe administrators say that a larger Airbus 340 is soon to follow. "It's a ministry of defence project," said one. "It can only be funded by diamonds. ZANU(PF) will not be without their own airline."

Hawker Hunter – King of the Air

Classic Flyers recently organised the second Tauranga Air Show. Following the success of two years ago it was well attended and the weather, although a bit windy, held out. Highlight of the show was the Hawker Hunter that had been in storage for about four years and was only airborne three days before the event, thus underlining what every Rhodesian knows – Hunters are made to fly – you cannot hold them back. This is a most amazing aircraft and while it is originally ex Singapore Air Force it does have Rhodesian connections in that its first tech to work on it when it came to New Zealand was ex Rhodesian Air Force (he has subsequently moved to Australia).

We knew that things were happening when on the Wednesday before the Air Show people saw the Hunter in the skies around Tauranga. I was out of town that day and missed it. On Thursday the Hunter went over my house, soon after that Facebook fired up with reports of it over Hamilton and Auckland. The beast was unleashed!

I was at the Air Show on Sunday and can tell you that while I expected the pilot to be somewhat reserved in his handling of the precious plane, on account of the old girl's age and that up until a few days before sparrows had been doing all sorts of undignified things on her; I was oh so wrong! What a fantastic display we were treated to. It was clocked at just under 1000kph going past the Tauranga Airport control tower. The pilot had it coming in off the sea – dead silent, just like in the days I remember,.....then as it went past you the roar of its engine hit you. In another display of airworthiness the Hunter came steaming in low and fast and then stood on its tail and went vertical, through the clouds and out of sight. It performed rolls and turns like it had just come off the assembly line. This is one amazing machine which is guaranteed to get any Rhodesian's pulse racing.

Don Munroe spotted this article and sent it to me. Click the link below which will provide you with footage of some of the Hunter's display:

<http://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/21314-keeping-hawker-hunter-flying.html>

Historic Flag Reappears

This page of Flagmaster was sent to me by Anthony Hathaway-Taylor and is reproduced with the author's consent.



FLAG INSTITUTE

FLAGMASTER

THE JOURNAL OF THE FLAG INSTITUTE ISSUE 141

HISTORIC MEGA-ENSIGN REAPPEARS One of a Kind

RUDLAND'S MESSAGE

TIME TO TO S.R. INDUSTRY SHOW OFF

RHODESIANS — it's time to show-off. That was the message of the Minister of Trade, Industry and Development, Mr. George Rudland, when he opened the Southern Rhodesian Hall of Industries at the Central African Trade Fair yesterday. Earlier Mr. Rudland suited action to the word, and without any false modesty hoisted to the top of the 75ft. pole the biggest (20ft. by 10ft.) Southern Rhodesian flag in the Colony.

A fanfare of trumpets and a roll of drum, provided by the First Battalion the Rhodesian African Rifles, accompanied this, the first official raising of the Southern Rhodesian flag. The flag was a personal gift from Mr. Rudland, to the Trade Fair.



A trumpeter of the 1st Btn. The Rhodesian African Rifles sounds out a fanfare as the Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr. George Rudland, raises the Southern Rhodesian flag at the Central African Trade Fair.

Cutting from the Rhodesia Herald featuring the Flag

When there is only a single example of a particular flag, it usually disappears or goes into a museum. This is so also with flags where there is only one example in a specific size.

In *Flagmaster* 126, we featured such a flag, a Rhodesian Republic flag, size 10ft x 20ft, in the collection of Bruce Berry. Bruce is an ex-Rhodesian, now living in South Africa. As a child he saw this flag at the Central African Trade Fair in Bulawayo, and longed to possess it.

He has now uncovered another major flag, the light blue ensign of Rhodesia 1964-1968, of the same size as the later one. It too flew over the Trade Fair.

What a coincidence! Bruce finds one of the flags and buys it, then finds its immediate predecessor. And each is unique. No other flags of these patterns were ever made in this size. Each was a one-off for the Trade Fair. And where did Bruce find the second one? In Sweden!

Also, your editor saw the first hoisting of this flag and still has the press-cutting from the *Rhodesia Herald* which told of its debut. How far can coincidence go?

The present owner is Mr Mattias Hansson of Malmö, whom Bruce visited in May 2011. Mr Hansson tells us that the flag was "captured" by a soldier in the Rhodesian

Army, who gave it to another. After a few such exchanges, the flag came up for sale and Mr Hansson bought it. Because of its size, 10 x 20 feet, it cannot be displayed generally. It is brought out on particular occasions.

Mr Hansson is an enthusiast for ensigns, especially British ensigns. So we must be grateful that it came into the possession of a collector who will treasure it. ■

With thanks to Bruce Berry and Mattias Hansson.



Mr Hansson with the Flag

Gunship Ace

From Al J Venter:

"Hugh,

If you click on the link below, you are able to open up the first 20 or so pages of the new book "Gunship Ace" (just released in the US and Britain) and which is the biography of former Rhodesian Neall Ellis.

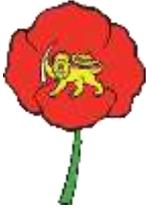
Good bit of interesting stuff. Enjoy!

http://www.amazon.com/GUNSHIP-ACE-Neall-Gunship-Mercenary/dp/1612000703/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1327149002&sr=1-1#reader_B006K14RDY "

Until next time – go well

Cheers

Hugh



Celebrate 'Rhodesia Day'* on the 11th 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

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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