



Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter

PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand.

Web: <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/>

Greetings

I am trying a slightly different format for this newsletter as some people were receiving the Lion and Tusk picture in a tiled effect all over the page. Hopefully this new format in MS Word eliminates this problem. I would appreciate your feedback.

You can access all the old newsletters on the Rhodesian Services Assn. website which is www.rhodesianservices.org Look at the top of the page where it says 'Newsletters' and click on that then click on the individual newsletters and your computer should open them with MS Word.

In future newsletters I plan to cover rat packs from around the world. This newsletter reaches all quarters of the globe and a number of recipients are serving members of various forces. I would like your help. Sending me a sample of your rats would be great, but I suspect that the postage would be expensive and our boarder control may take exception to food items coming in. So, if you can help, please send photos and put something down on an email for inclusion. If your rats are like the Kiwi ones they will have a contents list and suggested menus which means you do not have to do too much writing simply scan or send that to me and I will do the rest.

For a time now I have felt that as this newsletter grows it needs more input and influence from other sources. I have approached John Lomas to assist me. John has a lifetime of journalist experience (one claim to fame was with the 'Rhodesian Farmer'). We will still need your input. Anything you would like to submit for consideration can be emailed to me.

The biggest news in New Zealand recently was the investiture of the NZ SAS soldier, Cpl. Apiata V.C. He is the first New Zealander to receive the Victoria Cross since WWII. Cpl. Apiata enlisted into the New Zealand Army on 6 October 1989 as a Territorial Force soldier with the Tauranga based Hauraki Regiment. He was encouraged to join by friends already in the Hauraki Regiment. There has been many articles written about him, but the best source of reference and photos can be found on the NZ Army website at <http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/news/media-kit/default.htm> Spend a bit of time having a look on that page and viewing the various documents and photos. Those who receive the Victoria Cross are a special breed. Their example of selflessness and bravery should be noted by everyone in this materialistic rat race of a world that we live in.

You will see at the bottom of this newsletter there are two Zimbabwe related articles. I am not of the habit of including Zimbabwe articles because there are many other sources and publications out there that specialise in this, but these two caught my interest and they may not have been seen by some of you.

Urgent Request

Is there anyone in Auckland who can lend a car to one of our members who is arriving from Australia in October for the RV? He needs to drive to Te Awamutu to visit family then to Tauranga for the RV and will return the vehicle to Auckland. The period involved is approximately 17th – 22nd October. Please contact me by email hbomford@clear.net.nz or cell 021 045 8069 if you can help within the next few days.

Obituaries

Shirley Harris died in Johannesburg from complications after having surgery in Harare to mend a twisted bowel. A memorial service was held in Marondera on 22/6/07 on which Sue Tanner reports:-
"The Church was packed. Friends had flown in from South Africa. It was good to see so many familiar faces. Her three grown children had come from Australia - Sally, Nola - New Zealand and Henry - Durban."

John and Shirley Harris were our neighbours. I will always remember their Munemu Farm. As a kid I would do clandestine ops to buy cigarettes from their store believing that no one noticed! Later I remember Shirley in the radio room at the Marandellas Police station; their house getting revved; the hospitality given to us whenever our patrols took us to their farm. My best wishes to John, Nola, Sally and Henry and their families.

Sue Tanner also reports that the following people from Marondera have passed on in the last month:-

“Sheila and Ted Sharples; he was Headmaster of Marandellas High School in the 60s and 70s. They were killed in a car accident whilst on a visit to South Africa.

Rosie Marshall, died in England where they have been living for the last four or five years (her husband Colin was a rep for cattle products). **Denzil Stockil** who farmed on our side of Marondera.”

A number of obituaries from Eddy Norris - ORAFS:-

“It is with sadness that we advise of the passing on of **Cliff van Rensburg** who died in hospital last night (2/7/07) following complications. Our most sincere sympathies to his son Rob, daughter in law Kim, and his five grandchildren Connor, Liam, Declan, Emma and Rory. Cliff served with 1 Commando of the RLI and was residing in Gauteng.”

“It is with deep regret that I advise you all of the passing of **Koos Van Breda** in East London this afternoon (21 June). Koos was diagnosed with cancer in February 2007. Koos was affectionately known as 'Wonder Bra' and attested into the air force with 34 LAR as an Armourer. I know that there were many hidden attributes that Koos had and he was firstly proud to have served on 4 Squadron in the Rhodesian Air Force and that he had attended Umtali Boys High School.”

“**Cecil Boswell** passed away peacefully in Cape Town on Saturday, 16th June. Cecil retired as a Master Technician from Ground Equipment, he attested on 1 September 1956 and retired in September 1982.”

Rhodesian Services Association Resume

With the influx of new members over the last 2 months, as well as the approach of the RV and AGM, I am publishing this resume below to remind and inform you of our background and heritage.

The Rhodesian Services Association is based in New Zealand. Membership is open to anyone and subscription is \$5 per annum due 1st October each year. Adults attending the RV will have the fee automatically added to the RV subscription.

The association had it's beginnings as a branch of the Rhodesian Army Association instigated by the late David Turner. Some of those originals are still there at most, if not every, ANZAC Day parade. Names of those 'originals' include:- Keith Kietzmann, Percy Purcell, John Graham, Pierre Olivier, Percy Smith, Alex Walker, John Stevens, Wally Insch, Rory and Helen Price, Guy Percival, Gavin Baker, Martin Trumpelmann, Norman Guirey, Kent Bishop and Roy Oosthuizen. My apologies if I have missed anyone out but I was not around in the beginning. David Turner's wife Claire stays in touch with us from Australia where she resides.

Of the 'originals' we do not have email addresses or current information for John Stevens, Rory Price, Norman Guirey, Kent Bishop and Roy Oosthuizen. If any reader can assist us with contact details or information for these people we would be most grateful.

At the inaugural AGM in October 2003 a committee was elected. After months of deliberation by the committee the name Rhodesian Services Association and symbol of the Lion & Tusk was adopted signifying the representation of all arms of the forces through out the history of Rhodesia.

The Rhodesian Services Association has been formed from a basis of people who served, or whose family served the Rhodesian Security Forces, the nurses, whose contribution to the Bush War has gone largely unrecognised as well as other interested and supportive persons. The aims are to retain record of our history; remember the fallen; honour the brave and to offer moral support and help to former comrades and their families. A newsletter is currently sent out by e-mail on a monthly basis.

We have been made welcome and supported in New Zealand by the Hobsonville Returned Services Association in Auckland, the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regiment, the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Assn Inc. in Tauranga and the Classic Flyers Museum in Mount Maunganui.

On an annual basis, as a group, we take part in the ANZAC Day parade at Hobsonville. We are encouraged by our hosts to march as a squad and fly the Rhodesian flag. We lay a wreath in memory of Rhodesians and then (again with the encouragement of our hosts) have a separate service of our own, dedicated to all Rhodesians and those who served Rhodesia. We encourage individuals and families to attend ANZAC Parades around New Zealand.

In Tauranga, an annual reunion which is known as the 'October RV' takes place at Labour Weekend with the support of the 6th Hauraki Battalion Group and the Hauraki Regimental Assn. Anyone is welcoming to attend the RV, irrespective of nationality or service to Rhodesia.

The first RV in 2002 was envisaged to be a one off affair, in order to acknowledge those who had been decorated for their bravery and service to Rhodesia. The Commanding Officer of the Hauraki Regiment, Lt Col. John Dick, was most complimentary of our efforts and the kind of spirit that we represented. He insisted that as soldiers, we should have the opportunity to be able to keep safe the record of our country and invited us to form a museum display as part of the unit's history room. This was done with funding and contribution from all over the world. The

display was officially opened in April 2003 during a visit to New Zealand by Lt. Gen. Peter Walls. The Hauraki Museum and Garrison Club are open to the public every Friday from 16.30 hrs.

A second display of 2 large cabinets is now in the Classic Flyers Museum on Jean Batten Drive, Mount Maunganui. This display shows the Rhodesian Air Force in a ground support role. Information on the Classic Flyers Museum can be found at <http://www.classicflyersnz.com/> The Classic Flyers Museum is well worth a visit. They also offer a licensed café, vintage aircraft flights as well as associated helicopter trips and conference facilities. In addition, Classic Flyers allowed us to install a large refrigeration container which we have converted to use as storage for the items that we cannot yet display. It is known as 'The Lion's Den'. The Classic Flyers Museum is open 10am to 4pm, 7 days a week, and the Av Gas Café & Bar is open from 8am to 5pm every day with late nights each Friday. The contents of the Lion's Den can be viewed by appointment only.

Current committee:-

Paul Nes - Chairman & Treasurer

Keith Kietzmann - Vice Chairman

Hugh Bomford - Secretary e-mail hbomford@clear.net.nz

Rob Bates – Committee

John Glynn – Committee

Colin Logie – Committee

Wolf Hucke – Committee

Tony Fraser – Curator

Tinka Mushett - incoming Treasurer

Off the radar

Does anyone know the whereabouts of David Mabutt. He has a brother Chris in South Africa who is trying to find him.

Museum News

We are about to start moving items into the Lion's Den. The shelving is in place and we have installed an alarm system which is linked to the Classic Flyer's monitored system. We will be putting the sign that Tinka Mushett painted for the door in place in due course. We will probably cover it with a piece of Perspex to protect it from any physical damage. Thanks too for the last month's work to Colin Logie, Percy Purcell and Steve Kennedy who came up from Rotorua for 2 days work.



Steve Kennedy removes his ear muffs to see if he has done enough to earn another break.



Colin Logie tries out the new sign that Tinka Mushett painted.

We have received a number of significant cash donations from New Zealand and overseas. We would like to thank John Glynn, Andy Burness and Victor Thackwray for their generosity. The response that we get whenever we have asked for help physically and financially with this project has been overwhelming. We have achieved a lot this year – well done to everyone who has had a hand in it be it with brush and sandpaper or buying raffle tickets.

October RV

We are pleased to hear that a number of our friends from Australia are making plans to come over. We hope to see many new faces as well as the familiar ones this year. In due course we will start taking registrations. For now these are the details so that you can start making your plans:-

Friday 19th October – we will put on some food (Colin's hamburgers) at the Garrison Club from 5pm and then we will be showing a number of DVDs and videos starting at 7pm. To give you an idea: we will be showing about 2 hours worth of material. We will start off with some shorts with the main feature being "The Saints" DVD kindly donated by Msasa Enterprises www.rhodesianvideos.mazoe.com who have also given us permission to use it for this public show.

Saturday 20th October will begin with the golfers having a round. The RV will start at 2.30pm with the registration at the 6th Hauraki Battalion Group HQ and the welcome at 3.30pm.

Sunday 21st October clear up at the Garrison from 10am then move to the Classic Flyers Museum for the breakfast and De-Brief (AGM) which will all begin around 11am. This year's AGM is an important one as we will be setting up the incorporation of our association and we need you all there to add numbers to our application.

We have not yet set the registration fees. We do advise you to sort out your accommodation early so as to avoid disappointment as Tauranga gets very busy at Labour Weekend.

RV Auction and Raffle

To date the following authors have donated the following books for the auction. I have included their email addresses in the event that you would like to order from them direct:-

Tony Ballinger tony@ballinger5422.freeseve.co.uk – A Walk Against The Stream.

Chris Higginson higginson.chris@gmail.com - Rhodesian Memories, The Reluctant Assassin (x2), 1st Book of Provocative Verse.

If you have anything to donate for the auction please contact me or Paul Nes paulnes@xtra.co.nz The auction and the raffles are a key part of our annual fundraising and your support is appreciated.

Tauranga Movie Evening

On the 15th June we had a showing of 'Blood Diamond' at the Garrison Club. There was a good turnout of around 30 people and after an initial problem with the DVD player, which decided to miss behave, we had a really good evening. Raffles raised \$126.00. It must have been my night (to make up for the malfunctioning DVD player) – 4 times one of my tickets was drawn for the top prize – I wish Lotto would work for me that way!!

Unfortunately the golf did not take place the following day due to the lack of turnout from the Auckland crew. I think a penalty of some sort is in order here. A whopping great fine payable to our Museum Fund would be befitting!!

The Hauraki Assn. were really happy with the turnover in the bar, the money they made from Colin's hamburgers and the gold coin donation. Our normal movie evenings, which we hold every 3rd Friday of the month, do not usually draw such a big crowd. We would like to encourage more locals along.

CQ Store

As I have already stated, this year has been phenomenal for the amount that we, as a very small organisation, have been able to achieve. We have put together an asset in the form of the Lion's Den as well as the display at the Classic Flyers. We have spent a lot of money on both projects. It is money that has been raised from all you kind and generous people around the world. Every time that you have been asked you have responded as only Rhodesians would – generously and to the upper limits of your ability. Thank you and well done.

We have an ever increasing range of stock in our 'CQ Store'. Recent additions are 2 limited edition t-shirts featuring graphics donated by Mike Vivier. One is the classic "Advice to terrorists" (\$30) and the other states "Gun control.....is being able to hit your target" (\$20). Numbers are limited with these two shirts so get in quick.



We have some beanies being embroidered with the Lion & Tusk. The beanies come in two styles – with turn up or without, in black or green. They will be \$20 each and I will add photos of them to the site as soon as we get them back from the embroiderer. You can view all our stock in the CQ Store on the website at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm>

We are investigating a few other potential items:- hand painted regimental ties and beanies and scarves with regimental colours in bands like a stable belt.

The most popular item recently is the Unofficial Rhodesian CIB. We sold out and new stock should be with us by the end of July. We also had a big run on medals around ANZAC Day and depleted items will be back in stock shortly.

The Lion & Tusk apparel - caps, t-shirts and polo shirts continue to be popular along with name badges and number plate surrounds.

Books

A sub section of the CQ Store on the website is the Books for Africa page. These books are not part of the Rhodesian Services Association inventory. They are solely my hobby. With money from the book sales, I set up and paid for the first years costs of the Rhodesian Services Association website. This included purchase of software, 12 months hosting and 12 months of domain name registration. This year the book sales will pay for 50% of the website hosting costs with the other 50% will come from our Association funds.

The big news with the books is of course, the release of 'The Saints' and the accompanying DVD. My initial stock was sold out in a few hours. A large quantity of new stock is on the way. Because of the size of the shipment, it is coming by sea and should be here by the end of July.

RGSM

Due to demand we are investigating the striking of replica Rhodesian General Service Medals. These will be sold as copies and marked as such. We have received many requests for RGSMs from people who were either never issued/received or destroyed them in fear of retribution when they were living in Zimbabwe or have lost them.

Medals are always a touchy subject in some quarters and I have received some very pointed criticism in the past. No doubt this newsletter will be passed on to someone who will take issue. My point is that if, for instance, someone has lost a WWII medal, they can replace it with a copy – so why not with the RGSM? We stock copy Zimbabwe Independence medals and no one complains. Critics believe that people who are not entitled to the RGSM will make use of copies for their advantage. There are people wearing the regalia of units they are not entitled to. Some of them are getting found out thanks to the power of distribution of the internet. Sadly there will always be unscrupulous people around.

You do your bit for our projects with every purchase that you make. Thanks for your support.

Blue's Website Expands To Include Brown's

Newsletters and communication are an important part of the lives of our scattered society. Many years ago Eddie Norris, who is the editor of the Old Rhodesian Air Force Sods (ORAFS) newsletter, emphasised this point to me. At

the time I was trying to do 4 newsletters a year and finding it hard going. Eddy sends his out weekly and more often if he has important news or an article. Eddy's work has now been extended to permanently record the material he has amassed over the years on a website at <http://www.ourstory.com/orafs>

Eddy has built up a good support network and is now requesting input from other sections of the Rhodesian Security Forces. Eddy wrote this to me:-

"I was a TF member from 1963 to 1968, and I believe it is time, to collect the memories and photographic records for that great band of characters that served in the various Armies of Rhodesia so that they may be shared by our "Band of Brothers" who are now distributed worldwide and collectively be a record for future generations to explore and experience.

All units encompassing the Rhodesia Regiment, including Depot and the Independent Battalions. RLI, SAS, Selous Scouts. The other services, Guard Force, Grey Scouts and Medical Services are very welcome to send in their memories.

The problem is that many think that the TF Army from Rhodesia are not remembered as they should be. Special mention of Depot the Rhodesia Regiment down at Llewellyn Barracks plus those Independent Company's doing their National Service and thereafter the service rendered in the various TF Battalions.

It is requested that those involved please consider sending in their photos for us to load onto our Rhodesian Army Site. The "Rhodesia's Armies" site is at: <http://www.ourstory.com/TheBrowns>

When sending photos, and associated text, please include the date, the unit any other information will assist non Rhodesian readers to understand. Please elaborate on abbreviations used. Assistance is required with respect to dates, locations and events. Concentration is on memories.

Credit is always recorded to the person sending in the photo/s. Course or Intake photos are great to record.

They can view what already has been done on <http://www.ourstory.com/orafs> (Memories of the Air Forces' of Rhodesia)

Regards
Eddy Norris"

Chaplin School

Those of you who had the misfortune of attending Chaplin may be interested in responding to this request (it has been reproduced verbatim in order to illustrate the low level of written English used at Chaplin as opposed to that which was taught at Guinea Fowl, in my case, by Miss Chilcott):-

"Hi there, I run the Old Chaplin Data Base and am always on the hunt for new names. If you are in contact with anyone who was at Chaplin I would be very grateful if they contacted me: sydwheel@iafrica.com Also, quite often send out newsletters to +- 780 people so should you have anything you need to advertise in respect of gatherings etc..... send them to me.

Regards
Syd Wheeler [nee Bailie-Barry]
ex Chaplin 1965"

Author's Request

Chris Whitehead editor of 'Rhodesians World Wide' and author of 'Darwin Days' writes:-

"I have had some interesting contacts recently regarding the Darwin Days book and thus with some soul searching and wanting to finally put the whole thing to bed I am asking for your help. We have a number of stories that were not included in the original book and there are some new photos. I have also received a few more stories since the book was published and I do not want to lose the history even if it is not 100% accurate.

Darwin Days has been very cathartic for some of the people who have bought it and read it and I have had some poignant responses. I have decided, with the help of Nick in Aussie, to attempt to produce an on-line addendum for the original book. This would be able to be downloaded from a web site that I would maintain for a number of years. The formatting would be the same as the original book and so people could download and print the addendum to place in or with their Darwin Days book. I do not want to try to publish a completely new edition although that is a possibility if we get enough material to warrant it.

What I need is your help in spreading the word far and wide that I am looking for stories of Mount Darwin and Centenary East from those that lived there or passed through. I am also appealing for photographs from Mount Darwin and Centenary East areas. These photographs need to be scanned at 100% at 300dpi and you can email them to fura@aznetgate.net Please don't delay with this as I am allowing only the next 12 months to gather the material-the original book took nearly 3 years to get everything done. Even if you have contributed in the past and you want to contribute another story please feel free to do so. This offer is open to farmers, their families, business

people, Civil Servants, BSAP members, soldiers in the Army, Air Force, Intaf and Guard Force - anyone who came in contact with these two areas of Rhodesia.

Your help is needed and I hope that you will write down your history.

Feel free to email me if you any questions. The deadline in June 1, 2008.

Best wishes
Chris Whitehead

All Is Revealed

This article is located at <http://zimdaily.com/news/117/ARTICLE/1660/2007-05-14.html> and is reproduced without alteration to the text or spelling – the capitalisation is theirs as are the errors and omission of some words (did the writer attend Chaplin?). The comments on jail conditions under which Mugabe, Tekere etc were held is very interesting.

Mugabe's castration - The Truth Mon, 14 May 2007
Special Correspondent

PRESIDENT Robert Matibili Mugabe was never castrated by the Ian Douglas Smith regime while in detention but underwent a major operation on his genitals which resulted in part of his penis being **CHOPPED OFF**, *ZimDaily* can exclusively reveal.

Since independence, there has been a lot of speculation about Mugabe's manhood with some suggesting that he was made into a eunuch while being tortured by officers from Ian Smith's Special Branch.

But a retired member of the medical team that operated on Mugabe revealed to *ZimDaily* that he worked with the team which operated on Mugabe after he developed a cancerous growth at the tip of his penis which was then **CHOPPED OFF!**

Mugabe's testicles were never tampered with, according to a member of the medical team that operated on Mugabe.

The retired medical practitioner cannot be named for fear he might be murdered by the Mugabe regime for revealing confidential medical information which could prove to be embarrassing to the President.

The story was corroborated by some of Mugabe's colleagues in detention at the then Salisbury Prison.

"The problem with Mugabe was that although he was one of our comrades, he was always very aloof in detention. After he had suffered for a longtime, he confided to Leopold Takawira about his private problem".

"Although officially we were told that Mugabe had developed cancer at the tip of his penis, it was generally believed that he had gone into detention with an untreated sexually transmitted disease which became serious while in detention due to lack of medical attention," said one of Mugabe's former colleagues in detention.

The former detainee told *ZimDaily* in Harare last week that arrangements were then made for Mugabe to receive urgent medical attention at Andrew Fleming Hospital, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

"Mugabe spent several weeks in hospital recovering after a part of his genitals was cut off to prevent the cancer from spreading to the rest of his body. When he returned from hospital, he never showed us his penis and he never mentioned the subject again.

It is not true that Mugabe or any other nationalists were ever tortured while in detention."

The retired medical practitioner said while Mugabe would have experienced problems with sustaining an erection, this would not have made him impotent as he could always revert to artificial insemination to bear children with his current wife and former typist, Grace Marufu.

He has turned to Chinese and Egyptian medication to help sustain erections.

Mugabe only managed to 'sire' children after 10 years in power although he had no problem having his first child, Nhamodzenyika with the late Sally Mugabe before he was detained for political activities.

He has also battled to reign in his bed hopping young wife who has bedded his juniors in Zanu PF. Black economic empowerment crusader, Peter Pamire, was murdered by the Central Intelligence Organisation after rumours he fathered Robert Jnr, Mugabe's eldest son.

Zanu PF stalwart and businessman, James Makamba was also hounded out of the country after Grace Marufu's bodyguards revealed to Mugabe that she was regularly engaging in hot and steamy sexual encounters with the businessman at a hideout outside Harare.

Former finance minister, Christopher Kuruneri is under house arrest amid reports that he was caught with his pants down while helping himself on Grace.

Former State Security minister, Nicholas Goche was demoted on the orders of the First Lady after he deployed more intelligence officers to prevent improper liaisons with other men.

There are also reports that, young soldiers based at the Mugabe mansion in Borrowdale are servicing the sex starved First Lady, said by many to be a nymphomaniac or a sex addict.

Former Zanu PF secretary general, Edgar Tekere and Enos Nkala, both former detention colleagues of Mugabe in jails told journalists in Harare recently that they were surprised that Mugabe had used savage tactics against the opposition Movement for Democratic Change leadership while in police cells.

"We were treated like kings in those cells. We had access to many NGOs which assisted us with food and clothes." Said Tekere.

Enos Nkala said: "You can ask any nationalist, Msika and Mugabe himself included, nobody was ever beaten up or tortured in the savage and barbaric that blacks are now doing to each other."

Agh Shame!

Senior Army Officer Gunda Dies
The Herald (Harare) 23 June 2007 Marondera Bureau

THE Commander of 1 Brigade, Brigadier-General Armstrong Gunda, has died.

He was 50. Brig-Gen Gunda died on Thursday morning when the car he was travelling in was involved in an accident with a train off the Harare-Marondera Road near Watershed School.

Officer Commanding Crime in Mashonaland East Province Assistant Commissioner Connel Dube said the brigadier-general was on his way to Watershed College when the accident occurred.

"Information at hand is that the late Brigadier-General Gunda turned off the Harare-Mutare highway into Watershed Road. However, he failed to notice a goods train travelling towards Harare at the Watershed road and rail crossing," he said.

Asst Comm Dube said preliminary investigations showed that the front wheels of the vehicle had crossed the tracks when the accident occurred.

"The vehicle was hit on its left side by the train and was dragged for 15 metres before it went off the track, resulting in Brig-Gen Gunda being killed instantly," he said. Brig-Gen Gunda was born in Harare on March 21 1957 and did his secondary education at St Killian's Mission in Rusape district before leaving the country in 1975 for Mozambique to join the liberation struggle.

He received his military training at Tembwe in 1976 and later in China from 1977 up to 1978.

Mr. Spot Jnr. Meets His Match

A wealthy old lady decides to go on a photo safari in Africa, taking her faithful aged poodle named Cuddles, along for the company.

One day the poodle starts chasing butterflies and before long, Cuddles discovers that he's lost.. Wandering about, he notices a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old poodle thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep doo-doo now!" Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard is about to leap the old poodle exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard! I wonder if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the young leopard halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees. "Whew!", says the leopard, "That was close! That old poodle nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. So off he goes, but the old poodle sees him heading after the leopard with great speed, and figures that something must be up. The monkey soon catches up with the leopard, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the leopard.

The young leopard is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!

Now, the old poodle sees the leopard coming with the monkey on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?", but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old poodle says.

"Where's that damn monkey? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another leopard!"

Moral of this story..... Don't mess with us old farts...age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill! Bullshit and brilliance only come with age and experience.

Until next time - go well

Cheers
Hugh

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