



# Contact! Contact!

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A monthly publication for the

## **Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated**

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Greetings,  
Another turbocharged month has sped past!

As you will see from the progress report on the Rhodesia Regiment project further on in this newsletter, we are making good progress and we hope to have the book printed by Christmas 2013. The cover looks magnificent – you may not judge a book by its cover but your attention will certainly be drawn to an eye catching one. The format of the cover is a story on its own and took around two years of trial and error among a number of people to eventually come up with a design that met everyone's satisfaction. This cover was not designed as a simple "pretty picture" it was always my intention that the cover should reflect the different periods of the Rhodesia Regiment, as well as being a tribute to our ancestors and mates. I am totally satisfied that this has been achieved along with our aim to entertain and inform the reader with the material that lies inside the cover.

Enough from me – put on a cuppa and pull up a pew.

### **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](http://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](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>

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



## Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980 by Gerry van Tonder



### July

**Newsflash Headlines** +++ On 1 July 1890, the Pioneer Column forms a laager near the Tuli River, on the border with Matabeleland +++ On 21 July 1893, residents of Ft Victoria pass the Victoria Resolution, demanding action against amaNdebele impis operating in the area +++ On 19 July 1917, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Rhodesia Regiment is disbanded after serving in East Africa +++ On 17 July 1936, the Government Gazette announces the official formation of the Air Section, Southern Rhodesia Defence Force +++ On 19 July 1940, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Rhodesian African Rifles is, by Government Notice 374/1940, charged with the defence of the colony and the maintenance of law and order +++ On 12 and 13 July 1968, three ZAPU gangs infiltrate Rhodesia from Zambia, leading to the very successful anti-terrorist Operations, *Griffin*, *Mansion* and *Excess* +++ During the night of 5 July 1973, ZANLA terrorists abduct 273 people, mainly children, from St Albert's Mission near Centenary +++ On 19 July 1976, Hawker Hunter jets of No 1 Squadron carry out flights over Rhodesia to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first prototype flight of this aircraft in the UK +++ On 10 July 1978, a combined SAS, RLI, Air Force and Selous Scouts attack commences on a ZANLA base at Tembue (Maroro) in Mozambique's Tete Province +++

### **In Brief**

In early July 1916, Lt Colonel Algernon Capell and his men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, the Rhodesia Regiment, found themselves on standby at Makindu, waiting for General Jan Smuts' strategic plan to be concluded and implemented. In their shared and cramped camp, they had to put up with constant night and day shelling by the German enemy. With no field guns of their own to retaliate, the hapless division could only dig in and endure the well-timed shelling, described by Capell as "annoying and disquieting." Capell records that with typical Prussian precision, the barrage consisted of ten at lunchtime, four at 1400 hours, fifty from 1600 to 1800 hours, two at 'lights-out', ten at midnight, and then a further twenty-five at erratic intervals until first light. The Rhodesians paid little attention to the ineffective shelling, over time despising and belittling the German attempts at making any impact at all. That was until the evening of 10 July 1916, when a shell burst in the air above the officers' mess table where caterer Private Joseph Taylor was sitting on the ground, as the officers dined on bully beef and biscuits. Only a small cry from Taylor alerted medical officer Captain Francis Ellis that something was amiss. As he went across and turned Taylor over, he noticed that his khaki shirt was drenched with blood. A jagged fragment from the air-burst had entered Taylor's chest. He died during the night.



**German *Schutztruppe* with a Maxim and light field gun, East Africa 1916**  
(Photo National German Archives)

In the mid-winter of 1936, soldiers of the Rhodesia Regiment went into a ten-day Camp in the bitterly cold open spaces of Gwelo. The training was all-encompassing, including rifle skills, parade ground drill, night-marches, signals training, saluting exercises, Lewis-gun classification, field exercises and inter-Battalion sports events. Companies of

riflemen from both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions set up a precisely laid out white-tented camp below what was referred to as Signal Hill, presumably what later became known as the Kopje. Battalion pipe bands were also present, leading formal marches. In-house entertainment evenings were provided by talented members of both Battalions. An anonymous 'poet' from the ranks wrote:

Down in Gwelo at the Camp  
 We'd a "Bull,"  
 And he really filled the bill  
 To the full.  
 He was from the Second Batt.  
 More than once was on the mat,  
 Where I'll bet he answered pat,  
 Did the "Bull."



**A 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Rhodesia Regiment Lewis machine-gun exercise at the Gwelo Camp**  
 (Photo Territorial Force Journal)

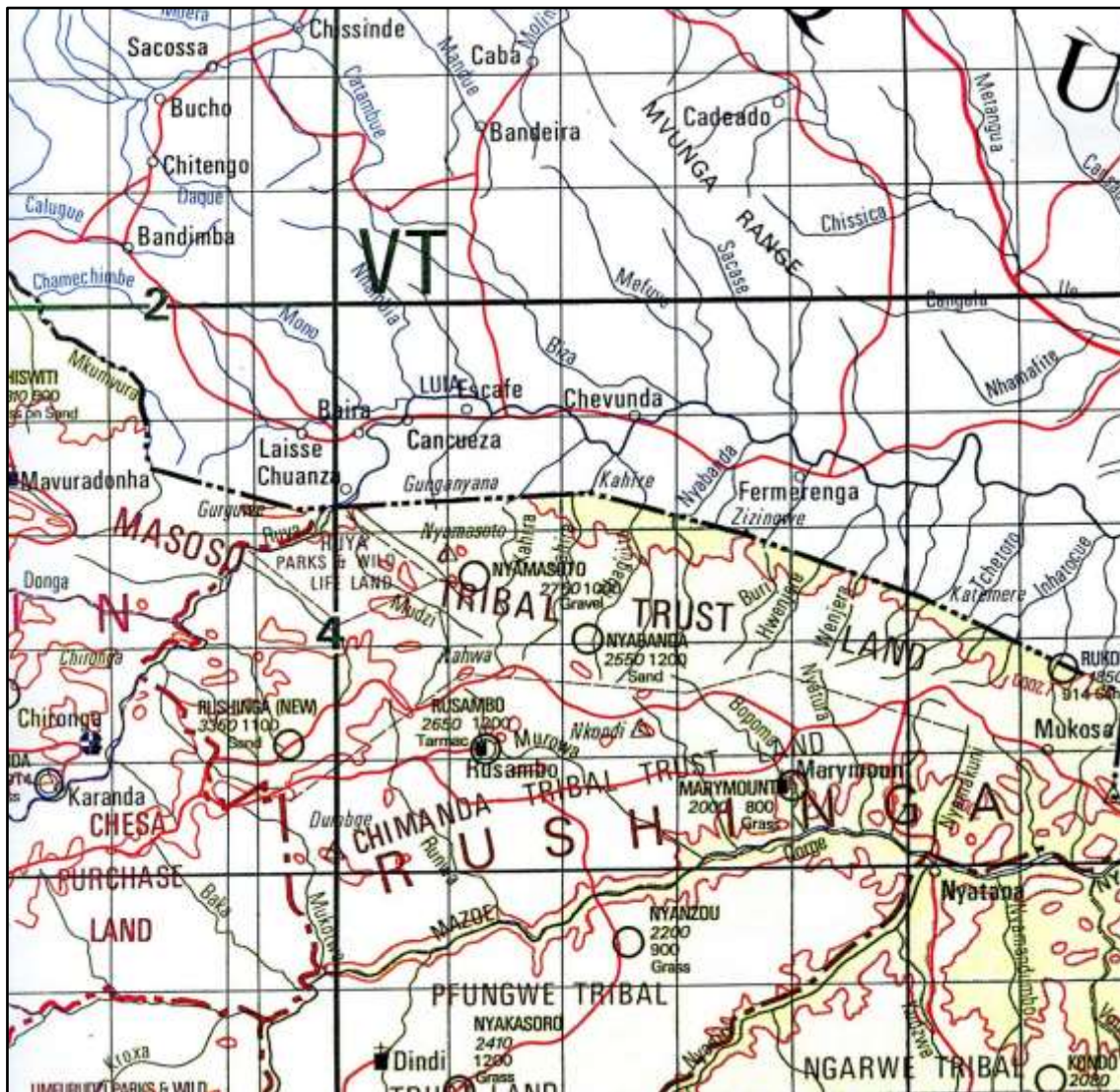
**What's in a name**

In 1892 the first trek arrived in the new territory, comprising twenty-nine mainly Afrikaans-speaking families from the eastern Orange Free State. The area initially referred to by Thomas Moodie as Melsetter would become **Chipinga**, named after a local chief, Chipinge. These early settlers quickly realised the agricultural potential of Gazaland, where a dairy industry developed into cheese manufacturing. Tea production also took off in the area, under the well-known Tanganda brand name which, together with coffee, led to the establishment of a coffee and tea experimental station at Chipinga. Wattle and other timber production also proved lucrative, but much of the district's great potential was significantly retarded during the Bush War, mainly due to its proximity to the Mozambique border. The success of the area was one of the main reasons for the construction in 1935 of the Birchenough Bridge across the Sabi River, linking the Eastern Districts with the Victoria Province.



On 17 June 1896, native insurrection spread to Mashonaland, when the owner of Porta Farm and his family were murdered by rebels. After killing Joseph Norton when he had gone looking for farm labourers who had failed to show up for work, the rebels went to the farm on the Hunyani River and brutally murdered Norton's wife, Caroline, and their daughter Dorothy. The name **Norton** was then given to the original rail siding from which a village developed in 1914. In spite of abundant water availability and ample supplies of power from Kariba, plans by government to develop Norton as a satellite industrial zone of Salisbury never really took off until after UDI, when several manufacturing concerns moved to Norton. A very productive commercial farming area, the district hosted the World Ploughing contest on Kent Estate in April 1969.





Masoso TTL. The circles on the map indicate air strips.

Being mid-winter in Central Africa, the seasonal rivers and streams throughout much of Rhodesia were dry, sandy and, in many cases, strewn with large boulders. The river banks, however, carry evidence of earlier flooding, deeply eroded in places with tree roots marking the entrances to cave-like cavities in the steep sides of a water course. In the country's northern border with a belligerent Mozambique and haven to ZANLA, the Masoso TTL straddles the Rushinga and Mt Darwin districts, east of the Mvuradonha. It was in this remote wilderness that Security Forces conducted seek and destroy patrols, with enemy sightings backed up by Fire Force support from a nearby Forward Air Field, in this case Mt Darwin.

On 19 July 1975, two trackers, Rifleman Hennie Potgieter of 2 Commando, the Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI), and Warrant Officer II Taz Bain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, the Rhodesia Regiment (RR), went ahead of a 2 Commando patrol along a dry riverbed, but progress was tortuous around and over boulders and rocks. Thick bush lined the sides of the riverbed. Unbeknown to them, a gang of ZANLA terrorists were secreted in a cave in the side of the river bank, about a metre above the river bed itself, an ideal position for an ambush. As the unsuspecting soldiers came within ten metres of the terrorist hideout, the terrorists opened fire, seriously wounding both men with multiple gunshots.



Great uncertainty ensued, as their fellow RLI soldiers on the riverbank struggled to see either the two wounded men or where the terrorists were firing from. A K-Car was also unsuccessful in flushing the terrorists out. At this stage, Corporal John Coey, a medic on attachment to the RLI from the Rhodesian Army Medical Corps, reacted to moans coming from the wounded men by jumping into the riverbed. Unfortunately, Coey was not to know that the terrorist position was right there, and as he landed on the soft sand, he was fired upon, sustaining a head wound.

Further sticks from 7 and 10 Troops were deployed as stop groups, while Lieutenant Joe du Plooy, also of 2 Commando, started lobbing grenades into the riverbed to try and get the terrorists to reveal their position. Again failing to solicit any response from below, du Plooy then made the decision to skirmish along the riverbed to where his wounded men lay. As they made their way around some boulders, the Rhodesians again drew fire from the concealed terrorists. Lance Corporal Jannie de Beer fell, a fatal gunshot wound to an iliac artery; du Plooy sustained a graze to his head, and a third Trooper was wounded. Casualties were mounting, but the position of the terrorists or the condition of the three shot men remained unknown. Against his wishes, du Plooy was ordered to be casevaced back to base, Cpl Butch Alexander assuming control of the situation on the ground.



**L-R: Sgt. Ed Fouche, 2 Lt. Joe du Plooy, Lt. Gideon Kriel and Maj. Charlie Aust (OC) 2 Commando, Rhodesian Light Infantry, July 1974**  
(Gerry van Tonder collection)

Through that afternoon, sporadic fire between the Rhodesian soldiers and the ZANLA terrorists dwindled, until eventually the enemy stopped firing completely. As the light began to fade, there was still no resolution to the situation and the three stricken men lay unattended in the riverbed.

In Mt Darwin, Lieutenant Bob MacKenzie of the Special Air Service (SAS) had been monitoring the situation to the north east and, upon realising that the day was ending with the condition of three members of the Security Forces remaining uncertain, made the decision to immediately react by helicopter. Rounding up fellow SAS volunteers in Mt Darwin, MacKenzie also found that two helicopter pilots of No. 7 Squadron, the Rhodesian Air Force, were more than willing to transport his men to the Masoso, fully understanding the hazards that flying Alouette III helicopters at night posed. With no night-flying equipment, a moon that night assisted the pilots with keeping the horizon visible. An hour later the SAS men were at the scene, met by an anxious Corporal Alexander. He confirmed in a quick briefing that the riverbed area was silent, and that the position of their fallen brothers-in-arms was still to be pinpointed, therefore not knowing if they were still alive. It was not known either if the terrorists had moved on as they had not fired their weapons for some time.

With two members of the SAS contingent providing cover with night sights fitted to their rifles, MacKenzie and Alexander crawled to the edge of the riverbank, and in the moonlight finally managed to see the three wounded men lying close to each other on the riverbed. There was no movement from any of them. There was, however, no way of knowing if the terrorists were still in their hideout, so MacKenzie got the RLI troops to lob grenades, including white phosphorus, into the riverbed. This was followed by an extended period of firing into possible terrorists positions, but there was no return fire.



Undaunted, and wishing to end the on-going uncertainty about the fate of the Rhodesian soldiers and the whereabouts of the terrorist stronghold, MacKenzie felt that the only remaining option was to go down into the riverbed. Taking one of his men, armed with a MAG, and Alexander, the latter insisting he go along to see to his fellow troops, MacKenzie stripped off his webbing and, leaving his rifle behind and armed only with a pistol and a grenade, entered the riverbed 150 metres downstream from the possible terrorist position. With nerves at breakpoint, the trio inched their way along, the moonlight providing guiding visibility, but at the same time creating shadows and

questionable shapes. Then suddenly, the palpable tension was broken as the extremely loud clatter of bursts from the MAG shattered the stillness. The MAG-gunner, feeling uncomfortable about something ahead, fired over the heads of MacKenzie and Alexander, intermittent red tracer streaking towards the riverbank. Abrupt silence followed. Still no response from the terrorists.

Eventually the men reached their fallen comrades, their worst fears realised as they failed to find any traces of life. MacKenzie was also able, at last, to identify the cave where the terrorists had been firing from, his eyes drawn to globules of white phosphorus burning on the walls of the cave. After lobbing further grenades into the cave, MacKenzie crept into the cave, only to find that the terrorists had made good their escape. The terrorists had escaped across a maize field and in between stop groups, taking with them the MAG and ammunition carried by one of the Rhodesian soldiers.

Tracking was made difficult for the SAS trackers the following morning, the terrorists' tracks blending in with those of locals in the area. The MAG, however, was found, the heavy weapon abandoned by the fleeing terrorists. This marked the end of a tragic and frustrating engagement with terrorists, one which was typical of the nature of Rhodesia's bush war, the enemy taking full advantage of difficult and often treacherous terrain. Four lost their lives, but in all of this, the Rhodesian soldiers refused to give up on their brothers, unselfishly placing their own lives at great risk.



**725702 Cpl John Coey's final resting place in the Ohio Hills, USA**  
(Photo with very special thanks to Louis Fourie and John's mother in the USA)

**Author's Footnote:**

Corporal John Alan Coey (24), one of several Americans to serve in the Rhodesian Army, enlisted in the SAS on 26 March 1972, seeing his first action in Mozambique's Tete province. In 1974 he became an instructor in the RLI; later part of Support Commando specialising in tracking, mortars and armoured vehicles. Eventually he became a medic, trained at Llewellyn Barracks, in Bulawayo. He participated in sixty fire force missions, helping to pioneer the combat medic concept with the RLI. John, initially buried in Que Que, was exhumed when it became evident that Rhodesia's days were numbered, and he is now buried in the Ohio hills where a small American flag adorns his grave. He believed his destiny was in Rhodesia, the last bastion against Communism.

Corporal Ronald Eugene 'Butch' Alexander (24) was killed on 16 December 1976 by a gunshot wound in a contact in Mozambique during the Rambanayi raid when he jumped into the command bunker occupied by the enemy.

Captain Johannes Matheus 'Joe' du Plooy (26) was killed when the SADF Puma helicopter in which he was being transported in Mapai, Mozambique on Op Uric, was shot down by an RPG-7 rocket. The aircraft, with the call-sign Hotel 4, was hit behind the pilot's seat, causing it to crash and burst into flames. Nine of the dead were RLI (Joe du Plooy, Gordon Fry, Jacobus Briel, Aiden Colman, Mark Crow, Brian Enslin, Steven King, Colin Neasham, David Prosser), five from Engineers (Charlie Small, Bruce Burns, Michael Jones, LeRoy Duberly, Peter Fox) and the SAAF air crew of three (Capt Paul Vellerman, Lt Nigel Osborne and Flt Sgt Dick Retief).

Captain Robert 'Bob' MacKenzie would become the recipient of both the Silver Cross of Rhodesia and the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia for his outstanding leadership and combat skills displayed in numerous external operations against terrorist camps. MacKenzie served as an infantryman in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, Rhodesian

SAS, the South African Defence Force, and the Transkei Defence Force. He was killed in Sierra Leone on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1995 by RUF rebels – his body was never recovered.

### Know the Medal

Awarded for Chiefs who have rendered conspicuous service in the interest of their people, the President's Medal for Chiefs is an oval, silver medal with the armorial bearings on the obverse. The reverse is plain. Since its inception in 1971, there have only been eighteen recipients, including Chief Chiwundura (Takawaira Jack) and Chief Mabikwa Mlonyeni Khumalo, who were also awarded the Independence Commemorative Decoration.

Awarded to Headmen who have rendered conspicuous service to their communities over and above the call of duty, the President's Medal for Headmen is an oval, bronze medal with the armorial bearings on the obverse. The reverse is plain. Records show that there were only nine recipients since inception in 1971.



**The President's Medal for Chiefs (L) and the President's Medal for Headmen (R)**  
(Gerry van Tonder collection)

### Above and Beyond

On 14 July 1957, Lt Colonel John Anderson, Commanding Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Rhodesian African Rifles, was recommended to be appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, OBE, for outstanding service during the campaign in Malaya from June 1956 to June 1957. The award was gazetted on 20 December 1957. His recommendation citation reads:

*"During the year that the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn The Rhodesian African Rifles have been in Malaya Lt Col ANDERSON has commanded his Battalion with outstanding ability. The Battalion came inexperienced to operations against Communist Terrorists but very soon the Battalion showed the results of careful training and spirited direction by the Commanding Officer.*

*Because of their flair for tracking and silent movement the Battalion had been to a great extent employed in the deep jungle where their natural ability has been made full use of. Whilst the Communist Terrorists avoid security forces it becomes increasingly difficult to gain many successes against them in the deep jungle.*

*Intensive patrolling carried out for long periods without any contact with the Communist Terrorists has been maintained relentlessly. Lacking contacts to sharpen their keenness and efficiency it might be expected that frustration would tend to cause morale to drop in the Battalion. This has been very far from the case. Inspired by Lt Col ANDERSON's confidence in his men to prove their worth in action against the enemy and with his enthusiasm and drive, morale has risen steadily.*

*Eventually after much patient work in the deep jungle excellent successes were gained which displayed the Battalion's great dash and eagerness to close with the enemy.*

*The Commanding Officer himself has taken part in many reconnaissances in the search for Communist Terrorists. Imbued with the determination to eliminate the enemy, the Battalion has followed his lead magnificently. When the situation at last allowed the Battalion to operate in the area they know best they have had two recent and highly successful actions. Great courage, determination and outstanding skill in minor tactics and field craft were shown.*

*Morale in the Battalion could not be higher. The keenness and enthusiasm of all ranks is exhilarating. Lt Col ANDERSON has proved himself an outstanding and courageous Commander whose personality is truly reflected in his Battalion. He is the ideal Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn The Rhodesian African Rifles and the leadership he has given has firmly established their reputation as a most successful operational Battalion in Malaya."*



**Officer Class, Order of the British Empire**

## A Snapshot In Time



*"Down a bit, endi right!"*

Thank you for your responses to last month's Snapshot, and especially to Richard Fenner with his very plausible chiShona accent. The photo, with thanks to Piet Henning (Intaf TF Echelon), is of District Assistants, now in full camo, undergoing weapons training at the Goromonzi Training Centre.

This month's Snapshot is of a couple of happy comrades...have fun with your captions. My e-mail address is [g.van-tonder@sky.com](mailto:g.van-tonder@sky.com)



(Gerry van Tonder collection)

### Who's Who

In last month's feature on Lt Colonel 'Jack' Spreckley, I indicated that I would try and do more research locally here in Derby, England, the home of the young Spreckley and where his father had an auctioneering and real estate business. How ironic to sit in England, paging through the enormous but sadly very brittle pages of *The Derbyshire Advertiser* and *The Derby Mercury* from 1893 to 1900, and finding articles about Rhodesia and the South African War.

On 25 September 1897, *The Derbyshire Advertiser* carried an extensive and exclusive interview with Spreckley, who was at the time visiting the UK to receive his Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George award from the then Prince of Wales. Here are some of the more interesting excerpts.

Reporter: *"Excuse me interrupting you Colonel, but a statement has been made that Rhodesia will be worthless to England. What is your opinion?"*

Spreckley: *"I am quite sure that any number of countries would only be too glad to get Rhodesia if England wants to throw it up. Amongst the first would be the Boers. The country is admirably adapted for cattle farming and agriculture in general. As regards its mineral wealth of course you cannot speak of that until you have tested the rock on a large scale by crushing it."*

Reporter: *"What do you say with regard to the fighting prowess of the Matabele?"*

Spreckley: *"They will never fight in the open again. When they take to the rocks the problem is rendered rather a difficult one, as they are able to exist on very little. But I don't think they would go in for this kind of warfare, their hope*



being to kill all the white people in the country and hold it. As long as the Matabele let us alone we shall let them alone."

Reporter: "Do you think that the Matabele, like the red man of America will ever be exterminated or nearly so?"

Spreckley: "I don't think so, for on the one hand they are increasing about ten times as fast as we are. You see we have no power with regard to the regulation of their marriage customs."

Reporter: "You think there is a danger from this increase?"

Spreckley: "Oh no. I think that as they grow up in contact with the whites they will get more civilised in the same way as have Kaffirs in the Cape Colony."

Reporter: "What is your opinion about missionary work out there?"

Spreckley: "My advice to missionaries is to let alone the scriptural teaching until they have taught the people how to work. I think they are beginning at the wrong end of the stick."

Reporter: "What is your advice to Englishmen who think of going out to South Africa?"

Spreckley: "A good many ask me that question. I say that if a young man is in a billet at home where he has been for some time; let him stick to it, unless he can get a good place before going out. Africa is not a place to be stranded in, as things are more expensive than they are here. Lots of young fellows go out there with nothing to do, and get tired of looking for work, end very badly. Some of the police forces out there are all very well for fellows for a short time, to give them an opportunity to look round the country, but above all the two things most required out there are to keep steady and not be afraid of work."



**amaNdebele in period dress, complete with Martini-Henry's**  
(Photo thanks Lewis Walter)

On 22 November 1899, the *Illustrated Mail* had this to say of Spreckley:

"One of Colonel Plumer's best officers, Colonel Spreckley, is in charge of a patrol of Rhodesian Rifles at Tuli, where he has had a brush with the Boers. He has had lots of experience of South African warfare. He was through both the Matabele wars, and distinguished himself mightily. He has had many vocations, among others ostrich-farming, stock-broking on the Rand, mine prospecting, railway clerking, and actual digging for gold. He is one of the best-known men in Rhodesia, and immensely popular with everybody, from Mr Rhodes downwards. Some few years ago he married the sister of poor Borrow, who was killed with Alan Wilson and his ill-fated party. Spreckley has immense animal spirits and a gorgeous sense of fun; amongst other things, he makes a wonderfully good amateur clown; but he can fight too.

On 29 August 1900, nine days after he was killed in action, *The Derbyshire Advertiser* carried this obituary:

"It is with very great sorrow that we have to record the death of Lieut. Colonel J.A. Spreckley, C.M.G. He died the death of his choice, and the one which befits his career and character the best – charging the foe at the head of British Scouts on the battle field. None except those who have the privilege of knowing 'Jack' Spreckley personally can

realise the pathos of this strong life brought to a sudden end. Colonel Spreckley's appearance did not belie his character and reputation.

*Slightly above the medium height, his broad square shoulders, his deep chest, sturdy limbs, frank blue eyes and general debonair carriage bespoke him at once as the good-tempered daredevil he was. It must not be assumed, however, that he was this alone. Though always ready for fun and merriment in times of relaxation, at other times, in office, at the mines, dealing and negotiating business, Spreckley was as keen, as energetic, and as painstaking as any business man one will meet.*

*When war came he turned his attention to the defence of his colony with equal thoroughness, and the services that he rendered over a long series of years – during the Matabele war as well as the present campaign – were recognised by rapid promotion, and the gift by the Queen of a Commandership of the Order of St Michael and St George. He was known at home as a high-spirited, warm-hearted lad; his Rhodesian life developed his fine physique, his love of adventure, and his dash and readiness of resource. His success in Rhodesia has been solid, his position as a soldier has been recognised by his Sovereign, his name was familiar to all who have followed the history of South Africa during the last dozen years, and it is especially regrettable that after all the dangers that he has escaped he should have fallen at last in a mere skirmish of outposts.”*



**Matabele Rebellion skirmish**  
(Photo National Archives)

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

On 05 July 1896, a column of nearly eight hundred men of Colonel Plumer's Matabeleland Relief Force (MRF) engaged a large force of amaNdebele at Thabas iMambo, north west of Insiza. The large area, characterised by bouldered-kopjes and a labyrinth of caves, proved to be an ideal stronghold for the impis. Splitting his various squadrons in mounted and infantry units, supported by artillery pieces, Plumer attacked the hills from different directions. The result was a number of independent skirmishes, chiefly with the Induba Regiment.

The operation was a success, with amaNdebele losses estimated at more than one hundred. Over the two days, however, the Force lost four men with a further four wounded. In addition to this, Major Robertson's Cape Boys, who had acquitted themselves very well, lost six, with nine wounded. Sadly, history does not record the names of these six men. We remember:



Tpr John Hall Hill of A Squadron MRF

Tpr Thomas Courteney Langton of E Squadron MRF

Tpr John O'Reilly of C Troop Bulawayo Field Force

Cpl James Pringle of A Squadron MRF

The six men of the Cape Boys



**Tending to the wounded at Thabas iMambo**  
(Photo National Archives)

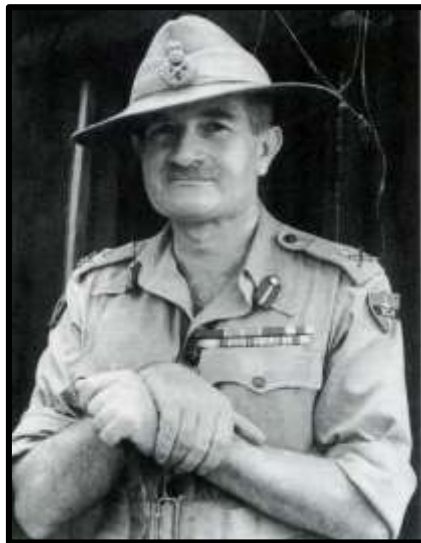
Author's Note: Contemporary accounts, in true Victorian style, give different versions of the spelling of Thabas iMambo. Selous speaks of *Thabas Mamba*; Plumer *Tabas-i-Mhamba*; Baden-Powell *Taba-si-ka-Mamba*. I have settled for a more probable Thabas iMambo, hill of the chief, albeit a blend of isiNdebele and chiShona. I welcome the views of any experts out there.

**Across the globe**

- On 19 July 1941, Winston Churchill launches Britain's 'V' for Victory campaign
- On 21 July 1954, France surrenders North Vietnam to the Communists
- On 4 July 1976, Israeli commandos rescue 100 hostages at Entebbe Airport, Uganda

**And they said...**

*"The fighting capacity of every unit is based upon the faith of soldiers in their leaders; that discipline begins with the officer and spreads downward from him to the soldier; that genuine comradeship in arms is achieved when all ranks do more than is required of them...In battle, the soldier has only his sense of duty, and his sense of shame. These are the things which make men go on fighting even though terror grips their heart. Every soldier, therefore, must be instilled with pride in his unit and in himself, and to do this he must be treated with justice and respect."*



**(Photo Imperial War Museum)**

Lt General William 'Bill' Slim, KG GCB GCMG GCVO GBE DSO MC KStJ, Commander-in-Chief 14<sup>th</sup> Army and later of Allied Land Forces South East Asia, under whom many award-recipient Rhodesians served and saw action in Burma during World War II, men like Lieutenant P Bomford MC, T/Major C Cooke MC, T/Major E Farquharson MC, Lieutenant RM Featherby MC, Lieutenant HC Fisher MC, T/Major P Kenworthy MBE, T/Lt Colonel A MacLeod DSO and Bar, A/Company Sergeant Major H Staunton MM, and RSM J Wilson MBE.

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- *An Irregular Corps in Matabeleland*, Viscount HCO Plumer, Kegan Paul 1897
- *Avondale to Zimbabwe*, RC Smith,
- *Bill Slim*, Robert Lyman, Osprey 2011
- Thanks to the staff at Magic-Attic in Swadlincote, Derbyshire for all their assistance during my recent research into Colonel Spreckley
- *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhodesia Regiment in East Africa*, Lt Colonel AE Capell, Naval and Military Press 2008
- *The Elite*, Barbara Cole, Three Knights 1985

Author's Note on last month's column:

Thank you to Don Munroe for this bit of information on the Jeeps mentioned in last month's feature article on Operation Overload. Don writes; "*The American Jeeps came from South Africa, and were originally from South West Africa I believe. The spares were like rocking horse stuff, and a lot of machining, etc, went into them so that seals, etc, which were available could be made to fit them.*"

## What's On In New Zealand

### AUCKLAND

Everyone is invited to a social gathering at the Hobsonville RSA, 114 Hobsonville Road on Saturday 20 July commencing at 6 pm. Please RSVP John Glynn by email [johnnglynn@actrix.co.nz](mailto:johnnglynn@actrix.co.nz) or phone 09 832 1300 in order to gauge the number of people attending. The Hobsonville RSA provides an excellent venue with good food and reasonable priced drinks.

### 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. Email [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) to get on the local mailing list to see what is going on around the area.

### Tauranga Arms and Militaria Show 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August 2013

This annual show is at the Greerton Hall on Cameron Road. On show are more firearms and militaria than you can imagine. In addition to that our Assn. runs a food stall dispensing boerewors rolls for the discerning gourmet and Kiwi sausages for the less particular.

Those wishing to help out by doing a shift on the stall please contact Hugh at [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz)

### Family Weekend at Ngatahoa Lodge, near Tauranga

We are looking to have a family orientated weekend at the Ngatuhua Lodge next summer – around Feb/March. For more info on the venue see [www.ngatuhua.org.nz](http://www.ngatuhua.org.nz)

Can we have an indication of interest please? Response to Chuck Osborne RhSA Secretary email [theseecretary@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:theseecretary@rhodesianservices.org)

## 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.

### Rhodesian Rrrrugby jerseys!

Our product was developed following extensive research and development resulting in a jersey that more closely matches the original than anything else on the market. We have a big stock on hand taking up a lot of space in the CQ Store.



Priced at NZ\$130 for any size in short or long sleeve plus postage. They are hard wearing poly/cotton mix – made just like they did in the old days - before these modern day nylon shirts that stink when you sweat in them.

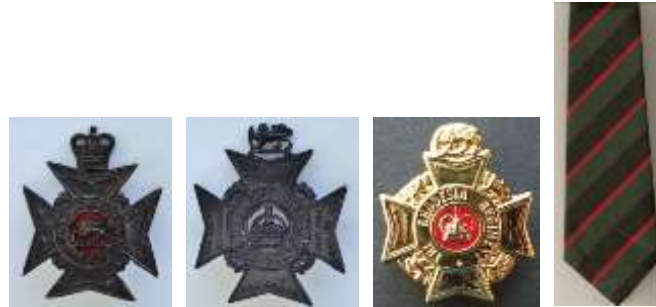
### Beanies

For NZ\$22 keep your *skop* and ears warm – different styles and patterns available – see our webpage for more details



**Rhodesia Regiment regalia:**

We have a plentiful stock of beret badges that we can fit to your size beret with flash as well as ties and lapel pins.



Prices (excluding fitting and beret if required):

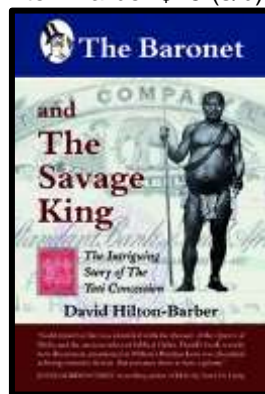
- Original Royal Rhodesia Regiment beret badge NZ\$40
- Original Rhodesia Regiment beret badge NZ\$40
- Jewellery quality gold plated lapel pin (made in New Zealand) NZ\$15
- Rhodesia Regiment tie NZ\$45

**Books for Africa**

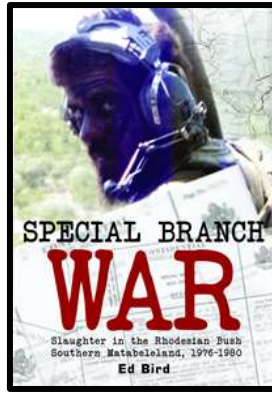
I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at [www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm) These sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, 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.

The following new titles are now in stock – more details about each book are on the webpage above:

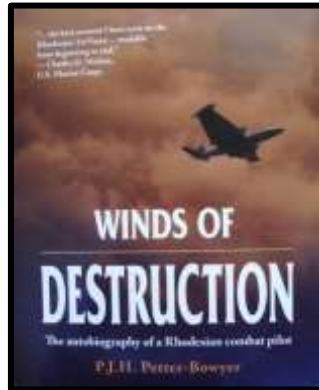
**The Baronet and The Savage King** by David Hilton-Barber \$25 (s/b)



**Special Branch War** by Ed Bird \$50 (h/b)



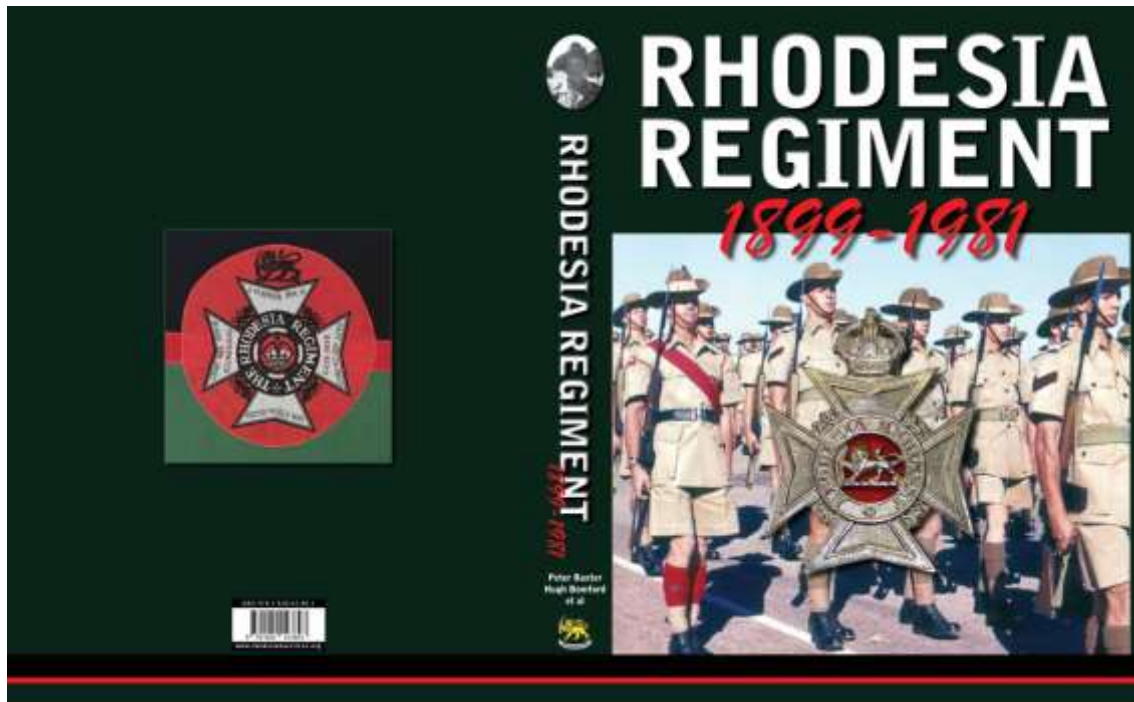
**Winds of Destruction** by PJH "PB" Petter-Bowyer \$50 (s/b)



**Africa's Commandos - The Rhodesian Light Infantry** Edited and compiled by Mark Adams & Chris Cocks Price \$90 (h/b) or \$80 (s/b)



**'Rhodesia Regiment 1899 – 1981'**  
**by Peter Baxter, Hugh Bomford et al**  
Published by the Rhodesian Services Association



We hope that this book will be ready for distribution in December 2013.

The dustcover above is the finished product showing the front, spine and back. The back flap has details of three of the authors.

The front flap has details of the cover per below:

*A great deal of importance has been placed on the design of the dust cover of this book, to which end a number of people have had a hand in its design over a period of several years. The main photo was supplied by Mike Simpkins; taken in 1961 at Llewellyn Barracks it shows Intake 41, B Company, Depot Royal Rhodesia Regiment. The soldiers who can be seen full face in the foreground of the photo are identified as (L-R):*

*L/Cpl JJ Smith (seen over the Instructor's right shoulder)*

*WOII Alf Leppert (Instructor)*

*Cpl TR Herbert (to the left of the Instructor)*

*Rfn LL Badam-Thornhill (ditto)*

*Rfn AV Knott (ditto)*

*Cpl D de L Slatter (at the extreme right of the photo)*

*In this photo Instructor WOII Leppert is in the uniform of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment. He saw many years of service in the army and his final posting was as Battalion Quartermaster with 4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment, by which time he was commissioned and had reached the rank of Captain. He was awarded the Defence Force Medal for Meritorious Service in 1976.*

*The Rhodesia Regiment badge on the front cover is the Helmet Plate worn circa 1927.*

*The Regimental Colours - black, red and rifle green are depicted along the lower edge.*

*The back cover centre piece is taken from the last flag to be flown by the 1st Battalion Rhodesia Regiment. This was presented to Col Norman Gourlay Jardine ICD, OBE, TD for safe keeping in 1980. The flag is now on display in the Rhodesian Services Association archives. It shows the final badge used by the Rhodesia Regiment, as well as the Battle Honours won by the Regiment throughout its proud history.*

*The photo on the spine is of the person who most influenced the production of this book - Sgt Peter Bomford who, along with thousands of WWII volunteers, began their service in the Rhodesia Regiment. He was later awarded the Military Cross while attached to the 1st Gurkha Regiment, 21 (East Africa) Infantry Brigade in Burma. This photo pays tribute to and is representative of personnel who volunteered for service during WWII, initiating their training with the*



*Rhodesia Regiment and then becoming attached to units throughout the British Empire for the duration of hostilities. Of those who returned from WWII, many went on to form the nucleus of what became the final phase of the Rhodesia Regiment.*

### **The authors et al**

We have a list of over 400 people who have supplied information. We have around 2,500 photos and illustrations to choose from for inclusion in the book. In addition to the named authors, the following have written chapters or appendices on their own or in coordination with others listed:

Craig Fourie  
Tony Fraser  
Adrian Haggett  
Gerry van Tonder

The following list is of those people who have made significant contribution to the project:

Nick Baalbergen  
Diana Bomford  
Chris Cocks  
Kerrin Cocks  
John Lomas  
Tinka Mushett  
Dudley Wall

This book has, in all essence, been a product of a "committee effort". However, unlike some committees that bicker and muddle along - this project has been more on the lines of a military operation where there has been a job to do and everyone has given their best for the ultimate objective.

As co-ordinator of this project, I (Hugh Bomford), thank everyone who has put their shoulders to the wheel.

Keep watch on this newsletter as well as this web page <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/rhodesia-regiment.htm> for updates and pre-publication offers.

### **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.

### **Roan Antelope Music Special Offer**

Dear Rhodie and South African Friends,

All of you at home and worldwide, it is always time to keep up your heritage and culture. Ours is that of comradeship, respect, faith, family values and the very joy of living - rugby, braaivleis, sunny skies, Chevrolet, boerewors, vellies, chibulies and keeping the good times going.

Talking of rugby, South Africans and Rhodies have graced inclusion in many international teams. You see them playing for France. (De Villiers) Italy (Botha) Australia (Pocock) Scotland (Denton) England (Barrit) and for many other nations, just to mention a few. That says a lot about our comparatively small nations.

At Roan antelope music we have always got an ear to the ground regarding keeping the Flame alive. Hats off to all the other folks that send out newsletters and are on the internet; Flame Lily Foundation in Pretoria, RASA in Durban, Eddy Norris of ORAFS, Hugh Bomford in New Zealand and the list goes on. There are also folks out there bringing out books and DVD's about events and on history like "Viscount Down" by Keith Nell and a book coming out about anecdotes of the Boer War by Rob Milne published by 30° South.

Another very exciting book on the horizon is a book on the history of the Rhodesia Regiment. So many of us were involved with that fine regiment. How many intakes were there at Llewellyn? John Edmond was intake 9 and he may be playing at the re-union of the 146<sup>th</sup> – WOW!

So as a special offer this month the Roan team thought that the CD "*Heritage - Where We Come From*" would be appropriate.

This album contains the following songs: “Where do we come from, Me and old Bill, Pamwe Chete, Father Claude, Old Warrior, I grew up on your music, Oh Umtali, Song for Sally, I remember Clem, Sit Nomine Digna, Rhodesia Regiment, Chikurubi, When you say Zvakanaka, Voices of Rhodesia”.

For the past few years the annual Kunkuru Rhodie weekend has been a great success. This year the Rhodie weekend will be held from 4–6 October at Mbizi Caravan and Safari park just outside Warmbaths (Bela Bela) the venue is great and John Edmond will be doing his concert on the Saturday night.

To avoid disappointment book now. There is a wide range of accommodation to suit each pocket. See the website [www.johnedmond.co.za](http://www.johnedmond.co.za) and phone Mbizi (Engela/Jane) or email for reservations [bookings3@mbizi.co.za](mailto:bookings3@mbizi.co.za)

Till next time, keep warm  
The Roan Team

To order the CD of the month go to:

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

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

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

Price including post and pack:

RSA	UK / USA	AUS / NZ
R 130.00	R310.00	R350.00

**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



With grateful thanks to Vic MacKenzie for use of this illustration to better explain the ‘forked stick’ connection for those who were not raised in Africa.

## Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment

David Brown is currently serving in the Australian army and is engaged in his spare time writing a book on the Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment. He writes:

"Hi all,

Just a quick group email to ask a few questions about uniforms worn by the Regiment's members. At the moment this is what I am focusing what little time I have to research. The grey areas that are hindering me at the moment are as follows:

- Dress Numbers utilised most by the Regiment and what they specifically included.
- Ceremonial uniform worn by the Regiment members for such things as parades and what bits and pieces set it apart from other Regiments uniforms, i.e. Lanyards, buttons etc.
- Photo's of the differing Dress Numbers, particularly ceremonial, officer and senior NCO mess dress.

I'm in contact with Mr Dudley Wall about Dress Numbers, however he has been able to provide me with common Dress Numbers only which, according to him, can differ slightly depending on the Regiment in question.

Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Hope all of you are tracking well and I look forward to speaking to you again soon.

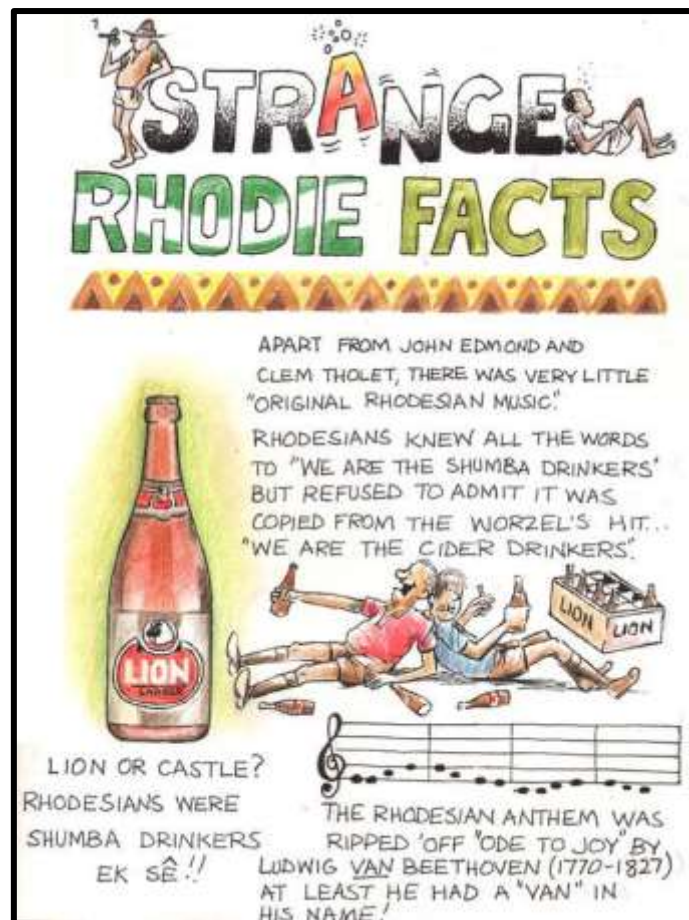
Regards,  
Dave Brown"

Please assist if you can by emailing David at [davidbrown6607@hotmail.com](mailto:davidbrown6607@hotmail.com)

## Classic Vic MacKenzie

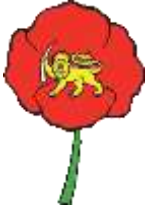
Vic Mackenzie or 'Victorious MacKenzie' as I call him recently competed in and won a triathlon event in the USA. He modestly pointed out that the previous year's winner was absent. Good on you Vic.

Soon after his triathlon victory he produced another of his magnificent cartoons for us to enjoy. (As we all know – Rhodesia was Lion country!)



That's all folks, so until next time – go well.

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.

This newsletter is sent to registered subscribers. To unsubscribe press this link: [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) and send the email.