



Contact! Contact!

September 2011

A monthly sitrep. for the

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand.

Web: www.rhodesianservices.org

Secretary's e-mail thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org

Editor's e-mail theeditor@rhodesianservices.org

Phone +64 7 576 9500 Fax +64 7 576 9501

Please Note that all previous publications are available on line at
www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm

Greetings,

Since the last issue of **Contact! Contact!** We have received many emails praising our efforts with this publication as well as an extraordinary number of generous donations to the Rhodesian Services Association. This is very overwhelming – thank you all. Your support is very welcome and much appreciated in these tough times.

It is very evident that this publication hits the spot for many of you. We endeavour to carry items of interest to as wide a range of readers as possible. I would welcome at least one more columnist for regular contributions. Please email me if you are interested.

Please take note of the October RV details below. It is really important that we get your bookings in advance of the day in order to be able to cater accurately. I believe that there will be a number of people from overseas wandering around for the Rugby World Cup, so have a look at the dates and see if you can schedule the RV in to your itinerary.

Work on the Rhodesia Regiment book project continues to dominate things in my life. We have expanded our research in order to compile a list of details of all National Service intakes which includes all services – Rhodesia Regiment, Intaf and RLI intakes. The Rhodesia Regiment information will be used for the book and the balance will be retained for record and further research if required. Gerry van Tonder is in charge of compiling these rolls, please email him at g.van-tonder@sky.com The details required in part or full are:

- Intake Number
- Unit (Royal Rhodesia Regiment, Rhodesia Regiment, Intaf, RLI etc)
- Course detail (A, B or C Coy, Training Troop, IANS)
- Basic training dates (from – to)
- Training base (Llewellyn, Cranborne, Chikarubi etc)
- Full duration of N/S (3, 6, 9, 12, 18 months)

We know that there were intakes of older blokes which used the letters 'D' and 'K' as a prefix; if you were part of these we need this information as well. Your help is imperative to get a little more recorded before it is all lost.

Lastly - if you want to find us on Facebook, search for Rhodesian Services Association. It is a closed group you will need to ask to join.

Obituaries

Please Note that the Rhodesian Services Association holds a large Rhodesian flag for use at funerals. Please contact me at hbomford@clear.net.nz if required.



From John Redfern of the Flame Lily Association

*"We regret to inform you of the death of **Trevor Marsberg**. Trevor was ex RLI and RhE, father of Dale and Dean, Gillian and Irene, and grandfather of Erin, Ben, Jett and Kai. He died in London on 28th July 2011 at age 67. Deeply mourned and dearly loved by his wife Peggy, his sister Cheryl Johnstone and all their families, especially Merren, his god-daughter. Trevor's first wife Vee died on 25th July 2011 in Johannesburg, so Dale and Dean lost both their parents in four days, a very heavy burden to bear. Cheryl Johnstone email cheke4749@gmail.com"*

Tom Thomas sent this email from First in Integrated Fire Management, **Bandit Steyn's** employers, dated 3 August 2011:

"It is with deep regret that we inform you that yesterday we have lost Bandit Steyn, a loved and respected member of our family. He was busy with prescribed burning work in the Steelpoort area when he became ill and was admitted to a local mine clinic where he passed away."

Bandit was one of the original members of the Group who joined FFA to implement the Working on Fire Programme. He was a unique person, uncompromising in his generosity and love for his fellow man. He abhorred injustice and unfairness and was always willing to fight for the rights of anyone working with and for him. Bandit never gave orders to others that he could not or would not be prepared to perform himself – he was the quintessential team-player! No challenge was too difficult for Bandit and woe betide you if you tried to help him because you considered him disabled. He never entertained the concept. The man was larger than life - his energy and capacity knew no bounds!

Our thoughts are with Karen, Alex and Lauralin Steyn at this difficult time.

*Hamba Kahle, Bandit our friend!
We will miss you!
Chris de Bruno Austin and Johan Heine"*

Facebook entry 11th August 2011:

*"**Pete Frost** died last night. I am sure those who knew him and his wife, Betty Frost (nee Visagie), will want to send sympathy to his son, Craig Frost, whose only sister, Gayle, passed away in December."*

Bill Wiggill writes:

*"It is with regret that we advise you of the passing away of **Bob Meacham** (ex WOII RLI then RhAf.) He died on Saturday 13th August, 2011 after a heart attack at his home in Charara, Zimbabwe."*

Our sincere condolences to his daughters Kim and Tana and all of Bob's friends and family. Our thoughts are with you in this time of loss."

Off The Radar

A number of recipients find their copy of **Contact! Contact!** either gets completely rejected by their Internet Service Provider or it is consigned to their Spam Bin. It is extremely frustrating for me to have put the time and effort into production of this publication and then find that it is not reaching the intended destinations. If you are able, please check your systems or have your technical people check and ensure that these addresses are cleared as 'friendly':

thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org
theeditor@rhodesianservices.org
hbomford@clear.net.nz

In a lot of cases it is work addresses that are the problem. Please check with your mates 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, may be the solution.

Addresses for the following people are no longer working. If anyone has comms with them please get them to contact me.

- **Pamela Aranyos neé Fountain** – New Zealand
- **Shelly Bailey** – Australia
- **Don Thomson** – Uganda
- **Clive Pace** – Ex RhAF

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

October RV 21st – 23rd October 2011

Registration cost for the RV - \$37 per adult and \$10 for under 12 year olds. The adult registration fee includes the \$10 annual membership of the Rhodesian Services Association. Email me for banking details on hbomford@clear.net.nz

Please note: We need your RV subscription before **14th October 2011**. Please do not leave things to the last minute. Diana and I personally fund the whole event, it is not subsidised by the Association and we have to make all the purchases and payments prior to the day. Times are tough and we cannot afford to act as a bank. In addition we have to get our ordering spot on to avoid waste or shortage. In order that we also have a relaxing time we request your cooperation on this – please get your subscriptions to us in a timely manner – thank you.



It is time you booked your ticket for the 2011 RV!

Programme for the weekend

- **Friday 21st October.** From 4.30pm the Garrison Club at the 6th Battalion Hauraki Group is open for an evening of socialising. We will show the RWC game being played for 3rd and 4th place on the big screen which starts around 8.30pm. There will be food and drink available at very reasonable rates. It is the cheapest drink in town by a long way.
- **Saturday 22nd October.** There will be a golf tournament in the morning – contact Paul Nes by email paulnes@xtra.co.nz or cell 0274 417235 for booking and details. Assemble at the 6th Battalion Hauraki Group main hall from 2pm. The official welcome is at 3pm sharp. Following this the Garrison Bar is open. The annual auction will take place during the evening, along with plenty to eat.
- **Sunday 23rd October.** From 10am we have access to the Classic Flyers Museum. This is where the AGM takes place in the Boeing Room, followed by an excellent meal and free range of the whole museum complex. Wind up is around 2.30pm. Cost is \$12, payable on the day, which includes the meal, admission to the whole museum complex and entry in the draw for a flight for two in the Agcat biplane which can be taken at a date suitable to the winner.
- Remember that Monday the 24th is a Public Holiday leaving you free to explore the area some more or take your time travelling home - and for the organisers, a welcome day's rest!

Notes on the RWC games

We will be showing the game on Friday 21st at 8.30pm and the Final game is at 9pm on Sunday 23rd so you have plenty of time to get home or to a bar to watch the game. Don't use the rugby as an excuse to not attend the RV!

Background

This is our ninth year and we are hopeful of a few people making the trip from Aussie as well as from all over New Zealand. It is a great weekend and everyone is most welcome to attend – it is not a 'when we' or 'army only' event – it is a social gathering which began as a demonstration of respect for brave and loyal Rhodesians and now has developed a few traditions such as wearing of medals for the welcome. Once the welcome is over the socialising begins and is a great opportunity to re-establish friendships and establish new ones among people who 'talk the same language'.

The first RV was held at the 6th Battalion Hauraki Group's HQ in Tauranga in 2002 over the Labour Weekend public holiday in October. It was envisaged as a one off affair in order to show respect to those who had been decorated for their bravery and service to Rhodesia. The (then) Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. John Dick ED, was most complimentary of our efforts and the kind of spirit that we represented. He paid us a great compliment by insisting that as soldiers, we should have the opportunity to be able to keep safe the record of our country. He invited us to form a museum display in the Garrison Club adjacent to the unit's history room. A display was set up 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 GLM DCD MBE.

That first RV was so successful and we were made so very welcome by the Haurakis that it has been held every year since.

The Auction

We have been collecting items for the last few months and the list of supporters is shown below. Please give your support to them in turn. There are some people who have pledged items but we are yet to receive them. If you are in business you may wish to donate a credit note for your product or service. It is a good way to get some advertising done as well as drawing in potential new custom.

Absentee bids for the auction are welcome – please contact Paul Nes paulnes@xtra.co.nz or cell 0274 417235 for details of what is on auction

List of supporters

- ☛ 30 Degrees South Publishing
- ☛ Tim Bax - two signed copies of his book 'Three Sips of Gin'
- ☛ Hugh and Diana Bomford (Books for Africa)
- ☛ Susan Gibbs - a signed copy of her book 'Call of the Litany Bird'
- ☛ Jack Maddox
- ☛ Brandon Mitchell
- ☛ Mike O'Rourke - flight in a Russian Yak 52 (primary Russian trainer aircraft from the mid 1970's)
- ☛ Bryan & Nancy Tichborne - Nancy's water colour book
- ☛ Ashley Symeou, aka Conrad K – a signed copy of his book 'In the Shadow of the Tokolosh'

Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings Everyone,

I trust this finds you all well and poised to enjoy the premier sporting event of the year about to unfold in this far corner of the world. Before talking about this I would just like to bring up an important achievement.

I don't suppose the fact that England is officially the best test cricket team in the world today is lost on any of you. The way they absolutely destroyed the number two team, India, in the just completed test series in England can leave no doubt. They have come a long way from the bumbling, under achieving team that they were in the last couple of decades. They used to be the brunt of all jokes and were ridiculed even by teams like Zimbabwe. The way Andy Flower has turned them around is a credit to the man himself. But it goes back a bit further than this, it goes back to when Duncan Fletcher took control and started to make the changes that have ultimately led to the team they are today. Between Fletcher and Flower, they have instilled the changes and the discipline needed to make England the team they are today. Under Duncan they won the Ashes and under Andy they won the Ashes and defended them in Australia.

All of this success will filter down through the county teams and at the end of the day, because of two of our fellow countryman, England cricket is in a very fine position. So to Duncan Fletcher and Andy Flower, we take our hats off to you - you have also made your fellow countrymen very proud.

In twelve days the rugby world descends on to these shores to watch the ultimate prize for the game they play in heaven. All four years of talking are out the window because now the talking will be done on the field. I think this is going to be a tournament of upsets as never before have the lesser teams been closer in ability to the big guns. Take my team for example, the Springboks, who have Wales, Samoa and Fiji in their pool, none of these games are a done deal. We all saw what Samoa did to Australia last month. England, Argentina and Scotland are in one pool and the AB's have their nemesis, France in their pool. Australia seems to have the easiest pool, but Ireland and Italy are no pushovers. If the Boks go to form and win their pool they have a very tricky Ireland in the quarter-final and then the AB's in the semi. While there are many people writing off the Boks' chances, it must be remembered that this is the World Cup and the Boks are the only team that have consistently beaten the All Blacks in recent years. Come semi-final it is eighty minutes and all the pressure will be on the home team - can't wait.

For me the other side of the draw, if it goes to form, will be Aussie against England. England has had the wood over Aussie in recent years and will fancy their chances. They will also be licking their lips come scrum time - mouth watering indeed. I just hope at the end of the day rugby is the winner (although I don't know how New Zealand will cope if they don't win). I hope that everyone who comes enjoys their time here and enjoys the rugby and are not ripped of by motels, rental cars etc. trying to make a quick buck. There are going to be many reunions of friends from all around the world and Rhodesians and Zimbabweans will be no exception, in fact probably more so. This is a timely reminder to anyone around Tauranga over the Labour Weekend that we will be having our RV (see information elsewhere in this newsletter about the RV).

By this time next month we will be getting towards the business end of the Cup and have more of an idea of the form teams. For those of you coming we will look forward to catching up with you. Remember you can contact me on fourstreams@clear.net.nz for anything I can help with. I would love to hear from anyone on their thoughts.

Till next month, go well
Regards,
Grunter



Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980



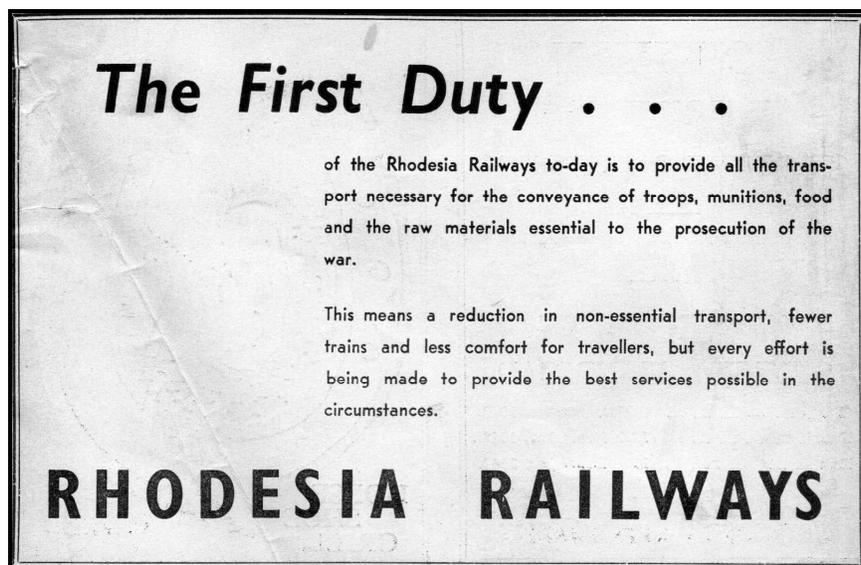
by Gerry van Tonder

September

Newsflash Headlines +++ 3 September 1890 Fort Charter established as one of a series of forts along the Pioneer route +++ 2 September 1892 Umtali's first newspaper, *The Rhodesian Advertiser* went on sale +++ 21 September 1914 the BSAP occupy Schuckmansdorp in German South West Africa +++ 15 September 1942 the elementary training of pilots in Tiger Moths commenced at Mount Hampden +++ 7 September 1953 Sir Godfrey Huggins is sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the Federation in the Interim Ministry +++ 06 September 1958 Royal Rhodesian Air Force jet fighters attack two forts in the Yemeni frontier village of Am Sauma +++ 7 September 1962 An African was shot dead and another wounded in violence as Impresit and Federal Power Board workers staged a massive strike +++ 13 September 1972 Maximum security prisoner Aiden Diggeden has six months added to his sentence after escaping from custody +++

In Brief

On 3 September 1939, the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, Sir Herbert Stanley, in a broadcast to the nation, informs its citizens that Britain is at war with Germany. He states that the time has come to set aside any 'personal considerations' and place loyalties behind the common Imperial cause. He advises Rhodesians to go about their normal business and await instructions of the Government.

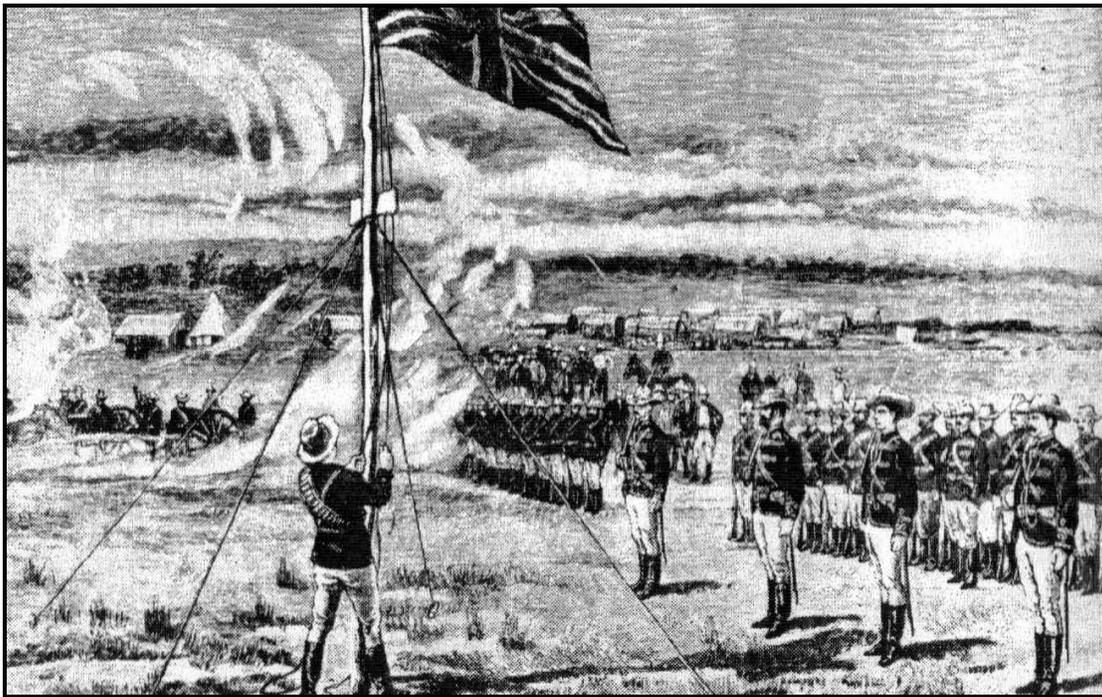


On 24 September 1976, Prime Minister Ian Smith announces to a stunned nation that he has accepted American proposals for majority rule in two years. He states that the package from Secretary of State Henry Kissinger gives assurances that the war would end and sanctions would be lifted. Premier Smith added that it had been made very clear to his government that there would be no alternative to accepting the proposals.

On the evening of 3 September 1978, ZIPRA terrorists shoot down the Air Rhodesia Viscount *Hunyani*. Forty eight of the crew and passengers perished, including survivors who were mercilessly slaughtered on the ground by the same gang of terrorists. ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo boasted about the incident.

Birth of a Nation: 13 September 1890

In compliance with the Orders of the Day issued by Major Frank Johnson, the Pioneer Column paraded at 1000 hours on Saturday 13 September 1890, dismounted and in full dress, to celebrate their arrival in this new country, and to name the place where they had halted Fort Salisbury, after Lord Salisbury, the Prime Minister of Great Britain.



Raising the Union Flag at Salisbury in September 1890

Assembled in front of a roughly-hewn pole from a Msasa tree were A and B Troops of the Pioneer Column; C Troop with two 7-pounder guns at the ready; and B Troop of the BSAP on the left. The site would henceforth be called Cecil Square.

The honour of hoisting the flag was bestowed upon Lt. E.C. Tyndale-Biscoe RN. Also standing by the flagstaff were Lt. Colonel Edward Pennefather, commander of the BSAP, Capt. Sir John Willoughby, second in command of the BSAP, and Lt. Sidney Shepstone, ADC to the commander. The BSAP Chaplain, Canon Francis Balfour gave a prayer of thanks, which was followed by a twenty-one gun salute and a march past by those on parade.

The column had crossed the Shashi River into Lobengula's territory on the first day of July that year, laagering close to the river at a spot where Fort Tuli would be constructed. The onerous pathfinder responsibilities for 'cutting the road' initially rested with B Troop, accompanied by Frederick Courtenay Selous and Dr L.S. Jameson.

Progress was slow through the uncharted territory; the column's every move under close scrutiny from Matabele warriors acting under instructions from their king in GuBulawayo. Consequently, the column had to go into defensive laager every night, using the sixteen-horse-power steam engine powered searchlight for added security.

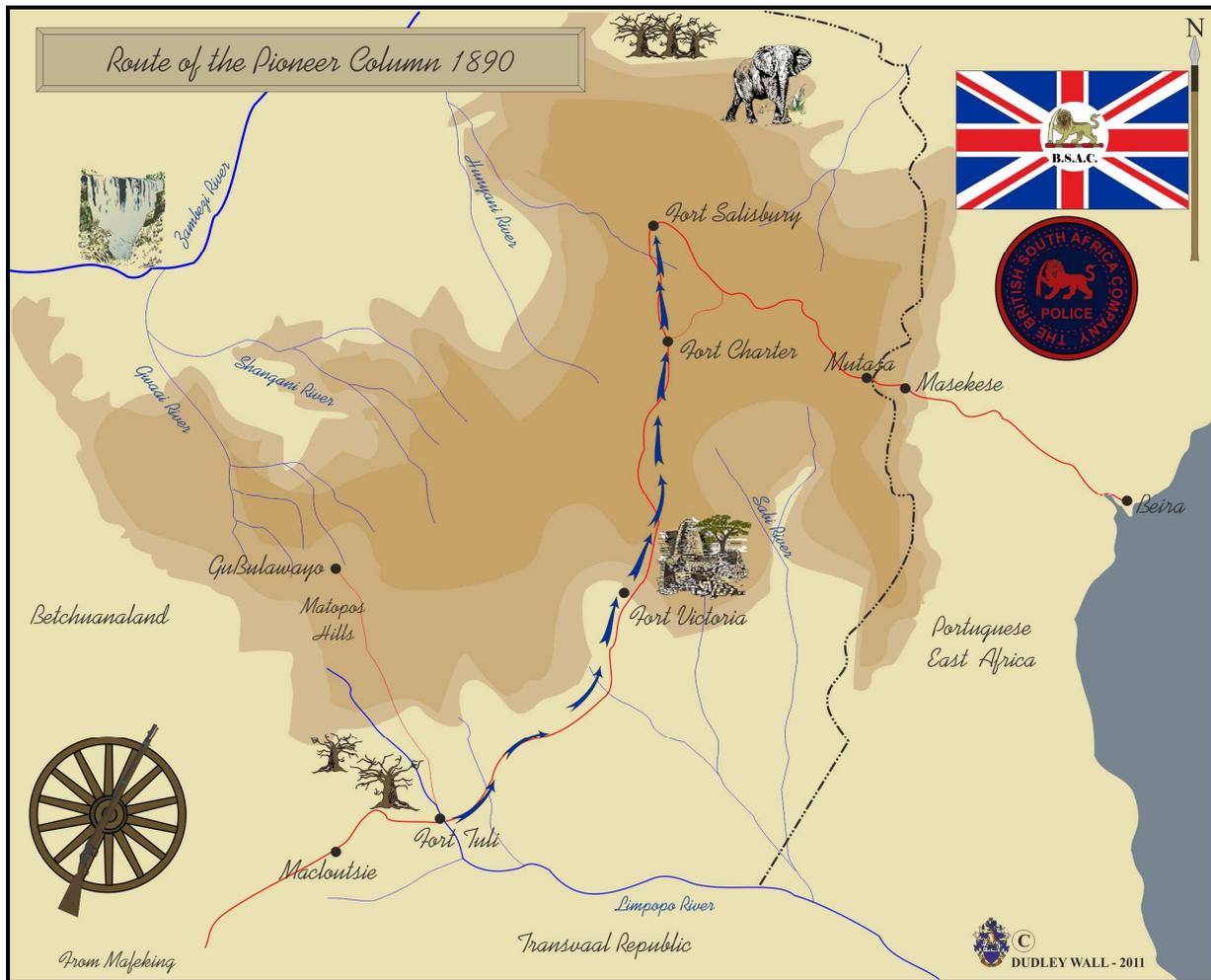
On 17th August, having a few days earlier crossed the Tokwe River and dynamited their way through what they christened Providential Pass, the column laagered at what became Fort Victoria. As the column ventured away from direct Matabele influence and into the land of the Shona tribes, the atmosphere became more relaxed and Maj. Johnson condoned hunting for fresh meat.

On Tuesday 2nd September, in bitterly cold and wet conditions, the column arrived at the headwaters of the Umniati River, selecting a suitable site to establish Fort Charter. This new garrison was left in the control of Capt. Maurice Heyman and A Troop of the BSAP.

Night marches were also undertaken as tensions associated with the presence of Matabele warriors were left behind. A week later, the column outspanned on the Umfuli River, where a Berthon boat (a double-skinned canvas craft), carted all the way from the Cape, was sailed up and down a pool in the river.

On Thursday 11 September, the weary column, having left the railhead in Kimberley almost five months ago, double-spanned all 117 wagons across the Hunyani River, just sixteen miles away from their final destination at Mt. Hampden.

During a much needed rest at the Makabusi River, Major Johnson scaled a nearby kopje to see how far they were from Mount Hampden. However, it was not the sight of the distant hill that drew Johnson's attention, but the presence of a good supply of water and open plains of rich red soil in the immediate vicinity. Fetching Rhodes' proxy, Jameson, to share his discovery with, a decision was made to select the spot on the Makabusi to end Johnson's contract and to call the site Salisbury, after the 3rd Marquis of Salisbury.



Above and Beyond

Four crew members of the ill-fated *Viscount Hunyani* shot down in September 1978 were posthumously awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal (MCM) 'for brave and gallant conduct.'



The Meritorious Conduct Medal

Pilot Captain John Hood (36), who was born in Bulawayo and educated at Allan Wilson School.

First Officer Garth George Beaumont (31), who was born in Florida, South Africa and educated at Plumtree School.

Air Hostess Dulcie Esterhuizen (21), who was born in Bulawayo and educated at Northlea School.

Air Hostess, Miss Brenda-Ann Pearson (23), who was born in Salisbury and educated at Marandellas High School.

At The Going Down of the Sun

On 6th September 1979, a Puma helicopter carrying seventeen members of the armed forces was shot down in Mozambique. All on board perished, including a crew of three from the South African Air Force, five from the Rhodesian Corps of Engineers, and nine from 1 Commando, 1st Battalion the Rhodesian Light Infantry.

Their story and memory is enshrined in a new publication, *The Search for Puma 164*, by Neill Jackson and Rick van Malsen.

Across the globe

- On 28th September 1928 Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin.
- On 2nd September 1945 Japan surrenders, bringing WW II to an end.
- On 9th September 1976 Chairman Mao Tse Tung of China dies.

And...

In September 1848 chewing gum is produced commercially for the first time.

Annual Sausage and Wors Sizzle

This was our third year of fundraising for the Rhodesian Services Association projects. The annual Tauranga Arms and Militaria Show provides the friendly venue for us to set up a food stall and dispense Kiwi bangers, home made wors, soft drinks and coffee. This year we raised a little under \$800 which is well up on the previous years take, partially due to us having less capital expenses – tarpaulins etc.

For a change we had good weather for the whole weekend which made our lives a lot easier. Saturday is usually the busiest day. With this kind of operation it gets very hectic at times and it is difficult to gauge how much to cook at any one time. We are most grateful for the hard work put in, especially, by the Griffiths family filling in for a couple of unavoidable absences on two of the shifts. As you can see from the photos below of the first shift on Sunday, we have a few laughs.



L-R Andy Burness, Dave Soper, Diana Bomford and Maryna Soper setting up on Sunday and sharing a joke – most likely at the photographer's expense.

We are establishing a routine now which makes for better efficiencies. We hope that next year's event is well supported by the locals.

A Tracker's Anecdotes by David Scott-Donelan



Titled 'H' Troop, Bulawayo, F.C Selous can be seen in the centre – look at the size of the man!

The Matopos Hills, where the picture above was taken, played a major role in many aspects of British and Rhodesian history over the years. For example, the American born scout for the Rhodesian Pioneer Column, Frederick Russell Burnham met Colonel Robert Baden-Powell there and passed on his tracking and scouting skills which led directly to the largest and most influential youth movement ever, the Boy Scouts, with tens of millions of active members world-wide.

The Matopos, with its rugged and steep granite peaks was later to become the area of choice for the selection and training of the Rhodesian SAS when it was based at Brady Barracks, Bulawayo in 1961/62. Strangely enough Brady Barracks, on the Salisbury Road close to the modern suburb of Khumalo, was built on the 3000 acre farm originally awarded to Burnham by Doctor Leander Starr Jameson, for his service to Queen Victoria and Rhodes.



Maj. Frederick Russell Burnham DSO.

In the photo above, Major Burnham is wearing the Distinguished Service Order. He is also wearing the British South Africa Company Medal, the Queens South Africa Medal with four campaign ribbons for service in the Boer War. It has been reported that he was awarded the Victoria Cross, but as he did not wish to relinquish his American citizenship, the medal was not awarded. The Queen was very taken with Burnham and even invited him to a private luncheon at her private estate on the Isle of Wight, offering him an Earldom if he would forsake his American citizenship and become British!

There is conjecture in some circles that Burnham, his American brother-in-law Pete Ingram and Trooper Gooding were fleeing from the Battle of Shangani where Major Alan Wilson and his patrol died at the hand of Matabele Impis. It is more likely that the three were sent back by Major Wilson to find and seek help from the British Imperial

Commander, Major Forbes, and to advise him of the dire situation that Wilson's patrol was in (see the biography 'The Life of Jameson' by Ian Colvin, written in 1923 from Jameson's own personal papers and records). Although some latter day historians, including Terrence Ranger for example, claim that Burnham ran away, it is an uncontested fact that Burnham was given 600 mining claims, a huge land grant and other accolades by Leander Starr Jameson for service during the Matabele War. It is very unlikely that if Burnham had shown any cowardice he would have been awarded the mining claims and his land grant, or later be appointed the Chief of Scouts for Lord Roberts Chief of the British Army during the Anglo-Boer War where he was made a member of the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry in infiltrating Boer lines and blowing up their railway system on several occasions.

Burnham met Selous for the first time when the Forbes column, in a dreadful physical and starving state, eventually met a column of relief troops commanded by Selous on the way back to Bulawayo.

Burnham was the man who shot the Matabele spiritual M'limo in a cave in the Matopos, thus ending the Matabele rebellion.

The infamous Jameson Raid (Rhodesia's first external raid!) from Rhodesia to the gold fields of the Witwatersrand was staged from Bulawayo and passed through the Matopos to the eventual calamity of the battle of Doornkop, when the entire raiding force was ambushed and captured by the Boers and ultimately tried in disgrace for their folly. This raid prompted President Kruger to declare a war on the British settlers, known to all now as the Anglo-Boer War.

Interestingly, Lord Baden-Powell's personal Chaplain during the Anglo-Boer War was Reverend John F. Mitchell, who immigrated to the USA in 1905 as a missionary and founded the first Boy Scout Troop in America in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, in 1909, one year before the Boy Scouts of America was formed. The US Army Air Corps General, Clarence Tinker, was the first Native American to be promoted Major General in the American Army. He was one of the original Pawhuska Scouts who served with distinction in WWII. General Tinker was killed in 1942 when leading a bombing raid on Wake Island during the Battle of Midway which was being defended by the Japanese. For his gallantry General Tinker he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. His body was never found.



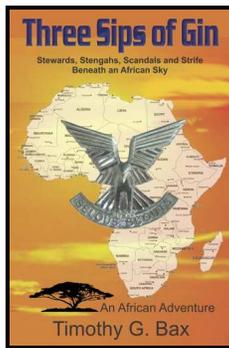
The group picture is of "officers and gentlemen," on board the passenger liner *RMS Dunottar Castle* headed back to England from Cape Town in 1902 towards the end of the Anglo-Boer War. In the picture Burnham is third from left standing and Winston Churchill seated second from right. The "Bill Gates" of that era was Abe Bailey, standing fifth from left and Colonel Maurice Gifford is front row right. The rest of the group were a veritable 'whose who' in Victorian society.

Cecil John Rhodes, as every Rhodesian, knows was buried in the Matopos to the royal salute, "BAYETE!" by thousands of Matabele warriors in honour of the "Great Chief."

Although some of these events may seem to be unconnected an examination of the facts reveals that during the years 1896 to 1900, the Matopos Hills played a starring role in the events of Colonial Africa at the turn of the Nineteenth Century. I recall it from the painful memory of blood soaked boots, raw, blistered back and pack containing thirty six pounds of useless house bricks, a constant companion during the SAS selection course!

Editor's Note: For those of you who are not aware, David Scott-Donelan was one of Rhodesia's top trackers. David trained many trackers in the Rhodesian Army and continues to train tactical and combat trackers through his school in Arizona. David is recognised as a world leader in the field of tactical and combat tracking and is consulted by many services around the world. His website is www.trackingoperations.com

Book Review – Three Sips of Gin by Tim Bax



Having completed reading 'In Search of Puma 164' by Neill Jackson and Rick van Malsen I set about tackling Three Sips of Gin by Tim Bax - it was just the tonic that I needed after the emotional record by Jackson and van Malsen.

Three Sips of Gin is a light hearted look at the life and times of the author Tim Bax. Born in Tanganyika, Tim recalls an interesting life moving from Africa to Canada then England and finally back to Africa where he serves as an officer in the Selous Scouts. When Zimbabwe emerges, Tim moves to South Africa where he works in various security related jobs and still keeps up the humour in his life, thankfully without getting more holes shot in himself. In the last few pages of the book Tim recalls his meeting in South Africa with Mikhail Kalashnikov who was guest of honour at a gun show arranged by Fred Tatos and friends. Mikhail Kalashnikov is the man who invented the AK47. Kalashnikov has no English and when Bax manages to upset one of Kalashnikov's minders by stating that the AK47 is inferior, Kalashnikov gets in on the conversation. Bax maintained that any weapon that puts nine holes in a man and does not kill him must be of inferior quality – here Bax is speaking from personal experience! Kalashnikov expressed deep sorrow that his invention had caused Bax so much pain and suffering that he took off his very heavy Russian Army embossed watch and presented it to Bax as a token of his sorrow.

Tim's apparent view on life is very casual and this may explain how he managed to survive three separate incidents where he was seriously wounded. I do not know of any other Rhodesian soldier who was seriously wounded three times – he should have been nick-named 'Figure 12' - after the targets that we used. How he still has all his limbs, never mind that he is still alive and apparently reasonably sane, is a tribute to his attitude to life.

I asked Tim if he is a fan of the well known Flashman books by the late George Macdonald Fraser. Tim did not know what I was talking about. For those of you who are familiar with the Flashman books, if you read Tim's book you will see a number of similarities of style, in that the main character moves from one potential disaster to another, brushing off the dust and getting back on the horse and at all times retaining his bearing and, more importantly, staying alive.

I have no doubt that Tim has used some artistic license in writing this book, but by the same token he is a brave and resourceful man who probably plays down his actual intelligence and most certainly plays down his bravery.

The book itself does have a number of typographical errors which I understand are being addressed in the second printing which may well be out by the time this newsletter is published. Tim's first print was 1,000 copies and these went a lot faster than he had reckoned on. With some books that are self published and marketed by the author, you get poor service, lengthy delays in delivery and other issues – not so with Tim. From his online order form you get a very personal service which is friendly, prompt and the postage is at cost. At around NZ\$40 you certainly get good value for money.

Barring the cover there are no illustrations in the book and this does not matter in the least bit – it is the text content that makes this book what it is – a thoroughly enjoyable read which you can pick up and put down with ease, but if you are like me you will find an opportunity to get back to it as soon as you can.

Tim has taken it upon himself to donate a number of his books to good causes (the Rhodesian Services Assn. is the recipient of two) as well he started a group to send books to the elderly in Zimbabwe. You can find this group which is called 'Bring a Ray of Sunshine to Zimbabwe', on Facebook.

To purchase go to www.threesipsogin.com or write to Tim at tim@timothybax.com

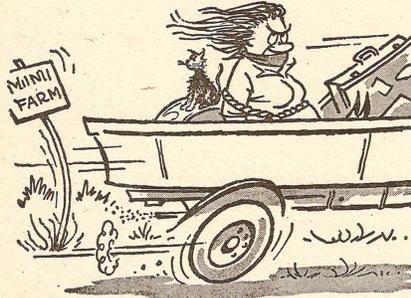
Flash Back

Over the next few issues I will be sharing some adverts from back in the day that I have come across. This first one is for anyone who has moved house recently – especially to one of our subscribers who has moved to Barberton! The style of drawing looks like it was done by 'Spud'

*We'll transport
anything anywhere*



*and collect for return
trip*



For urgent deliveries of vital equipment, and profitable use of the return trip, George Elcombe transport services are unbeatable. You have specific transport needs; Elcombes have the equipment and the experience to give you efficient, trouble-free, economical service.

GEORGE ELCOMBE
(PVT.) LTD.

P.O. Box 166 SALISBURY Telephone 706721

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. All are most welcome.

The next social is at the Hobsonville RSA on Friday 23rd September from 6pm onwards. The kitchen will be open for reasonably priced meals. Please take the opportunity to catch up with friends and past acquaintances.

TAURANGA

The Garrison Club run by the 6th Battalion Hauraki Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. 'Graze and Movie Evenings' are 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. As noted elsewhere in this publication, other social meetings take place which are advertised locally via email.

October RV 21st – 23rd October 2011 – see earlier article for details.

HAMILTON

Hamiltonians - please contact Tinka Mushett email mushett@slingshot.co.nz or cell +64 21 722 922 for details of socials being planned in your area.

Make a note on the calendar right now!

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. Use the link above to go to the CQ Store page and from there you can navigate to the different sections which are also duplicated below for your convenience.

The CQ Store pages have been updated and altered so that you can easily browse through our extensive range of quality products. 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.

PayPal: If you elect payment by PayPal, we will bill you from thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org

Please Note: We can only process credit cards via PayPal. We do not accept postal orders or Western Union transfers. For overseas sales we prefer payment by PayPal, personal or bank cheque. We can accept personal cheques from most countries with the exception of South Africa. 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.



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



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

Time is running out if you want to enter our "Rugby Jersey Competition" – if you want to buy one of our jerseys get onto it quick style – they are \$125 each (plus postage) and available in short or long sleeve.



Buy one of our Rhodesian Rugby Jerseys or else we will send this pair around to drink all your beer!

Three competitions with prizes available:

You can enter all three competitions but only one entry per competition and the photo must be clear enough to identify that it is a Rhodesian Services Assn Rugby jersey (we know what our authentic copies look like). Photos to thecgstore@rhodesianservices.org

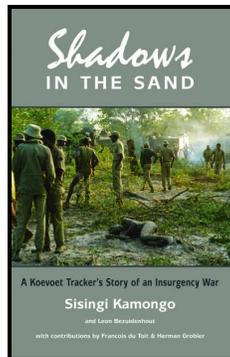
1. Send in a photo of yourself wearing one of our rugby jerseys in attendance at any Rugby World Cup game.
2. Send in a photo of yourself wearing one of our rugby jerseys in attendance at any Rugby World Cup gathering – i.e. a pub where a game is being shown.
3. Be able to demonstrate proof that you were seen on TV wearing one of our jerseys at one of the games and if you were waving a Rhodesian flag there will be a bonus. Entry for this is reliant on credible witnesses - video evidence would be perfect.

Prizes for each part of the competition will be a 'Quartermaster's Braai Pack' consisting of a braai apron, cap and polo shirt each with the embroidery of your choice i.e. Lion & Tusk, Rhodesian Coat of Arms or Flame Lily.

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.

This title will soon be in stock. Email me to reserve a copy of ***Shadows In The Sand*** by Sisingi Kamongo and Leon Bezuidenhout \$50 plus postage



This is the story of a Kavango tracker who served for six years with Koevoet ('Crowbar'), the elite South African Police anti-terrorist unit, during the South West African–Angolan bush war of the '80s. Most white team leaders lasted only two years; the black trackers walked the tracks for years. Sisingi Kamongo tells the story of the 50 or so fire fights he was involved in; he survived five anti-personnel mine and POMZ explosions and an RPG rocket on his Casspir APC vehicle; he was wounded three times; he tells of the trackers looking for the shadows on the ground, facing ambush and AP mines at every turn; he tells of the art of tracking ... where dust can tell time.

Kamongo's story is supported by two accounts from renowned Koevoet team leaders, Herman Grobler and Francois du Toit—a powerful collection of experiences from South Africa's most successful counter-insurgency unit.

Please use the page link www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm to view our stock of excellent books. When buying for someone else you cannot beat a good book as a gift.



The Rhodesia Regiment – Book Project



Work continues with cataloguing the photos and illustrations for this project as well as gathering material for the roll listing the CO, 2I/C and RSM of each battalion and OC, 2I/C and CSM of the Independent Companies, noting that the Indep. Coy. records are only up until the end of Rhodesia Regiment administration, which was around November 1977 when they became part of the RAR (see note below). We have a document outlining our deficiencies which can be sent to you if required. Your recollection of any names and dates, or knowledge of someone who may be able to assist would be most welcome - please email me.

In addition we need:

- Photos of 6th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment soldiers wearing the full size silver Rhodesia Regiment badge (shown below) on their berets. It has long been recorded that 6RR wore silver badges (not to be confused with the silver collar badge, smaller than the full size badge) that officers wore. We only have one photo showing one soldier with the silver badge and we want more as well as any background or account as to why 6RR did this.



- The question over the date of the Independent Company's transition from Rhodesia Regiment to RAR has still not been resolved with reports from 6 Indep. soldiers that it may have been late 1978 by the time they were aware that they were RAR. The general thinking to date has been that it was after October 1977 that the Indep. Coys. became part of the RAR. Your recollections would be most welcome – when were you issued with an RAR badge for your beret? Anything else of significance? We know that RAR soldiers had been attached to the Indep. Coys. well before the change to RAR, some time in late 1976 as was the case with 4 Indep. from my recollections.
- National Service details as requested in the Editorial at the beginning of this newsletter.

Please send any material to Hugh Bomford hbomford@clear.net.nz

This book is being compiled to honour our forefathers and our mates. Don't live to regret not being involved.

The Global Forked Stick – Snippets and Requests

Tracing Rhodesian POWs of the Japanese

Last month we published a request below from Rob Hilton and omitted his email address. Rob wrote:

"I would appreciate any help in finding the names of any Rhodesians who did not come back from the Thai-Burma Railway construction.

Information I would like to obtain is:

- *Names, regiment or service they were in with the Allied forces during the period they were taken into captivity;*
- *And the cemetery they now lie in.*

My aim is to locate the graves of these men and take a photo of the grave and place the photo and the information together."

Please make contact with Ron on rlh6649@gmail.com

L/Cpl Timothy Joseph Murdock

This request from is from Andrew Dorking. Please note that the family desires this request to NOT be published on Facebook in order to not bring more grief to other family members. Please respect this and reply to Andrew per details below:

"Dear Sir

I am writing on behalf of my fiancé Julia Murdock, to try and find out more about her brother Timothy Joseph Murdock. We know from different websites that Tim was a L/Cpl in 3 Independent Company, Rhodesian African Rifles and we also know that he was KIA in an ambush at Inyanga on November 28 1978, but that's where the trail stops. Julia was only nine when her brother went off to war but she never saw him again.

If there is anyone still around who knew Tim while he was in the army, or if anyone has any photos of him, we would love to hear from them.

*Yours sincerely
Andrew Dorking
Email andrew_dorking@hotmail.com“*

Seeking Mike Bailey

Mike Bailey was an officer in 4RR. If anyone is in contact with him please ask him to contact Mark Hall email markbhall@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Please copy any information to me as well, so that we can expand our records

Seeking Chalky van Skalkwyk

We are trying to contact Chalky van Skalkwyk who was CSM of 1 Indep. Coy. Please email me if you can help. Please note that the person we are looking for is not the Chalky van Skalkwyk who was in the RLI and currently resides in England.

Seeking Frederick Milligan

John Baxter writes:

“I am on a quest to find out whether Frederick Milligan who commanded the 3rd Battalion Royal Rhodesian Regiment is still alive and if so where, or if he has died (he would be 96 if still alive) where he or his ashes are buried. This is a special quest on behalf of a gentleman in the UK whose uncle was recommended for honours in WWII but who was sadly burned alive by the Japanese in (I believe) Burma. My correspondent wishes if possible to pay his respects at his graveside or wishes to say thank you personally.

My father was a Japanese POW (we believe that Milligan was also) and although my father cannot recall Milligan he does remember Charles Lane who was in charge of Milligan and who was in the same POW camp. Sadly Col. Lane died in 1970 so there is no way to make contact through him so it has to be with any living colleagues who may have served under Lt. Col. Milligan. Best wishes and thank you in anticipation of any response even if it is negative.

If you can shed any light on Frederick and where he is now - dead or alive, I know my contact would be very grateful.

*John Baxter
Java 42 Club member (via still living Jap POW also called John Baxter)
Email jbncr@btinternet.com“*

Editor's Note: From the records that Gerry van Tonder has compiled for the Rhodesia Regiment book we know that Lt. Col. F.G. Milligan OBE was CO 3rd Battalion Royal Rhodesia Regiment 1959 -1961. 3RRR was based in Kitwe, Northern Rhodesia and disbanded on 31st Dec. 1963 when the Federation was dissolved. His 2I/C was Maj. IV Duncan and RSM was WO1 McClusky. Please copy any information to me as well, so that we can expand our records

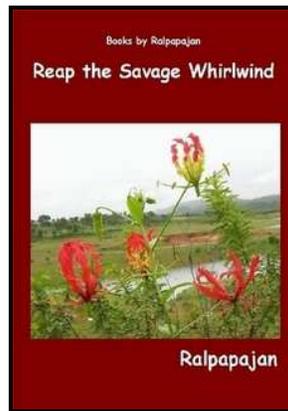
Flame Lily Adventures, Burrum River, Queensland, Australia

Jimmy Swan advises:

“We head for the latter part of the year where companies treat staff to fun days, conferences, parties, etc. plus we have the school holidays coming up. We cater for all ages and adapt to groups accordingly.

Our Laser Skirmish is only weeks away from being ready. You can visit our web at www.flamelilyadventures.com.au to see what we have on offer with Tower Jumps, Assault Course, Kayaks, Cycles and of course the Commando Tent for your meals, meetings etc.”

Reap the Savage Whirlwind



Robin Thurman writing under the name Rob Ralpapajan is a Hampshire based writer who is proud to announce the publication of his latest novel - Reap the Savage Whirlwind. The book is available from <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/Ralpapajan> in both paperback and PDF file versions. A 'Kindle' edition is presently being compiled and will soon be available at Amazon Worldwide. The book is set in South Africa and Rhodesia during the period 1897 to 1900.

During the formative years of British East Africa and Central and Southern Africa quite a few young men were sent away from England by their families because they were, in the opinion of those families, beyond the pale. They were instructed never to darken the shores of Britain again and to ensure their agreement were awarded a periodic stipend that was remitted to a chosen bank in the destination country. This periodic payment gave rise to the term 'Remittance Man' and this book shows what it was like to be such a person.

Set in the late 19th Century it tells the story of one young 'Remittance Man', his triumphs and travails as he makes his way in the booming country of South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War. His peccadilloes continue on the Diamond Fields of Kimberley and he moves on to the new country that is being settled and which lies between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers, the country that has just been christened Rhodesia, after its founder, Cecil John Rhodes. Along the way he befriends two other men, one a stranger in Southern Africa and the other who was born there. One is a Canadian and the other a Zulu. Together they journey into the unknown. They meet with a Rosvi youth near Belingwe in Rhodesia and all become firm and life-long friends.

This book is the first in a series chronicling the life journeys of four families and the way they effect the future of not only Rhodesia but of the country that is now in existence, Zimbabwe.

Rhodesia Regiment belt buckles and other items for sale

Mike Vivier has these high quality fine detail belt buckles for sale. They are very good value at \$24.95 plus postage each. He can also supply hand made leather belts which means that for less than \$50 you can hold your pants up in style. Mike also stocks t-shirts and aprons which feature the 'Advice to Terrorists' print – you remember the one – turn it upside down to read what it really says. Email Mike at mike_joVivier@xtra.co.nz or go on line to his website at www.bucklesandtees.co.nz Mike contributes to the Rhodesian Services Association from every sale of his Rhodesian related stock.



Deaths in Zimbabwe

We recently noted the deaths of Rex Nhongo aka Solomon Mujuru and Edgar Tekere. If you want more details then we recommend a Google search.

Until next time - go well.
Cheers Hugh



Celebrate 'Rhodesia Day'* on the 11th November each year.

*The concept of 'Rhodesia Day' was brought to my attention by Eddy Norris and family. During the 90 year life 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 and to spend time remembering those who are no longer with us.

You can make a donation to the Rhodesian Services Association by clicking on our 'Collection Hat' below which is a typical slouch hat of the type used by the Rhodesian Army up until the 1960's. Click on the hat (or this link [https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd= s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MLMB2B8Y2UY3G](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MLMB2B8Y2UY3G)) and if you are registered with PayPal the process will be immediate. If you are not a PayPal member you will be given instruction on how to make a credit card payment via PayPal. Thank you - every bit helps.



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

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