



Contact! Contact!

November 2012

A monthly publication for the

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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

Greetings,

The RV weekend is covered further on, but let me emphasise my grateful thanks to all who assisted in making the RV the popular event that it has become. I will not name names of those who assisted this year for fear of leaving someone out, so thanks to ALL OF YOU who stepped up and helped wherever you could, whenever you could. It is important that we share the load in order that those with the heavy loads are able to have time to enjoy themselves as well.

This is the last issue of **Contact! Contact!** for 2012 as I am putting all the spare time that I have towards completion of History of the Rhodesia Regiment which has to be closed off and sent to the publishers by the end of the year. Publication is set for mid-2013.

So on behalf of the team that compiles this publication, the Rhodesian Services Association, and my wife Diana and I; we wish you a peaceful and safe Christmas and health and good fortune in 2013.



Rhodesian Services Association Purpose & Web Links

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

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

Please use these links on our website www.rhodesianservices.org for the following resources:

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

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

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

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

Obituaries

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



From Erik Eilersten:

*"It is with sadness I give news of the passing of Ex Signals 5129 **Staff C/Insp John S Woodcock**, on Saturday 29th September at Wilgeheuwel Hospital, Johannesburg after a short illness. He was diagnosed with inoperable brain tumours less than ten days prior. He was to celebrate his 87th birthday on 21st December.*

He joined the BSAP Signals as an ex RAF Serviceman in 1953 and served until 31/8/1964.

He was instrumental with BSAP Telecommunication Network development and implementation from 1953 to the early 60's. He set up the Comms and Security Network at Kariba for the Queen Mother's opening of the project.

From 1966 through 1978, as a WO to a Major with the Signals Corps - Rhodesian Army, he helped improve and develop the 'Cordon Sanitaire' anti-terrorist systems in the North Eastern and Eastern Areas for Border security.

After a brief spell with private enterprise in PYE, and with RBC, he moved on as a research and development senior with Grinaker Electronics. He opened the Grinaker Electronics operation in Salisbury, before emigrating to South Africa in 1980 to Grinaker Electronics HO in Johannesburg.

It was not long before he moved to the SABC Development section from where he officially retired. Of significance was his development of automatic maintenance systems for repeater stations.

He could not relax, but kept his nose in Research and Development projects. The hand held VHF Radio comes to mind."

From Cherith Roberts:

*"**Bob Cocker**, a good, honest, modest man with integrity, who loved his family, friends, fishing and his farm. Funeral at Highlands Presbyterian Church, 11am Monday 8th October.*

***Marge Hammond nee Griffiths** wife of the late JJ who farmed at Doma in Zimbabwe. A cherished Mother and Grandmother passed away peacefully in Johannesburg on the 1st October.*

***Keith Robin Santowski** of Garvillan Farm, Norton. A memorial service will be held at his home on Thursday 4th October."*

From Harry Naismith:

"Dear Hugh,

*I don't know if the sad news has reached you already, but in case it hasn't I have to advise that **Peter Mitchell** - former Medic in the Rhodesian Army - died at his home in Rome, Italy on Tuesday 2nd October this year.*

His wife, Cristiana, tells me that he died as a result of a reaction to medication he was taking for asthma.

Peter and Cristiana had spent some time last year/earlier this year fixing up their home in Nelson, South Island, New Zealand, but had moved back to their other home in Rome this year to be more central for Peter's work as an on-board medic with an oil exploration company.

Peter spent several years as the resident Medic at JOC Mtoko when I was there in the mid-late 70s and was highly regarded by all who knew him.

I personally shall miss him a great deal for he had a great sense of humour and had the ability to lift people's spirits when things weren't going too well.

Sincerely,

Harry Naismith (ex BSAP)"

Former Zimbabwe cricket team coach and national team selector **Kevin Curran** died on 10th October. He collapsed while jogging in Mutare (formerly Umtali). He was born in Rusape and was aged fifty three. Affectionately known as 'KC' Curran, he was also the coach of the Mashonaland Eagles cricket franchise.

From ORAFS:

"It is with great sadness I give news of the passing of my brother Graham Schrag in Zurich, Switzerland on 12th October 2012 after a long and brave fight against an extremely cruel illness that affected his body but not his mind.

He is now at peace and in a much happier place.

After growing up in Umtali, and for a very short while in Rustenburg RSA, Graham served in C Sqn SAS, Rh Sigs, 2RAR (for the majority of his service and where he was awarded the BCR and received an MFC), S Inf and HQ 1 Bde. After Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, Graham was an advisor/consultant/entrepreneur in various places around the world such as the Sultanate of Oman (several times and in different capacities), Yemen, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Southern Ireland, Switzerland, Canada, France and the UK. Somewhere along the line he also had homes in Thailand, Andorra and Cyprus.

Graham's passion was in art and creativity where he loved to work with his imagination and hands whether drawing, painting, making art or writing - he had two novels based on his worldwide experiences published.

Graham is survived by his wife Jenny, stepdaughter Laura and granddaughter Bonita, and from my side, sister-in-law Ann, nephews and niece Christiaan, Anthony and Micaela, extended family Leigh, Brett and Iain, great-nieces Elise and Isabelle and, just recently, great-nephew Graham. Graham figured prominently in all our lives and he left his mark. He will be forever fondly remembered.

Rest in peace Graham.

Should anyone wish to write to Jenny, I will be happy to forward any emails. My email address is allan.schrag@ventyx.abb.com

Regards

Allan Schrag"

Malcolm Edward Forbes BCR (Bronze Cross of Rhodesia) died on 28th October 2012 in South Africa ending a long battle with cancer.

Malcolm Forbes was Company Sergeant Major of A Company 4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment during the time of my service (1977–1980) with the unit. Malcolm had received his Bronze Cross for actions of bravery when he was a Corporal and then a Sergeant with F Company 4RR in 1976.

Malcolm was a great bloke, always ready with a laugh and a joke. I remember that no sooner had I been given my first stripe than Malcolm pulled me up at parade one morning at our base in the Mayo farming area for not being clean shaven – apparently the shaved gaps between my side burns and 'bandito' moustache were out of order, even for a Lance Corporal!

The fact that I was never subjected to a full on revving in my farm house was probably due to the fact that Malcolm ensured I was well supplied with "goodies" ex the CQ store which he was also in charge of.

Malcolm worked at the Cold Storage Commission in Marandellas and then in one of the tanneries. I lost comms with him when I left in 1981 but regained connection more recently when I was looking for material for the Rhodesia Regiment book. Malcolm had been living in South Africa for some years and had battled cancer along with various assaults and robberies in that country.

Rest in peace my friend, I will not forget you – it was an honour knowing you and serving with you.

My condolences go to Malcolm's family from around the world.

From an email dated 2nd November 2012 from Margaret House:

"Lady Margaret Tredgold died at the age of 102, in Chard, Somerset."

Rhodesian Services Association

Greetings to all readers,

We have had a good year both financially and activity wise and hence the Association continues to thrive with membership gradually increasing and our CQ Store going great guns. I am fortunate enough to have a great team supporting me and they cannot get enough praise for their work efforts - many of which are thankless tasks. Our AGM was well attended and my thanks to those of you who attended the RV. My golfing prowess has not improved since the previous year and I really must get in some more practice.

My brother Peter and I decided that recognition should be given annually to any member of this Association whose personal efforts to achieve the aims and objectives of our Association have been exceptional. To this end we have donated the Glynn Floating Trophy pictured below. It is a statuette of a Trooper playing the Last Post and is to be awarded by the President at the AGM annually. It will come as no surprise to many of you that the first recipient of the Trophy is Hugh Bomford and that we had no difficulty in arriving at this decision. Well done Hugh!

It now only leaves me to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year and please keep the Rhodesian Flag flying wherever you are.

God Bless you all!
Kindest regards,
John Glynn



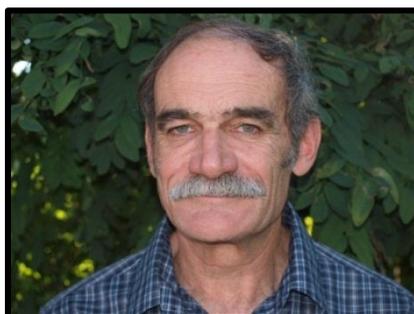
The following is the makeup of the Committee for the next 12 months



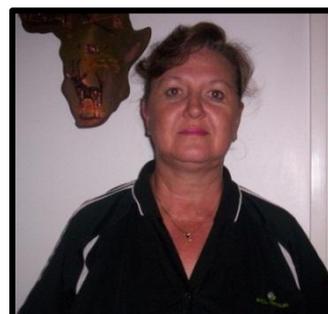
President – John Glynn



Vice President – Rob Bates



Secretary – Chuck Osborne



Treasurer – Lila Griffiths



CQ, Editor & Webmaster – Hugh Bomford



Curator – Tony Fraser

Committee members:



Tony Griffiths



Wolf Hucke



Tinka Mushett



Mike O'Rourke



Grant 'Grunter' Robertson



Gerry van Tonder

We held our AGM on Sunday 21st October at the Classic Flyers Museum. We are grateful to Andrew Gormlie and the Classic Flyers Museum for making the facility available for our use at heavily subsidised rates. The AGM was attended by thirty two financial members and lasted about one hour after which we had an excellent meal along with free range of the Classic Flyers Museum and a chance to kick back and enjoy the day. This was the final event of our 10th Anniversary October RV weekend.

The minutes of the AGM have been sent to all financial members, but of general interest it can be reported that:

- The Committee was elected as above.
- The membership subscription for the next financial year will remain unchanged at NZ\$10.
- A section of the Committee will be assigned to investigate how we can obtain a building of our own sufficient in size to house our whole Museum Collection in order to display it to the public as well as provide a base for the operation of our Association.
- The draw for the AgCat flight (sponsored by Classic Flyers) was won by Dee McColl

October RV 19th - 21st October 2012

Planning for the RV begins months in advance and this year's one was going to be especially important on account of the re-dedication of the 4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment's Rolls of Honour, in addition to this being the 10th Anniversary RV.

People from far and wide began to arrive in Tauranga on Friday. Some chose to get in some golfing practice, others found their own entertainment before beginning to arrive at the Garrison Club from mid-afternoon to help prepare things and have a drink and catch up with other early arrivals.

This year three members made the trip over from Australia: Tim Forde, Peter Glynn and Wally Insch. Good on ya (word is that others are planning to make it over for next year's RV).

The Friday evening went off very well with around forty meals being consumed, proceeds of which were donated to the 6th Hauraki Battalion Association along with a whip round prior to showing the DVD *Rhodesianaland*



**Diana Bomford and Tinka Mushett set out for the self-serve meal.
Photo by Lindy Payne**

Every year we try to make the weekend more entertaining for everyone, so this year for the first time, we had a garden ramble for the non-golfers on Saturday morning. The venue was the Te Puna Quarry which, through the dedicated work of volunteers and with contributions from the community, has turned an eyesore into over 30 hectares of beautiful gardens.

The weather was cool but otherwise fine and a good time was had by all as is evidenced by the following photos.



**Seated on the concrete dragon
L-R: Lynda Pussell, Hennie Schoeman, Lila Griffiths, Rhonda May, Diana Bomford, Chuck Osborne, Sue Osborne, Hugh Bomford.
Photo by Lindy Payne**



**Hennie Schoeman knows the way to the "Zimbabwe Ruins"
Photos by Lindy Payne**

And here they are!.....



Unfortunately there were no photos taken during the golf tournament on account of everyone having such a good time. Also unfortunately, Terry McEnery started to come down with a gastro bug which ultimately saw him spend Saturday night in the Tauranga Hospital. Bad luck Terry – we did tell you that wine is inferior to rum!

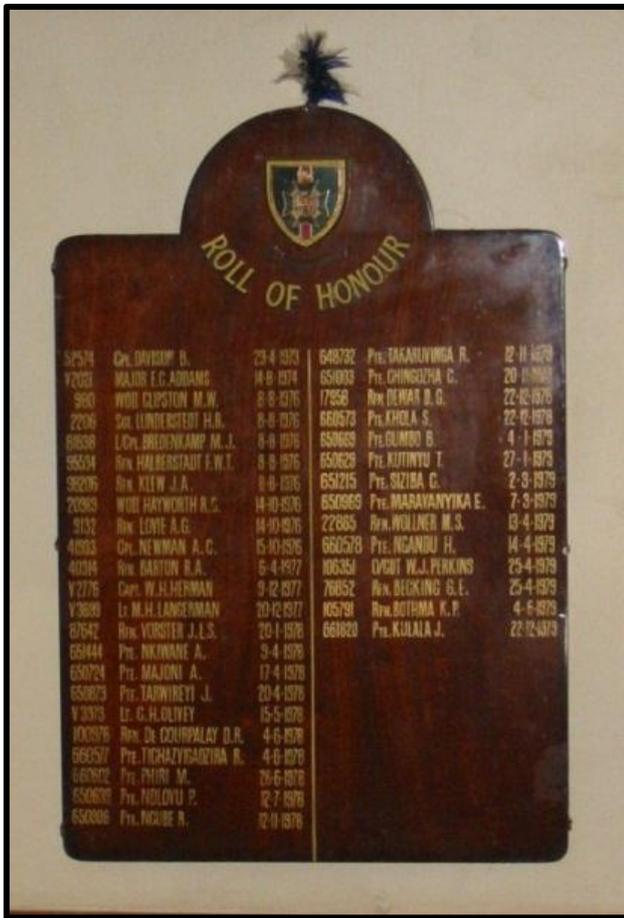
Winner of the tournament was Paul Nes after a tied score and count out with Terry McEnery; 3rd place went to Barry Morgan; tied 4th were the brothers Glynn - John and Peter; tied for 6th was Greg O'Carroll and Steve Kennedy; 8th place went to Ashley Birkbeck.



Golf prize giving. L-R: Paul Nes, Greg O'Carroll, Ashley Birkbeck. Photo by Lindy Payne

At 3pm on Saturday we began the ceremonial portion of the RV. Unfortunately, the Commanding Officer of the 6th Hauraki Battalion Group, Lt Col Julian Sewell, was attending a funeral and so was unable to be with us. In his stead 2nd Lt Elisha Crawshaw, Unit Commander of the Western Bay of Plenty Cadet Unit, read out an address from Lt Col Sewell.

The welcome ceremony included the re-dedication of two 4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment Rolls of Honour.



L-R Full Roll of Honour; Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess Roll of Honour

The story leading to the two 4RR rolls of honour being shipped to New Zealand is a long one and at the time of writing, is still not complete.

Planning for the re-dedication had begun around twelve months ago for me. Firstly the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess Roll of Honour was offered to us for safe keeping. It duly arrived earlier this year, then it was deemed appropriate that the main full one also come to New Zealand. Unfortunately, the main Roll of Honour was not able to be shipped to New Zealand in time for the ceremony and so a 1/3rd scaled down replica was hastily constructed by our Curator, Tony Fraser, as a substitute.

The main 4RR Roll of Honour was laid up on 23rd October 1980 in the Anglican Church in Umtali, along with the Battalion's Colours. Significantly, this was almost thirty two years to the day previous to the re-dedication ceremony. These icons of 4RR were to stay there for eternity, and should have been allowed sanctuary and to eventually turn to dust, as is appropriate. However, at some point in the 1980's Edgar Tekere saw fit to desecrate our Colours and Roll of Honour within the Church. The Colours remain lost at this point and if anyone has knowledge or photos of the original Colours please contact me or our CO, Lt Col Peter Browne. However the RoH was rescued and held in relative safety. With the ever present threat that if they were publically displayed, further action might be taken against the RoH and those keeping it, it was agreed to move the main RoH to New Zealand. Once this decision had been made it became a very stressful and emotional project for me to organise. Not only was one of my best mates, Dave de Courpalay, named on the RoH (and I am told that his grave at Warren Hills has been desecrated, making it very important to me that I honour the memory of my friend), but I felt the pressure of organising something on a scale of importance relative to the relocation of the RLI's Troopie Statue.

I am pleased to inform you that at the time of writing, the main RoH has safely exited Zimbabwe and should be in New Zealand soon. When it is settled in New Zealand I will inform everyone. We intend to give people the opportunity to welcome it and for Reverend Murray Olson to bless it.

In the meantime the show had to go on.

Rhodesian Services Association President, John Glynn's speech, recorded below, preceded the entry of the Rolls of Honour.

"The concept and formation of the Rhodesia Regiment dates back to 1898 (the same year that the Hauraki Regiment was formed). Both regiments saw service in South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War. The Rhodesia Regiment served

with distinction during World War One in South West Africa and East Africa and then in World War Two where it provided the training base for thousands of Rhodesians who were then attached to allied forces in all theatres of the war. In April 1947 King George 6th conferred the title 'Royal' on the Regiment in recognition of services rendered during WWII. In 1952 Queen Elizabeth 2nd became the Colonel in Chief of the Royal Rhodesia Regiment.

In 1963 a decision was made by Army HQ to form another Territorial Battalion in the Manicaland Province of Southern Rhodesia and on the 1st January 1964 the 4th Battalion of the Royal Rhodesia Regiment was formed using the nucleus of B Company 1st Battalion RRR, which had its base at the Drill Hall in Umtali.

The members of the 4th Battalion were drawn from all the young men who were, at that stage, liable for military duty and the personnel were mainly from the vast farming area that surrounded Umtali, stretching from Chipinga to the South, Inyanga to the North and Marandellas to the West.

These were hardened young men from good farming stock, with what can only be described as a very good understanding of the local population and the surrounding bush; most of them were able to converse in and understand an African language, and this became a great advantage.

On the 30th April 1964 the Battalion was granted the Freedom of the town of Umtali. The Freedom Granting Parade took place after the Queen's Birthday Parade, the honour being bestowed on the Battalion by the Mayor of Umtali, Alderman Les Morris, and received on behalf of the Battalion by the CO Lt. Col. WS Smart.

The Scroll and Colours were then paraded through the streets of Umtali. Attached to this honour was the privilege granted to the Battalion of using the name "Manicaland" and the right for its members to wear a hackle of Blue and White, the colours of Umtali.

The Unilateral Declaration of Independence from Britain was declared by the Rhodesian Government on November the 11th 1965. On 13th March 1970 Buckingham Palace suspended the use of the 'Royal title' for the Rhodesia Regiment. The Rhodesia Regiment's badge was changed, but still retained the Crown in its centre.

During the Rhodesian Bush War the 4th (Manicaland) Battalion was first called into action under the command of 2 Brigade within the Operation Hurricane sector, with a later move to Operation Thrasher under the command of the 3 Brigade sector. It was within this sector that the Battalion became one of the first truly multi-racial units with the inclusion of Rhodesian African Rifles trained African soldiers.

With the cessation of hostilities and the disbandment of the Rhodesian Security Forces, the Battalion, on the 23rd of October 1980, laid up its colours and the main Roll of Honour in the St John's Anglican Church of Umtali, with the Rev Knight officiating at the ceremony. This ceremony had to be clandestinely arranged owing to the levels of political sensitivity that prevailed at the time.

Thirty seven names appear on the main Roll of Honour which, unfortunately, has had to endure tremendous abuse from incoming political activists who desecrated it and the 4th Battalion Colours within the Anglican Church.

The Roll of Honour from the Sergeant's and Warrant Officer's Mess was originally made by Sgt Trevor Jones who took charge of it when the Battalion was closed down. This Roll of Honour was transported to New Zealand earlier this year by Prop and Rina Geldenhuys (Prop is with us here today).

The decision to re-position these icons of the Battalion to a safer haven here in New Zealand was not made lightly, but it was recognised that the state of sanctuary offered to us by our Hauraki friends had to be taken up in order for the preservation of these icons and for the honour and memory of these 37 Rhodesian soldiers.

The last Commanding Officer of the 4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment, Lt Col Peter Browne OLM, was not able to attend today. He has been instrumental in the relocation of these Rolls of Honour and he states: "On behalf of all those relatives who have names on the Roll, my fellow Officers and I wish to thank you all for your empathy, kindness and consideration in allowing this to happen." "

At this point the Rolls of Honour were marched in by elements of the Western Bay of Plenty Cadet Unit. They were led in by Piper Ray Crafts, followed by Wendy Graham (neé Lunderstedt), on behalf of the relatives, and the 4RR Guard of Honour.



**Hauraki Regiment Piper Ray Crafts leads in the Cadets bearing the Rolls of Honour.
Photos by Lindy Payne**



**4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment Guard of Honour
L-R Glen Ashmead, Hugh Bomford, Tony Griffiths, Tim Forde
Photo by Lindy Payne**

The Piper played *'Happy Wanderer'*, which was the tune played at Depot Rhodesia Regiment, Llewellyn Barracks, for the final parades of each intake of Rhodesia Regiment National Servicemen.

The Rolls of Honour were put on display and George Walls then read out the thirty seven names recorded on the Roll of Honour.



**L-R Des Anderson (President of the 6th Battalion Hauraki Assn) George Walls, Janine Walls
Photo by Lindy Payne**

Reverend Murray Olson, Honorary Padre of the Te Awamutu RSA, then blessed the Rolls of Honour.

Wendy Graham followed the blessing with a speech on behalf of the relatives of the men. Wendy recalled the day on which her uncle, Sgt Howard Lunderstedt, was killed during a mortar attack on the F Company base in Buhera on the 8th August 1976 which resulted in the death of four other men from F Coy 4RR. The ensuing funerals brought Umtali to a halt for the day.



**Rev Murray Olson blesses the Rolls of Honour. Wendy Graham neé Lunderstedt spoke for the relatives.
Photos by Lindy Payne**

The ceremony was concluded with *Sweet Banana* being played in respect for the Rhodesian African rifles soldiers who died while on attachment to 4RR.



4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment Roll of Honour



52574	CPL DAVISON B.	23 April 1973	100976	RFN DE COURPALAY D.R.	4 June 1978
V2021	MAJOR E.C. ADDAMS	14 August 1974	660577	PTE TICHAZVIGADZIRA R.	4 June 1978
980	WOII CLIPSTON M.W.	8 August 1976	660602	PTE PHIRI M.	6 June 1978
2206	SGT LUNDERSTEDT H.R.	8 August 1976	650639	PTE NDLOVU P.	12 July 1978
81838	L/CPL BREDEKAMP M.J.	8 August 1976	650996	PTE NCUBE R.	12 November 1978
95534	RFN HALBERSTADT F.W.T.	8 August 1976	648732	PTE TAKARUVINGA R.	12 November 1978
98206	RFN KLEW J.A.	8 August 1976	651003	PTE CHINGOZHA C.	20 November 1978
20989	WOII HAYWORTH R.G.	14 October 1976	17958	RFN DEWAR D.G.	22 December 1978
9132	RFN LOVIE A.G.	14 October 1976	660573	PTE KHOLA S.	22 December 1978
41933	CPL NEWMAN A.C.	15 October 1976	650669	PTE GUMBO B.	4 January 1979
40314	RFN BARTON R.A.	6 April 1977	650629	PTE KUTINYU T.	27 January 1979
Y2776	CAPT W. H. HERMAN	9 December 1977	651215	PTE SIZIBA C.	2 March 1979
V3699	LT M.H. LANGERMAN	20 December 1977	650969	PTE MARAVANYIKA E.	7 March 1979
87642	RFN VORSTER J.L.S.	20 January 1978	22865	RFN WOLLNER M.S.	13 April 1979
651444	PTE NKIWANE A.	9 April 1978	660578	PTE NGANDU H.	14 April 1979
650724	PTE MAJONI A.	17 April 1978	106351	O/CDT W.J. PERKINS	25 April 1979
650873	PTE TARWIREYI J.	20 April 1978	76852	RFN BECKING G.E.	25 April 1979
V3373	LT C.H. OLIVEY	15 May 1978	105791	RFN BOTHMA K.P.	4 June 1979
			661820	PTE KULALA J.	22 December 1979

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.....

We Will Remember Them

A commemorative card was given to everyone attending which included the names of the thirty seven men who gave their lives while serving in the 4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment in the service of Rhodesia.

With the welcome and re-dedication completed it was time to socialise and remember the good times.

One of the main features of the RV is the annual auction where a huge dose of hilarity loosens the wallets! Steve Geach, auctioneer extraordinaire, presided over the raising of over \$2,000 this year. Many thanks to the contributors listed below. Please show the businesses below your appreciation by supporting them in turn where possible.

- 30 Degrees South Publishing www.30degreessouth.co.za – various books donated
- Timothy Bax and Charlee Griffiths 'Three Sips Of Gin' www.threesipsofgin.com – signed copy of Tim's book
- Bryony Bomford – Amarula Liquor
- Buckles and Tees www.bucklesandtees.co.nz – various goods
- Paul Cavendish 'Lost City' www.amazon.com – signed copy of his book
- Mel & Sue Clements www.bookabach.co.nz/baches-and-holiday-homes/view/7199 – a weekend in their Mangawhai Heads holiday home
- John Edmond and Roan Antelope Music www.johnedmond.co.za - CDs
- Wolf & Alison Huckle – Moonshine and Rawleighs Gift Pack www.alisonsart.org
- Ian Johnston 'Thru Thick 'n' Thin' valj@mindsmail.co.za - signed copy of his book
- John Kelley 'The Way We Were' treaclemine@zol.co.zw – signed copy of his book
- Khukuri Imports Ltd www.khukuriimports.co.nz
- Tinka Mushett – a watercolour print and 2nd hand books
- Mike O'Rourke – flight in his gyrocopter
- Daryl Sahli 'A Skirmish In Africa' www.mystorypublishing.com.au - signed copy of his book
- Beaver Shaw 'Choppertech' canic@mweb.co.za – signed copy of his book
- Bryan and Nancy Tichborne www.watercolours.co.nz – wonderful watercolour print
- Chris Walmsley 'Mugabe – My Part in His Victory' www.amazon.com – signed copy of his book
- Tony Gibbs and Squashed Grape www.squashedgrape.co.nz – case of Le Voyageur Cabernet Franc Malbec Merlot
- Hennie Schoeman – 2 Yard Glasses.

Photos below taken during the auction by Lindy Payne





Steve Geach leaves no pocket unturned in his pursuit of every last cent. Here Peter Glynn is frisked to see that he has handed over every last Aussie dollar that he has brought with him!

When the auction was complete it was time to feed hungry mouths again. Our caterers and cooks presented a belt stretching array of food. Socialising continued into the night.

First job on Sunday was to clear up at the Garrison and move the braais to the Classic Flyers Museum where we raised the Green and White and had our AGM followed by another excellent meal. In excess of thirty members were present at the AGM and they had free run of the whole museum complex as well.

Andrew Quick once again treated us to a display of his models which included an amazing scene of an Alouette taking off after inserting troops. Photos of his models are shown below.





By mid-afternoon everyone had drifted off and so ended another RV.

Next year's RV will be over the same 3rd weekend in October, so write it on your calendar or make a note on your iWadumacallit because it is an event not to be missed.

Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings to you all

Here we are again at the end of another year. They just fly by faster every year and every year, sadly, we lose a few more of our friends - all the more reason that it is so important that we record our history in order to ensure that our legacy is never forgotten. The more people we have involved in these Associations and get-togethers the better, and of special importance is for the younger generation to be involved.

We end the year on a sad note on the sporting front. Ian Robertson is one of the most famous and well recognised of all our Rhodesian sporting stars and you won't find many folk from our fair land who have not heard of him.

Sadly Ian was recently diagnosed with Primary Myelofibrosis. The bone marrow hardens and develops scar tissue (fibrosis) and normal blood cell production is progressively reduced. As a result, blood cell production begins to take place in the liver and the spleen which becomes enlarged. Ian and Sonia are anxious to get a new medication, Ruxolitinib (not yet released in South Africa, but is now available in England) which can help the spleen reduce in size and will make him feel more comfortable. That is about all that can be done for Ian, as a bone marrow transplant for him is not an option, the Haematologists say.



Ian and Sonia Robertson 2012

I have to say that it is hard to imagine Ian to be sick as he has always been the epitome of fitness and health. Anyone who knew Ian in his playing days will give testament to his unbelievable drive and dedication to rugby and fitness. Ian's dedication was well rewarded with his selection for the Springboks against France and New Zealand in 1975 and 1976. There are few people in this world who can add a series win over the All Blacks to their CV.

Ian was a great servant to Rhodesian rugby and not just as a player. His incredible knowledge, flair and input was always sought from others. Ian put in immeasurable hours of coaching all over the country, whether it was at schools (especially his alma mater Prince Edward), clubs, provincial and even the National team where he helped out on many occasions. I am sure you will all join with us in sending Ian, Sonia and their families our thoughts, prayers and best wishes in fighting this disease that has affected him. May they draw strength from their friends and families and the knowledge that so many people are behind them.



Kenny Tsimba playing for the Orange Free State

Sticking with rugby I was pleased to see recently that the Tsimba brothers were inducted into the International Rugby Hall of Fame. This is no mean feat and the award would not be given out lightly. Many of you may remember Richard Tsimba playing for Zimbabwe at the inaugural Rugby World Cup in NZ in 1987.

I have an interesting tale to tell about the brothers. Richard, the oldest, was a product of Peterhouse (not quite the under privileged Zimbabweans you may say), while younger brother Kennedy, who was also at Peterhouse, pleaded with his parents to send him to Prince Edward because he wanted to go to a good rugby school. So while many kids would have given anything to go to a private school, Kennedy gave it up to go to Prince Edward so as to enhance his rugby career!

To read the full article on their award you can click on this link [Tsimba brothers enter IRB Hall of Fame](#)

This is the last newsletter for the year so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a festive and safe Christmas, a happy and prosperous New Year and the best of health in 2013 and beyond. Please keep your emails coming to fourstreams@xtra.co.nz I look forward to your feedback.

Best Regards
Grunter



Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980 by Gerry van Tonder



November

Newsflash Headlines +++ On 16 November 1855, David Livingstone becomes the first European to discover the massive waterfalls on the Zambezi River which he names after Queen Victoria +++ On 4 November 1893, British South Africa Company troops occupy Bulawayo, deserted by Lobengula +++ On 4 November 1897, the railway line from Bechuanaland reaches Bulawayo +++ On 5 November 1964, 89% of the voting electorate vote in favour of independence +++ On 24 November 1971, Premier Ian Smith and Sir Alec Douglas-Home sign settlement proposals +++ On 14 November 1974, the weekly Roman Catholic publication Moto is banned +++ On 23 November 1977, Rhodesian security forces launch attacks on ZANLA camps at Chimoio and Tembue in Mozambique +++ On 8 November 1979, Ian Smith states that it would be "sterile and counter-productive" to continue fighting+++

In Brief

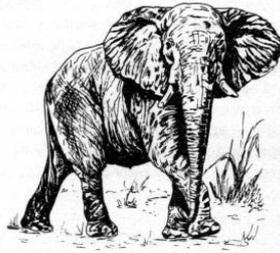
On 26 November 1917, Leander Starr Jameson died in Hyde Park, London, at the age of 64. Arguably one of the most influential men in the life of Cecil Rhodes, Jameson would accompany the Pioneer Column into the future Rhodesia, actively help in the defeat of Lobengula and suppression of the Matabele Rebellion three years later, and ensure Manicaland was secured from the Portuguese as part of the new country. His largest contribution to the history of the sub-continent would, however, be his impulsive and perhaps foolhardy flying expedition into the Transvaal Republic to dislodge that government. Rhodes' comment at the time that Jameson "...has taken the bit between his teeth..." in so many ways provides an accurate description of this medical doctor who had Kruger, Lobengula and Rhodes as patients. Jameson was tried in a London and sentenced to fifteen months in prison for invading a friendly country and causing twenty-one deaths. In the aftermath of the South African War, Jameson went on to serve as Prime Minister of the Cape Colony from 1904-0908. On 22 May 1920, Jameson came to his final resting place in the Matopos, sharing the spectacular World's View with his old friend Cecil Rhodes.



Leander Starr Jameson

What's in a Name

Situated fifty kilometres from Bulawayo on the railway line to Victoria Falls, is the District Commissioner's station, **Nyamandhlovu**. Meaning meat of the elephant in isiNdebele, the area was once the habitat of large elephant herds, which ultimately found sanctuary in the Wankie National Park. Popular tradition has it that the newly arrived Mzilikazi, looking for a place to establish his kingdom, Mthwakazi, passed through the Tjlotjo and Nyamandhlovu areas, making reference to a pan shaped like the head of an elephant. The district became important as a commercial hub for the province's beef and dairy herds, with an industry research station at Nyamandhlovu.



Named after a local headman, Marondera, the town of **Marandellas** owes its origins to the Ruzawi Outspan, just to the south, where three ex-members of the BSACo Police had set up an inn for travellers to Umtali. After the Mashona Rebellion when the inn was used as a place of refuge, the settlement was moved to its present site to accommodate the coming of the railway. As the township developed as the hub of extensive commercial farming, Ruzawi School was started in 1927. During WWII, a Polish refugee camp was established at Diggfold, later converted into a school. Marandellas boasts one of the oldest turf clubs in the country, holding its first race meeting in 1923. It became a municipality in 1974.

RNR Defends Songea: November 1916

As a response to a need for troops to be deployed on the Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland borders with German East Africa, towards the end of 1915 the British War Office made an appeal to the British South Africa Company to raise a native battalion in Southern Rhodesia. Lt Colonel Alfred James Tomlinson of the BSAP was appointed Commanding Officer of the new regiment, with officers and senior ranks being drawn from the Native Affairs Department (later Internal Affairs) and the BSAP. Recruitment of troops was initially from the Ndebele tribe, but when it was found that the full quota of five hundred could not solely be drawn from this source, the net was spread wider to include Mashona men and regional migrant workers employed on farms and mines.



Badges of the Rhodesia Native Regiment (Image thanks to Dudley Wall)

Equipped with Zulu War-vintage Martini-Henry rifles, the battalion of the Rhodesia Native Regiment was transported to Zomba for further training, and then on to New Langenberg in occupied German East Africa. The unit's strength return on 16 September 1916 stood at 17 white officers, 43 white senior ranks, and 442 black troops. The Allied theatre commander, General Jan Smuts, wanted to secure south-east German East Africa so as to avoid the Germans having a haven where they could rest and recuperate. General Edward Northey, Commander of the Nyasa-Rhodesia Field Force, therefore had as his prime objective the strategic occupation of the southern areas of German East Africa, and in so doing thwarting the advances of the German troops and askaris of Colonel Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck.

Failing in his efforts to receive assistance from the Portuguese commander, General Ferreira Gil, Northey looked to his only reserve, the partially trained Rhodesia Native Regiment to occupy Songea, east of Lake Nyasa. No 2 Company under Major Clive Carbutt would remain at New Langenberg as Lt Col Thompson moved on Songea with No 1 Company, commanded by Major F Addison. This was the only Company where .303 SMLE rifles had replaced the old rifles, but due to the fact that the machine-gun porters had not arrived, none of the guns were taken. The Company was transported by steamer to Weidhafen, from where they marched towards Songea. At that time Songea, a rich farming area, was occupied by an unknown number of German troops and their askaris.

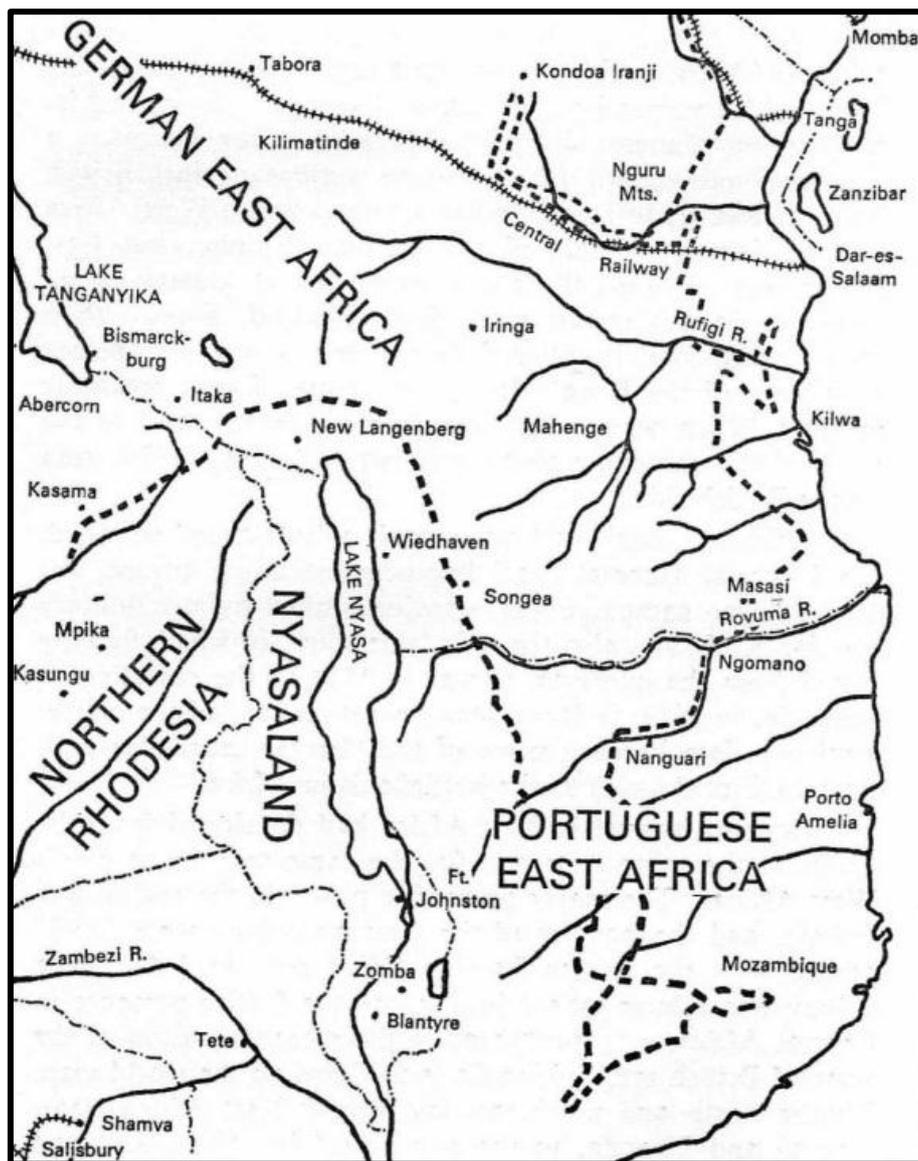


Early Mk 1 .303 (Image thanks to Dudley Wall)

As the expedition disembarked at Weidhafen Tomlinson's Intelligence Officer, Captain James McCarthy MC of the Northern Rhodesia Police, went ahead on the track to Songea, reconnoitring the route with his scouts and twenty troops. Later that afternoon, Tomlinson followed with 29 white and 165 native soldiers, with a long and cumbersome column of porters. A minor fleeting skirmish late that night made Tomlinson decide to call a halt until first light, the

inexperience and apprehension amongst his troops very evident. The following morning, Tomlinson caught up with McCarthy, who was similarly being hampered by the very nervous behaviour of his soldiers.

Tomlinson was however unrelenting in his march on Songea, averaging over fifty kilometres a day, despite the fact that they encountered several bridges damaged by a retreating group of Germans. On 20 September, the advance party entered the deserted garrison at Songea, the four Germans and their thirty askaris having moved off to the north east. Addison and the main body of troops and porters arrived the next day. Heliograph stations were set up and intensive local patrols commenced to assess the area and to trade for rations with the local farmers. It was discovered that there were no German field companies in the area, making it apparent that the landing at Weidhafen and the occupation of Songea had caught the Germans unawares. The Rhodesian presence was welcomed by the locals who had had difficult times with the Germans, enduring forced conscription and having their crops and livestock requisitioned. Corporals Lita (also recorded as Rita; later awarded the DCM) and Tanganyika conducted clandestine operations into German-dominated areas, sending vital written reports back to Tomlinson, providing a picture of German movements and strategies. It rapidly became apparent that the Germans were planning to retake Songea.



**WWI in East Africa showing von Lettow-Vorbeck's movements.
(Acknowledgement: Ragtime Soldiers by Peter McLaughlin)**

By the end of October, increased German strength to the north of the RNR garrison at Songea was starting to push back British patrols, resulting in the deaths in action of Privates Bidu, Magugwana and Sikotu. Northey made it very clear to Tomlinson that the Rhodesians had to hold Songea, no matter at what cost. Tomlinson immediately set about strengthening his position, removing huts that might hinder fields of fire, as well as digging perimeter trenches. Barbed wire conveniently left behind by the Germans was used to further fortify the outer perimeter, while RSM Usher was tasked with bringing up more ammunition from Weidhafen. Hundreds of porters brought in stocks of grain from the mission at Peramiho, and within the garrison itself, every available spare container was filled with water as the Rhodesians braced themselves for the inevitable arrival of the enemy.

Determined to retake Songea, von Lettow-Vorbeck appointed Major Gideon von Grawert to command an assault on Songea. Based at Likuyu, about 120 kilometres north east of Songea, von Grawert advanced with the 7th Schutzen Company, made up of German reservists, and the Penzel's detachment. About 140 kilometres to the north of the Rhodesian garrison, Captain Walter von Falkenstein would come down from Kitanda with the 12th Field Company and troops who had previously retired from Songea.

On 11 November, von Falkenstein neared Songea, ambushing a resupply column on the track from Weidhafen. In the ensuing skirmish, the string of porters dropped their loads comprising four days of provisions, and made a dash for the safety of Songea. Encouraged by such easy pickings and in the belief that the garrison was ill-trained and weak, the impatient and aggressive von Falkenstein could not wait for von Grawert, launching an attack on Songea at first light on Sunday 12 November. His efforts, however, failed to yield the element of surprise as he came up against the RNR troops alert and ready in their routine morning 'stand-to' positions. The defenders kept the advantage, as the Germans' machine-gun jammed, leaving both sides to depend on the weight and accuracy of their rifle fire.

Captain FJ Wane (Mentioned in Despatches) sustained a gunshot wound to the shoulder, whilst on the eastern section of the perimeter, Private Lupiya, a drummer with the regimental band, was shot and killed. At the trenches the situation became confused, as frightened porters and local villagers sought shelter in the midst of the firing Rhodesian troops, resulting in a number getting shot.



**RNR Sergeant in German East Africa – 1917
(Image thanks to Dudley Wall)**

Upon observing enemy troops entering a hospital building which overlooked the trenches, Sergeant Charles Craxton took four troops and ran 350 metres to the building to set fire to the thatched roof, resulting in the Germans immediately aborting their attempts to gain the strategic position. His gallant actions would earn Sgt Craxton the Military Medal. He was also Mentioned in Despatches.

At noon on that Sunday, von Grawert's column of 200 arrived, immediately attacking the Rhodesian garrison from the north and east with heavy rifle and Maxim machine-gun fire. The RNR signalling section, however, managed to assemble their heliograph equipment and flash a message to a nearby relay point on Kalinda Hill, stating that they were under heavy attack. By evening the Rhodesians' defences had held, as they retaliated with rifle fire and rifle grenades, with only one native soldier Private Chewa, being wounded. Their assailants however, had lost von Falkenstein and nine askaris, with a further twenty wounded. Running low on ammunition, the Germans retired two miles away, to regroup and to bury von Falkenstein.

Tomlinson was very pleased with his troops stand, noting that they acted with discipline and courage, obeying commands and using ammunition efficiently. The barbed wire and trench defences contributed to their holding off a force that was twice their strength and armed with machine-guns. One isolated company, hundreds of miles away from other units, successfully withstood repeated German assaults, holding this important supply base in the south of German East Africa.

The following morning was quiet with only occasional shots being fired by the Germans. A patrol came under machine-gun fire from the east. And later that night, the Germans carried out a brief attack lasting only fifteen minutes. Over the next few days, Tomlinson sent out small African-led patrols, resulting in information being gained

that the Germans were awaiting reinforcements and a field gun to launch a more concerted attack on the Rhodesian stronghold.

Late on the night of 18 November, under cover of a heavy thunderstorm which threatened to flood the Rhodesian trenches, von Grawert attacked the northern perimeter of the garrison, but was repelled in a space of ten minutes. The next day, the signalling relay at Kalinda sent a messenger to the garrison with the news that South African Infantry had arrived at Weidhafen. Colonel Byron of the 5th South African Infantry arrived at Songea on the afternoon of Friday 24 November, his column comprising 300 men and two machine-guns. With the garrison now in the hands of a much stronger force and now under Byron's command, the Rhodesia Native Regiment commenced operational patrols over the next few weeks, successfully engaging the enemy on numerous occasions.

The RNR would continue to outperform, silencing those who were initially sceptical of the ability of an African soldier to fight in a war situation. African NCOs like Sgt Lita proved to be capable patrol leaders, notably excelling in the gathering of local intelligence. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his outstanding contribution. Sgt Salima and Cpl Suga were both awarded the Military Medal and several others were Mentioned in Despatches.

The Director of Military Operations in the War Office wrote to the BSACo, adding to reports from Brigadier General Northey "...as to the good conduct and military aptitude of all ranks of the Matabili (sic) Native Regiment, as shown in the operations at Malangani, Ilembule and Songea." Such accolades would earn the young Regiment the Battle Honours, 'East Africa 1916-18', honours which would be proudly emblazoned on the Regimental Colours of the RNR's successor, the Rhodesian African Rifles.



Queen's Colours of the RAR (Author's photograph)

Special Report: Battle of Bembesi - 01 November 1893



We are so very fortunate to have a man such as Alan Bryant in Zimbabwe who continues to assist with so many aspects of ensuring that Rhodesia's military history is preserved. I have only just received from him the photograph above, prompting me to do a bit of digging into the man shown. The picture, taken at Bembesi in Zimbabwe, is of the grave of Trooper Frederick Thompson of the Salisbury Column, BSACo, who was killed in action at the Battle of Bembesi on 1 November 1893.

It was inevitable that the new settlers in Mashonaland would be at variance with Lobengula's belief that the Mashona tribes fell under his rule, and that he therefore had the right, with total impunity, to do with them as he pleased.

Despite repeated representations by the BSACo to the King that the interference of his impi was in contravention of the concession he had granted them, the situation came to a head in July 1893 near Ft Victoria. Differences over compensation for the theft of telegraph wire led to a skirmish between 34 mounted troopers from Ft Victoria, led by Capt Lendy, and Umgandine's impi.

Over the next few months, the forts at Salisbury, Charter, Victoria and Tuli strengthened their positions in anticipation of a full-scale row with the Ndebele. Commandant Raaff, the resident magistrate at Ft Tuli, was sent to the Transvaal to purchase 750 horses and to recruit 250 Boers. At Ft Victoria, Maj Allan Wilson raised 250 mounted troops. Ft Salisbury raised a similar number under Maj P Forbes, while Ft Charter managed a small defensive corps.

Subsequent to a Bechuanaland Police patrol being fired on by Ndebele warriors on the Shashi River, the British High Commissioner gave permission for Lobengula's domain to be invaded. Dr Jameson immediately set off with the Salisbury and Victoria columns. On the afternoon of 24 October, the columns crossed the Shangani River and went into two laagers. In the early hours of the following morning, an estimated 5000 to 6000 men of eight Matabele regiments attacked the laagers, but the heavy firepower provided by the machine-guns and various field guns ensured the position was held, with the assailants losing 500 to 600 killed and wounded.

By 31 October, the column had entered Chief Semapulami's area, where at Insingweni's kraal it became very evident that several thousand Matabele had recently camped. On 1 November, the expedition moved south of the Bembesi River, setting up defensive positions on some open ground just before noon. The Victoria laager was well formed, but the Salisbury one was more oval with openings for the cannons. To the left, about 150 metres from the laager, stood three roofless huts.

At 1255, the Matabele attacked from all sides, their numbers dominated by the Imbeza and Ingubo Regiments, covering a front of several hundred metres. Heavy but largely poorly directed rifle fire, mainly from Martini-Henry's, poured in. The Salisbury laager took the brunt of the attack, with the right and rear sides coming under sustained enemy fire. Satisfied that his Victoria laager was relatively secure, Maj Allan Wilson moved three of his Maxims and a Hotchkiss gun to the flanks of the position where, with added fire from a Gardner, a Nordenfeldt and two shell guns, the Matabele attack was held back. With casualties amounting to almost double that sustained a few days earlier at the Shangani, by 1.30 that afternoon there was a significant reduction in the enemy's assault, as the superior and accurate fire power from the laagers proved too much for the Matabele. At 1400, Capt Dullimore with 100 of the Victoria men was sent out to take the battle to the retiring impi. Earlier on, during the heavy fighting taking place around the Salisbury laager, Matabele were seen to occupy the three roofless huts mentioned above. From this slightly elevated position, they were able to fire into the wagons, causing the deaths of four troopers.

Trooper Frederick Thompson was killed immediately. Troopers Carey and Siebert died of their wounds the following day, and upon reaching Bulawayo three days later, Trooper Calcraft also succumbed to his wounds.

This explains the presence of only one grave at the Bembesi site. I have informed Alan Bryant of this, so he and a friend are trying to find the graves of the other three.

I have drawn my research from two sources, namely the first-hand account by Capt Sir John Willoughby of the Royal Horse Guards and military adviser to the Salisbury column, and notes by Jack Carruthers who was a Scout with the Victoria contingent.



An Historical Monuments Commission plaque at the Bembesi Site (Photo Alan Bryant)

Know the Medal

The Rhodesian General Service Medal, promulgated by means of Warrant 1 of 1969, was awarded "*For service on operations undertaken for the purpose of combating terrorist or enemy incursions into Rhodesia.*"

A 36mm circular cupro-nickel medal, the obverse carries an effigy of the head of Cecil Rhodes, and the reverse, the national armorial bearings.



The Rhodesian General Service Medal: Obverse and Reverse (Author's own collection)

I have, over the last several years, had in-depth discussions with individuals who are arguably among the top experts in the field of Rhodesian militaria, specialising in the country's medals. Certain conclusions were made as a result of this, including the fact that Matthews Manufacturing in Bulawayo had produced three distinctive versions of the RGSM, labelled by our discussion forum as 'types.'



**From L-R: Type 2 (Late 1970s), Type 1 (early 1970s) and Type 3 (Collectors Set 151)
(Author's own collection)**

Type 1: The very first RGSMs, awarded mainly to members of the regular Army. An extremely well-cast and finished medal using a die that provided a very sharp profile of Rhodes' head. It is interesting that this Type can also be split, in that the names of the recipient that appears on the rim of the very first RGSMs is upside-down if you lay the medal flat with Rhodes' head uppermost. On the rims of subsequent Type 1's from the early 1970s and indeed the other RGSMs, the lettering is the right way up.

Type 2: At some point in time, probably due to metal failure, a new die was commissioned, very noticeable by Mr Rhodes having a distinctly flattened tip to his nose. The definition is also not as sharp as that of Type 1. There are also two variants in this mid-1970s Type, suggesting two dies. One has a sweeping line in Rhodes' ear, the other, two blobs.

Type 3: Likely the final die, sadly of poorer quality compared to the earlier Types. Collector Sets' RGSMs were cast from this die. Rhodes' face is flat, with the whole profile not as sharply raised as on the earlier ones.

As far as eligibility is concerned, the definition of entitlement in the Warrant is very broad-based and would include Regular Army, Part-time Territorial Force, National Service, BSAP and BSAP Reserve, Air Force, Guard Force, White Intaf National Servicemen and Vedettes.

The biggest injustice in the awarding of the RGSM was that it had been decided that black Internal Affairs staff did not qualify for the RGSM, but were instead given an apologetic District Service Medal. The Warrant leaves no doubt as to their proper entitlement, especially those of the ARU combat unit (Intaf's equivalent of the Support Unit) and the mounted units. The sole purpose of these eight nationwide 33-man Administration Re-enforcement Units was to actively flush out and engage the enemy, a full combat role, but they were ultimately only given the recognition of civilians. Similarly, any gallantry awards to all Intaf personnel were also civilian, e.g. the Meritorious Conduct Medal.



**Members of Intaf's Bravo Troop ARU on combat seek-and-engage operations in Shinga, Mudzi
(Photo thanks Dudley Wall, commander of this ARU Troop)**

The biggest conundrum by far is the question of how many RGSMs were issued. RGSM awards were not gazetted and methods of distribution varied considerably. Certain units like the BSAP, kept meticulous records. Historian Carl Keith has, after many years of research, come up with a total of 28,440 awarded to reserve and regular members of the force. Intaf had issued 2409, but senior staff were sent a circular offering them an opportunity to purchase the RGSM!

On 22 April 1981, the Division of District Administration in the Ministry of Home Affairs, circularised its staff (DMN12/3), stating:

"I have to advise that you have been approved for the award of the Rhodesia General Service Medal.

However, it is no longer policy for such medals to be issued. Should you wish to obtain this medal it will be necessary for you to purchase it. (From Matthews Manufacturing, Bulawayo).

The cost of the medal is \$4,78 (inc tax) (without medal ribbon/brooch which can be obtained from this office). Delays in fulfilling your order can be anticipated, as it is necessary for quantities to be struck at one time."

So it is a known fact that the RGSM was still being struck as late as 1981.

ComOps documents reveal that only 36,000 were produced up to 1978. At that time, total manpower was estimated at 62,000, but for purposes of calculating RGSMs issued, it would not take into account those who may have served from 1966 to 1978. Issues of Zimbabwe Independence Medals may also be misleading, but known numbers of this medal amount to 97,000.

This Association, amongst other Rhodesian organisations, is often approached by individuals asking about RGSM entitlement and where they can get theirs. As indicated earlier, if you served in uniform then you are most likely eligible. If you are in any doubt, then please just ask for clarification. Thousands of RGSMs were struck, engraved, and never issued to the recipient. I would suggest that many of these may be lost in time forever. There are reputable collectors around who may be able to assist you trying to track down your RGSM. There is also a very good website run by Carl Keith, We Were Rhodesians, and a Zimbabwe Medal Society, but contact with them may be difficult. If all else fails, the Rhodesian Services Association can have an RGSM struck and engraved for you, with choice of mounting, ready to wear. Please refer to our CQ Store at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm>

Post Script: Peter Vorster

Last month I featured the award of the Military Medal - as a result of his bravery during the WWII Battle of El Alamein in North Africa - to Peter Vorster, a member of 289(Rhodesia) Anti-tank Battery, Royal Artillery. Peter's widow, Shirley, had approached an ex-servicemen's housing association in South Africa to try and access affordable

accommodation. They had asked her to provide proof of her late husband's service, resulting in her contacting the British Army Personnel Centre's Historical Disclosures (APC) here in the UK. This huge facility, based in Glasgow, is responsible for searching military archives to find specific individual army records.

Their response was extremely poor. They wrote to Mrs Vorster, informing her that they could not find her husband's records, and therefore he had not been with the British Army, and that his Regiment "...was not part of the Commonwealth." This casual casting aside of the enormous contribution and sacrifice made by thousands of Rhodesians as members of a Commonwealth nation in support of the British War effort could not go unchallenged. I immediately submitted to the APC a very detailed and lengthy paper containing a series of irrefutable facts not only about Peter Vorster's service with the British Army in North Africa, but also expressing, on behalf of Rhodesian's worldwide, my dismay that Rhodesia was not considered to have been a Commonwealth country. The editor, Hugh Bomford, is in possession of a copy of my submission to the APC.

This last week I received an unexpected but most welcome written response from the APC. I quote extracts from this letter:

"I am sorry that Mrs Vorster was incorrectly advised...trying to be helpful to Mrs Vorster but should not have included unverified and mistaken information."

"I am thankful that you have been able to provide Mrs Vorster with evidence of her husband's service. I am grateful for the information that you have provided and have circulated it among staff. I have also written to Mrs Vorster."

I would like to think that the APC now know who we were, and indeed still are.

Above and Beyond

In a three week period in November 1974, two members of the Selous Scouts, displaying nerves of steel and an extremely high level of courage, including actually living with terrorists for two days, accounted for seventeen insurgents captured or killed.

After an exchange of letters with a terrorist contact in the Chesa Purchase Area, Mt Darwin, L/Cpl Head Wuranda and Tpr Hungwe Rangarirayi entered a terrorist ambush position as part of the ploy to convince the terrorists that they were also ZANLA cadres. So convincing was their disguise and subterfuge, that members of the terrorist gang accompanied them back to the Selous Scouts own camp in neighbouring Kandeya, where they were individually disarmed and taken prisoner by a section of 3 Troop under Sgt Bruce Fitzsimmons.

Eventually the turn came for the terrorist Detachment Commander to be duped. This individual was by that stage totally convinced of Wuranda's 'pedigree' as a fellow freedom fighter, and unconcerned that Rangarirayi had already led his equally unsuspecting deputy away to ostensibly meet the other 'gang.' As they were waiting, Wuranda mentioned to the terrorist leader that he had terrible stomach cramps, but was scared of going behind a bush as he was unarmed and feared an attack from Rhodesian security forces would catch him with his pants down. The terrorist had no hesitation in lending his new-found comrade and friend, Wuranda, his AK. As this happened, a dumbstruck terrorist could not believe that his own AK, fully-cocked, was now aimed at his stomach.

This terrorist commander was quick to 'turn' and assist with plans to capture a certain ZANLA Section Commander Gumbo and his group who were also operating in the Chesa. A similar process of compromise and capture was successfully employed, as Wuranda and Rangarirayi continued to convincingly pose as terrorists in the on-going operation, placing their lives at great risk. A few days later, using the same tactics, they were again successful in neutralising a third gang in the area.

These repeated acts of outstanding bravery earned the two soldiers the Silver Cross of Rhodesia. Later on in the war, the continued selfless dedication to their dangerous roles, would also earn both these fine soldiers, the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia.

Head Wuranda was awarded the BCR for his actions during an external operation in Mozambique in June 1976, when he provided vital covering fire with a machine-gun as his fellow Scouts struggled to dislodge terrorists from the upper floor of a large building. WO2 Jannie Nel was killed, and Lieutenants Dale Collett and Tim Bax sustained life-threatening gunshot wounds as they tried to clear the building.



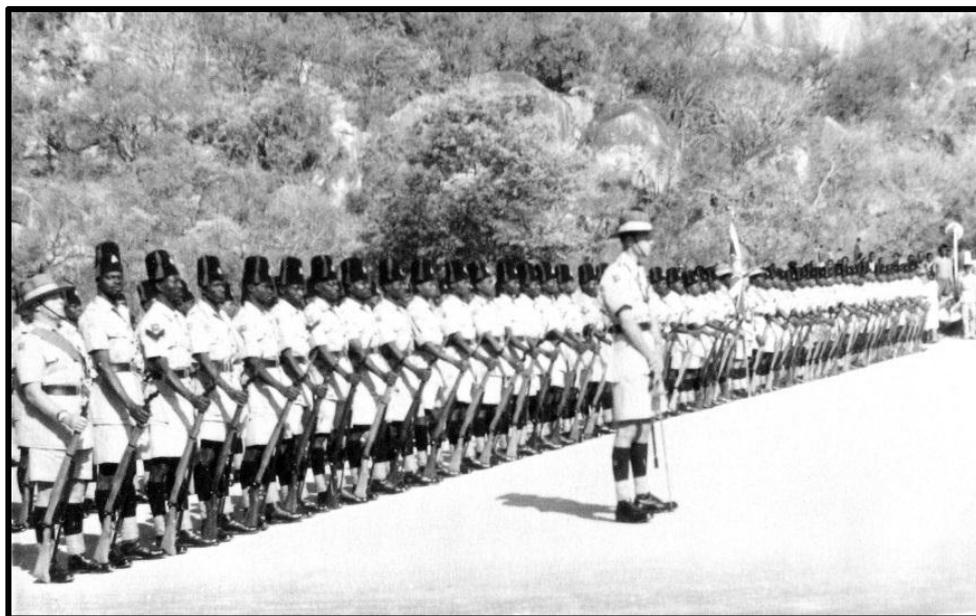
**The Silver Cross Of Rhodesia and the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia
(Author's own collection)**

The story of Head Wuranda would end in great tragedy for him and even greater tragedy for the Selous Scouts.

In November 1976, Sgt Head Wuranda SCR BCR, was abducted by terrorists from his rural home in the Nyajena TTL, south of Ft Victoria. Wuranda's own father, a staunch ZANLA sympathiser, was responsible for his son's demise. Nothing was ever seen again of Wuranda and his body was never found. On 4 February 1978, two heavily-armed Selous Scouts vehicles with twelve men on board left for Wuranda's home, a decision having been made to relocate the missing Wuranda's wife. At 1610 hours the following afternoon, having picked up Wuranda's wife in the Nyajena TTL, the returning vehicles ran into a ZANLA ambush. Although the firing only lasted minutes, the damage was considerable. Four Scouts lay dead; L/Cpl Richard Cook, Sgt Chiutsi Ringisayi, Tpr Martin Rungwe and Tpr John Whitfield. Tpr Keith Moss died of gunshot wounds a short while later.

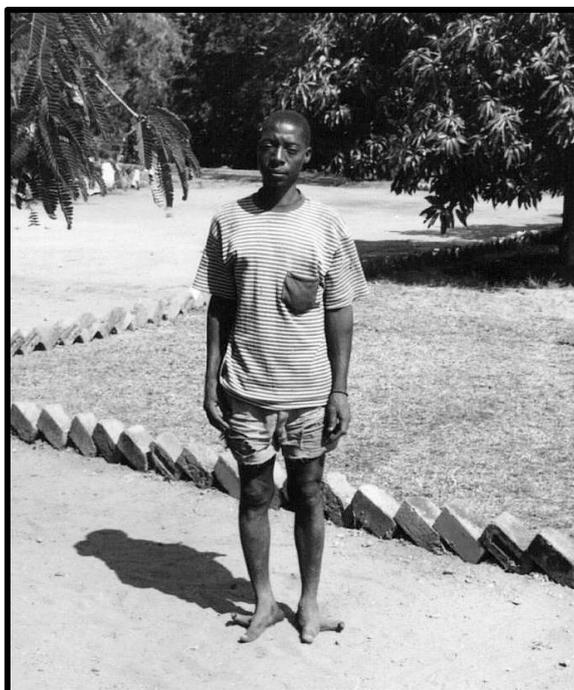
A Snapshot In Time

Thanks to Peter Hills of Mumbai, India, who recalls that at Heany, certain units, like Armoured Cars, had to blacken their webbing, generally using a boot-black product from Blanco, manufacturers of a whole range of different coloured polishes to the military for many years.



"Would the rifleman extreme left front attend to his Blanco by next parade"

As acknowledged in last month's column, the photo was taken by Lewis Walter, at the time Assistant Native Commissioner Salisbury. The picture is of the Guard of Honour mounted by the Kings African Rifles for her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, on the occasion of her visit to the country in 1957. The event referred to as the Indaba, was held in the Matopos. Lewis says, "*This was probably the last and most impressive truly colonial event in a fading Empire*".



This month's Snapshot, from my own collection, is of a Rhodesian who always made significant strides in his life. Comments to me please at g.van-tonder@sky.com

Arms at War

Weapon: FN-FAL

Type: Light Automatic Rifle Calibre: 7.62 X 51mm NATO

Manufacturer: Originally *Fabrique Nationale de Herstal* in Belgium; subsequently under licence in various other countries.

Effective Range (Spec): 400-600 metres

This gas-operated rifle with a tilting breech-block action, would be the Cold War mainstay of NATO forces in Europe, its answer to the Warsaw Pact AK-47.



Image thanks to Dudley Wall

Developed by Saive and Vervier shortly after World War Two, a prototype, Model 49, was produced in 1947. During the war, the Germans took over the FN plant, but not before drawings and working models were either destroyed or smuggled through France, Spain and Portugal, into Britain. The calibre of the weapon, however, remained an issue, as traditional rimmed British cartridges did not perform well in the Model 49 mechanism.

This was followed by several years of wrangling between Britain and the US over what would constitute a suitable standard NATO weapon, and one which would allow for simplified resupply of troops on the ground using a standard round. The Americans persisted with prototypes chambering the designated T65 NATO round, with the arms manufacturer Harrington and Richardson tasked to produce five hundred T48 rifles of this calibre. By the end of 1953, this round had been slightly modified to the same .308 size as the civilian Winchester cartridge. Shortly thereafter, in a move that resulted in great embitterment between these two allies on either side of the Atlantic, the US switched to the smaller 5.56mm round as their army standard.

In 1957, Britain formally adopted the 7.62mm FN L1A1, with upward of a million being produced from 1958 to 1975. Belgium would export the rifle to more than forty countries, with further manufacturing licences granted to Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Australia, Germany, India, Mexico, South Africa and Israel.

At the Going Down of the Sun

On 17 November 1976, five members of Internal Affairs were killed when their base, Ndhlovu Camp, near in the Victoria Falls TTL near Wankie, was overrun by well-armed ZIPRA terrorists. Armed only with .303s, the DSAs were overpowered, then dragged out of their huts and executed. This tragic incident again highlighted the vulnerability of Intaf staff, and prompted Head Office to build keeps in the area.



DSA Agrippa Bhebe (23)

DSA Allnear Chimere (21)

DSA Albert Moyo (29)

DSA Doctor Ndebele (26)

DSA Dumisane Nyoni (21)



(Image thanks to Dudley Wall)

Across the Globe

- On 29 November 1947, the UN allows for the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel
- On 3 November 1957, the USSR launches the first animal, a dog, into space
- On 22 November 1963, President John F Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas

And.....

Soldiers Soliloquy

As I sit on guard at night surrounded by a six foot fence,
 There's plenty of time to think and yearn for what is left behind.
 As I watch the moonlit bush for movements that shouldn't be there,
 I've plenty of time to miss my loved ones so far away.
 I fight the sleep drawn eyelids which threaten to shut out the night
 And betray my trusting comrades who are sleeping in trustful bliss.
 Of what they dream I know not,
 Does fear of the shots from out the night mar their dreams which should be tight.
 We guard against destruction behind a fence so high.
 What are the thoughts of those that seek to shoot,
 And maim and shatter all that is behind the fence.
 The beauty that surrounds us could be shared by one and all.
 This nation which has the makings of greatness,
 If only peace we could enjoy from the explosions
 And fear and sorrow brought to those who guard at night
 By those miserable scum from the dark,
 Whose thoughts of power and dreams of wealth
 Are in the end, self-defeating.

21251Y Field Reservist Basil Calder
 Written shortly before he was killed in action on 08 January 1977
 (With special thanks to his son Steve)

What's On In New Zealand

AUCKLAND

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

TAURANGA

The Garrison Club which is run by the 6th Battalion Hauraki Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. Email hbomford@clear.net.nz to get on the local mailing list to see what is going on around the area.

CQ Store

Visit www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm to see what is in store for you.

Please give our CQ Store consideration when buying a present for friends or family. Profits from the sale of these items go towards the Museum Fund. All prices are in NZ\$ and do not include postage.

To order:

Email thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org with your requirements. We will get it weighed and priced and get back to you with a total.

Payment

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



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



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



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



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



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



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

Please give our CQ Store consideration when planning your Christmas gifts this year. To avoid disappointment get your order in EARLY. Remember – some of our lines may have to be made to order and also there is the delivery time to allow for.

New products:

Floppy hats - Green & White as shown below, with either with Rhodesian Coat of Arms and 'Rhodesia' on the side or with the Flame Lily and no writing.

Sizes: S-M (56cm - 57cm fit) L-XL (60cm - 61cm fit)



Price NZ\$25 plus postage

Books for Africa

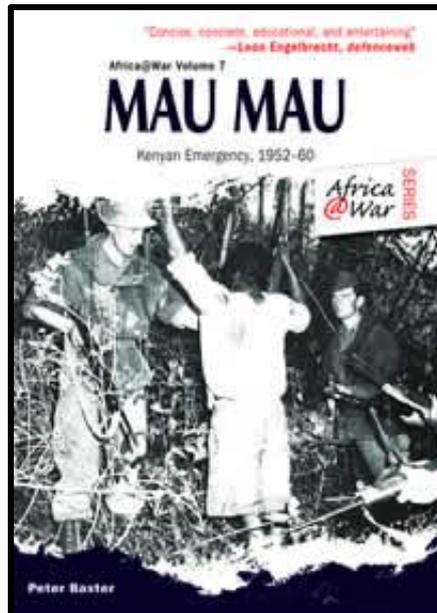
I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm These sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, the Association does benefit indirectly from these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

Please give my selection of books and DVDs consideration when planning your Christmas gifts this year. Make sure you order in time to allow for any delays in postal services during the pressure period.

Africa's Commandos update:

Stocks have not arrived in New Zealand yet. As soon as they do I will be contacting everyone who has placed an order.

Coming soon: Mau Mau – The Kenyan Emergency 1952 -1960 by Peter Baxter. Price NZ\$30 plus postage



This is Volume 7 in the very popular Africa @ War series.

The Second World War forever altered the complexion of the British Empire. From Cyprus to Malaya, from Borneo to Suez, the dominoes began to fall within a decade of peace in Europe. Africa in the late 1940s and 1950s was energized by the grant of independence to India, and the emergence of a credible indigenous intellectual and political caste that was poised to inherit control from the waning European imperial powers.

The British on the whole managed to disengage from Africa with a minimum of ill feeling and violence, conceding power in the Gold Coast, Nigeria and Sierra Leone under an orderly constitutional process, and engaging only in the suppression of civil disturbances in Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia as the practicalities of a political handover were negotiated. In Kenya, however, matters were different.

A vociferous local settler lobby had accrued significant economic and political authority under a local legislature, coupled with the fact that much familial pressure could be brought to bear in Whitehall by British settlers of wealth and

influence, most of whom were utterly un-reconciled to the notion of any kind of political handover. Mau Mau was less than a liberation movement, but much more than a mere civil disturbance.

Its historic importance is based primarily on the fact that the Mau Mau campaign was one of the first violent confrontations in sub-Saharan Africa to take place over the question of the self-determination of the masses. It also epitomized the quandary suffered by the white settler communities of Africa who had been promised utopia in an earlier century, only to be confronted in a post-war world by the completely unexpected reality of black political aspiration.

This book journeys through the birth of British East Africa as a settled territory of the Empire, and the inevitable politics of confrontation that emerged from the unequal distribution of resources and power. It covers the emergence and growth of Mau Mau, and the strategies applied by the British to confront and nullify what was in reality a tactically inexperienced, but nonetheless powerfully symbolic black expression of political violence.

That Mau Mau set the tone for Kenyan independence somewhat blurred the clean line of victory and defeat. The revolt was suppressed and peace restored, but events in the colony were nevertheless swept along by the greater movement of Africa toward independences, resulting in the eventual establishment of majority rule in Kenya in 1964.



The Rhodesia Regiment Book Project



This project is on the path to publication in June 2013. We require information on the following:

- ❖ National Service Intake numbers, dates and details – please email Gerry van Tonder at g.van-tonder@sky.com with details. See the list below of intakes that we have no information on.
- ❖ We have some conflicting information relating to Intakes 120 to 125. Please can anyone from those intakes, who has not already contacted Gerry van Tonder do so urgently on email g.van-tonder@sky.com
- ❖ Leadership details – CO, 2I/C and RSM of all Battalions; OC, 2I/C and CSM of all Independent Companies up to 1978 - please email Gerry van Tonder at g.van-tonder@sky.com with details.

Details required for the following intakes:

18	38	61	86
20	40	62	90
21	44	63	100
23	45	67	101
25	46	68	103
26	47	72	104
28	50	74	110
29	51	75	117
31	52	76	118
32	53	78	127
35	54	80	135
36	57	83	148
37	58	85	166

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

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

Email me at theeditor@rhodesianservices.org for details of how you get a mention here.

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

Roan Antelope Music special for November-December 2012

This 2012 is definitely the fastest year ever! It seems like yesterday we sent out our year end letter and here we are again.

Your continued support during 2012 has been amazing and is much appreciated. With your emails and facebook communication you have all contributed richly to "Keeping the Flame alive". The Roan Antelope Music team have also had their heads down creating and playing music. Since the launch of the "Boer War" album they have released the album "Of Valour, Viscounts and Vengeance". This is a compilation of John's most powerful songs portraying the history of the Rhodesian nation from the pioneers to the declaration of UDI, the sell out by Britain, highlights of the Bush War, the tragedy of the shooting down of the Viscount airliners (with a stunning new song called "The Deafening Silence"), the Rhodesian response with the Green Leader Raid (this time the full cockpit recording with narrative and a script) and finally songs describing the aftermath.

On a lighter note the team created an Afrikaans Game Rangers album, lyrics written by Teresa and recorded by John Ross. It was great to meet many of you in person at the live concerts, in particular at the benefit show in Durban to raise funds for the Viscount Memorials which were unveiled at the Voortrekker Monument on 1st September 2012. Then at the Arms Fair at the Johannesburg War Museum, the gun show at Lepelale, The Rhodie show at Kunkuru (biggest blast of all) and the benefit concert for "Pippa" the little girl who got burnt so badly.

Before the end of the year John and Teresa will be performing again at Kunkuru, doing a benefit concert for their beloved wildlife friend, Graham Tomsett, who lost a year-long fight with cancer. Then on the 11th November they will be playing at Smuts House to celebrate the 47th Anniversary of UDI and, of course, honour fallen comrades; for more info phone 0147350774 or book direct with Smuts House (reference Rhodie Show).

Every month Roan Antelope Music offer specials on their products realising that we are all going through tough times. November and December are no exception and along with our sincere Christmas wishes and prosperity for 2013 we offer the following:

Buy any three single CDs or a double and a single or two doubles and receive a free surprise CD.

To order go to:

Roan Antelope Music www.johnedmond.co.za

Email: info@johnedmond.co.za

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

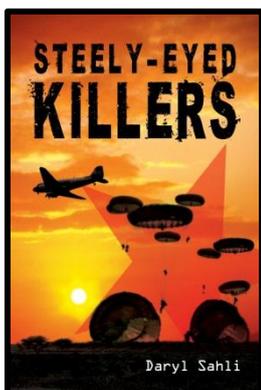
Buckles and Tees www.bucklesandtees.co.nz

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



Mike donates a portion of his income from all Rhodesian related items sold to the Rhodesian Services Association. Please email Mike at mike_jovivier@xtra.co.nz with your order or query or go to www.bucklesandtees.co.nz and do it on-line.

Steeley-eyed Killers by Daryl Sahli



Daryl's second book is now available as an ebook on Amazon and the iBookstore. The paperback is also available on:
www.thenile.com.au
www.amazon.com
www.amazon.co.uk
www.barnesandnoble.com
www.thebookdepository.co.uk
www.adlibris.com/se

“Set in the country now called Zimbabwe in the late 1970s, the Bush War has escalated into a desperate fight for survival. In a bid to stem the tide of freedom fighters flooding into the country, the war has spilt over into neighbouring Mozambique. External raids by special forces, the Selous Scouts and the Rhodesian Light Infantry, are required to hunt down the leaders of the liberation movement. They are hopelessly outnumbered, jumping from ancient Dakotas and rugged Alouette III helicopters. Chinese trained freedom fighters mount sabotage raids on key installations from bases in Mozambique, aided by spies in high places.

This story follows the harrowing, day-in-day-out combat and relentless pressure put on the combatants. Cold War rivalry, political paralysis and undercover agents put the men on the ground, on both sides of the conflict, in mortal danger. They not only have to defeat the enemy on the battlefield, they also have to endure the mistakes, bigotry and self-interest of their leaders. On the Freedom Fighter side, the fighting men and women are subjected to unspeakable hardship and brutality. Death stalks them from bomb, bullet, disease, hunger and their own leadership. This is the story of the ‘Steely-eyed killers’.....”

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.

Seeking Mark Sadler

Andrew Dorking writes:

“In last month's **Contact! Contact!** I was looking for anyone who was with Intake 162 and who knew Tim Murdock to get in touch with me. Des Cobban of 1 Indep. Coy RAR contacted me soon after. He knew Tim from when they did the LTU course together in 1978 and now Des has also given me two other names, Mike Cloete and Mark Sadler who were also in that LTU group. I have made comms with Mike, but I am still looking for Mark Sadler. The only info I have, is that he was the only sergeant on the course, and that he and Tim were very good friends but I have no idea where he was posted to after leaving Llewelin. If anybody knows Mark, or how I can contact him please get in touch.”

Email Andrew Dorking at andrew_dorking@hotmail.com if you can help.

Rhodesian Artillery photo

Paul Carpenter is seeking the passing out photo of the 84th Intake, Rhodesian artillery.

Please email Paul at paul.carpenter@wol.co.za

The Servicemen



"Good morning Hugh,

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Cheryl Grover and I work for an Association based in Johannesburg, South Africa called The Servicemen. For your information, I was in the first intake of RWS and joined the Rhodesian Air Force and served in the Communication Centre. I was later seconded to COMOPS and worked in the Comcen in the Ops Room until 1979.

In September 2012 a number of ex-servicemen of the Rhodesian Armed Forces joined together to form a unit called "The Servicemen". "The Servicemen" is a division of The Shamwari Trust, a registered NPO, which supports ex-servicemen financially, medically and spiritually.

"The Servicemen's" primary role is to assist in and find employment for ex-members of the Rhodesian Armed Forces (both regular and territorial) who served prior to April 1980. This service extends to cover Basic Skills Training and Entrepreneurship programmes, where applicable. The structure of "The Servicemen" includes a website that will detail the servicemen seeking employment. The website address is www.theservicemen.co.za

All ex-servicemen who are able to offer employment or are seeking employment are invited to contact us as we help to put our own back to work. In an endeavour to finance "The Servicemen", employ staff, and maintain the website, sponsors/donors are essential. Should you wish to contribute to this venture, please visit our website which will explain the various options that are available.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 079 696 8193 or email Cheryl@theservicemen.co.za

With best regards
Cheryl Grover"

Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes – Aero Rhodesia - Lodge 9109 medal

From Wayne Kennerley:

"Please can anyone help me identify the medal below and supply any information on the lodge and the medal?"

If you can assist please email Wayne at wkennerley@yahoo.com



Post Script Obituary

From Rod and Sue Stone email rodstone@gmail.com

Barry Lennox passed peacefully away, in a private ward at Teignmouth Hospital, Devon.

Barry was 77 last June. He was a very popular man and well loved by many. He talked frequently of his life in Rhodesia. Barry didn't any immediate family. He has a cousin in Wales and a niece in Toronto.

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

Cheers

Hugh



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

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

Rhodesian Services Association donations.

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

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MLMB2B8Y2UY3G

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



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

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