



# Contact! Contact!



**December 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](http://www.rhodesianservices.org)

Secretary's e-mail [thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org)

Editor's e-mail [theeditor@rhodesianservices.org](mailto: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](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm)**

Greetings,

Season's greetings to you and your families from the team behind this newsletter - Gerry, Grunter and John; and from the Rhodesian Services Association Committee as well as Diana and myself. We trust that your holiday period will be safe and in the spirit of the old Rhodesian saying, that "next year will be better".

This newsletter is being pushed out as close to the end of November as I can as I am undertaking a major computer and software upgrade at the beginning of December. This may mean that you do not get a reply from me over that time, your patience will be appreciated. Hopefully the techie people get me up and running and in good order with no loss of data. Frankly I am dreading it, not only the cost but, that as you know, we rely so much on these damnable boxes of wire and solder nowadays to run our lives and businesses.

This edition of **Contact! Contact!** is going to be a big one, probably in excess of twenty five pages, so please take your time over it as the next one will not be published until the beginning of February 2012. This is hopefully allowing me time to get the Rhodesia Regiment book project to a state that it can be handed over to the publishers. This project has been a very time absorbing part of my life for the last four (I think it is) years, with the concept of it dating back over ten years. I keep hearing rumours that the version that Alexandre Binda has written is about to be published by Peter Stiff. Those of you familiar with the background to the project will know that Alexandre Binda was chosen as the author, but after a period of time had a disagreement with myself and the publisher and went off on his own. It is of no concern to me that an alternative book is being produced on the same subject. Imagine if there was only one book written on the RLI? What I can tell you, is that the end product of the project that I am coordinating will result in a record on the history of Rhodesia, the likes of which has never been seen before. Other than the BSAP there is no other Rhodesian unit with the length of history comparable to the Rhodesia Regiment. The BSAP's history published in *'Blue and Old Gold'* would be the only other book of comparable historical coverage.

**Contact! Contact!** is one of a number of tools by which members of the Rhodesian Diaspora are kept informed and in contact around the world. I feel that it is important to keep people informed and to give them the means for remembering and learning more of our past in order to preserve it for the future generations. I was no different from the majority of people who, from 1980, adopted the attitude of putting the past behind (with much regret and some anger) and starting a new life in a new land with strange new people. I never covered up my heritage as a Rhodesian, but it was sometimes difficult getting through to people and trying to explain things if they had no first hand experience of Africa. I know that a lot of people, upon reaching the point of explaining Africa to strangers simply gave up and retreated into their shells.

As the years rolled by some of us took to joining in on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day parades around the world. As well, there were UDI parties and from there things expanded. Celebrating our heritage and honouring our fallen, has not diminished with the age of our people in any way, in fact it has taken off in a dramatic fashion in the last few years. On the 11th November (or close to it) this year, there were parades and functions all over the world in which Rhodesians were playing a roll. For the first time there was a parade in Bedford, England where the Rhodesians had been invited to attend and by all accounts outnumbered the local veterans quite substantially. In Canada there were two reported wreath layings. There were parades in London and in South Africa. Here in New Zealand 'Poppy Day' coincides with ANZAC Day so there are no major functions for Remembrance Day other than within the armed forces and at some Returned Services clubs. Hence, an increasing number of Rhodesians shut our businesses for the day or take time off work and called it 'Rhodesia Day'. There are some photos in the section below for you to view.

One of the most heart warming pieces that I have read recently illustrates all the points that I try to make. This is what Glen in Auckland, New Zealand had to say:

*"At a work braai late yesterday afternoon (Friday 11th November), I was asked by a number of people, what the green ribbon I was wearing stood for. I replied that on the 11th November 1965 Rhodesia declared UDI, one of the managers asked "What does that stand for?"*

*I told him and went on to give a brief description of the two Viscounts being shot down; the cold blooded murder of the survivors and the gross interference in our affairs by the SA, USA and UK governments which helped put Mugabe into power and how now, those same governments ignore what is/has happened in Zimbabwe. He appeared absolutely stunned at what happened so many years ago and what that thug has been allowed to get away with, he shook my hand and walked away, the rest just stood and looked at me.*

*This is the first time in the 11 years that I have worked for this company that I have opened up with so much detail; I now regret not having done it sooner.*

*Shala Gashle - all those that lost their lives defending our great country."*

As you know, we have a Facebook group which is "closed", but all are welcome to join. We have loaded up a lot of photographs from various events, as well as others from our museum displays which people find interesting. We have used Facebook as another platform for our purpose of preserving Rhodesian history. If you want to find us, search for Rhodesian Services Association.

Please use these links to our website [www.rhodesianservices.org](http://www.rhodesianservices.org) for the following resources:

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

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

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

## 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](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) if required.



### Andrew Critten

From Sidney Peter

*"Andrew was my friend. He passed away the 20/8/11 with a massive heart attack. He was a man amongst men! He served in the Armoured Car Regiment. My deepest sympathy to family and friends.*

*May he rest in peace.*

*Until we meet again my friend.*

*Sid"*

## 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](mailto:thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org)

[theeditor@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:theeditor@rhodesianservices.org)

[hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto: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.

The following subscriber's addresses are dead. If you know them please ask them to contact me:

- **Carlos Carotenuto** – New Zealand
- **Mike Graham** – New Zealand
- **Rob Mills** – New Zealand
- **Roy Lane**
- **Rob & Penny Maitland-Stuart** – South Africa
- **Kevin Barron** – South Africa
- **Bill Mauseth** – South Africa
- **Ian Hayes-Hill** – South Africa
- **Vic Schultz** – Australia
- **Paddy Watson** - Australia

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

## Job Vacancy

We require a new Treasurer.

The right person will find it a very rewarding job as we have a lot of positive things going on within the Rhodesian Services Association. Ideally this person would live in the Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Auckland area of New Zealand.

A description of the job can be forwarded on request.

Please can anyone with book keeping skills, as well as the time and motivation to take on this job, make contact with Chuck Osborne, Association Secretary on [thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org)



## Remembrance Day Services and Rhodesia Day

To see where there are various services and parades around the world please visit our link at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/events.htm>

In addition to the photos below from various locations I believe that there were parades in London and in South Africa, but as no one who attended them took the time to send me photos, they are not represented here.

### New Zealand

People around New Zealand took time off and some closed their businesses. We believe that there was a strong turnout at Longbay in Auckland which was attended by some Rhodesians. Below are photos from around New Zealand.



**John Graham, Tony Bramsen, Winston Hart at the Te Awamutu cenotaph.**



**Bryony Bomford, Jane Beaty, Diana Bomford, Tinka and Ray Mushett relax at the Waihi Beach RSA on 11/11/2011.**



**Jack Maddox at the Memorial Wall, Devonport Naval Base, Auckland.**

### **Canada**

Canada is a big country and it difficult for Rhodesians to link up. Ron Zager and Ken Peake once again attended their local parade at North Bay, Ontario. Dave Ward and Mitch Stirling have set the ball rolling at Ladysmith BC.



**Dave Ward at Ladysmith, BC.**

**Bedford, England**

Around forty five Rhodesian servicemen and women marched through Bedford in what is claimed to be the first time that Rhodesians have been allowed to march on Remembrance Day in England since 1965.



**Steve Cloete, Dudley Wall and Gerry van Tonder represent Intaf at the Bedford parade.**



**Also at Bedford, RLI Standard Bearers check to see who has got the beer money for post parade refreshments.**

After being spoilt by the RWC there seems to be a drought of sport on at the moment. There is bit of golf, a rugby league tournament in the UK and of course the English Premiership, but not a lot else on - on our TV in New Zealand anyway.

Sadly we saw the passing of one of the greats of Heavyweight Boxing this month, Smokin' Joe Frazier. He was part of an era in heavyweight boxing that one can only dream of today. With Muhammad Ali, Smokin' Joe, George Foreman and Ken Norton you had heavyweights of the highest calibre. They certainly earned the title of "World Champion" back then, unlike these days where there seems to be about five champions in each weight division.

Who could ever forget the 'Thriller in Manila' and the 'Rumble in the Jungle' fights? Those were the days alright, entertainment from the top draw and they all seemed to beat each other, with Ali ultimately at the top of the mound in the end, but not before Ken Norton broke his jaw. For those who saw Ali at Frazier's funeral, he was a sad sight. That such an incredible athlete could turn out like that is very unfortunate indeed.

It reminded me of Nick Topping. Who could ever forget Nick Topping tearing around the Rhodesian rugby fields with his socks around his ankles, entering rucks and mauls like a human whirlwind? Sadly Nick is not so well these days and even for those that know him, is hard to recognise. He is well looked after by his family and friends but he must feel very frustrated. It goes to show that you can never take your health for granted.

A few months ago I mentioned that we were going to do a few 'blasts from the past' with respect to sport in Rhodesia. That is still my intention but I would just like to cover a 'look to the future' this month.

Sean Crocker is a name to remember because I think you will hear his name in the future on the golf courses of this world. Sean is the son of Gary and Shelly Crocker. Gary, you may remember, played cricket for Zimbabwe in the 1990s. They now live in California and their son Sean is taking the junior golf world by storm. Here are some of his statistics up to September 2011:

Sean Crocker

Boys 13-14 Division Player of the World Series

Age: 14

Hometown: Westlake Village

His summary of the 2011 season so far:

Disney Store Champion

Taylor Made Spring Champion

Taylor Made Ventura County Championship Runner up

Players Championship Runner up

Sportsforce Champion

Las Vegas Champion

Western States Players Cup Runner up

2011 FCG World Series Champion

As I said, I am sure we will hear more of Sean. Here's wishing him from all of us, the very best and I will keep you up to date on future accomplishments.



**Sean Crocker.**

I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and safe Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. I will catch up with you all again in January as we look forward to another year.

Go Well

Regards

Grunter

Email [fourstreams@clear.net.nz](mailto:fourstreams@clear.net.nz)



**Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980**



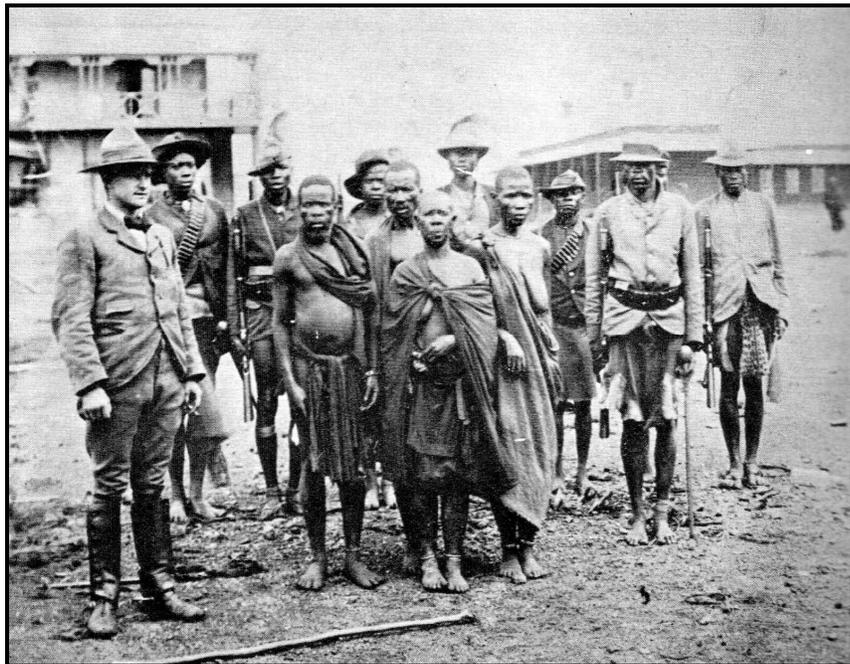
**by Gerry van Tonder**

## December

**Newsflash Headlines** +++ 27 December 1918 Salisbury welcomes the return of the first contingent of the Rhodesia Native Regiment from East Africa +++ 03 December 1951 A fire at the Queen's Hotel in Salisbury causes £30,000 damage +++ 12 December 1953 Four Vampire ground attack jet aircraft arrive at New Salisbury Airport +++ 03 December 1958 The last of the gaps in the wall across the Zambezi river are closed and Lake Kariba is born +++ 15 December 1962 The Rhodesian front leader Winston Field is called on by the Governor to form the first government under the new constitution +++ 20 December 1962 Two Hawker Hunter jets thunder over Salisbury as the RRAF take delivery of the first of these front-line ground attack jet aircraft +++ 02 December 1963 A squadron of RAF Javelin jet fighters arrive in Zambia to offer protection in the Rhodesian crisis +++ 23 December 1974 Four unarmed South African policemen are murdered by ZANLA terrorists in the Rushinga area +++ 14 December 1976 The British Government asks Mr Ivor Richard, chairman of the Rhodesia Conference, to leave for Africa to consult all the participating parties +++

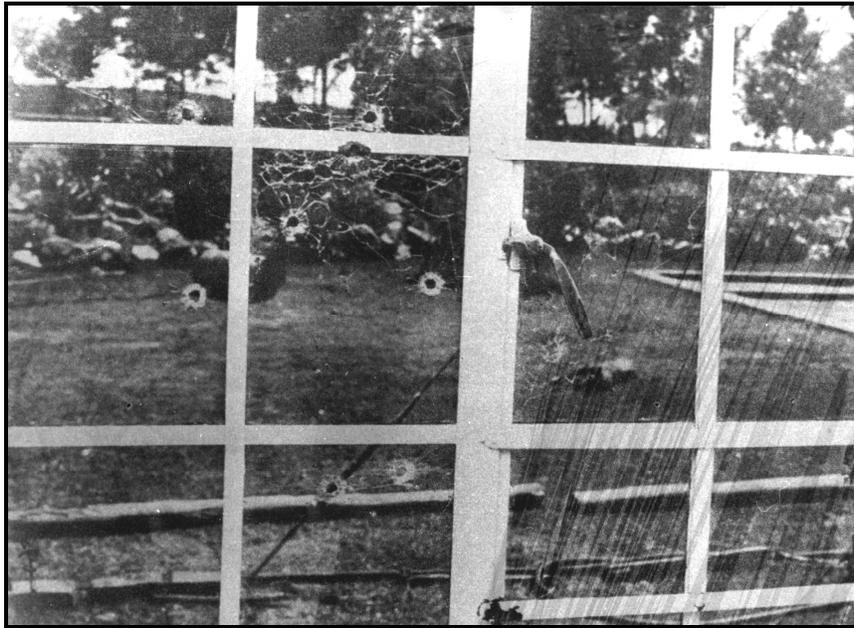
### **In Brief**

In December 1897, Native Commissioner Kenny captured the spirit medium Mbuya Nehanda, together with two other prominent spiritual leaders, Kaguvi and Mkwati. In the so-called first *Chimurenga* (war), she encouraged the people to rise against the whites. She was found guilty of murder and executed five months later. This 'martyrdom' would play a significant part in the black nationalist activities of the 1960s and 1970s.



**NC Kenny and his bare-footed "policemen" pose with the captured Nehanda and her associates.**

On 21 December 1972 Rex Nhongo (*Chimurenga* name for Solomon Mujuru) led a gang of ZANLA terrorists in an attack on Altena Farm in the Centenary area. Neighbouring Whistlefield Farm was attacked the following night. For most, this was the start of the second so-called *Chimurenga* War, and precipitated the deployment of SAS and RLI troops into the area.



**Bullet-riddled windows in the Altena Farm homestead.**

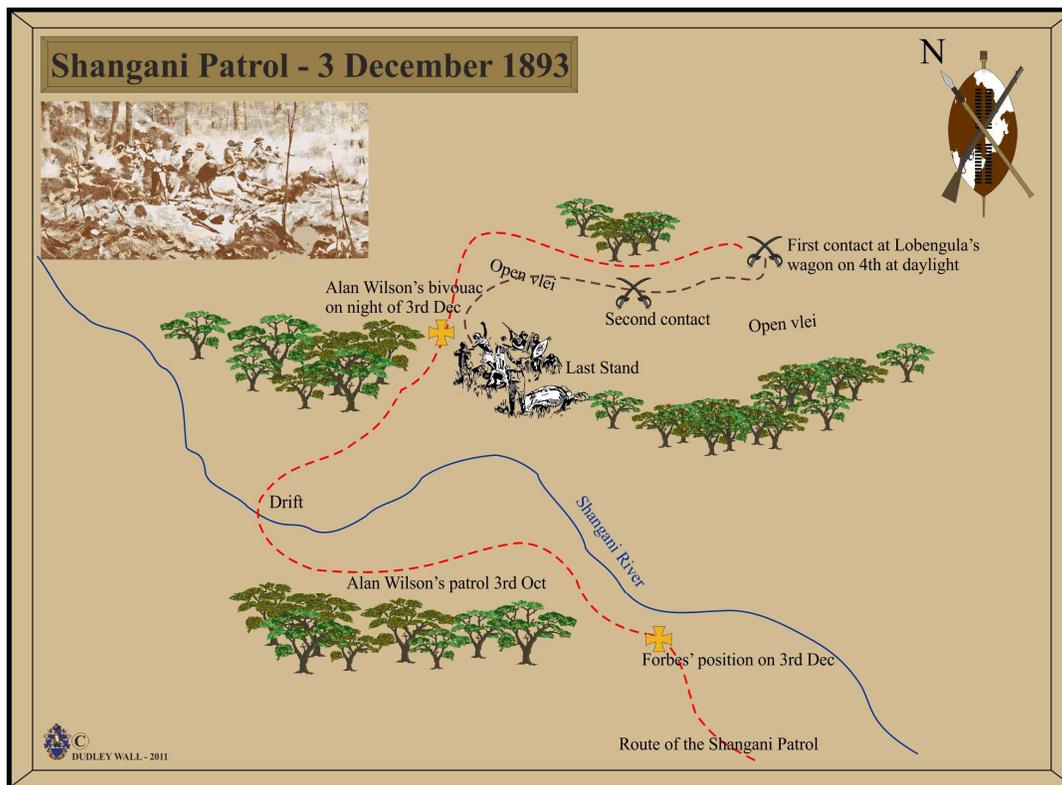
On 11 December 1978 ZANLA terrorists attacked the main oil storage depot in Salisbury with rockets and rifle fire, resulting in a major blaze that lasted for six days, destroying twenty five million gallons of fuel, a quarter of the country's reserves. The huge pall of smoke over the Rhodesian capital reflected the country's mood as, within weeks, the new Zimbabwe-Rhodesia constitution was published.

#### **The Shangani Patrol**

It is the afternoon of 04 December 1893, and at a place called Pupu, deep in the rain-drenched mopane forests of the Shangani in Matabeleland, thirty three officers and men of the ill-fated patrol sent by Major Forbes to look for the fleeing Lobengula, lay dead, killed in a desperate battle against overwhelming numbers of Ndebele warriors.

Before this, Lobengula, the last Matabele King, his lineage of the Zulu Khumalo clan, had torched his royal kraal at Gubulawayo and fled north, away from the advancing combined troops of the British South Africa Company and other Imperial units. Borne away in a wagon, the ailing king was escorted by several thousand warriors under his chief induna, Mjaan.

Dr Leander Starr Jameson, whose impetuous behaviour would six years later contribute to throwing the sub-continent into war, despatched a column under Major Patrick Forbes to capture Lobengula. The expeditionary force including troops from Salisbury, Fort Victoria and men of Raaff's British Bechuanaland Police, set off on 12 December, taking with them four Maxim machine-guns (each with 2100 rounds of ammunition) and a 7-pounder gun. Two scouts, the American Russell Burnham and Pete Ingram, accompanied the force.



Map by Dudley Wall.

On 03 December, the column reached the Shangani, where it was discovered that Lobengula had set up a temporary kraal just across the river, guarded by the Ingubo, Inshlati and Isiziba regiments.

Major Allan Wilson and twenty officers and men, including scouts Burnham and Ingram, crossed the river, and before bivouacking for the night, Wilson sent Captain Napier back to Forbes to not only report that the Matabele had been found in apparently large numbers, but also to request reinforcements and a Maxim. Forbes, reluctant to move at night and only intending to strike across the river with the full column the following morning, at midnight despatched Captain Henry Borrow and twenty men to reinforce Wilson.

During the night Wilson and his men approached Lobengula's wagons. One of the troopers, sufficiently conversant in Zulu, was tasked to call out that they had come to take the King back to Gubulawayo. The challenge was met with a fusillade of rifle fire, forcing Wilson and his men to fall back a fair distance.

The patrol's dawn stand-to heralded further sporadic rifle-fire between themselves and Ndebele warriors concealed in the thick mopane bush. Four members of the Bechuanaland Police were wounded and seventeen horses shot. The patrol was forced further back to a point which Wilson selected to make a stand, forming a circle of men and horses. They faced large numbers of determined Ndebele swarming towards them from the wagons. A large group swept around the patrol's left flank, with the objective of closing their rear and preventing retreat towards the river. Sensing this, Wilson withdrew further, heading back towards where they had spent the previous night. The remaining mounted men formed a hollow square around those who had lost their mounts, as the crippled patrol limped in the direction of the river.



**The Shangani River in full flood.** Photo by Lewis Walter.

Assessing the situation now as being very dangerous, Wilson realised that their chances of survival were virtually nil without the crucial added firepower of a Maxim. He ordered Burnham, Ingram and Trooper Gooding to return to the main force and to demand help at any cost from Forbes. The trio only just managed to cross the Shangani, now rapidly swelling into a raging torrent from all the incessant rain.

As Wilson and his men fell back deeper into the bush, judging the river banks to be a little over one hundred metres away, they found the only possible route of escape blocked, as the left and right 'horn' of the traditional Zulu flanking manoeuvre encircled the small group of desperate men.

Finally Wilson called a halt, and using the remaining horses as a protective laager, he prepared his men to face an impossibly large enemy force surrounding their position. As the day dragged on and in typically cautious fashion, the Ndebele gradually decimated the patrol through intermittent rifle fire and assaults with spears and knobkerries. Popular tradition has it that Wilson and his men sang *God Save the Queen* before they all finally fell.

The remains of the Shangani patrol would remain at this spot at the mercy of nature only, the Ndebele warriors having been ordered by their Indunas not to disembowel the bodies, as was their normal practice, out of respect for Wilson and his men. Several weeks later, Bulawayo trader James Dawson visited the site and buried what he could. Subsequently, the remains were exhumed and reburied in Fort Victoria, the home of many of the patrol, including Wilson. In 1904 the remains of the men of the Shangani Patrol were moved once again, this time to their final resting place in the imposing granite and bronze memorial adjacent to Cecil Rhodes' grave at World's View, Matopos Hills.



**The Pupu memorial to Allan Wilson and the men of the Shangani Patrol.** Photo by Lewis Walter.

Captain Charles Newman, in his book *Matabeleland and How We Got It*, written about the Matabele War in Bulawayo in 1894, said "Major Wilson and his party died as soldiers should do, in the cause of progress and civilisation; and neither relatives, friends, nor their countrymen could wish them a nobler end." He lists these soldiers as part of the patrol:

Major Allan Wilson;

Captains Fitzgerald, Judd, Greenfield, Kirton and Brown;

Lieutenants Hughes and Hofmeyr;

Troop Sgt Major Harding;

Sergeants Browne, Bradburn and Berkeley;

Corporals Colquhoun and Kinloch;

Troopers Welby, Robertson, Robertson-Hay, Hellett, Dillon, Money, Dervis, de Vos, Brock, Britain, Bath, Morris, Tuck, Thompson, Abbott, McKenzie, Micklejohn, T. Watson and G. Watson.

### **Above and beyond**

A Government Gazette of 07 December 1979 listed the posthumous awarding of the Meritorious Conduct Medal to Senior District Officer Iain Fyfe, for his outstanding courage and resourcefulness and for brave and gallant conduct beyond the call of duty.



**SDO Iain Fyfe's MCM and RGSM**

Within a couple of months of being injured by a terrorist grenade explosion in a contact with ZIPRA in a kraal in Nkai District, Iain returned to active duty, and on 01 July 1979, was leading a reaction unit stick of District Assistants in pursuit of a gang of ZIPRA terrorists who had ambushed a bus. Iain initiated the first contact, wounding one of the terrorists. As the blood spoor led the unit into thicker forest, they formed an extended sweep line, following the spoor of about twenty terrorists. In an ensuing contact Iain, leading the way as was his custom, was killed by fire from an RPD.

Iain Fyfe died a short distance from Pupu where Major Alan Wilson and the men of the Shangani patrol also died at the hands of the Ndebele, eighty six years previously.

### At the Going Down of the Sun

On 23 December 1975, whilst visiting troops in the field at Christmas, a group of Rhodesian Army Officers and a South African Air Force tech. travelling in an Alouette III helicopter, were tragically killed when their aircraft crashed after striking overhead power lines. The pilot, Air Sub-Lt Johannes van Rensburg was seriously injured. The accident occurred on Shinda Orchards Farm, between Cashel and Umtali, three kilometres from the Mozambique border in the Op Thrasher area.

We remember:

- ■ Maj General John Shaw (48)
- ■ Col David Parker (38)
- ■ Capt John Lamb (27)
- ■ Capt Ian Robertson (29)
- ■ Sgt Pieter van Rensburg (22)



Top Military and Government staff slow march as they honour the fallen servicemen. Photo by B Kaschula.



Part of the military funeral cortege making its way down a crowd-lined Salisbury street. Photo by B Kaschula.

Across the globe

- On 01 December 1913 Henry Ford introduces assembly lines
- On 11 December 1936 King Edward VIII abdicates
- On 07 December 1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbour

**And...**

On 20 December 1957 Elvis Presley receives his call-up papers!



**Elvis Presley.**

**Blind Courage by Captain William M Anderson (Retd.)**

I communicate with a lot of people and in doing so I hear some amazing and inspirational things. This piece below was written at my request because being blind, for me, would be one of the worst things that I could imagine. I do understand how blind people have managed to adjust to their situation. I know that we have at least two subscribers to this newsletter who were wounded in our Bush War and lost their sight. I imagine that many of our older readers are struggling with their vision. I hope that this piece is as inspirational for you as it is for me to be able to communicate with Will Anderson in Australia.

Will Anderson has been a subscriber and member of our Association for some years. He is a generous supporter of our CQ Store and has amazed me with his ability to cope with his blindness. I communicate with Will in exactly the same manner that I do with many others – by email and we share the same sense of humour that is a trademark of Rhodesians. Will is Australian, he has never been to Rhodesia or Zimbabwe, he like many others, found our Association through the internet and because he understands what we were and how we are, he has latched onto us.

Before I go to his story, I do have to tell you, with my Quartermaster's cap on (which is now an officer's one don't forget) that you must still be very careful of Australians. Will sent through his cheque for his annual subs a few weeks ago. This was all good and I banked his cheque. He then followed this up with an order for a Rhodesian Rugby jersey that he was giving to the Rhodesian wife of a friend of his in the Aussie Commandos. Will managed to establish the size that would best suit her – yes we had a few 'Braille' jokes over this. Anyway as a trusting person, I dispatched the goods before the cheque arrived from Will (please don't tell the Treasurer). A letter arrived from Will and I headed to the bank and started filling in the deposit slip. While filling in my deposit slip, I looked closely at the 'cheque' that Will had sent as it did not look the same as the cheque that he sent for his subs a week before. I turned it over thinking that maybe he had sent me a bank cheque and not a personal one. It then became apparent that Will had sent me one of his own deposit slips instead of a cheque!! So my friends never trust an Aussie – you have to watch them pretty damn closely!

This is Will's piece and if you want to contact him please email Will Anderson [will.anderson@mcc.net.au](mailto:will.anderson@mcc.net.au)

"It's my honour to be a member of your Rhodesian Services Association, as I like to keep my mind active by studying the Rhodesian struggle and other military matters. I was invited by Hugh Bomford to write about what's happened to me and what I'm doing now.

My name is William Anderson and unfortunately my career came to a shuddering halt when the Australian Defence Force made me accept 'Retirement on Medical Grounds', on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1996. Thanks to what I experienced in the Australian Regular Army (ARA), I'll constantly remain positive, motivated and dedicated to whatever it is I want to achieve. As you all know, we must always work through, around or even together with whatever difficulties are forced on us.

From when I was in early primary school, I wanted to join the Army for a basic reason; my father Bill was an Australian National Serviceman from mid 1966 to mid 1968. He served in Vietnam for the last 12 months of his Nasho time, serving with 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (7 RAR). My dad carried one of his company's radios, as he had broad shoulders, once being a Scottish school boy Rugby Union Player. He was also charged with his patrol's navigation, so he taught me to navigate from when I was a youngster.

In 1988 I completed Year 12 schooling, achieved my Victorian Certificate of Education and joined the Australian Army Reserves (ARES) Initially I was an Officer Cadet in the ARES achieving my Queen's Commission in March 1991. To achieve this I utilised the leadership skills that my Dad taught me. When I was a teenager, Dad was the Scout Leader of the 2/3 Essendon Scout Troop, he would tell us what we were going to do and then have our Scout Patrol Leaders come up with a plan. He'd listen to our plans and give us guidance. This indicated his respect for us and I took this lesson from him.

I loved serving in the ARES and in mid 1991 I transferred to the Australian Regular Army (ARA), thus making the Army my career. I could have transferred into an Infantry Battalion, however I chose to do eighteen months at RMC Duntroon in Canberra and learn how the ARA trains their SCDTs. Our RMC SCDTs Training Course was tough; however looking back it was brilliant.

During our eighteen months it was vital that we always worked together, regardless of what we were doing such as theory, bush training with M113 APC, Blackhawk Helicopter, Leopard Tank or parachuting into Jervis Bay. The motto for RMC Duntroon is *Doctrina Vim Promovet*, meaning Knowledge Promotes Strength. This is so true, however, importantly, so does experience. Where does experience come from? Ourselves, our Army mates, Officers, WOs, SNCOs, JNCOs and always Soldiers. Within ourselves, we must always have the means to pick out others with decent experience and also those who are time wasters.

I served as a Lieutenant and a Reconnaissance Troop Leader at 2 Cavalry Regiment (2 CAV Regt) at Waler Barracks, in Darwin. Within our Recon Troop there were twenty three soldiers and 5 LAV-25 vehicles. These LAV-25s were on loan from the Americans for us to trial. Now the RAAC has the ASLAVs.

At 2 CAV I had an outstanding time, learning and experiencing many things, performing well and, of course, stuffing up a few times, as to be expected from a new, young suby. In recent years, some of my soldiers told me that they were amazed what I did on the first day with them. We all sat around, on upturned jerrycans and the like and they thought I would tell them that this was now how things were going to be done, but instead I asked them what techniques they liked, what they could not stand and why. This is an essential question and I began to gain their respect. Soon after I became their TP Leader, they started to call me Boss instead of Sir, which I liked. Years later I found out that when they talked about me in the 'Diggers Lines' they would say that I was a good bloke, using the nickname Bonehead, as apparently I constantly had the shortest shaved hair in our Recon Troop! Jeez, why not, it never got all sandy and filthy out in the bush!

In May 1994, A Sqn went out to Mt. Majura Training Area on Post OP training before OP Prowler 2 in June 1994, Arnhem Land, Northern Territories. A Sqn was out in the bush for four weeks. On the morning of 2 June 1994, my Recon Troop had our 5 LAV-25s parked on the Live Firing Range Mound. I had to report up to A Sqn. HQ on Mt. Bundy for Movement Orders into Arnhem Land, so I decided to leave my troop members and four LAV-25s on the Range Mound. I left with my driver, Trooper Carlo. Reversing off the Live Firing Range Mound is the last thing I can remember.

A year later, this is what I have been told happened: Trooper Carlo and I left the Live Firing Range Mound and drove up the well formed two lane dirt track. After we travelled a short distance, our LAV-25 rolled back over front three times, landing on its wheels, still on the dirt track. I was thrown out of the LAV and was instantly in a coma. Shortly after, a RAEME 110 Land Rover arrived with a Corporal and Trooper who were Patrol Medics. They started to treat me in my 'massive pool of blood'.

Forty five minutes later a Kiowa Helicopter from 161 Recon Sqn. arrived. It was impressive that this Kiowa turned up so quickly and the pilot was their OC. They had obviously pulled out all the stops for me. As the Kiowa began to land, I apparently sat up. Now, it's important to remember that I'm still in a coma; however the Troop Patrol Medic said words to the effect of "Sir, can you please lie back down? I'm not wanting to be offensive, but lie the \*\*\*\* down!" I then lay down again, but it's great that I heard the sound of a helicopter and began to react!

I can't remember anything, but I spent the next six weeks in Royal Darwin Hospital. I was joined by my parents Bill and Alva and my brother James, who flew up from Melbourne and then flew home with me in a C113 Herc. In Darwin, my mates came in to see me every day and once all twenty three soldiers from my Troop came in to see me straight out from the bush.

In Melbourne, I spent the next several months in various hospitals. To this day, I am rapt that my Mates Visitors Diary was kept, so that whenever my mates visited they could write down their remarks. A female officer mate of mine said that my haircut would have suited 'Romper Stomper'...gee, thanks. Many times I have read through the last entry in my Mates Visitors Diary. This was written by my Mum and I do find it quite emotional: *'Tuesday 18 October 1994. Will, you have had to go into a Melbourne mobility centre to undergo a mobility course for two to four weeks. Not a successful move. You were too tired to be bothered, got hay fever from the other clients dog guides and generally told them what to do with their course.'*

*This reinforced for us that bureaucrats treat people with a flow-through mentality. Numbers mean funding, funding means continuation of their existence and jobs etc.*

*We're becoming good at putting our hands up and saying 'Enough! Listen to us, meet our needs!' so we have stopped the merry-go-round for a couple of weeks, giving you your own time and space to catch up on some sleep and eating what you like etc.'*

Up until recently, my carers would read my Mates Visitors Diary out to me and I would type it into my Microsoft Word Program. Before I became totally blind, I used two fingers to type and 'hen pecked'. Now, thanks to training at the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB), I can touch type and it is fantastic.

As I am typing out this article on my laptop computer, I have JAWS installed. JAWS means that as I press each individual key, I can hear it in a clear audible voice from my laptop. I use JAWS to listen to incoming e-mails, use internet or listen to text from Excel or Word.

I am also using an Eye Pal, which is a 40 cm. tripod supporting a camera. I place a written document, e.g. a letter or book, under the tripod and the camera reads through it, then an audible voice from my computer reads it back to me.

From the beginning of 1997 I was Retired on Medical Grounds from the ADF. I can understand why I must now be treated at civilian hospitals and medical facilities by civilian GP, specialists, psychologists and a dentist. I admit that many of them I get along well with; notice that's many, not every. I've some brilliant stories that have occurred and I'll share one with you.

At the end of 1994, the nursing staff at one of the hospitals that I was in was writing out one of my numerous medical reports. For the background information, they had a question my parents could probably answer. This question was asked with words to the effect of, "When Will was on this Training Exercise, what were his daily working hours?" My parents were apparently silent for a few seconds and my Dad said to the effect, "From mid May to mid June!" The nurses did not understand what he meant, so my Dad said "From when they drove out of their Barracks to when they drove back in. They were working 24 hours every day."

Those who have served in the military know that it often becomes impossible to describe what we went through to people who have not served. In the world that I now live in, it is hard to find someone with similar interests who will understand what I am going through.

In Australia in 1996, the Injured Service Persons Association (ISPA) was founded. ISPA is an ex-service organization for ADF people injured during Peacetime service. Up until 1996, an ex-service organization like ISPA had never existed. I am the ISPA National Vice President. Our ISPA National President is Ray Brown who served with me as a Corporal at 2 CAV. During a Peacetime Training Exercise, Ray was hit with a falling branch and unfortunately is now a quadriplegic. The work Ray does within ISPA is extraordinary. Working with Ray, we write letters to and send messages to areas such as DVA, always remaining polite and stating the facts. Being aggressive will never, ever achieve what we are after, although this seems like a never ending battle.

I also have my own small business, called William Anderson's Inspirational Speaking. I present my motivational talks to various audiences and share my positive messages. I tell them what I have gone through, but constantly relate what inspires me to keep going. I present my motivational talks to ARA Units, GRes Units, secondary and junior schools. As well as talking, I've got several military items to show them and having a ten year old student wear my AUSCAM shirt that goes down to his knees always gets a giggle.

I honestly believe that I've important and interesting messages to share with others. We have all got to keep going, look, listen, learn! Thanks so much for your time."



**Will Anderson with a good sized snapper caught in Port Phillip Bay near Melbourne recently.**

## Modellers Section

Does anyone have any photos or recollections of fire appliances used in Rhodesia principally at the FAF bases. We know there were small trucks and Ford F250s but were there any Landrovers? Email me if you have any comments please.

The following photos are of Andrew Quick's 1:35 scale Rhino and Pookie that he brought along to display at the AGM in October. The level of attention to details is amazing: the mud on the tyres, the aloes, the lichen covered rocks, the road sign warning of elephants – truly amazing.

Andrew is an Orthodontist who has recently shifted to Hamilton from Dunedin. He says that making models is therapeutic.



## Carpe Diem by Mitch Stirling

A new columnist has joined us and will be writing on the subject of schools. While the only aspect of schooling that I enjoyed was getting on the transport home, I believe that it is something that will be of interest to a wide range of our readership. This below is Mitch Stirling's opening request. Please give him your support.

After three years at the Teachers' College in Bulawayo, I was let loose on the world of Rhodesian education as a teacher of History. My first thoughts were that I really should have paid more attention to the lectures on the theory and practice of education whilst at college. In fact, I thought, I really should have 'attended' those lectures! Oh well, too late now. Into the deep end I went with the finest of Rhodesian youth in 1968.

The best thing - perhaps the only thing - I had to offer as a teacher was my youth. To my relief I realized that the Fort Victoria High School children who were destined to receive my words of pedagogic wisdom were not children at all, but young adults separated from me only by a few short years. And they were mostly from a middle-class Rhodesian background, just like mine. But how, I asked myself, was I to corner them in a classroom on a lovely sunny day and make them interested in history? Fortunately the Zimbabwe ruins and the little-known Nyajena ruins were not too far away, so classroom captivity was not a big problem at all. 'Living' history was a real possibility because there was a school bus, sandwiches and bottles of Mazoe orange to take on expeditions to the ruins and the surrounding iron age sites. Perfect. Young minds were very keen to soak up all of that, as was mine. From those interesting beginnings it was a natural and easy progression to read and learn about the Zulu war and the

Boer War and hold them in memory in preparation for public exams. It would be nice to think that those young folk enjoyed the history as much as me and hopefully that fat red history of "The British Empire and Commonwealth" by James Williamson - the book that most of us remember as the standard text book for "O" level History - lay comfortably in their classroom desks, along with the more demanding Log Tables and "O" Level Maths and Science books.

Another amazing thing I discovered was... when I asked the 'kids' about all the things they loved - like trees and fish and animals - I became the pupil and they the teachers. They were a very knowledgeable bunch of 'bush babies' who knew far more than I. So, a mutual and instinctive respect for one another developed based on a fascination for the ancient and the natural world, plus some plain old-fashioned decent values which are so often absent in today's world of education. One of those values was respect for one's seniors. I was brought up with that respect and so were they. It was like an unspoken rank-structure handed down from father to son and mother to daughter. It's what made a young boy stand up when a lady-teacher entered a room, open a door for her and doff his cap at the appropriate moment. I'm not suggesting they had perfect manners those Fort Victorians, nor were they 'goody goodies' by any stretch of the imagination. Far from it. But, there we were (for better or for worse) locked together in a moment of time, trying to understand each other and the world around us. Wonderful memories were made and, dare I say, friendships were formed that have survived the test of time, even to this day.

Friendships... I say that loud and clear. There is nothing wrong or sinister about friendship in a pupil/teacher relationship as long as certain rules of conduct are observed on both sides. Although I have to say that certain things happened in those old days; certain 'things' for which I would probably go to jail today. To beat some young male miscreant on his bum with a bit of stick was the way of things back then. If a boy was caught smoking or drinking in the hostel dormitories it was normal practice for him to present his buttocks to the staff room for six whacks with a cane. Simple as that: it was the rule. I have been on the giving and receiving end of the 'stick' in my time on many occasions, so I think I can speak with some authority when I say that I don't feel deprived or dysfunctional or psychologically damaged by it in any way. But... and this is the point, one very quickly learns (from both ends) that punishment of any kind should be swift, decisive, occasionally painful, although never dispensed in anger. It is a fast-track learning experience. The cane may be primitive, but it works on most occasions.

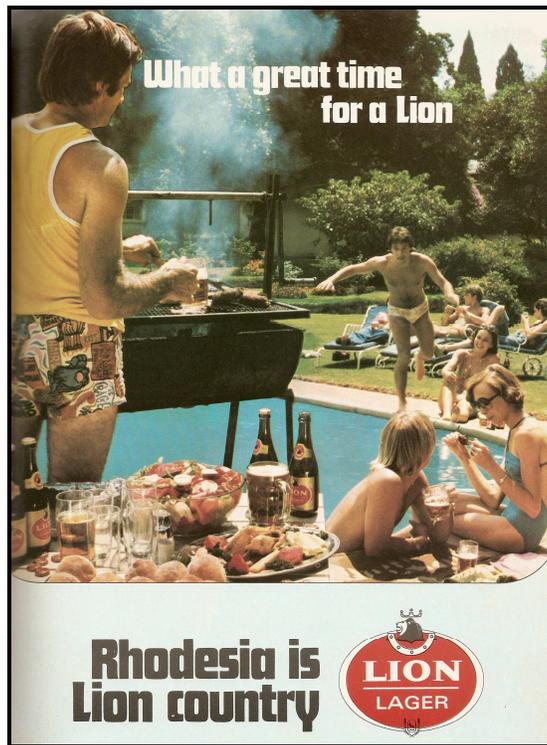
At the other end of the scale... to place a comforting arm around a young 12 year old lass, as I did on occasions, seemed perfectly natural and completely innocent. But I would go straight to Alcatraz or San Quentin today - or wherever they put deviant, psychopathic, paedophiles in North America - for such unacceptable behaviour in today's schools. All the best teachers I have known over the years who graced our Rhodesian education department have always had, first and foremost, the kids' best interests at heart. These men and women could be easily identified by their passion for directing young lives down the straight and narrow paths of life. And they had a quality of fairness about them which could be spotted and appreciated by most school children, sometimes subconsciously, and sometimes not until later years. The influence of famous educators like Bob Hammond, Jeeves Hougaard, Miss Thwaites, Neil Jardine, Tony Tanser, Dot Turner, Miss Parsons etc etc on the lives of the children in their charge cannot be underestimated. I mention these names at random; there are many more who influenced all of us in many ways... wonderful academics, cricket coaches, tennis coaches, drama, music, art... Some of them even represented Rhodesia in a variety of disciplines and they generously handed down their skills and experience to the next generation of Rhodesians. But you didn't have to become an international player or a big success at anything to appreciate what those teachers did and how they imprinted themselves indelibly on all of our lives.

Why am I writing all this? Well, I would like to capture and collect a few stories from those olden, golden days in the classrooms and sports fields around Rhodesia (high schools in particular) and present them in a short article that might give all of us some pleasure and hopefully a few laughs. So if you would like to help, please send some memories. Short, sharp, sweet ones please; nothing long and tedious. Maybe even a cartoon or a caricature or just a memorable moment that means a lot to you.

Mitch Stirling  
Email [m.stirling@shaw.ca](mailto:m.stirling@shaw.ca)

## **Flash Back**

In keeping with a Christmas theme here is this month's flash back.



## 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](mailto:whucke@slingshot.co.nz) for more details of the monthly social meetings. All are most welcome.

### TAURANGA

The Garrison Club run by the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hauraki Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. 'Graze and Movie Evenings' are normally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month with proceeds being donated to the Hauraki Museum. Email me at [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto: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.

The next Movie and Graze evening is 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – we take a break from doing it over Christmas and New Year.

### HAMILTON

Contact Tinka Mushett email [mushett@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:mushett@slingshot.co.nz) or cell +64 21 722 922 for details of socials being planned in your area.

## RWC Rhodesian Rugby Jersey Competition

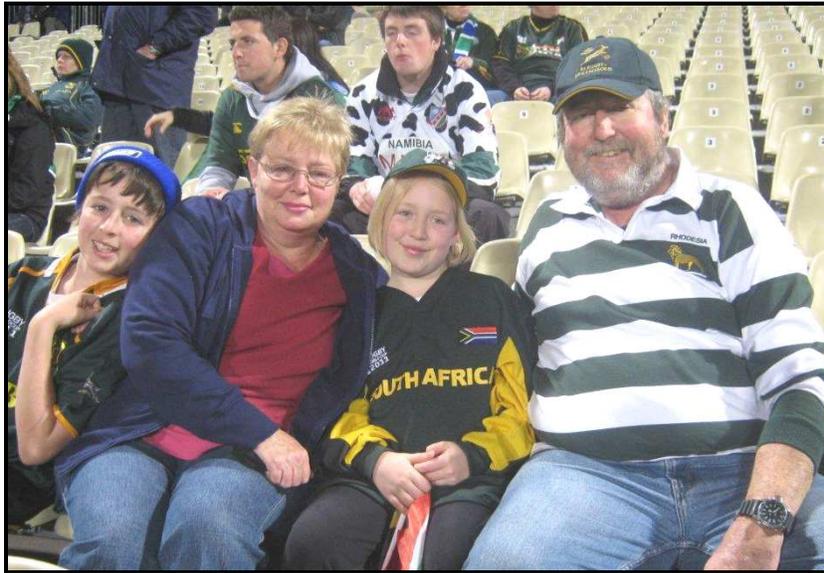
Congratulations to the following winners: Greg O'Carroll, Glen Ashmead and Colin Logie. Please email me at [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) to arrange your prizes.



This above from a series of photos shows Greg O'Carroll pointing the Lion & Tusk on his Rhodesian Rugby jersey to David Pocock and getting acknowledged with a hand clap which was followed by an excited thumbs up from the Wallaby flanker when he recognised what was being pointed out to him at the completion of the Australia vs. Wales game.



Glen Ashmead at the Boks vs. Samoa game.



Colin Logie with his family (L-R) William, Terri and Michelle getting set to watch at the Boks vs. Namibia game.

**CQ Store visit [www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm) to see what is in store for you**

Please give our CQ Store consideration when buying a present for friends or family. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

#### **New line:**

We are now stocking two styles of genuine Zippo lighters. We stock high polished solid brass and brushed chrome. We will engrave to order with your unit badge on the bottom and your name or unit name on the lid. Unit badges currently available: RLI, BSAP, SAS, Rhodesian Coat of Arms, Lion & Tusk. More being developed - please inquire Lighter \$35 plus Engraving \$15

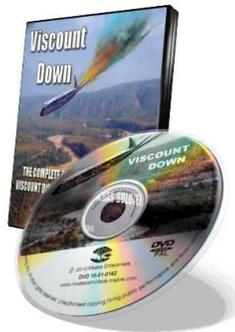


We have many other products that make excellent gifts for this time of year – please spend some time having a look through the CQ store. If you are ordering for Christmas please do not leave it too late as we cannot guarantee arrival for goods in time if they are posted overseas after the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

#### **Books for Africa**

I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at [www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm) these sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, the Association does benefit indirectly from these sales. A great selection of books, many with a Rhodesian connection, can be found on the link above.

The Viscount Down DVD has moved very fast and we are getting a resupply. Please contact me to go on the waiting list.



**Viscount Down DVD \$55 plus postage.** Run time approximately 45 minutes. A powerful documentary of human courage and survival during events following the missile attack and shooting down of commercial passenger aircraft in Rhodesia in late 1978 and early 1979 as related by survivors and security forces. In modern jargon - this was Rhodesia's 9/11 - but unlike the event in America there was no world condemnation - just a world wide deafening silence.

We have many other products that make excellent gifts for this time of year – please spend some time having a look through our books and DVDs. If you are ordering for Christmas please do not leave it too late as we cannot guarantee arrival for goods in time if they are posted overseas after the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Please use the page link [www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm](http://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



It is my intention that during December and January I will be able to complete the cataloguing of the photos and illustrations. I am really looking forward to getting this monumental job completed.

The written section of the project is being tidied up prior to submitting it to the publishers from where it will be edited and proof read and then have the illustrations matched to the text.

The two rolls that Gerry van Tonder is compiling are still being worked on and they will be inserted much closer to the time of publication which means that we are still open to receive your input. For the Intake Roll we need 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. Email Gerry at [g.van-tonder@sky.com](mailto:g.van-tonder@sky.com) The details required in part or in 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 have had an excellent response to this appeal with the gaps being plugged on a daily basis.

We are still seeking information 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. You can also email Gerry with this information.

Please talk to your friends about these projects because the more that the word is spread the more likely we are of picking up some missing pieces.

We still need:

- Photos of 6<sup>th</sup> 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. We have been looking for first hand accounts from 6RR soldiers for a very long time and to date only one man has come forward, which suggests to us that the alleged wearing of the un-blackened badge is something that badge collectors have dreamed up. Please prove me wrong – let's hear from you!



- We would also like to hear from anyone who has recollection of the disbandment of the battalions. We only have details regards the laying up of the colours of 4RR. What happened to the rest?

Please send any material to Hugh Bomford [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto: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

**Roan Antelope Music special for December 2011**

Dear Friends, Rhodies and Countrymen,

We at Roan Antelope trust that 2011 was a good one for you all, albeit it was another hard one financially throughout the world. It was also a hard call for SA rugby. Sorry bokke, we still love you, you were the best team, such a pity a Rhodesian - David Pocock - upset the applecart!

Now that 2011 is coming to an end we would truly like to wish you and yours a new start in 2012 with many exciting plans, happiness and faith! Once again our thanks for your support through thick and thin; the emails and tit bits of news from time to time, your parties, get togethers and celebrations playing John's music, and your Facebook participation with photos with blasts from the past that have brought back fond memories. This year the Roan Music team will have done four live concerts. Two for Rhodies at When Weez Bar at Hartebeespoortdam, one at Kunkuru at the 4th Kunkuru Rhodie Weekend at Pretoria East, and one up and coming UDI concert at Westville Country Club in Natal on 12th November. So all you "Sweet Banana Rhodies" - if you'd like to attend this UDI Celebration, contact Eddie de Beer for details. Tel 082 893 14430 or 031 903 5405. We would love to see you all!

From our October newsletter, you all know about Roan's new release - "The Boer War in Song" - the first one of its kind featuring a great collection of eighteen songs pertaining to the Boer War. This album, which one could call an historical Troopie songs CD, has been enthusiastically received in all quarters, by museums, military historians, battlefield "nuts" (we are too), South Africans and Rhodies that are passionate about their heritage and even relatives of Boer War Vets from as far away as New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the UK. It is a great gift for Christmas, filled with facts, stories and the best music ever.

Other releases this year, by popular demand, were "From the Pen of John Edmond" and "The Hidden Tracks". The Roan Team dug into the archives and with the help of record collectors came up with these two great albums.

Whilst digging around the archives they also came up with some tracks that many folk have asked for: Johnny Haswell's Chilapalapa stories and two of Wrex Tarr's hidden tracks "Radio Ranga" and "The Poacher's Lament" - most appropriate these days! We also found three of John's live comedy tracks (recorded at the Bless 'em All Show in Umtali in 1978). The album was aptly titled "RTV Fun Channel". John and Johnny Haswell (The Two Majohnnies) will be performing some of these funnies live at the Durban show on the 12<sup>th</sup> November. Come and enjoy the fun and have a good laugh.

As a special for the months of November and December 2011 Roan are offering these four newly released albums as well as all other products that you might want to purchase for Christmas on special. All products less 10% and if you buy more than three CDs you will get one single CD free We at Roan would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a blessed, safe and joyous festive season with extreme happiness and better days in 2012.

To order:

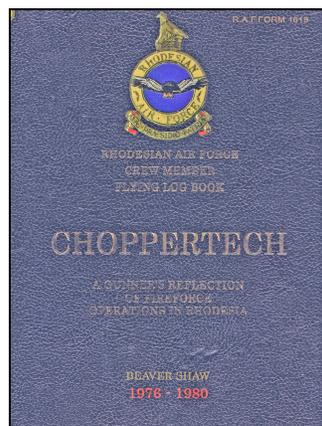
Roan Antelope Music [www.johnedmond.co.za](http://www.johnedmond.co.za)

E-mail: [info@johnedmond.co.za](mailto:info@johnedmond.co.za)

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

Editor's Note – I have had the pleasure of listening to the whole of John's "Boer War in Song" CD and I can thoroughly recommend it. The songs are for all sides of that conflict. My favourite one is "The Siege at Elands River" probably because that battle was part of the Rhodesia Regiment's history where Rhodesians, when called on by De La Rey's Boers to surrender, yelled back "Rhodesians never surrender!" For more detail of that battle, and also to learn how Rhodesians were let down for the first time by General Lord Rupert Carrington, grandfather of Lord Peter Carrington who presided over the Lancaster House process eighty years later, you will have to wait for the release of the Rhodesia Regiment book. Until then, I recommend that you get one of John Edmond's CDs and enjoy the music.

**Choppertech 1976-80: A Gunner's Reflection of Fireforce Operations in Rhodesia by Gordon 'Beaver' Shaw**

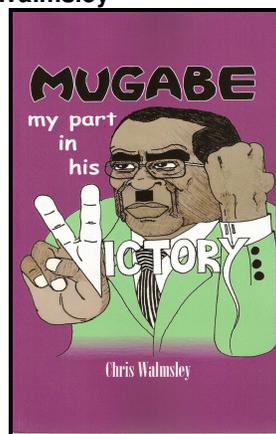


This book covers the author's and other crewmen's experiences in No 7 Squadron Rhodesian Air Force as helicopter Technicians/Gunners who flew numerous operational sorties in Alouette G and K Car gunships on Fireforce operations during the Rhodesian Bush War. The Alouette III helicopters were extensively used within Rhodesia as well as on external operations into Zambia, Botswana and Mozambique. Beaver served during the latter stages of the war between 1976-1980, and has the unique distinction of being the only gunner during the bush war who is credited with a successful Air to Air contact. He shot down a Botswana Defence Force Islander plane, using the K-Car's 20mm cannon, during a hot extraction of Selous Scouts troops who had just attacked a ZIPRA base in Francistown.

In this book, Beaver Shaw sifts through mounds of log book entries and other information that he has gathered from friends over many years. He has added his flying logbook entries as they appear in his logbook as a reference and guide to his book. He writes his book as he remembers it, and has used words and phrases that they used during the war days; and therefore he will not apologise for any of the wording and for not being politically correct. This book may offend some and may bring back many memories for others.... Good or bad, these fortunately or unfortunately, were the days of war and this is a book of his days.... fighting a terrorist war! Warfare from unprotected helicopters. Choppertech is a book that lets facts speak for themselves, showing ultimately that the truth is no less amazing than fiction and that the scars never heal.

To purchase email Mimi Cawood [canic@mweb.co.za](mailto:canic@mweb.co.za)

### **Mugabe - My Part in His Victory by Chris Walmsley**



Nevin Weakley writing under the pen name Chris Walmsley, was inspired by Spike Milligan's book 'Adolf Hitler – My Part in His Downfall' when choosing the title of his book. Mugabe – My Part in His Victory is a light-hearted but factually based look at National Service in the Rhodesian BSAP force immediately prior to Robert Mugabe's accession to power in Zimbabwe. It follows the transition of the author and his university friends from raw, high spirited recruits to disciplined and competent policemen. Not that this is a straightforward process. The police officers, recruits and Mugabe all had different ideas on how this should be achieved. They could not all be right....

To purchase the book go through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **Badge exchange**

Blue Job with a brand new Fuzz (BSAP) blazer badge would like to swap for a Rhodesian Air Force blazer badge. Please contact John Pringle email [PRINGLE.JP@xtra.co.nz](mailto:PRINGLE.JP@xtra.co.nz) to help sort out this identity crisis.

### **Seeking information on Insindine Farm family graveyard**

Bruce Brislin writes:

*"I am hoping that someone may be able to help me obtain information on the family graveyard where a number of my ancestors are buried. The graveyard is on the old family farm known as Insindine, which is about thirteen miles from the Insiza siding to the south of the Bulawayo to Gwelo road. The farm was bought off the Charter Company in 1905 by my ancestors, the Carlssons, for half a crown an acre. At least two generations of the family are buried there. My grandmother was Magdalena Irene Brislin neé Carlsson. The last Carlsson to own the farm was Ellee Charlotte Carlsson, Magdalena's sister-in-law. The graveyard is to the rear of the old homestead, (now probably no longer) and to its right. The farm was sold to a neighbour, John Borden (spelling?) in about 1959/60. The last time I saw it was in 1966 when I was there briefly as his guest. He will have died some time ago but his son's probably have the farm now unless, of course, it has been 're-distributed'.*

*I would very much like to know what still exists on the farm including the old homestead and the names of the people on the various tombstones. Not all the Carlssons were buried there. If anyone can help at all I would be most obliged.*

*My thanks again,*

Regards,  
Bruce Brislin.  
Email [brislin.bruce@gmail.com](mailto:brislin.bruce@gmail.com) “

### **Seeking Ricky van Rooyen and Hennie Hartman and Intake 159 LT wing photo**

This from Peter Goode:

“My name is Peter Goode. I work with Brian Cornish in Brisbane and he suggested I seek your assistance.

*I am trying to find two of my mates from way back then:*

*Frederick ‘Ricky’ van Rooyen who was a Sergeant in the Rhodesia Defence Regiment. My last contact with him was around fourteen years ago when he was migrating from Zim. to Perth, Australia.*

*Hendrick ‘Hennie’ Elpers Hartman who was a Corporal in the RAR Motor Cycle Troop. He was farming in Mangula area with his wife’s father, Erasmus. He then went Salisbury (Borrowdale I think) when the land grab started. He was installing water tanks and generators around Salisbury for the well heeled. I have not heard from him for around fourteen years.*

*Also I have misplaced my LT Wing photo of Intake 159 from Llewellyn and would like to know if anyone has one which they can scan and send to me please.*

*I fully understand these may be long shots but Brian seems to think that you may be able to help.*

Best regards,  
Peter Goode  
Email [goodepete@hotmail.com](mailto:goodepete@hotmail.com) “

### **Major General Derry MacIntyre.**

This request from Yolanda MacIntyre:

“My late husband, Major General Derry MacIntyre, left a collection of light-hearted stories about his thirty years service in the British, Federal and Rhodesian Armies, which I have now compiled into a book, which I am going to self-publish. As a matter of courtesy, I would like to track down several people in connection with these stories, and wondered if any of them are on your radar?”

*I’ve managed to track down some characters, and received lovely comments (and sometimes follow-on stories) back from them! I am however still looking for the following people or to make contact with their families:*

- *Hank Meyer – possibly in South Africa*
- *Dudley Coventry - deceased*
- *Jock MacDonald*
- *Dudley Deidrichs*
- *GP Engela - deceased*
- *Jack Caine - deceased*
- *Ron Reid-Daly - deceased*
- *Ollie Budd*
- *Dave Parker - deceased*
- *Geordie Butler – possibly deceased*
- *Peter Cooper – possibly in South Africa*
- *Steve Commerbach*
- *Don Collier*
- *Derek Kluckow – possibly in South Africa*
- *Pete Pitman*
- *Clifford du Pont - deceased*
- *Peter Reid*
- *Reg Edwards - deceased*

*I would be grateful for any assistance with this.*

Kind regards  
Yolanda MacIntyre  
Email [Yolanda@msasa.net](mailto:Yolanda@msasa.net) “

### **Hip, Hip, Hooray, It's Rhodesia Independence Day! by H. W. Crocker III on 11.11.11**

Many of you will have seen or have been sent this article that was published in The American Spectator, but I felt that it was important for those who have not to be able to read it. H.W. Crocker III is a bestselling author, his most recent book is ‘The Politically Incorrect Guide to the British Empire’

“*Ian Smith lived to see all his worst predictions come true.*”

On 11 November 1965, Ian Smith, prime minister of the British colony of Rhodesia, signed his country's unilateral declaration of independence, giving birth to a new nation that would, rather heroically, seek to maintain its way of life for the next fifteen years. That way of life was not -- as critics will be quick to allege -- based on racism, but on freedom, the freedom that was vouchsafed Rhodesia by the British Empire. It was the freedom that was lost by Rhodesia's transformation into Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe. It's a transformation from which even we, as Americans have something to learn.

The Rhodesians, in fact, based their declaration of independence on our own, though they charmingly reaffirmed their allegiance to the queen. Thinking themselves "more British than the British," they announced their independence on Remembrance Day, marking the end of World War I (what we mark as Veterans' Day), to remind Britain that when she fought at great cost to defend freedom, the rule of law, and the rights of small nations, Rhodesia had been at her side. In the Second World War, indeed, Ian Smith himself had flown Hawker Hurricanes and Spitfires for the RAF. A flight accident had smashed up his face (which required extensive plastic surgery) and left him with numerous serious injuries that took months to heal. He returned to duty, was shot down over Italy, and eventually made his escape back to Allied lines.

More than that, though, the Rhodesians had done what is the measure of a man -- they had gone into the wilderness and been able to re-create their civilization. While they had a reputation as outdoorsy, beer-swilling hearties, the great Rhodesian writer (and liberal) Peter Godwin and Ian Hancock estimated in their classic study of Rhodesia, 'Rhodesians Never Die,' "that probably no other transplanted English-speakers had done more -- with similar resources -- to reproduce and practice the parent culture."

It is a question worth asking ourselves: how many of us could hack our way into the jungle and re-create the United States? The more culturally pessimistic, or multiculturally inclined, might even wonder whether that would be a good thing anyway.

The Rhodesians had no doubts -- or few. They were so confident in their civilization that they were willing to endure international ostracism. They were so certain they were on the right side of history, and certain of their martial valour, that they volunteered to send troops to Vietnam (an offer that the embarrassed Lyndon Johnson administration declined to accept). They were so certain that they stood athwart tyranny, that they sacrificed their sons and fortified their farms in an African bush war that thrilled the armchair adventurers among the readers of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, which sold "Be A Man Among Men, Rhodesian Army" t-shirts, based on a Rhodesian recruiting poster.

Smith believed that one-man, one-vote in Africa meant free elections once. He was loath to submit his country to the chaos, socialism, violence, and dictatorship that he was certain would follow elections based on a universal franchise (which, as he pointed out, had difficulties that Western critics were not likely to consider: for instance, how to accurately register voters when most rural-born black Africans had no birth certificates). Smith was careful to gain the support of the country's tribal chiefs, he stated that his goal was evolution not revolution on the way to expanding the franchise (which was tied to income and property qualifications), and he affirmed that he would not risk Rhodesia's multi-party elections, free press, independent judiciary, and free economy with a mass electorate that might be inclined to do away with them.

In the end, of course, the British brokered a deal. Lord Carrington and almost all the other delegates to the so-called Lancaster House Agreement of 1979 were convinced that Robert Mugabe, regarded as the most radical of the Communist-backed insurgents, would be defeated in the elections arranged for 1980. Ian Smith thought otherwise. He was certain Mugabe would win because he belonged to the Shona tribe, which represented eighty percent of Rhodesia's population, and because Mugabe would be the most effective at voter intimidation. Smith was proved right, as he usually was -- though he got no credit for it.

Smith lived to see all his worst predictions come true; had he been able to read his obituaries he would have seen that liberal opinion blamed him for it. Smith's solace in his declining years was the popularity he had among black Zimbabweans who saw him as a symbol of unbreakable resistance to Mugabe. If you want to see the Rhodesia Smith defended, you can watch a video or two on YouTube and see black soldiers (most of the Rhodesian army was black) marching on parade past mostly white civilians, including an official dressed like an 18th-century town crier; you can see the sons of productive farmers and businessmen, who made Rhodesia an economic success, shouldering rifles to defend their homes and their liberties.

And if you want to see the tribute that vice pays to virtue -- or that Zimbabwe pays to Rhodesia and the British Empire -- just note how Zimbabwe's judges still wear white wigs, how Mugabe's henchmen make a show of owning farms (taken from white farmers who once produced plenty, and whose fields now lie barren while Zimbabweans starve), and how Mugabe still goes through the formality of having elections (as long as his goons ensure that he wins). Zimbabweans think of British institutions as having legitimacy, even if they are deployed as part of Robert Mugabe's charades.

So what can America learn from gallant Rhodesia? For one thing, we can learn to judge nations by the values they uphold, not the electoral processes they observe. We can see why Western "colonialism" was oftentimes better

*than the alternative. And most of all, perhaps, we might learn not to take our own liberties for granted. In every generation, they are only a demagogue away from being taken from us."*

### **Flame Lily Adventures**

Congratulations to Jimmy Swan and the team at Flame Lily Adventures on winning an Australian Tourism Development Award recently.

You can read all about it on line at [www.flamelilyadventures.com.au](http://www.flamelilyadventures.com.au)

Until next time - go well.

Cheers Hugh



## **Celebrate 'Rhodesia Day'\* on the 11<sup>th</sup> 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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