



Contact! Contact!

August-September 2013

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Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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

Greetings,

As you can see we have made this the August and September issue. This is because I have been extremely busy and have not had the time to put into compiling this newsletter – what with final touches to *Rhodesia Regiment 1899 – 1981*; various Association commitments, as well as running my own business, I have not had any spare time, let alone free time to do my own thing.

Because of the current workloads on Gerry van Tonder and me, we have decided that the newsletter will be on a bi-monthly basis until further notice. This has been a hard decision to make because we know how eagerly people look forward to receiving **Contact! Contact!**, however we want to keep up the quality of content as well as give ourselves a little less stress.

This issue sees a new section of Gerry van Tonder's Dateline column hit your screens entitled 'Zimbabwe Prelude.' This will be an extremely interesting series and will address issues that many of us have mulled over since 1980. Gerry will be presenting documentary evidence from which we can now see what went on behind closed doors.

We thank you for all your support for this publication and we hope that you will continue to support us through this busy period of our lives.

The October RV is fast approaching. Please mark it down if you intend to be with us once again in Tauranga for all or part of Labour Weekend – Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th October. This leaves you with Monday 29th for R&R. If you are planning to attend please email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz so that I can list you for a ticket.

Lastly - something that has been troubling me for some time are the number of plans afoot - and even in some cases plans completed - for various commemorative medals. Of the projects that I know of, three are Rhodesian ones and one is a South African military veteran project in Australia. The three Rhodesian projects are Australian and South African based.

It concerns me that there is this apparent desire among some of our people to bedeck themselves with unofficial medals. We do not need to "keep up with the Joneses" be they Aussie, Kiwi, Yank or Brit – these people, in whose countries many of us now reside, have current armed forces and operational governments. We have none of that – for most of us it all ended in 1980. Some went on to serve in other conflicts and countries for which they have been awarded medals. I know of one Rhodesian who has been awarded medals from at least four countries. There is no

need for us to compete with North Korean generals for tin ware. Our ancestors, if they were fortunate to survive WWI, would have received at most, three campaign medals.

PLEASE - we don't need to do this.

Aside from the ethical issues, if you mount unofficial medals alongside official medals there are laws in most of the countries in which we reside which cover the unauthorised display of medals. For example: In Australia you can be charged under Section 80 B of the Defence Act.

In New Zealand, the Military Decorations and Distinctive Badges Act states that you can be fined or imprisoned and that the onus is on the defendant who must prove eligibility or entitlement.

In England the Army Act 1955 section 197 states:

"Unauthorised use of and dealing in decorations, etc.- (1) Any person who, in the United Kingdom or in any colony,- (a) without authority uses or wears any military decoration, or any badge, wound stripe or emblem supplied or authorised by the Defence Council, or (b) uses or wears any decoration, badge, wound stripe, or emblem so nearly resembling any military decoration, or any such badge, stripe or emblem as aforesaid, as to be calculated to deceive, or (c) falsely represents himself to be a person who is or has been entitled to use or wear any such decoration, badge, stripe or emblem as is mentioned in paragraph (a) of this subsection, shall be guilty of an offence against this section."

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.

Rhodesian Services Association News

Honorary Chaplin

The Rhodesian Services Assn Committee has welcomed Peter Coventry as Honorary Chaplin. Peter lives in Otorohanga, New Zealand.

Peter was born in Gwelo in 1961. His Dad was deputy head of Chaplain School. His Dad also captained the Rhodesian hockey XI and played hockey for Springboks. Peter's uncle Ron Coventry played cricket for Rhodesia.

The family moved to Umtali, where Peter grew up attending Chancellor Junior School and Umtali Boys High School while his folks were fruit farming in Inyanga. On finishing school he signed up as a regular with the BSAP Support Unit (Black Boots) and later served in Charlie Company. He left Support Unit and joined the railways (NRZ by that stage) as a computer programmer.

In 1985 Peter attended Bethel Bible College in Johannesburg (possibly the same college as Bill Dodgen and Norman Wood attended). He pastored churches in Kimberly and Johannesburg before returning to Zimbabwe in 1991 to take on the family farm in Inyanga (Juliasdale) and pastor the local community church.

With the farm invasions of 2000 and the general economic collapse, Peter moved his family to New Zealand in January 2001 to establish an AOG Church in Otorohanga where he is still pastoring. Peter is also working with the Royal New Zealand Chaplains Department of the NZ Army

Peter is married to Carole (nee Webber), a Gatooma girl, and they have two sons Anthony (23 and about to complete a BSc (Tech) degree at Waikato University, and Jason, 2nd year engineering at Auckland University.

Unfortunately Peter will not be able to attend the RV and AGM next month due to his prior commitments to the training that he is doing for the NZ Army. We hope that Peter can be at ANZAC Day in Hobsonville next year where more of you can meet him

Peter door is always open and can be best contacted by email harvest.pc@xtra.co.nz or by cell +64 27 493 0117. His office number is (07) 873 8890.

Craig Bone

Craig Bone has made another substantial contribution to this association. We are most grateful to Craig for his continued support.

We ask you, the reader, to reciprocate by supporting Craig. Craig's wonderful oil paintings and prints are not within everyone's financial reach, but his two volume biography is certainly a more affordable option. Aside from his biography being a brilliant read; it really lets the reader get to know what makes Craig Bone tick, and it is packed with black and white illustrations.

Please go to www.craigbone.com



Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980 by Gerry van Tonder



August

Newsflash Headlines +++ On 22 August 1896, Cecil Rhodes, accompanied by Dr Sauer and Johan Colenbrander, meets rebel leaders in the Matopos +++ In August 1917, newly trained 2nd Battalion the Rhodesian Native Regiment leaves Rhodesia to bolster 1RNR numbers in East Africa +++ On 8 August 1914, four days after the outbreak of World War I, about one hundred men of the BSAP No. 1 Mobile Troop assemble in Salisbury +++ On 30 August 1938, joint military manoeuvres are held in the Umzingwane area between members of the Bulawayo Light Plane Club and the 2nd Battalion the Rhodesia Regiment +++ On 17 August 1943, Lancaster Bombers of No 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron are amongst 597 aircraft conducting a mission against the new top secret German V2 rocket facility at Peenemunde +++ On 26 August 1964, Army troops, assisted by No 7 Squadron of the Air Force, seal off certain Salisbury townships as political unrest escalates +++ On 10 August 1967 Op Nickel commences in the north west of Rhodesia as elements of the RAR and RLI seek out ZAPU and SAANC insurgents who had just entered the country +++ On 31 August 1978, Government issues orders for the phased opening of selected Protected Villages +++

In Brief

On 15 August 1890, having three days earlier laagered at the site at which Sir John Willoughby was organising C Troop of the BSAP to build and garrison the new Fort Victoria, a small detachment of pioneers went to explore the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, described by Tyndale-Biscoe as 'majestic'. Being confronted by fierce-looking tribesmen armed with bows and arrows and assegais, a gift of a multi-coloured blanket to the Chief placated the locals, who then quite willingly guided the white men around the three-square mile area. Tyndale-Biscoe describes an enormous circular wall with the same chevron design encountered earlier in their trek. He adds that the ruin must have been about thirty feet high and thick, another wall built inside. Within this were conical pillars built of shaped granite, the place a jungle of trees and creepers. He speculates that the apexes of the conical stone pillars could have been used to house guards on top.



On 1 August 1966, the BSAP Morris Depot's Recruit Squads 1/66 and 2/66, embarked on the Force's first 'Police Anti-Terrorist Training Course'. Recognised as WWII Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) veteran Alex 'Bill' Bailey's

brainchild, the Police Anti-Terrorist Unit, PATU, was born. The shocking murders by terrorists in 1966 of Petrus Oberholzer near Melsetter and the Viljoens at Hartley, catapulted regular and reservist members of the BSAP into what were effectively anti-terrorist operations (*Pandora* and *Nevada*) to track down and take care of the perpetrators. The official reaction from Police Headquarters was a directive that all regular members of the force be immediately given anti-terrorist training. In addition, volunteers would be selected for advanced training. Bill Bailey, at that time Chief Superintendent, was installed as Training Officer to head up the programme. Assisted by Marlborough Field Reservist Reg Seekings, who Bailey had befriended in the Western Desert where Seekings was serving with the SAS during WWII, by November of that year the two men had travelled the country extensively, arranging organised specialist training. By the time Bailey retired from the BSAP in November 1966, Police reservists were being drawn into the programme in large numbers, and the term 'PATU' had become common within the Force.



Bill Bailey at the time when he was Warden of the Outward Bound Mountain School, Melsetter
(Photo *Outpost*)

What's in a name

About 52 km east of Bulawayo and near the railway line to West Nicholson, is the old gold mine, **Bushtick**. In an area steeped in early Rhodesian history, the site of Frederick Courteney Selous' original farm homestead is just to the east of the mine. Selous and his wife had to vacate their magnificent house during the amaNdebele uprising, moving into the safety of the Bulawayo laager. To the west lies the amaNdebele's brooding spiritual home, the Matopos, scene of several skirmishes in August 1896, as Plumer's force tried to neutralise the remaining amaNdebele resistance in the bouldered stronghold. After closing in 1935, the mine buildings were taken over by Falcon College, a private school for boys. The cottages were renovated and the mine dance hall converted into an assembly hall. Falcon College remains a thriving centre for educational excellence to this day.



At the end of 1859 King Mzilikazi eventually gave in to requests by Robert Moffat, assigning the sixty-year old missionary a site to establish a mission station. Situated near the royal kraal at GuBulawayo, the place was called **Inyati**, isiNdebele for 'buffalo'. Assisted by widower William Sykes until his death in 1887, the diehard missionaries could not boast a single convert. After the death of Mzilikazi in 1868, his heir, Lobengula, continued to maintain a close relationship with the London Missionary Society station, allowing them to establish a second station at Hope Fountain. A short distance from the mission are several gold mines, including Turk and Queen, the former owned by the Thomas Meikle group of companies.



Robert Moffat

Operation Nickel: August 1967 (Part 1)

As Rhodesia's parliament sat for the first time in 1967, a concerned Minister of Justice, Desmond Lardner-Burke, put a damper on the just-ended festive season by requesting a continuance of the State of Emergency. He informed the House that one hundred terrorists had been accounted for during the previous nine months, adding a solemn warning that the armed activities of the two main banned black nationalist movements, ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union) and ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union), were destined to escalate. Arms caches had been found both internally and in neighbouring Botswana. In April, Minister Lardner-Burke tabled a further extension of these emergency powers as seemingly random acts of sabotage and outright vandalism cropped up in the countryside; arson, fence-cutting, tobacco-slashing, rail network interference. The Minister called for increased vigilance by the Security Forces and the Police, especially along the country's border with her northern neighbour, Zambia.

The following month, a routine BSAP roadblock just north of Karoi precipitated an unforeseen encounter with four ZANU terrorists hiding in a pantechicon on its way from Zambia to Salisbury. The four heavily-armed men had, according to the driver, forced their way onto the vehicle at Makuti, just above the Zambezi Valley escarpment. Trapped on the vehicle and with no avenue of escape, the four terrorists succumbed to a barrage of fire from the uniformed police at the scene.

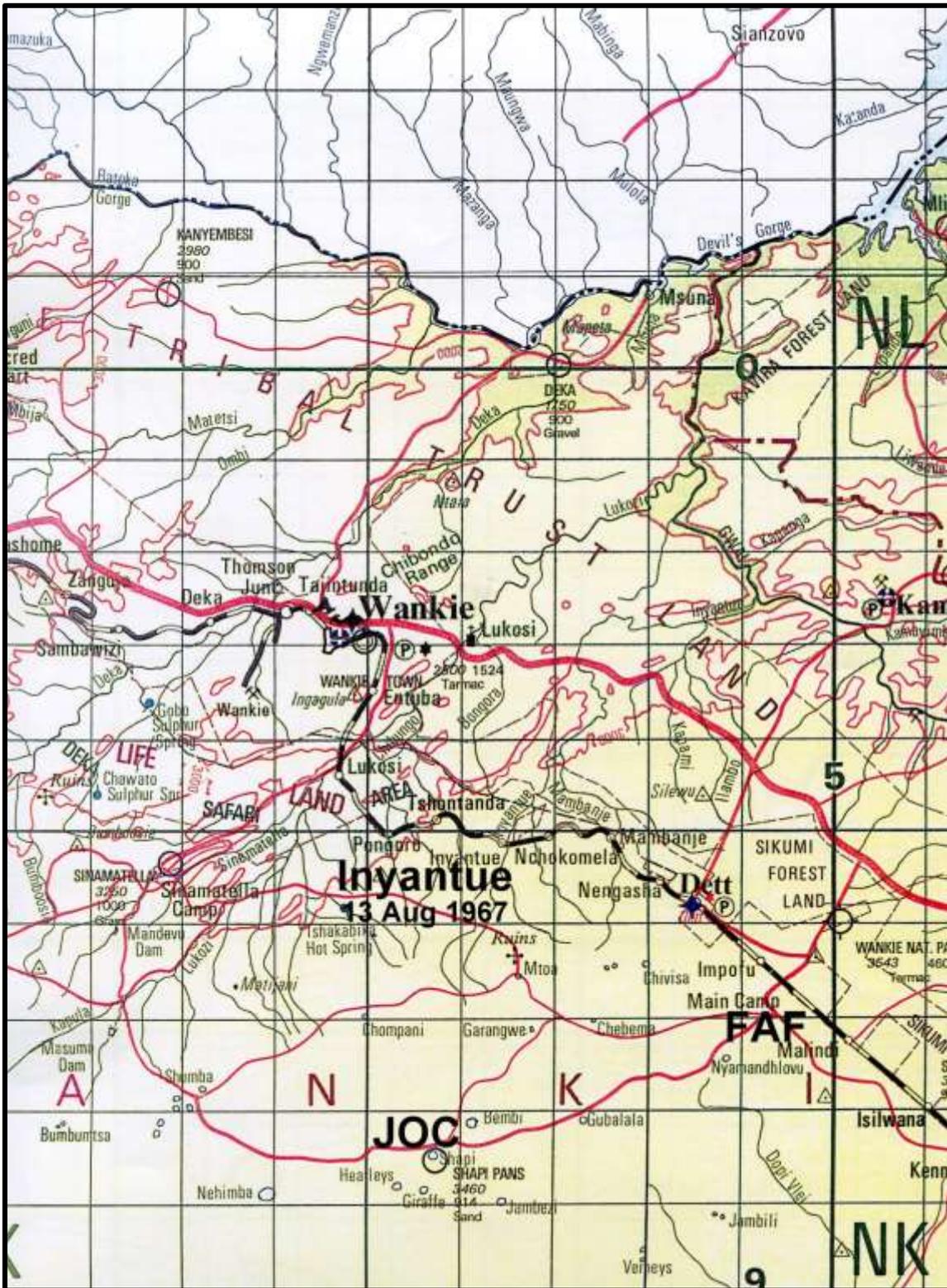
By mid-1967, Security Force and Police intelligence, primarily gleaned from captured insurgents, confirmed that several hundred terrorists were now poised in Tanzania and Zambia, awaiting deployment to the Zambian border. War materiel seized along the Chirundu/Salisbury corridor added weight to concerns about an imminent incursion of large numbers of trained guerrillas into the north-west. But what was not initially known, was that at 0400 hours on 31 July, a large gang comprising ZAPU and South Africa African National Congress (SAANC) insurgents had already in fact entered the country between Kazangula and Victoria Falls, and had gone to ground in the Deka River area of the Wankie Game Reserve. John Dube commanded the ZAPU element, while a Coloured man (mixed-race), George Driver, headed up the SAANC contingent. The insurgents split into two mixed groups, the Lithuli group to be based in Tjlotjo, and the Lobengula group further east in Nkai.



Over the next few days, arrests of individual terrorists from the Lithuli group, the first on 1 August in the National Park itself, followed by another one at a mission near Wankie, and a third at Dett, resulted in the deployment into Matabeleland North of elements of the Rhodesian Security Forces, drawn from the Rhodesian African Rifles (RAR); 2 Commando, the Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI); No's 1, 4, 5 and 7 Squadrons of the Rhodesian Air Force; 1(Independent) Company, the Rhodesia Regiment; and the Police (BSAP), including the force's Police Reserve Air Wing (PRAW). A Joint Operations Centre/Command (JOC) was set up in Wankie, and the Forward Airfield FAF 1, moved from Wankie to Wankie Main Camp. *Operation Nickel* had commenced. Initially, the Air Force involvement was confined to reconnaissance flights and leaflet drops further east in the Makuti/Chirundu area.

A second Coloured member of the SAANC, by the name of Petersen, was arrested by a security guard and taken to the Dett Police Station. Unfortunately, the man was not searched, and upon entering the charge office, produced a pistol and opened fire on those around him, wounding one, before making good his escape in a vehicle parked outside and taking off in the direction of Bulawayo. He would die four days later in Figtree in a shoot-out on a farm where he had stopped to demand food and water.

Following the first Dett arrest, on Sunday 13 August, Captain Peter Hosking (31) of A Company, RAR, led a patrol, including tracking expert Section Officer Barry Tiffin of the BSAP, towards Inyantue Siding south-east of Wankie town. Another platoon under RSM Aubrey Korb and CSM Havahli Timitiya was also sent out in the same direction.



The northern section of Wankie National Park, with the JOC based at Shapi Pan

As Hosking followed fresh spoor, he approached the dry riverbed of the Inyantue River, where his patrol was fired on by terrorists from a nearby spur of land. Despite concerted attacks on the terrorist stronghold by a helicopter crewed by Squadron Leader Mick Grier and Sergeant Technician Bob Whyte, in which three terrorists were killed, the entrenched insurgents maintained a withering rate of fire against the Rhodesians. No 4 Squadron Flying Officers Prop Goldenhuys and Chris Weinmann provided valuable air support in their Wankie-based Provosts, flying sorties at 1,000 feet in order to optimise attack dive angles. Encountering heavy fire from the strongly defended terrorist position, Hosking split his patrol, taking some half his men and a policeman on a flanking movement around the enemy position. Joined by two more sticks that had been dropped by helicopter, Hosking formed his men into a line, skirting the north of the spur where the terrorists were concealed. Even with the aid of the circling helicopter, however, nothing was sighted and Hosking started to withdraw to where he had left the rest of his men. On their way, Hosking came across the body of Acting Corporal Davison Mukombo, 1RAR. He had been shot during the on-going engagement.

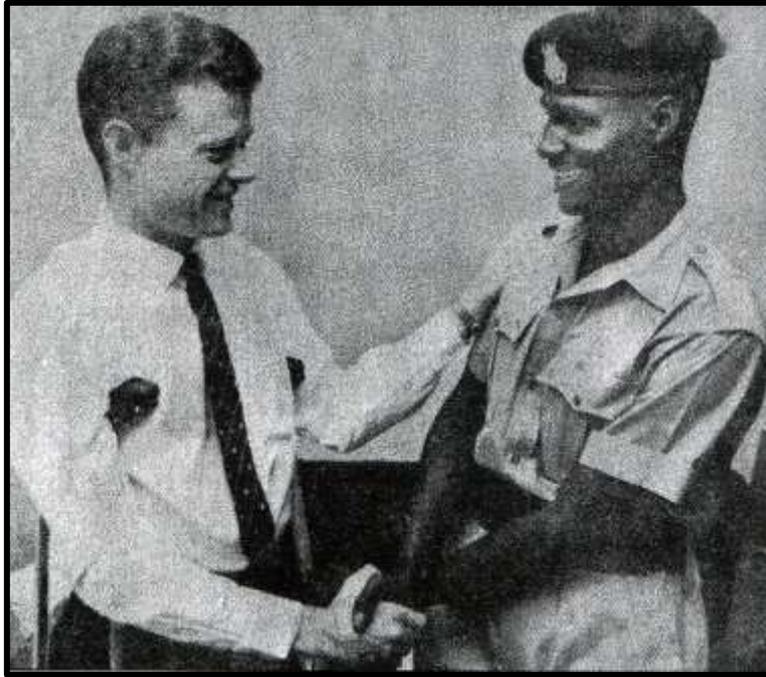


RAR on early vehicle patrol in Mopane woodland, North Matabeleland
(Photo thanks Dave Heppenstall)

Shortly afterwards, as they were crossing open ground they were spotted, and in the ensuing fire fight, Hosking was also shot. A bullet passed through his right thigh, striking the ground and peppering his chest with shattered rock. Hosking crawled about sixty metres into a patch of bush that afforded better cover. As he lay there, Private Koroni Kambante, 1RAR, also sustained fatal gunshot wounds as the terrorists continued their remorseless attack on the scattered groups of Rhodesian troops. Inspector Frederick Phillips, BSAP, had also been wounded. Overhead, the circling Provost pilot saw no movement from the Rhodesian positions.

By 1400 hours and having heard nothing from Hosking's group, Platoon Warrant Officer Kephass, 1RAR, set out to find his officer, accompanied by Section Officer Barry Tiffin, BSAP. As they approached the likely position, they were also met by a hail of bullets, PWO Kephass falling down, wounded. Tiffin immediately returned fire, seeing a terrorist fall, then get up and shoot back. A second terrorist appeared less than ten metres away, and with instinctive reaction, Tiffin fired three shots over open sights. Tiffin himself reported later that he clearly had two of the terrorists visible, one tending to the wounds of the other. He fired at the unwounded man who fell, but managed to crawl into what little cover was available, leaving his rifle behind. Inching forward again, Tiffin's luck ran out as he was shot through the left thigh and buttocks, later saying, "*It felt like a sledgehammer*". Two RAR privates bravely attempted to drag the wounded Tiffin into cover, but were driven back by heavy fire from the terrorist position. Tiffin lay exposed for one and a half hours, his comrades forced to stay back.

At this time the troops drew back to consolidate, take stock and attend to the wounded. Private Simon Chikafu, 1RAR, however, refused to withdraw, electing instead to try and reach the wounded and stranded Tiffin. With no care for his own safety, Chikafu fired off a full magazine of twenty rounds into the enemy position, before crawling over to the policeman. Turning him on to his back and coming under fire from the terrorists, Chikafu managed to drag the powerless Tiffin out of the kill zone. Once clear, he placed Tiffin on his back and carried him a quarter of a mile to a waiting casevac helicopter.



SO Barry Tiffin, left, still on crutches, thanks Pte Simon Chikafu
(Photo thanks Dave Heppenstall)

Late that afternoon, a section of National Servicemen from 1(Independent) Company, The Rhodesia Regiment (RR), were brought in to the contact area by helicopter from Wankie. RSM Korb and CSM Timitiya were then dropped off below the small hill where, according to Hosking's radio operator, Private Kenias Tovakare, his wounded officer was hiding out. As darkness fell, Korb was given permission by his company commander to start their search, utilising the RR troops for support. Upon reaching the spot where the radio operator presumed Hosking would be, they failed to find him, but instead found Inspector Phillips, with a serious bullet wound to the head, and the body of Corporal Mukombo, the latter still with his rifle. Finding the crest of the hill now clear of terrorists, Korb organised the RR troops in all-round defence positions. From this position Korb, knowing full well that he was about to compromise his position and therefore place his own life in danger, fired off an *Icarus* rocket, confident that Hosking would be able to identify the bright parachute-supported flare as being a sign that he had not been forgotten and that help was at hand. Hosking responded from the river bank just below the hill. Using BSAP details who could not be helicoptered out at last light as stretcher bearers, Korb moved the wounded Phillips and Hosking to the hilltop from where he contacted the overhead relay pilot to seek immediate casevac by air. This request was denied as it was still dark and the Rhodesian Alouette helicopters were not equipped with night-flight instrumentation. Instead, Korb was instructed to carry his casualties down to the railway line, and from there to a nearby siding where a BSAP-guarded engine and carriage would recover all of them back to Wankie.

At first light on 14 August, Lieutenant Ian Wardle, 1RAR, led a patrol through the area where, the previous day, the terrorists had created such havoc. The terrorists had slipped away under cover of darkness, but what he discovered was sobering. There had been no fewer than twenty-one terrorists concealed in the thick bush, members of the Lobengula group who had trained in Algeria. During the lengthy engagement, the Security Forces had killed five terrorists and captured a further two, but lost two of their own with four wounded. That afternoon, Lieutenant Graham Noble encountered a wounded terrorist about a mile east of the previous day's contact with the main group. Noble shot and killed him. Later that day, Railway Security arrested another group member at Intundhla Siding, while further west at Panda-ma-Tenga, the Botswana authorities arrested a further two.

On Thursday 17 August, the JOC was moved to Shapi Pan, south-west of Main Camp in the Wankie National Park, believing the group had moved into the area south of Wankie. Following a reported sighting by a National Parks pump attendant and reports of terrorist spoor near Gubalala Pan, two RAR platoons were deployed, 10 Platoon under Lieutenant Noble and 3 Platoon under Lieutenant Wardle. By the following morning, 18 August, the two platoons had established that they were looking for seven terrorists in the immediate vicinity. Noble's platoon, together with Lieutenant Piers' RAR Mortar Platoon, set up stop groups near Makona Pan, the likely route of the seven terrorists.

At lunch time, Wardle's persistence paid off as a scout saw a terrorist crouching behind a fallen tree. As the man was challenged, the rest of the group appeared, quickly seeking defensive cover behind the same tree. Wardle and his men immediately engaged the terrorists, quickly killing two and capturing another three. Upon interrogation, one of the captures indicated that the remaining members of the gang had taken up a position in thick bush very close by. His repeated challenges to this place of concealment going unheeded, Wardle opened fire into the thicket, which resulted in an explosion coming from the position. As a fire ignited the dry winter grass and shrubs, Wardle continued firing,

forcing a terrorist to come running out screaming, upon which he was promptly shot dead. Another surrendered. As the fire engulfed the bush, there were further explosions as terrorist munitions and grenades detonated. It would be a further five hours before the fire subsided and Wardle's men felt it safe to sweep the terrorist position. As it turned out they had underestimated the number of terrorists, stumbling across five smouldering bodies. A final terrorist was seen hiding in a slit trench and captured. Wardle's 3 Platoon had accounted for fourteen terrorists, eight killed and six captured.

Sunday 13 August 1967, still five years before the war significantly intensified in the north-east, Security Forces sampled the bitter taste of the all-out terrorist war that was to come. In the arid remote wildernesses of North Matabeleland, scattered combined groups of ZAPU and SAANC terrorists encountered and engaged the Rhodesian forces in a difficult series of contacts that would leave two men of the RAR dead, R41628 Acting Corporal Davison Mukombo and R43593 Pte Koroni Kambante, both of A Company, 1st Battalion, The Rhodesian African Rifles. Since then, A Company RAR have commemorated Inyantue Day, the beginning of Op Nickel.

The Rhodesians were not found wanting, however, as repeated acts of bravery were played out, mainly by men who were, without hesitation, prepared to lay their own lives on the line to assist fallen brothers-in-arms. Published in the Government Gazette of 23 October 1970, these were recognised for their actions on the day:



L-R: PDG; BCR (Army); MFC pick device on RGSM ribbon
(Gerry van Tonder collection)

Inspector Frederick Jan Smuts Phillips, British South Africa Police, was awarded the Police Decoration for Gallantry (PDG), who during a fresh manoeuvre to establish the terrorist position, received a serious head wound. He displayed *"...brave and gallant conduct above the normal call of duty during this action and has borne the subsequent medical treatment with great fortitude."* He was retired on medical grounds from the BSAP on 9 February 1969, permanently disabled. On page 158 of the book *Contact*, there is a photograph of Fred Phillips in his wheelchair being congratulated by Prime Minister Ian Smith.

Section Officer Barry Tiffin, British South Africa Police, was awarded the Police Decoration for Gallantry (PDG) who, despite sustaining a severe wound to his thigh, *"...displayed brave and gallant conduct above the normal call of duty during this action."*

Lieutenant Ian Patrick Wardle, 1st Battalion, the Rhodesian African Rifles, was awarded the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia (BCR) for *"...quick, fearless action and remarkable qualities of leadership."*

Radio Operator Private Kenias Tovakare, 1st Battalion, the Rhodesian African Rifles, was awarded the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia (BCR), for staying with his commander, Captain Hosking, during a fierce engagement with terrorists and under extremely hazardous conditions. He *"...displayed gallantry and devotion to duty under extremely dangerous conditions"*.

Squadron Leader Michael Grier, No. 7 Squadron, the Rhodesian Air Force, was awarded the Military Forces Commendation (Operational) (MFC) for *"...helicopter action, carried out whilst under enemy fire, performed with determination and undoubtedly helped to hold Rhodesian casualties at a low level"*.

Warrant Officer I Aubrey Korb, 1st Battalion, the Rhodesian African Rifles, was awarded the Military Forces Commendation (Operational) (MFC) for his selfless acts that night in recovering the wounded, displaying *"...courage and determination"*.

Sergeant Technician Robert Whyte, No. 7 Squadron, the Rhodesian Air Force, was awarded the Military Forces Commendation (Operational) (MFC); whilst directing attacks onto a terrorist position, *"...his determination, under conditions of great personal danger, undoubtedly helped to keep Rhodesian casualties to a low level"*.

Private Simon Chikafu, 1st Battalion, the Rhodesian African Rifles, was awarded the Military Forces Commendation (Operational) (MFC), for protecting a wounded police officer and eventually carrying him away to be casevaced to hospital, in which he displayed, "...*courageous and exemplary action worthy of recognition*".

Know the Medal

A 36mm round silver medal, the Rhodesia Prison Service Medal for Meritorious Service (PMS) carried the armorial bearings on the obverse and the Zimbabwe bird on the reverse. Since its introduction in 1971, there were only forty awards granted to staff of all ranks.



The Rhodesia Prison Medal for Meritorious Service (PMS)
(Gerry van Tonder collection)

Above and Beyond

Lieutenant Gerard Ross Norton, VC, MM

Some time ago, **Contact!Contact!** carried an article about an old Rhodesian farmer, Gerard Norton, who for many years farmed and lived in the Sinoia area. According to Kevin Brazier, author of *The Complete Victoria Cross*, Norton, one of only four Southern Africans to be awarded the Victoria Cross during the Second World War, died in October 2004, the whereabouts of both his VC and that of his final resting place unknown. This ultimate recognition for outstanding gallantry was gazetted in October 1944, detailing Norton's exploits, while attached to the Hampshire Regiment, at Monte Gridolfo in Italy.

His name, however, carries a second post nominal, that of the Military Medal, MM. This award, gazetted on 24 November 1942, was in recognition of 'gallant and distinguished services in the field'. Then still a Sergeant serving with the Kaffrarian Rifles, Union Defence Force, Norton and twenty-one other soldiers managed to avoid capture when Tobruk fell in June 1942, by escaping into the desert. 35,000 Allied troops were taken prisoner, including 8,900 men of the South African 2nd Division. I have been able to trace the original recommendation citation for this courageous Rhodesian, marked 'Most Secret' and endorsed by the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Forces, General Harold Rupert Alexander. These are the verbatim contents:

"At the fall of TOBRUK, Sgt. NORTON escaped from the perimeter with 22 of his company under Lt. L.H. (Lawrence Herbert) BAILLIE, No.8872, Kaff. Rifles, U.D.F., who has been recommended for a M.C.

They were fired on from various positions and were forced back into the perimeter and joined the Camerons (The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders) at 1300 hrs on 21.6.42, with whom they fought until 0200 hrs on 22.6.42.

When the Camerons ceased fire, Lt. BAILLIE and Sgt. NORTON broke out together as Lt. BAILLIE had split his party into two's to have a better chance of getting through.

On the first day out, Lt. BAILLIE was joined by two Camerons, Cpl. S.W. MONAGAN, No. 2928457 (still missing) and Pte (Frank) JARVIS, No. 2928456 (who has been recommended for a M.M.). On the next day, two others joined the party, Pte H.C. (Hendrik Christiaan) van der MERWE, No. 214368, 7th S.A. Recce. Bn (who has been recommended for a M.M.) and Dvr. R.J. (Robert Johnstone) HOSSACK, No. 812659. R.A. (who has received a M.M.)

Their route was SIDI REZEGH – to the coast – south via SIDI AZEIS and CAPUZZO – through the wire to Point 206 – East towards MERSA MATRUH – to the coast East of SIDI BARRANI – RAKHAM BAY – detoured MERSA MATRUH – crossed the road leading to SIWA – East via the desert road 15 miles West of EL RETEIMA – drove in truck due East from here for ABU DWEIS and the QATTARA Depression – walked again after passing the enemy minefields till they contacted the New Zealanders.



The important supply base of Mersa Matruh
(Photo South African Military Museum)

In the early part of the journey they had been engaged three times by the enemy, and their general condition was so bad that they had to rest for 9 days in a Bir (oasis settlement) on their way to MERSA MATRUH. For food, they captured two Italians and their tank which contained 42 tins of bully beef and biscuits. Lt. BAILLIE released the Italians, and they reported back with the news that MERSA was in German hands, so they had to alter their route. On 14.7.42 four of the party set off again, Cpl. MONAGAN and Dvr. HOSSACK having left them on 6th and 7th respectively and gone ahead.

15 miles West of EL RETEIMA, after walking over 300 miles, they built a vehicle out of several derelicts they found. In it they passed through heavy concentrations of enemy lines, actually taking the truck through a guarded road block. The journey, done mostly on foot, took 38 days, and the party experienced extreme exposure, hunger, thirst, and lacerated swollen feet. Lt. BAILLIE spoke very highly of Sgt. NORTON's courage and devotion in his role as second in command of the party.

This escape was a very fine feat of courage, endurance and determination – especially towards the end, when in spite of complete exhaustion the party braved the enemy lines in a vehicle of their own construction”.



The 1938-48 Military Medal with effigy of George VI

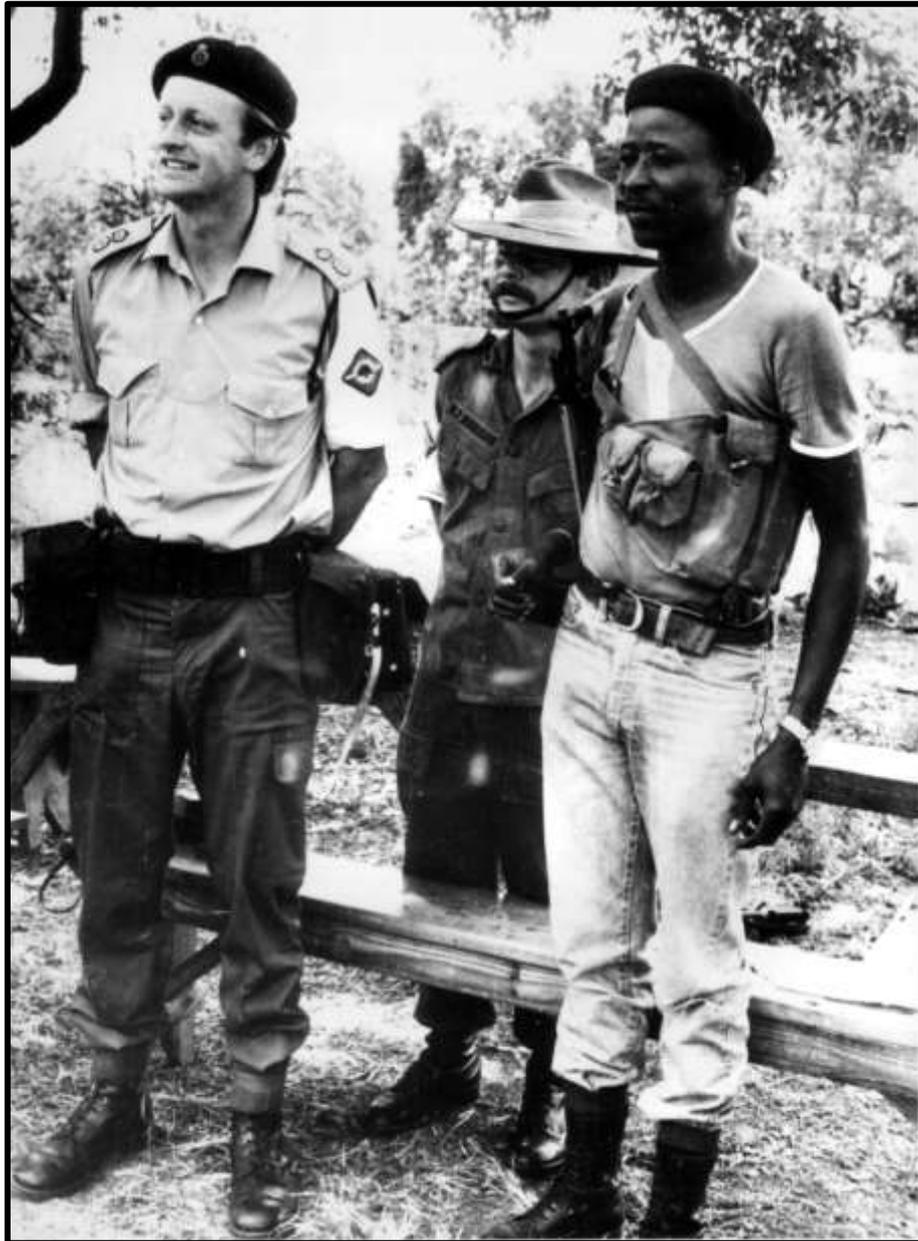
A Snapshot In Time

In last month's column the Snapshot in Time was of two ZIPRA terrorists, a photo taken at Assembly Point AP2 just before the Zimbabwe elections. The photo is from my own collection. Brian Hughes of 8RR submitted the brilliant caption. Thanks also to Andre du Plessis for a very similar caption.



*"Do you know, Fire Force is on its way here now?"
"No I don't, but hum it and I will play it".
(Photo Gerry van Tonder collection)*

This month's Snapshot comes from a similar era. Do their faces really reflect their true feelings. Please send your captions to me at g.van-tonder@sky.com



Who's Who

On the evening Wednesday 1 January 1890, in the Cape Town offices of the Commissioner of Crown lands and Public Works, James Sivewright, Cecil Rhodes signed a contract with a 23-year old Frank Johnson to head a pioneer expedition into Mashonaland. On 12 September that year, Johnson fulfilled his side of the agreement, as he headed a column around the south end of Harare Kopje and established Fort Salisbury near the Makabusi River. After giving orders for a parade to be held the next day to celebrate Mashonaland becoming part of the British Empire, Johnson rode off to Hartley Hills in his on-going quest for gold. He would not be present at the official flag-raising proceedings on 13 September 1890.

But who was this Rhodesian pioneer, **Major Frank Johnson**, his name well known to all Rhodesians?

Frank William Frederick Johnson was born in Watlington in Norfolk England, on 21 June 1866. After attending King Edward VII Grammar School in King's Lynn, home town of renowned artist and explorer Thomas Baines, at the age of sixteen Johnson sailed to the Cape in South Africa. With only five pounds to his name, the young Johnson worked for the Table Bay Harbour Board and Cape Town Fire Brigade before enlisting with the 2nd Mounted Rifles, commonly referred to as Carrington's Horse. He was promoted to Quartermaster-Sergeant of the unit, which formed part of the

Warren Expedition to Bechuanaland in 1884. This campaign would see the emergence of the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland, with Johnson transferring to the Bechuanaland Border Police in September 1885. Based at Vryburg, where he was in charge of transport and supplies, Johnson gained considerable experience which would stand him in good stead for future expeditions.

In 1887 Johnson, with new business venture partners Maurice Heany and Henry Borrow, formed the Northern Gold Fields Exploration Syndicate, gaining concessions from Chief Khama in Bechuanaland. The syndicate had an unsuccessful attempt at persuading Lobengula to grant a similar concession for prospecting rights in Matabeleland. Shortly thereafter, Johnson became the manager of the newly-floated Bechuanaland Exploration Company Limited, with Lord Gifford as Chairman and George Cawson as director. These two individuals had set up their own exploration company, claiming a concession from Lobengula. Rhodes would pay a heavy price for ownership of this claimed concession, by offering Gifford and Cawson twenty-five per cent of the shares in the Chartered Company. This great increase in wealth allowed them to effectively get rid of Johnson from his own company, something which so disgusted Johnson, that he rejected Rhodes' request that he lead the Pioneer Column. Explaining to Rhodes that the presence of Gifford and Cawson on the BSACo board made it impossible for him to accept leadership of the column, a disgruntled Johnson left for Cape Town.



Major Frank Johnson
(Photo National Archives)

In December 1889, after a chance meeting with Cecil Rhodes in Cape Town, Johnson was prevailed upon by the persuasive Rhodes to reconsider leading the column. After two hours of wrangling, Johnson, now General Manager of a mining syndicate, relented, and was awarded the contract to organise, equip and lead a pioneer corps into Mashonaland.

Upon the successful establishment of a colony at Fort Salisbury, Johnson, Heany and Borrow busied themselves with land and mining development, ventures which attracted capital investment from Rhodes. Johnson went on to exploit quicker routes to Mashonaland, essential if the new settlement was to prosper and grow. Believing that Portuguese East Africa provided a far more practical transport avenue for supplies into Mashonaland, Johnson undertook an exploratory trip by boat down the Pungwe River.

By the latter half of 1893, Dr Jameson's plans to invade Matabeleland were at an advanced stage. With seven hundred men at his disposal, Jameson looked to Johnson, the senior military officer in the country, to command the expedition. There was, however, a major disagreement between the two headstrong characters over the use of wagons in the force. Johnson favoured a rapid advance into Matabeleland, believing that Jameson's insistence on deploying with a large number of wagons would make for ponderous progress. There was no common ground, so Jameson, in the words of Tyndale-Biscoe, "...asked Johnson to make himself scarce". Johnson left the country in disgust.

Johnson again took up his military career in 1897, when he was appointed Chief Staff Officer of the Bechuanaland Field Force during the Langberg Rebellion. He then became involved in business projects in Burma and Egypt, at the same time retaining his interests in Rhodesia through the Mashonaland Gold Mining Company. By the outbreak of World War I, Johnson was Chairman of seventeen companies, many of them mining concerns. He also created the Rhodesia Cold Storage Company, a meat production business with rights to a two million acre ranch in Western Australia.

Despite initial resistance, Johnson became Commanding Officer of the newly-formed 2/6th (Cyclist) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Initially, his primary function was to oversee coastal defences along the Suffolk coast of England,

before the unit was posted to the North West Frontier in India. During this service, Johnson acquitted himself well in Lahore during a local insurrection. The London Gazette of 3 June 1918 listed recognition of his conduct in India: "His Majesty the KING, has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday, to approve of the undermentioned rewards for distinguished services rendered in connection with Military Operations on the Indian Frontier.

AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER (DSO)

Lt.-Col. Frank William Frederick Johnson, R. Suss. R."



Distinguished Service Order

In 1927, Johnson returned to Rhodesia where he was elected Member of the Legislative Assembly for Salisbury South constituency. Finding himself at odds with the policies of the first Prime Minister of Rhodesia, Charles Coghlan, Johnson formed a small opposition party.

Before the outbreak of World War II, Johnson went back to England, and in 1940 settled in Jersey in the Channel Islands. He managed to leave the islands before German occupation.

In the London Gazette of 1 January 1941 Johnson was awarded the KBE:

"CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1,

1st January, 1941.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:

To be Knights Commander of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Lieutenant-Colonel Frank William Frederick Johnson, D.S.O.,

A pioneer of Southern Rhodesia. For public services to the Colony."



The Breast Star of a Knight of the Order of the British Empire

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Frank William Frederick Johnson, KBE, DSO, pioneer, explorer, soldier, miner and entrepreneur, died in 1943.

At the Going Down of the Sun

At 0200 hours on Sunday 8 August 1976, a combined group of FRELIMO and ZANLA conducted a mortar attack on a Security Force base camp at Clydesdale in the Burma Valley, south east of Umtali. At the time the camp, only a few miles from the Mozambique border, was home to elements of F Company, 4th (Manicaland) Battalion, the Rhodesia Regiment; territorials serving one of periodic and increasingly frequent call-ups as insurgency from Mozambique gathered momentum. In one of the first of such blatant acts of aggression against Rhodesia by FRELIMO soldiers, it

was evident that the attack had been planned for some time, an indication of increasing collaboration between Mugabe's ZANLA terrorists and the revolutionary army of the former Portuguese colony's new government under Samora Machel. The mortar bombs homed in on the unsuspecting Rhodesian camp with devastating results. Bursts of shrapnel from exploding bombs killed three soldiers instantly. A fourth died four hours later after having been casevaced to Umtali General Hospital.

At first light a patrol was sent out, and in an ensuing contact, a fifth member of the Company fell, shot and killed. A tragically sad day for the close-knit community of Umtali and surrounding farmlands. We remember:



PR81838 L/Cpl Machiel Johan Bredenkamp, aged 22 years

PR980 WOII Maurice Ward 'Clippie' Clipston, aged 48 years

PR95534 Rfn Frederik Wilhelm Theodorus Halberstadt, aged 20 years

PR98206 Rfn Jeffrey Alfred Klew, aged 25 years

PR2206 Sgt Howard Arnold Lunderstedt, aged 47 years



Zimbabwe Prelude

This month sees the introduction of a new section in my Dateline column, based entirely on records of events in the months prior to Zimbabwe coming into being, as the British government deals with Lancaster House, the ceasefire, elections and a new nation. There will be no commentary from me other than an introduction each time. Official documentation alone will tell the story for the reader to ponder and mull over.

On 6 December 1979, General Peter Walls met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street in London. Also present at the meeting was Sir Antony Duff, Deputy Governor of Southern Rhodesia to Lord Christopher Soames. This is the record of that conversation:

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RECORD OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND GENERAL WALLS
AT NO.10 DOWNING STREET ON 6 DECEMBER, AT 1230

Present:

Prime Minister
Sir Antony Duff
Mr. M.O'D.B. Alexander

General Walls

After an exchange of courtesies, General Walls said that he expected the Patriotic Front would try to blame the Salisbury delegation for any difficulties which arose in the discussions of the implementation of the ceasefire. The Prime Minister said that in her view the Patriotic Front, in agreeing to the ceasefire, had crossed the Rubicon. It would be impossible for the Patriotic Front now to go back. For them to agree on the main issue and quarrel on detail would cast doubt on their good faith. She had been struck by the evident sense of relief all over the world at the agreement reached the previous day. Everyone considered that final agreement was now a fait accompli. The Prime Minister stressed that it was now the intention of the British Government to go "all the way through to independence".

General Walls said that he knew that the Prime Minister welcomed straight talking. He had a number of problems. The first was that under the British proposals he was divorced from political guidance. If he obeyed the British Governor, he could not consult Bishop Muzorewa who had agreed to stand aside during the interim. He had welcomed the ^{"under the counter"} scheme for the Governor, the Prime Minister, and the present military Commanders to consult together during the interim. He envisaged this as a means of ensuring that their actions would be consistent with the policies of any incoming Government - always assuming that that Government was a moderate one. Even so, two months was a long time for him to be without direct political guidance. Even one month would be a long time. He

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was very conscious of the responsibility which rested on his shoulders to ensure that the future of Rhodesia was protected. Many people had told him that he was being duped by the Prime Minister and the British Government. The Rhodesian people had put their faith in the military Commanders, and in him, and he had to be certain that what he was doing was in the country's interest. He had to be sure therefore of his access to the Governor.

The Prime Minister said that it was her understanding that the Governor would be entitled to summon anyone to see him at any time. This included, of course, both Bishop Muzorewa and General Walls. It was no part of the British Government's intention to reduce the Governor's capability to keep law and order in Rhodesia. The Governor had to be in a position to create the right conditions for the elections. Sir Antony Duff said that he saw no difficulty in principle about access by General Walls to the Governor. Of course, some of the meetings would be informal.

General Walls said that what mattered was that there was no question of his being denied access to the Governor, and no question of his having to go through others to obtain that access. The Prime Minister confirmed that this was so. She said she would make it clear to Lord Soames both orally and in writing that he must have direct access to the Governor just as the Chiefs of Staff had direct access to her in this country. Moreover, General Walls should on occasion be present when the Governor was seeing Bishop Muzorewa. As far as Rhodesia was concerned, the British Government had but one objective: to bring Rhodesia to independence. It was clear that the country's capability to maintain law and order, exercised through the Governor, had to be maintained.

/ General Walls

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General Walls said that he had taken the easiest of his problems first. He had often been told that previous Rhodesian leaders, like Sir Roy Welensky and Sir Edgar Whitehead, had been duped by Britain's methods of leading them on. He was concerned that a British Governor, under domestic and international pressure, might start wavering when it came to acting in the interests of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. In reply to the Prime Minister's request for an example of what he had in mind, General Walls referred to the possibility of a build-up of guerilla forces in one of the neighbouring countries. If such a build-up reached the point where the future of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia appeared to be threatened, General Walls said that he would hope that the Governor would agree that something had to be done. No doubt the Governor would hope to secure results by the exercise of diplomatic pressure. If he failed, he might be reluctant to envisage a cross-border operation while the military Commanders might want to take pre-emptive action. General Walls said that his critics were taking the line that once the Governor's authority had been accepted, the military Commanders would be prevented from taking such action.

The Prime Minister said she could not say how Lord Soames would react in these circumstances. She had given Rhodesia one of the ablest and strongest people in the British Government. He was not the sort of man who was likely to be intimidated or pressured. Everything would depend on the relationship between him and General Walls. There would have to be a determination on both sides to keep things straight. She could give no further undertakings. But she stressed the degree of her own commitment and the fact that she herself was unlikely to be intimidated. The Government's objective was to carry through the elections, and to bring Rhodesia to independence. They would not hesitate now.

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Turning to the situation inside Rhodesia, which he said was the most difficult problem of all, General Walls said that he knew for a fact that the Patriotic Front did not intend to implement the ceasefire. They would continue to intimidate and threaten wherever they could. He believed that the British Government agreed that this was the case. He had to be in a position to assure people in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia that the armed forces would be able to counter intimidation. The British proposals allowed for a working arrangement whereby the present armed forces could provide protection and make possible the election of a responsible Government. The Governor must be ready to interpret these proposals in the same way as Lord Carrington had done in private conversations with General Walls. If the Governor were to waver on this, and to try to reduce the ability of the armed forces to deal with the terrorists, General Walls would have forfeited the country's chance of survival. It was against this background that Lord Carrington had offered him a piece of paper. Perhaps Lord Carrington should not have offered the piece of paper, but its existence had enabled General Walls to reassure Bishop Muzorewa and the South African Government. The South African Government had been threatening to remove their men from Rhodesia which would, of course, be fatal to the country's chance of survival.

Lord Carrington had subsequently said that the piece of paper could not be given to General Walls and was now saying that there could be no piece of paper at all. He had also changed his position on the question of South African assistance to Rhodesia. Originally, he had said that he would encourage the South Africans to support Bishop Muzorewa's Government. Now he was saying that there must be no identifiable South African units in the country. If, as a result of Lord Carrington's new position on the question of a South African presence, the Governor were to give instructions for the withdrawal of the South Africans or to lay down conditions on their employment, then "we'd be finished". If it was no longer

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- 5 -

possible for him to have the piece of paper, General Walls said that he had to be 100% sure that the contents of the paper nonetheless represented the intentions of the British Government.

The Prime Minister said that the future of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia was at stake. So was the reputation of Lord Soames. So was her own reputation. Lord Soames had made a considerable gesture in agreeing to put his reputation at issue. She did not put her faith in pieces of paper. She put her faith in people. She shared with General Walls an immediate interest in the future of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, since members of her own family lived there. She shared a larger interest in that she regarded the future of democracy in Southern Africa as being at stake. Her commitment was total. It was no part of her intention to reduce the capability of the only disciplined force in the country to maintain law and order there. General Walls and Lord Soames would, she was confident, be able to work out how to ensure that law and order was kept. General Walls, she repeated, should be in no doubt about her commitment. She regarded Zimbabwe-Rhodesia as being in the front line of the defence of the Western way of life. It was ^{this} on/commitment, rather than in a piece of paper, that General Walls would have to put his faith. He could be assured of her continuing close interest in what was happening. Lord Soames and Sir Antony Duff, and through them General Walls, would be able to get in touch with her whenever they wished to do so.

General Walls said that he also did not put his faith in bits of paper. What the Prime Minister had said was good enough for him. It was fine.

The discussion ended at 1300 hours.

6 December, 1979.

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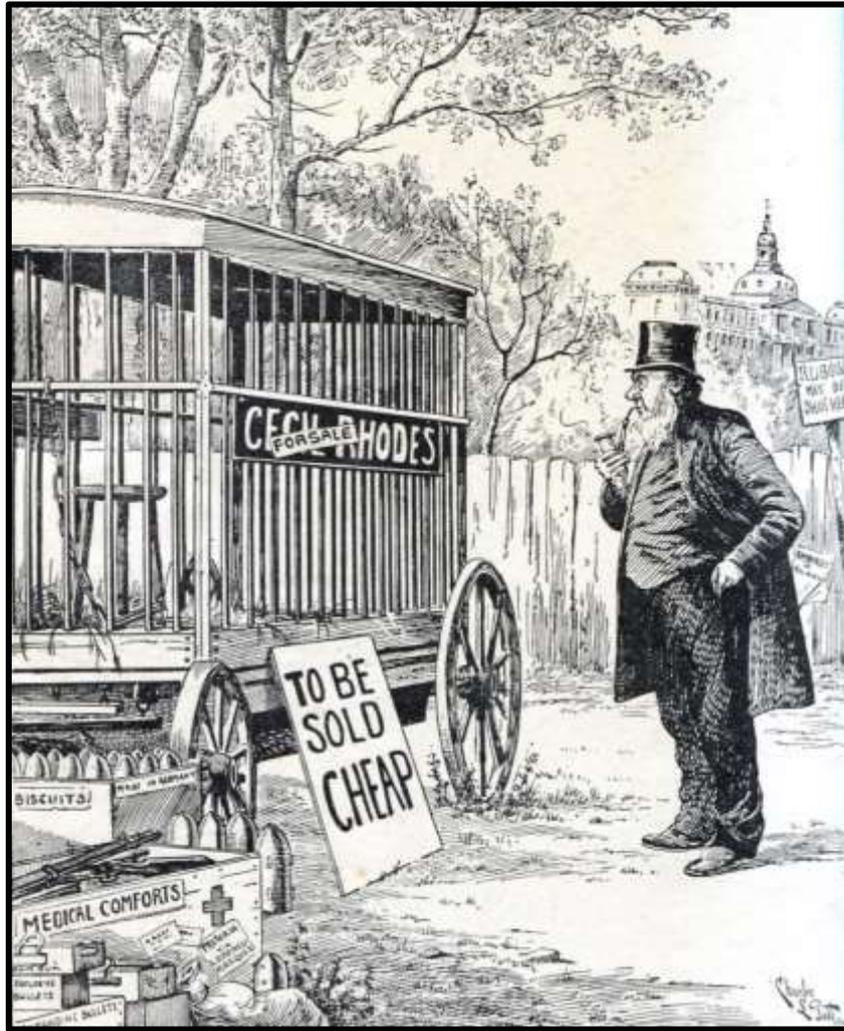
Across the globe

- On 6 August 1945, the American B-29 bomber *Enola Gay* dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, killing 105,000
- On 9 August 1945, a further atomic bomb is dropped over a Japanese city by an American B-29 bomber, this time over Nagasaki, killing 70,000
- On 14 August 1945, American President Truman announces that the Japanese have accepted terms for unconditional surrender

And they said...

"This young man I like not; he goes too fast for me. He has robbed me of the north. I cannot understand how he manages it, but he never sleeps and he will not smoke".

(Paul Kruger speaking about Cecil Rhodes to General Joubert, 1891)



A contemporary cartoon of Paul Kruger pondering how he allowed Rhodes to get away

Bibliography

- *A Pride of Eagles*, Beryl Salt, Covos Day 2001
- *Avondale to Zimbabwe*, R Cherer Smith
- *Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour 1966-1981*, A Haggitt and GR van Tonder, 30 Degrees South 2012
- *Own Goals*, Roger Marston 2009
- *Soldier Sailor*, D Tyndale-Biscoe
- *The Complete Victoria Cross*, Kevin Brazier, Pen and Sword 2010
- *The Silent War*, Reg Shay and Chris Vermaak Galaxie 1971

What's On In New Zealand

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.

OCTOBER RV - Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th October – Tauranga.

- Tickets – adults \$35 (includes your annual RhSA membership; under 12 year olds \$10)
- Socialising kicks off on Friday afternoon at the Garrison Club.
- On Saturday there will be a golf tournament and a garden ramble/picnic
- The RV kicks off from 2pm on Saturday at the Garrison Club
- Sunday will be the AGM and lunch at the Classic Flyers Museum
- Monday is a Public Holiday for your travel and R&R

If you are planning to attend please email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz so that I can list you for a ticket and send you firm details.

RHODESIA DAY - 11th November 2013

Auckland

As this falls on a Monday which poses a problem for those with jobs - you are invited to the Northbridge Village, 45 Akoranga Drive, Northcote, North Shore, Auckland on Sunday 10th November 2013. We will assemble in the Main Hall.

We have space for 175 people, and the first 55 to register for lunch will be able to share our wonderful new Cafe45. Prices range \$3.50 to \$11.00 per person with tea/coffee \$2.00.

A short ceremony will take place at 11 o'clock.

Contact Jack Maddox jakmad@vodafone.co.nz for more details.

Bay of Plenty/Waikato

Years ago I made a decision to declare Rhodesia Day as a personal public holiday and I will continue with this 'downing of tools'. I envisage going to the Waihi Beach RSA for lunch on Monday 11th as it is a picturesque and welcoming environment. Anyone wanting to join me please send me an email hbomford@clear.net.nz

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.

New line of embroidery – BSAP badge

Our embroiderer has developed this BSAP embroidery pattern which can be put on any of our garments. To date we have done caps and polar fleece jackets in navy blue.



New Product – SAS Lapel Badge



SAS lapel pin measures: 15mm wide x 20mm high
Price NZ\$10 plus postage

Under Construction – Rhodesia Regiment Bullion Wire Blazer Badges

Watch this page - <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/berets---badges.htm> We expect to have quality Rhodesia Regiment blazer badges in stock by the end of September.

To order from the CQ Store - go on line to <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/clothing.htm> - select what you want and then email thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org for a full price including postage and methods of payment

Books for Africa

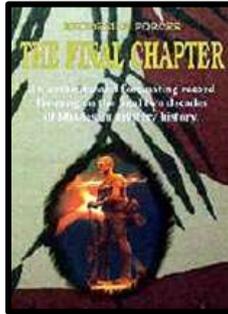
I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm These sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, the Association does benefit indirectly from these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

Check out our selection of DVDs – for more details go on line www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm

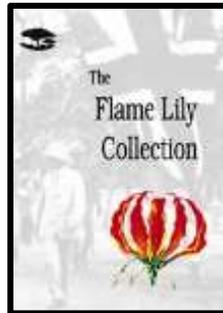
Rhodesian Forces - One & Two Double DVD NZ\$75 plus P&P



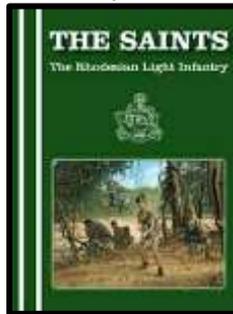
The Final Chapter DVD NZ\$55 plus P&P



The Flame Lily Collection Double DVD NZ\$75 plus P&P



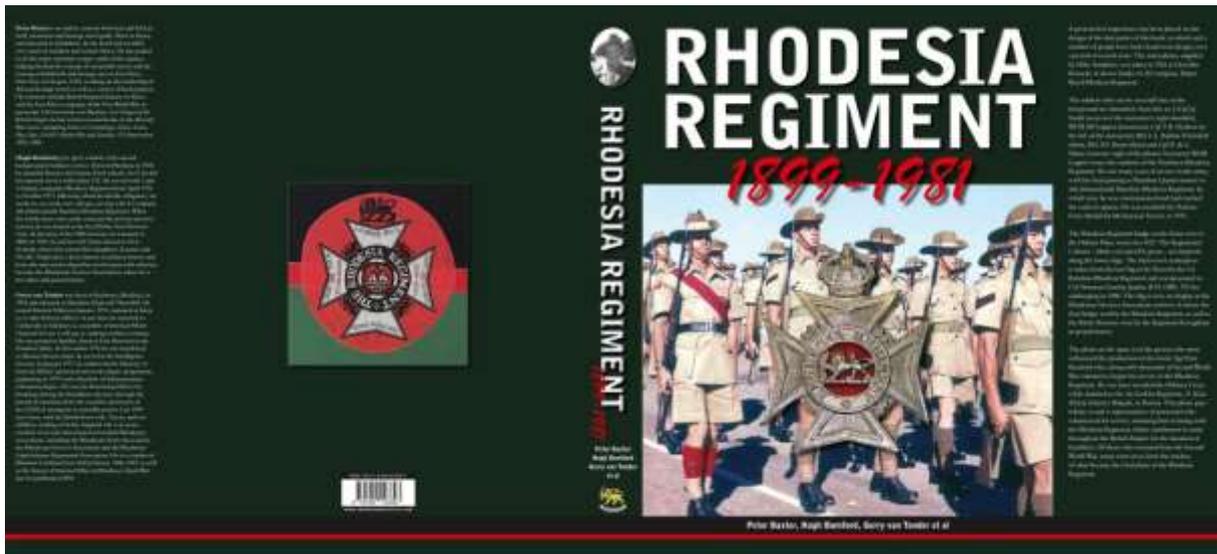
The Saints - The Rhodesian Light Infantry DVD NZ\$55 plus P&P



Viscount Down - the Survivor's Story DVD NZ\$55 plus P&P



‘Rhodesia Regiment 1899 – 1981’
by Peter Baxter, Hugh Bomford, Gerry van Tonder et al
Published by the Rhodesian Services Association



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

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

The front flap has details of the cover per below:

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

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

WOII Alf Leppert (Instructor)

Cpl TR Herbert (to the left of the Instructor)

Rfn LL Badam-Thornhill (ditto)

Rfn AV Knott (ditto)

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

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

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

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

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

The photo on the spine is of the person who most influenced the production of this book - Sgt Peter Bomford who, along with thousands of WWII volunteers, began their service in the Rhodesia Regiment. He was later awarded the Military Cross while attached to the 1st Gurkha Regiment, 21 (East Africa) Infantry Brigade in Burma. This photo pays tribute to, and is representative of the personnel who volunteered for service during WWII, initiating their training with the Rhodesia Regiment and then becoming attached to units throughout the British Empire for the duration of hostilities. Of those who returned from WWII, many went on to form the nucleus of what became the final phase of the Rhodesia Regiment.

The authors et al

We have a list of over 400 people who have supplied information. We have around 2,500 photos and illustrations to choose from for inclusion in the book. In addition to the named authors – Peter Baxter, Hugh Bomford and Gerry van Tonder, the following have written chapters or appendices on their own or in co-ordination with the other authors:

Craig Fourie
Tony Fraser
Adrian Haggett

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

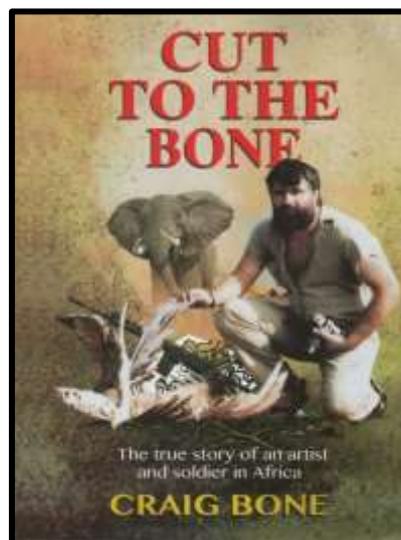
Email me at theeditor@rhodesianservices.org for details of how you get a mention here.

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.

Craig Bone

Craig is this Association's biggest single contributor, through the sale of a donated original oil painting, prints of that painting, as well as commissions off other sales.

Please show your support for Craig by buying his biography *Cut to the Bone*. This book, along with his artworks, is available from www.craigbone.com



Roan Antelope Music Special Offer

Due to the delayed publication of this newsletter we are out of synch with the good people at Roan Antelope Music. We apologise for this and ask you to go on line to see what is on special and to order the CD of the month at 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.



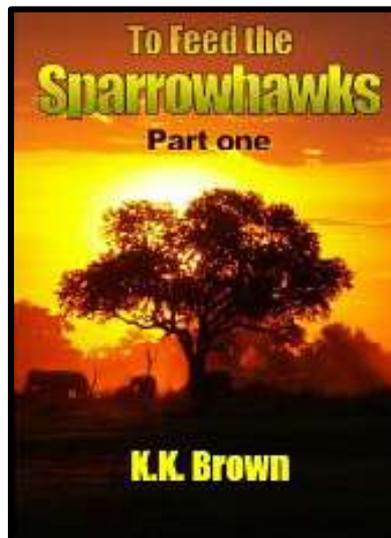
Mike donates a portion of his income from all Rhodesian related items sold to the Rhodesian Services Association. Please email Mike at mike_jovivier@xtra.co.nz with your order or query or go to www.bucklesandtees.co.nz and do it on-line.

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.

To Feed The Sparrowhawks by Colin 'KK' Brown



I did a couple of call ups with Colin in PATU around the Marandellas area in 1979. This book is the first of three parts and is a novel set in 1976 and based around his time spent in the Mount Darwin area. I am sure that there are recognisable characters from there in the book. It is eminently readable

Available as a proper book or in digital format from Amazon <http://www.amazon.com/Sparrowhawks-first-three-parts-ebook/dp/B00ALZG56W>

Major Frank Sutton

"Hi my name is Kennedy Sutton,

I am the son of the late Major Frank Sutton of the RLI and Signals Corps. I am looking for pictures, film and band marches of my father. Some of these may be in archives somewhere.

Any assistance will be most helpful.

Ken Sutton".

Please email Ken on ksutton8@googlemail.com if you can help.

Another Classic From Vic MacKenzie

Vic wishes it to be known that Mr Ridgeback is wearing socks with his vellies but points out that in fact these are just the tops of stockings – the feet have been cut out - so in point of fact Mr Ridgeback is, as tradition dictated, bare footed (or should that be bare pawed?) inside his vellies.

The Rhodesian Ridgeback

This dog is descended from a Rhodesian breed. A crest of hair runs along the length of the dog's back in the opposite direction from the rest of the coat.

Apart from its distinctive ridge it is inclined to wear short shorts and veldskoens.

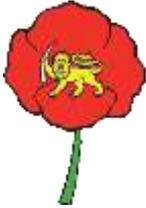
A hard working dog with excellent endurance. It has migrated to the four corners of the globe where it has adapted and become very successful. It is well loved and popular in its new land due in part to its excellent education and ability to give anything "a go".

The Rhodesian Ridgeback will tell you half of the world's rugby and cricket teams are made up of descendants of Rhodesian sportsmen. The Rhodesian Ridgeback will also point out their "special accent" which is not to be confused with the Sowth Efrikan guttural accent.

The Ridgeback will always have difficulty explaining to foreigners where Rhodesia was – "It was sort of above Sowth Efrika and next to Zambia – you know like in the middle of Africa. You do know where Africa is hey?"



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