



Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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December 2008 Newsletter

Please Note that all previous newsletters are available at

www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm

Greetings

As I write this editorial I can only wonder where the year has gone – it has been a blur. Once again thanks to all of you who have given moral support to me and financial support to the Rhodesian Services Association.

On behalf of the Committee of the Rhodesian Services Association, and also from Diana and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Next year we have some exciting prospects for the newsletter. We will be including a sports column with assistance from 'Mr Encyclopaedia' Grant (Grunter) Robertson whose Dad played rugby for Rhodesia. Sport was a big part of Rhodesia and in today's parlance - we punched well above our weight. It is hoped that Grunter can entertain and help people remember what a tremendous country Rhodesia was, despite many years of being banished from the international stage. This, of course, was for alleged behaviour which pales by comparison with the human rights record of some countries in today's world; countries who play on with impunity and, in some cases, dictate to the rest of the world.

I have also been sent a quantity of material from other sources. With all these exciting prospects I again ask you to don your thinking caps and come up with a title for this news sheet. Names which have caught my interest so far include:

- The Bullet-In
- A Quick Burst

In addition I would like someone with more artistic talent than me to suitably design a graphic incorporating the title. So come on folks, spare a bit of time over Christmas and get your creative juices flowing.

Obituaries

Dutch Huiberts sent this obituary for **Mike Smith**. Mike was one of the "Harare Three" who were released from 19 years incarceration in July 2006:

*"It is with the greatest sadness that we must inform you that our very special friend and ex colleague **Mike (Flash) Smith** has passed away at the age of 55 in the early hours of this morning in Perth Australia as a result of a motor bike accident on the farm where he worked.*

In recent conversations Mike said that he loved the freedom of Oz, hated the flies and was missing home.

Mike has now left behind all the pain of so many years and at last found true freedom. All our love goes to his mother Judy, Gail, Collin and his son Jonathan. James, representing all of us, was with him when he died."

Search for the Canberra R2514 Crash Site by Bob Manser

This report below was sent in by Prop Geldenhuys to whom we are most grateful.

The crash sites of Canberra R5203 of Peinke/Strydom and the Hunter 1821 of Brian Gordon were found in 2007 by Barry Meikle and me, which most Air Force folks would have read or heard about via the Air Force e-mail network (ORAFs).

I had one more site I wished to find, namely of Canberra R2514, but the logistics of the trip were a bit daunting as the site was at Malvernia (now named Chicualacuala) which is about 750 kms. from Chimoio where I live. The prime problem was finding someone to go with me and, more importantly, someone who had a reliable 4x4 bakkie as my vehicles were long in the tooth and not up to a long distance trip over unknown terrain. I had a year of frustration in planning this particular trip as on numerous occasions plans and dates had been set only to be cancelled owing to various factors, a tad depressing at times.

In early October 2008 my good friend Alastair MacCrimmon popped in to see me and I mentioned my despair at not being able to crack the final Canberra search. He immediately expressed a keen interest, not only in the previous searches but also to be involved in the Chicualacuala trip and offered his newish Ford Ranger as transport. Hope at last, we set a date for the 14th of November and started planning the route. He also suggested we collect his brother Malcolm from Chipinge to join us.

Thankfully, no last minute cancellations and we set off from Chimoio mid morning on Friday the 14th as planned and headed for Chipinge. We decided to cross the border at Espungabera/Mt Selinda as it was hopefully far quieter than the Forbes/Machipanda border which is nowadays always extremely busy due to the enormous influx of Zimbabwean shoppers.

The road to Espungabera was fairly easy with a one hand winched pont crossing at the Lucite River. We encountered no problems at the Espungabera border crossing as we were the only ones there. A few more kms and we reached Chipinge and spent the night with Malcolm and his wife Jane.

I must mention here that the broadcast by Eddy Norris through "ORAFs" of the previous exploits by Barry Meikle and myself had aroused the interest of Rick van Malsen, ex RLI, and he had mentioned to Prop Geldenhuys that he had come across the remains of R2514 about eight months after the crash during a skirmish in the area with Frelimo forces. He offered willingly to join the search, albeit having to travel all the way from Francistown in Botswana, and this was indeed a tremendous boost as we hoped Rick would be able to give us a fair idea as to the approximate spot and thus greatly reduce our search area.

After numerous e-mails between Rick and I he affirmed that the date set was fine with him and we then planned to join up at Sango (Vila Salazar) on the Zimbabwe border at approximately 12 noon on the Saturday, give or take an hour or two.

Saturday morning we set off from Chipinge and our route was through Chiredzi, Triangle, Mbizi, following the railway line through the bottom end of the Gonarezhou National Park and past Boli, Nyala and on to Sango.

The roads were no problem as the rains had not yet started and we made good time and wondered how long we would have to wait at Sango for Rick and his Durban mate Kevin Jones. Approximately 10ks out of Boli and with 60 kms to go to Sango, a white bakkie drew up beside us and a voice shouted "are you Bob?". It was Rick and Kevin! The timing of this meet was unbelievable, considering we had trekked from Chipinge and Rick from Francistown and we would have both reached Sango within minutes of each other if we had not met on the road, and within a hair of 12 noon, our planned rendezvous time.

It was all going smoothly until we arrived at the untidy Zimbabwe border post at Sango. The gate guard refused us entry to customs and immigration as he insisted our vehicle engine and chassis numbers be checked by CID first. The "best laid plans of mice and men" came to mind as there was no sign of CID, they had gone across to Mozambique, presumably for a bit of liquid refreshment. This delay caused us concern as we had hoped to get across to Chicualacuala and have a good few hours of searching before we returned to Zimbabwe and, of course, be in time for the 6pm border closure dead-line. After an annoying hour wait we eventually asked a kindly policewoman to send a runner; and shortly after the two CID chaps arrived dressed in scruffy 'T' shirts. They poked around under the bonnets and semi-reluctantly allowed us to proceed.

No further problems were encountered, except it took us a while to arouse the sleeping Mozambique border officials, but by just after 1pm we were through and headed for Chicualacuala which luckily was less than 1 km from the border post.

It was agreed that we first visit the Police station and advise them of our plans, as to have a band of white men bumbling around the bush would have looked rather suspicious. We found the station with ease and then Malcolm used his best Shona describing the reason for our exploit. It worked and the junior chap called his superior who

turned out to be a most polite and helpful fellow who spoke perfect English. He not only gave us permission to continue but ordered his underling to go with us and seek out the local Regulo (Chief) of that area. Unfortunately the chief was in Maputo but his stand-in knew roughly the spot we wanted and willingly offered to show us.

Then we squeezed the police junior and the Chief's assistant in to the bakkies and set off in a southerly direction for about four kms. There we turned east and drove around in circles following ox-cart tracks, footpaths and at times just bundu bashing. After 30 minutes or so our guide could not pin point the site in the scrubby bush as every place looked the same, an easy place to get lost in. I personally began to fret and felt rather depressed as we had come so far and it seemed the crash site was going to elude us.

Then the guide had a flash of inspiration, he would collect the local kraal head as he assured us he knew the place having lived in the area since 1957. We did just that and loaded another body into our already cramped bakkies. Within a few minutes of more bundu bashing and scratching the hell out of Alastair's paintwork the kraal head called a stop. We debussed and walked for about another 100 metres. There in a shady glade formed by the branches of a large Pod Mahogany tree (*afzalia quansensis*) was a small pile of metal bits and pieces; we had found the last remains of Canberra R2514.

The kraal head said that there were definitely no graves in the area and as far as he knew, the bodies and the bulk of the Canberra were removed over 30 years ago by Frelimo. He did however mention that the engines had been there until a few years ago, then scrap collectors had used oxy-acetylene equipment to cut them up and carted them away.



The crash site.



The Team.

Once we were all gathered at the site I said a small prayer similar to the one Barry Meikle had used at the other Canberra and Hunter sites: "With thanksgiving let us remember Ian Donaldson, David Hawkes and Rob Warracker who sacrificed their lives so that we may live on in peace, and in appreciation we now dedicate this cross to their memories. Help us to keep them in our thoughts and never forget what they gave for us."

"They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them"



Then photographs were taken and I collected a bag of metal scraps for Prop to add to the memorial exhibit at the Shamwari Club in Durban. Time was running short so we trooped back to the vehicles, dropped off the kraal head and the two other helpers and headed for the border.

We encountered no hassles at either border post and after passing through we drove direct to our planned night-stop in the Swimuwini camp adjacent to Mabalahuta airstrip in Gonarezhou National Park and arrived there just after 5 pm. We booked in and then got our lives sorted out and made our base for the night in the very clean National Park lodges surrounded by the most magnificent boabab trees.

Around the camp fire we at last relaxed, there was plenty of good humoured banter and I was out numbered as it was three browns to one blue job. Rick as RLI, Malcolm SAS, Alastair 4th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment and myself the Air Force representative. As the cold beers were poured in, many interesting military anecdotes poured out, a great evening was had and a fitting and pleasant end to our mission.

Sunday morning saw us part ways and Rick and Kevin headed for Botswana and the remainder of us drove on to our next night stop at Chipinge where we would drop off Malcolm. From there Alastair and I drove for home via Mutare and through the Forbes/Machipanda borders and on to Chimoio. All-in-all a round trip from Chimoio and back of approx 1500 kms but for Alastair it must have been nearer 2300 kms as his forestry bush camp was a further 400 kms past Chimoio.

We had successfully completed our mission and sincere thanks must go to Rick van Malsen for aiding us in the search and driving all the way from Botswana; also to Rick's buddy Kevin Jones who had flown a schedule flight from Durban to join up with Rick in Francistown.

Thanks also to Malcolm MacCrimmon for joining the team and he and his wife Jane's night-stop hospitality given to us at their home in Chipinge and finally a monster amount of thanks to my friend Alastair MacCrimmon without whose help the mission would still be in the pending basket.

Bob Manser - Chimoio November 2008

Footnotes:

1. The grid references for the site are as follows: UTM UPS 0361101 - 7554009. Degrees and minutes and seconds: South 22 06 48.2, East 031 39 12.1 Degrees and minutes: South 22 06 803, East 031 39 202.

2. Malvern, a village and customs post on the Mozambique side of the border where the Rhodesia Railways line to Lourenco Marques (Maputo) crosses into Mozambique and meets the C.F.M. line. It was named after Lord Malvern (Godfrey Huggins) in 1955 when the railway link was opened. The customs post on the Rhodesian side of the border was named Vila Salazar after the Portuguese Prime Minister of the time.

Malvern is now renamed Chicualacuala and Vila Salazar renamed Sango.

3. Rick van Malsen also hopes to revisit the area around Mapai in search of the wreckage of the Puma helicopter that was shot down taking the lives of many of his comrades (4 September 1979 - Operation Uric).

4. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning" This oft used verse is part of a 7-verse poem by Laurence Binyon called "For the Fallen" and was first published in the 'Times' in 1914 (Collins dictionary of Military Quotations).

Comment by Prop Geldenhuys

Congratulations Bob - for a D.C.O. - an honourable "Duty Carried Out" after successfully completing a mission, well planned and executed to perfection, deserving of our highest respect. Once again, I found your report and especially the Cross photo very moving, special and emotional. I acknowledge the Team effort, but would like to single out the Incredible Rick van Malsen for his generosity and true leadership (Rick was the first person to donate R1000 towards the cost of reimbursing Rene Strydom's airfare from London to attend the Op Miracle Memorial Unveiling).

I know I speak for many, especially the next-of-kin, that Saturday 15th November's sun-setting will at last bring a measure of closure, after nearly 32 years. The news of the crash-site discovery has already been conveyed to Billy, Ian Donaldson's widow, and Anne - his eldest daughter. I now trust this news will spread to David Hawkes and Rob Warracker's relatives.

Like Bob and Barry Meikles' phenomenal earlier find, reports across the globe are already coming in. With ORAFs now back on-line, we can expect Eddy Norris to write another Pride of Turkeys / Our Story chapter!

Gentlemen - I salute you for your achievement. It gives me great pride to say I am honoured to have known or served with you all. May Rhodesians never die. We will - - - remember them!

Editor's Note: You can purchase various books from Prop's website www.pey.co.za including the Op Miracle book which documents the discovery of the Gordon Hunter and Peinke/Strydom Canberra.

The Op Miracle Memorial at the Shamwari Club (also known as the German Club) Barnham Road, Westville, Durban



"Cowboys don't cry" by Alf Hutchison (inspired by an unnamed email on Workers Day 2008)

This email has been widely distributed and so many will have seen it already and I apologise to you for the repetition.

"To the memory of all Rhodesians who gave their lives, we will remember them. My old and dear friend Frank Du Toit always used to remind me "Alf, cowboys don't cry; not in front of their horses anyway".



Well, we had just disembarked from the chopper after a sortie into Mozambique; a police Land Rover had been blown to Hell by some cowardly 'Boegs' at Kanyemba. The mood back at base camp was pretty sombre; suddenly I remembered that one of our 5th Batt. blokes had brought his bagpipes.

After a few words in the chopper pilot's ear he was again airborne, this time with our Lone Piper. The pilot was the best, as all Rhodesian pilots were, and he dropped our Piper on top of 'Cleopatra's Needle', a huge needle like granite monolith towering many, many metres above the beautiful spring (!) leaves of the M'sasa trees. The helicopter was silent a few metres from us as the pilot came to join the entire complement of soldiers to witness the spectacle from our hilltop base.

As the sun touched the horizon, silhouetting our Lone Piper (about a kilometre away), the haunting melody of Amazing Grace drifted across the entire valley on the cool evening breeze.

I have just returned from the Edinburgh Tattoo, August 2006, and the Lone Piper there was unbelievably brilliant, but he couldn't hold a candle to our Piper; on that unforgettable eventide he played magnificently. If cowboys don't cry, as Frank insisted, I can tell you for certain that battle weary and hardened Rhodesian soldiers do; even in front of their horses.

My very dear friend Frank died on his farm in Raffingora some time ago, but I will remember that day we shared with that piper as long as I live; the day when we wept openly for all the friends we had lost; for a country we loved; for a war we believed in, but which tore us apart inside.



Zimbabwean Drums

The drums are calling you old man, and grow louder by the day.
They are calling you to judgment it's now your time to pay,
For the wrongs you've done Zimbabwe, the trust which you betrayed.
So hear those drums a pounding, hear well, and be afraid!

The drums are calling you old man, and grow louder by the day.
For the cries of those you murdered grow stronger every day,
In a land we called Rhodesia,
Twas truly God's own land,
You trashed it with your gluttony and evil thieving hand.

The drums are calling you old man, and grow louder by the day,
You starved your kinfolk of their food; the meek, your favoured prey,
With all your years of tyranny and lavish trips abroad
Their proud heritage you squandered, through patronage and fraud.

The drums are calling you old man, and grow louder by the day
Twas not the world that brought you down, but Christians who could pray.

God heard the prayers of His saints to stop you in your pride,
The gates of hell, I believe, are broad and high and wide

The drums are calling you old man, and grow louder by the day,
The drums have sound their verdict; listen to what they say,
They foretell of your demise, and they have much to tell.
So hear the drums, old man, and listen to them well.

The drums are calling you old man, and grow louder by the day,
Your 'war vets' will now leave you, to flee another way,
Now listen to those drums old man their message is not vague,
They are pounding out across the world "We'll see you in the Hague!!!"

Rhodesian Independence Commemorative Medal (RICM)

The Rhodesian Independence Commemorative Medal (pictured below) can be ordered on line via this link www.awardmedals.com/RICM It is due for release on the 1st February 2009.



The Rhodesian Services Association has recently forwarded two emails together with comments that most of you should have received. Since sending these emails we have been asked to clarify a number of issues.

The first issue pertains to wearing the medal. We can only comment with knowledge on the situation in New Zealand which is that under current New Zealand legislation, it would be illegal for anyone to wear the medal publically. This is because the medal has not been issued by a government nor sanctioned by the Crown. Wearing of the medal could invite legal action.

We encourage you to buy this medal but advise you not to wear it with officially awarded medals in New Zealand.

The second issue is the offer we made to make a 'bulk order'. This offer was made with the intention of helping people in New Zealand who may have difficulty making payment overseas or accessing the internet. The offer was qualified to the extent that there would be extra costs involved for anyone taking part in this order and that every applicant would have to complete the official application form. Should you want to purchase an RICM we strongly recommend that you go on line via the link above and order it. There are a number of additional services and goods available which you may wish to consider. If you cannot order on line then we will be happy to assist you. We will soon have application forms that can be posted to you. You need to register your interest for assistance with us by contacting the Secretary of the Rhodesian Services Association (details at the top of this newsletter).

Regimental Rumours by 'Stompie'

Greetings all,

Well, the festive season is just around the corner and no doubt, the increase in the consumption of alcohol should result in some idiocy. That, of course, makes my job a whole lot easier as I don't have to search for material - it comes naturally!

This brings me to a story about one of our fellow countrymen who, after work each day, would frequent the local pub in what was then Salisbury. He and a few co-drinkers were always the last to leave after "last round" had been called. This became a matter of contention between this fellow and his wife who, after years of putting up with his drunken, late homecomings, eventually threatened to kick him out if he didn't return home at a reasonable hour.

Being a creature of habit, he went to the pub after work and was pouring out his tale of woe to a fellow drunkard, telling him about his wife's threat to kick him out if he didn't get home at a reasonable hour. The fellow drunkard gave a grunt of contempt and said "Man, you're THICK! After all these years and you STILL don't know how to do this. Let me tell you what to do. You get home late, right? So you creep into the house and strip butt naked in the lounge. Hide your clothes behind the sofa or somewhere. Then, you turn around and creep BACKWARDS into the bedroom, very slowly. If she wakes up and yells "And what bloody time do you call THIS?", you immediately walk forwards, muttering over your shoulder, "I'm just going to take a pee - do you mind?"

As far as I know, he was never caught out - and never kicked out, either.

This story comes with a warning. It might work for some, but not for others, and I accept no responsibility for any marital strife/evictions/bashes over the head with a rolling pin or any other circumstances that may arise from the publication of this story. Try it at your own risk!

So I leave you with this, and take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Let's just spare a thought for all those in Zimbabwe this Christmas, especially the old folk and less privileged, and hope that some form of sanity will return in 2009.

I'm around over the festive season so don't hesitate to let me have any snippets of information you may consider appropriate for publication by emailing me at stompie@rhodesianservices.org

Go well, everyone,
Stompie

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

There are some great Christmas gift ideas here. For a better description and pictures of the items below please use the link above.

CQ STORE INVENTORY

ITEMS EXCLUDING POSTAGE	PRICE in NZ\$
4RR Hackles	\$17.50
'Bumper' Stickers, Rhodesia/NZ or Australia flags; Rhodesian flag; Rhodesian Services Assn Lion & Tusk	\$3 each or 2 for \$5
Bullion wire blazer pocket badges – RLI, Rhodesia Regiment in stock	\$100
Business Card Holder – stainless steel with Lion & Tusk engraved	\$20
Berets	\$50
Lion & Tusk Baseball Caps	\$23
Lion & Tusk Beanies green, black or other (even pink!) on request	\$20
Lion & Tusk Dog Tags 'silver' or 'gold'	\$30
Lion & Tusk Polar Fleece jackets – long sleeved in green, black, navy	\$60
Lion & Tusk Polo shirts - black or green	\$36.50
Lion & Tusk T-shirts - black or green	\$30
Lion & Tusk Women's v-neck stretch shirts - black	\$30
Medal Pouch	\$30
Name badge – resin coated	15
Number plate surrounds – 4 styles to choose from	\$12
Pocket Insert Medal Holder	\$15
Regimental Cap Badges – RLI, Intaf, RAR, RDR, BSAP, Grey's Scouts, RRR, RR, Service Corps, Staff Corps, RWS, DRR and more	Priced from \$20 – inquire for details
Regimental ties – Rhodesian Light Infantry	\$35
Regimental ties – Rhodesia Regiment	\$40
Regimental ties – Rhodesian African Rifles	\$40
Regimental ties – SAS	\$55
Rhodesian Army Recruitment poster copy "Be a man among men"	\$25
Rhodesian Army Recruitment poster copy "Terrorism Stops Here!"	\$50
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size medal copy with ribbon	\$100

Rhodesian General Service Medal full size medal copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$125
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size ribbon	\$10/length
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature medal with ribbon	\$35
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature ribbon	\$10/length
Rhodesian replica rugby jerseys – short or long sleeve	\$110
Rhodesian flag 3' x 5' (900mm x 1500mm) ready to fly	\$35
Rhodesian Flag, embroidered 110mm x 50mm	\$20
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge	\$22.50
Various medal ribbons – please inquire	POA
Various small embroidered badges (RLI, BSAP & Nyasaland Police)	\$5
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size copy with ribbon	\$50
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size ribbon	\$10/length
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature medal with ribbon	\$35
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature ribbon	\$10/length
'Zippo' type lighter – “Rhodesia 1890 – 1980” with Lion & Tusk	\$25

Watch this space for new items coming on stream in the future



The Rhodesia Regiment – From Pioneer Column to Independence 1890 – 1980



Alex is requesting the following material:

- Contributions from TA & NS for the period 1971-75
- Can anyone provide me with the make-up of a RR battalion?
- TA & NS awards & citations.

Photos and illustrations are to be sent to me:

PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand or email hbomford@clear.net.nz

Please Note: If you do the scans yourself we need them done at 300 DPI.

This is a unique chance to get your memories and experiences recorded for posterity, I urge you to become part of this project.

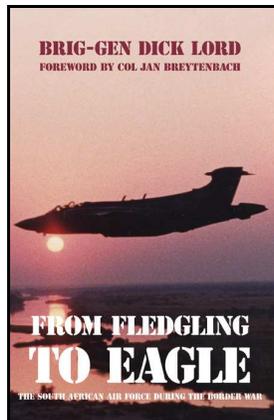
Books for Africa

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.

We have some great Christmas gift material please check out what is on offer on the link above.

Recent arrivals:

From Fledgling To Eagle by Brig-Gen Dick Lord with forward by Col Jan Breytenbach \$55.00 Hardcover + dust jacket: 234 x 153mm 448pp



The crucible of combat over 23 years forged the fledgling South African Air Force into a formidable strike weapon, capable of defeating the best Soviet air defences of the time.

This book chronicles the evolution of the SAAF in the 'Border War' that raged in Angola and South West Africa (Namibia) from 1966 to 1989, covering all the major South African Defence Force (SADF) operations from Omgulumbashe to the 'April Fool's Day war' in 1989. Dick Lord, who writes in a 'from the cockpit' style, has drawn on his own first-hand operational reports and diaries, incorporating anecdotes from dozens of aviators from a wide variety of squadrons — Buccaneers, Canberras, Mirages, Bosboks, C160s, C130s and helicopters. He also expands on the close relationship the SAAF had with the ground troops in a variety of operations — such units as the Parabats, Recces and Koevoet.

This book also contains quite a bit on Rhodesia including some information on the "Green Leader" raid that I have never seen published before.

Reunions and Memorials

I have received photos and reports from various recent gatherings from around the world.

Thanks to Danny Hartman for passing this photo on which was taken at the SAS reunion in South Africa recently. Pictured below are from left to right - George Galbraith, Ron Reid-Daly and Peter Walls.



Memorial Parade at the Dicky Fritz Shellhole Edenvale

I am grateful to John Cannon who supplied a large number of photos. Unfortunately I have to keep the number of photos to a minimum in order that this newsletter does not take too long to download for folk who are not on broadband.

L- R Charlie Crause, Jim Bardell, Reg Lotter, Sammy Mol, Willie van der Riet, John Cannon



Air Force Association Get Together in Auckland November 2008

The following report was received from ORAFS and is reprinted below with grateful thanks to Eddy Norris and John Pringle.

John Pringle writes:-

"The first New Zealand get-together was small but nevertheless very convivial. Held on Auckland's North Shore at an historic WWII defensive building with cliff-top views of the sparkling Waitemata Harbour, we enjoyed good company, great food and drink and excellent weather.

An attempted video link-up with the parallel bash being held in Queensland, Australia, failed when the technology fell over. Trans-Tasman derision was avoided, however, when it was subsequently discovered that the Aussie technology also failed...

The younger generations managed the braai or played cricket while the oldies quaffed the odd lager and yarned earnestly.

A small start but it will certainly get better!"



From left to right and (more or less) in family groups, are:

Dennis and Patricia Mawhinney with granddaughters Ava and Eden Colman, John and Moya Michalakis, Pete and Viv Jameson, Blake and Jane Few.

In front of them are John and Bernie Pringle with grandson Sean Pringle.

Towards the right, peering over shoulders are Richard and Janine Pringle.

In front of them (clutching the beer mug) are Bob and Jann Hattle with Ashley Stober and Helen Noble on the right.

Canberra War Memorial

Nick Russell in Australia sent this photo which he took recently at the Canberra War Memorial. This (together with the next letter) prompts me to ask anyone else who comes across memorials relating to Rhodesians to photograph them and send them in.



Stuart Farquharson webmaster for the Guinea Fowl School website writes:

"Hello Hugh,

I am after pictures of Regimental Scrolls to be put in the Fallen Soldiers section of the Guinea Fowl School website. If anyone can assist they can send them to me at wingnut@telkomsa.net

I hope to have the site back up and running soon

Stuart Farquharson

Wellington House 1955 -1959"

Editor's note – for those of you who do not know Guinea Fowl School was originally a pilot training facility between Gwelo and Selukwe during WWII. It became a school after WWII and was eventually forced to close down in around 1978 during the Bush War

From Canada Ron Zager reports:

"Hi Hugh,

Just to let you know that Ken Peake and I took part in the Remembrance Day parade once again. It was Ken's turn to lay the wreath. Remembrance Day is always a big event here in North Bay and once again there were about 3,000 in attendance in the Gardens for the ceremony and many participants in the parade to the Gardens and afterwards to the cenotaph. We were lead by the pipe band and the weather co-operated as there was no snow at all.

Regards Ron"

In New Zealand 'Grunter' Robertson wrote:

"Gents,

A day for remembering, for reflecting and for thanking God for what made us Rhodesians.

Here's wishing you a good one."



The Pilgrimage by 'Digger' Essex-Clark

Although our RLI Troopie had been magnificently rededicated many weeks earlier, I saw Troopie for the first time on a cold and wet morning on Saturday the 10th of November 2008. With a small group of fellow pilgrims, I was to lay one of the wreaths in Remembrance of the fallen. My first glimpse was from about 150 metres away, and the statue stood tall, imposing, and boldly dominating the beautiful grassed site on the south bank of the River Lee.

As I approached Troopie seemed to beckon to our small group to draw closer. We did.



Someone ahead of us had already placed a tiny wooden cross and small poppy wreath at the base of the memorial. As we all stood before Troopie, irrespective of the dripping umbrellas, he awed us with his sheer regimental and national symbolism. To use a current idiom I was thoroughly 'gobsmacked'. So much so that as I looked up into his sad but stern face, after laying the wreath, I was trembling with emotion, no, it was not that cold, and I stumbled through my recitation of 'The Ode To Remembrance' (the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's poem 'To the Fallen')

"They shall grow not old
As we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn,
Lest we forget."

Our small group of pilgrims, from England Australia and the United States, led by the irrepressible and effervescent Martyn Hudson, stood silent before 'Troopie' each with our own deep emotions. It was an overwhelmingly poignant occasion, which was then wrapped up emotionally with some sensitive words from the Reverend Clive Larrett.

Martyn then said a few words about the site, with Troopie as its centrepiece, perhaps, in time, becoming a Rhodesian Services Shrine of Remembrance in England. I felt that the words, names, and the clear badges on the plaques surrounding the large solid black plinth made abundantly clear that our Memorial was singularly and powerfully to the fallen of our Rhodesian Light Infantry.

For those few who were once concerned about the 'reconciliation and hope inscription', as was I initially, I can assure you that inscription, to me, adds a small but significant dignity and integrity to the essence of the memorial, and again, to me, in no way demeans our Regiment or the men who had fallen serving in it. Also the inscription may help prevent anti-Rhodesia vandals despoiling the memorial. It has so far; and there are still many 'socialists and lefties' in England who still fanatically hate 'Old Rhodesia' and what we stood and fought for.

Therefore, I wholeheartedly and warmly congratulate all those who were involved in the development of the site, to Lord Salisbury, for his moral support and generosity, and to those many who contributed financially. Particularly I mention those who did the job with such brilliance, panache and dedication led by Martyn and Maggie Hudson, Mark and Diane Pilbeam, Shaun and Annette Ryan, and their cohorts. All of us who once served in the RLI must be eternally grateful for their creativity, dedication to our Regiment and their sheer hard work. Martyn Hudson's indefatigable energy, careful planning and supreme dedication, while under severe health traumas, deserves our special thanks and heartiest congratulations.

Troopie now stands tall, proud and dominant. He represents singularly and emotively not only all of those of our battalion who died in action, but also, subliminally, all of us who served together wherever and whenever within our battalion. Troopie truly and splendidly also symbolizes the grand spirit and ethos of 'Old Rhodesia' and all who served her militarily.

Let me add this. Without the inspiration and initiative of Charlie Aust, the creativity of Jerry Strong, the moral support and generosity of Lord and Lady Salisbury, the personal financial support, energy, creativity and organisation of Martyn Hudson, the moral and active support of the Museum Trust of Rhodesian Army Association (UK), and, again, the wonderful financial support from so many loyal ouens around the world, Troopie might still be lying, uncared for, forgotten, broken, grimy and dusty, in a back store room at the British Commonwealth Museum in Bristol.

Susan and I also saw the RLI Queen's and Regimental Colours displayed splendidly and dramatically in the Salisbury Family's Chapel within Hatfield House. As they say these days: They were 'awesome!' Again, 'well done' to all those concerned.

Well done all those Ouens! Well done the UK Branch of the RLIRA ; 'March on the Saints !'

'Digger' Essex-Clark.
November 2008

John Cannon reports:
"Hi Hugh,

Regarding the "Boerewors Competition" held on the 11th October 2008 at the Dickie Fritz Shellhole, Edenvale.

We had team entries from the RLI, SAS, BSAP, Blue Jobs, Rhodesian Forces Ladies Lunch Club as well as participation from a number of 'civvy teams' and individual's .

A high standard of cooking was evident, which made the judging extremely difficult. There was also a degree of professionalism in arranging each one's site and secrecy in preparing and cooking of the Wors. We even had one team manufacturing their own Wors, all wearing hair nets! Editor's comment – which branch of the forces were they from?

*The ultimate winners with 92%, were the Williams-Farndell-Capener Team.
2nd place with 84%, were RMFP (Rhodesian Forces Meeting Place) with team leader Gus Mason.
3rd with 83% were the Spider Pig Team with leader Doug Wilkinson and Nigel Nimmo.*

Billy Wiggill's son offered his musical skills free of charge and kept the old rockers moving on their feet. There was some karaoke from some members later on in the evening, luckily the children had all gone home by then!

We are extremely fortunate to have a lovely venue and support from the Shellhole members, most of whom are ex-Rhodesians. They go out of their way to accommodate us and go to great lengths to ensure that these events are successful.

There was an attendance of approximately 150. We advocate family participation in all our events. We recorded sales of over R6000.00, this amount will be divided between the Rhodesian Forces Memorial Fund and the Zimbabwean Welfare Programme.

Just a quick mention for Carol Doughty who is one of those shining stars who organises the All Forces Bash, two to three times a year.

Regards
John

Cooking wors is thirsty work!



RLI Reunion 2009

The 2009 RLI Reunion will take place in Perth on the 24th and 25th April (ANZAC Day). A formal dinner will take place at Seasons of Perth Hotel on 24th April where accommodation is available under a block booking for RLIRA at \$180 per room. Please book as soon as possible, quoting the following reference number: 101089 Seasons of Perth Hotel tel + 61 (08) 93257655 fax+ 61 (08) 93257383 email : res@seasonsofperth.com.au You can check out the hotel at: www.seasonsofperth.com.au If you will be making other accommodation arrangements and attending the dinner, march and boat cruise (see notice on the RLI web site www.therli.com), please notify John Kirkman at kirkmanaj@bigpond.com of your plans.

The Global Forked Stick

Ongulumbashe – Where the Bushwar began by Paul Els. Published by Reach Publishers, Wandsbeck, KwaZulu-Natal.

The author is a retired Warrant-Officer (Class 1) of the former South African Defence Force. This eyewitness account is a must for the serious collector and researcher of the revolutionary wars in Southern Africa. This book describes the first clash that took place between elements of the South African police, army and air force on the one side and Swapo's Plan soldiers on the other side.

The foreword was written by a former Commander of the Security Branch in SWA and a Commissioner of the SA Police, General JV "Johan" van der Merwe while the epilogue is written by former Chief SADF General JJ "Jannie" "Geldenhuis.

The Book contains 290 pages and is well illustrated with photographs; many are published for the first time! The book also describes how members of the Security Branch of the SA Police infiltrated the area as employees of PASCO ostensibly a private company. A special agent is recruited and the Security Branch spy and infiltrate the

terrorists. All this action leads to the arrest and conviction of several terrorists. This humble operation "Blouwildebeest" leads to a bitter and sophisticated war in South Western Africa including Angola.

A worthwhile read and a nice addition to the bookshelf.

The book is now available from the author Paul J Els email paul@who-els.co.za at the price of R180 plus postage.

Village Cellars, Manly (Whangaparaoa Peninsular, Auckland)

This email from Tony Gibbs:

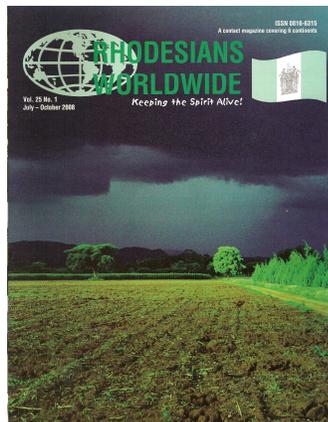
"Hi Hugh,

Just to let you know Jody and I have bought a niche beer and wine store in Manly, Whangaparaoa. We would welcome any ex-pat Africans in the area, please tell them to pop in and say hi and have a look around

Kind regards

Tony"

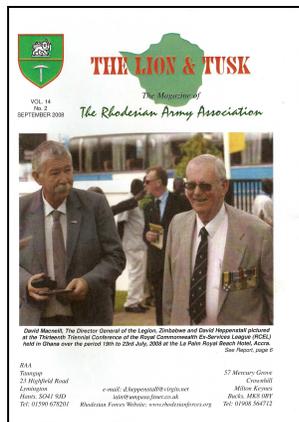
Rhodesians World Wide Magazine



To subscribe to this magazine that has been running for 24 years please email Chris Whitehead at Rhodesia@juno.com Annual subscriptions for this quarterly magazine are very reasonable – US\$20, UK 12 pounds, Aus\$30, NZ\$34 and SAR80

The cover of the October issue shown above is entitled 'Storm over Enterprise'.

The Lion & Tusk Magazine



To subscribe to The Lion & Tusk, the magazine of the Rhodesian Army Association email David Heppenstall at d.heppenstall@virgin.net or Iain Harper at iain@umgusa.fsnet.co.uk

The front cover of the September issue shown above, features David MacNeill, the Director General of the Legion Zimbabwe and David Heppenstall the council member for Zimbabwe in the UK at the 13th Triennial Conference of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) held in Ghana in July 2008.

Khukuri Imports Ltd

This is a quick plug for a new company soon to begin importing traditionally hand made khukuris into New Zealand from Nepal. The khukuri is the traditional knife of Nepal and brought to fame in the hands of the Gurkhas. Keep a look out on the website www.khukuriimports.co.nz

Until next time - go well.

Cheers
Hugh

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

If for any reason you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to hbomford@clear.net.nz with the word 'remove' in the subject line or body.