

# *The Sentinel*

*Newsletter of the Rhodesian Services Association*

**SPRING GREETINGS** to all our members in the northern hemisphere – with Spring comes renewed hope for better days!

January's revamped newsletter seems to have been well received, thanks to all those who emailed with their comments. We also signed up a few new members and received some welcome donations, heartfelt thanks to all concerned.

Our membership spans the globe, but we are always trying to expand our footprint. You can subscribe to our mailing list by writing to [theeditor@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:theeditor@rhodesianservices.org) with your details and receive updates from time to time, as well as this quarterly newsletter. We need your support, so please consider becoming a financial member: email the Secretary at [theseecretary@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:theseecretary@rhodesianservices.org) for payment details. Subscription is only NZ\$25 per person per annum, renewable on the 1<sup>st</sup> October each year and payable via credit card, Paypal, or EFT (Australia, the UK, the US, Canada, and Euro-based countries only). Paid-up members will receive via email, *Rhodesian Despatches*, a monthly Rhodesian Services Association publication, packed full of interesting Rhodesian military history and compiled by UK-based author and historian, Gerry van Tonder.

Current financial members, please remember to update us if you change your email address.

From the Inbox:

- Following on from the previous newsletter coverage of Troopers Wayne Hanekom and William Abbott, some additional information has come to light:

**Wayne Hanekom** transferred from 2 Commando to Grey's Scouts in about July 1979 and it is believed he served out his 'contract' with Grey's and then moved on to South Africa.

[With thanks to Alan Collier, 1 Troop, A Squadron, Grey's Scouts]

And many thanks to Alan Doyle who provided some much-needed background information on **Trooper William Abbott**, of the Shangani Patrol:

*William Abbott was born at his parents' home on High Hill (a country road, to the west of Keswick in the Lake District). The son of Joseph and Dinah Abbott, he was baptised at Thornthwaite, a small village at the southern end of Lake Bassenthwaite, on 25 December 1863. He emigrated to South Africa in 1889 and travelled north to Mashonaland in 1892. He was part of the Salisbury Horse in the Matabele War and was killed at Shangani. His younger brother Alan, became a gardener, living at Headingley in Leeds with his wife Annie. He enlisted in the Yorkshire Light Infantry and was then transferred to the 1st/9th Middlesex Regiment. He was killed on the Western Front in the Battle of Cambrai on 27 November 1917.*

- Our Rhodesia Forces Archives Project at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/nominal-casualty-rolls/> now has a new link to *Other Resources* (<http://www.rhodesianservices.org/nominal-casualty-rolls/other-resources/>), which in turn link to:

The Lion and Tusk Museum – background and catalogue of artefacts

The Lion and Tusk Museum Library – catalogued books and journals

Rhodesians Worldwide Library – scanned historical documents and magazines

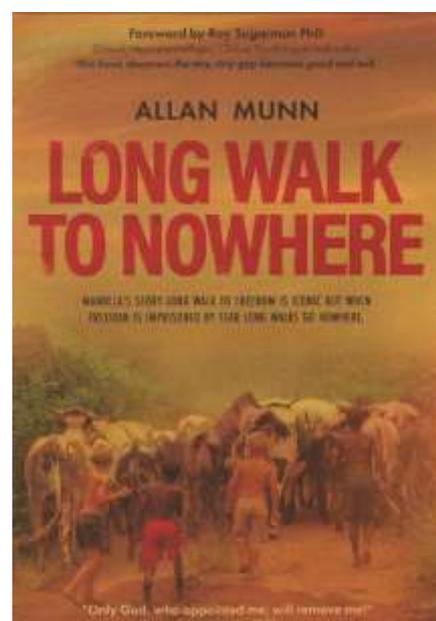
- John Baxter is looking for information on **Lieutenant Colonel Frederick George Milligan**, specifically his post-army life in South Africa, and any descendants he may have. Frederick Milligan, believed to be a former Japanese POW, was a career army man with the 26<sup>th</sup> Punjabi Indian Army, who ended his military career with the Rhodesian Army as commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Rhodesia Regiment. He was married to Irene Frances Milligan (née Bird) and they are believed to have moved to Pietermaritzburg, Natal, where he died in June 1972, at the age of 57. His ashes were flown home to Ireland and there is a gravestone for him in the churchyard at Swalinbar, a small village close to the Fermanagh border.

If you have further information, please email John at: [jbmab40@btinternet.com](mailto:jbmab40@btinternet.com)

- Association member, Allan Munn, has published a new book, **Long Walk to Nowhere**, and has donated a copy to the Library in the Lion and Tusk Museum; it is available for purchase on Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Long-Walk-Nowhere-Mandelas-imprisoned/dp/1528988558/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keyword=s=allan+munn+long+walk&qid=1605884010&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Long-Walk-Nowhere-Mandelas-imprisoned/dp/1528988558/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keyword=s=allan+munn+long+walk&qid=1605884010&sr=8-1)

*Africa is struggling whilst western political correctness has gone mad. Its insanity props up autocrats who are controlling uncontrollably. Blind eyes are turned on the causes of the African refugees' plight, as millions flee annihilation along their long roads to nowhere. The resulting human devastation is causing*



*alarming global ripple effects. Eastern superpowers shrewdly capitalise on Africa's political stalemate whilst western nations remain impotent, hiding behind their post-colonial guilt syndromes. This story is a journey down a long road that focuses on answers. It seeks clarifications of misinformed western political perceptions of how, why, and when post-colonial Africa's long walks to freedom went so comprehensively wrong and why the world is suffering as a result.*

- We thank Paul Allin who recently donated a copy of his jointly authored book, ***Never Fear 147 Is Here***, to the Library. Distribution of the book is currently ex Australia. You can contact the authors Paul Allin and David Freemantle through the form on this webpage: [www.neverfear147.com](http://www.neverfear147.com):

"National Service Intake 147 of the Rhodesian Army was arguably the most successful of the whole Rhodesian Bush War. This book is the story of the twenty months these young men, whose average age was only 19, spent in the army as told by the men themselves. They were the first National Service unit to take part in Fire Force operations and in 1976 only the Rhodesian Light Infantry had more kills than Intake 147. The members of Intake 147 were awarded one Silver Cross of Rhodesia, three Bronze Crosses of Rhodesia and one Military Forces' Commendation. They were recommended for a unit citation on more than one occasion."

- Historian, Guy Ellis, based in the UK, has written to us with a request concerning the Police Reserve Air Wing: *While reading Winds of Destruction by Peter Petter-Bowyer, widely known as 'PB', I became interested in the war from the Police Reserve Air Wing's point of view. PB wrote about PRAW's contribution as couriers, telstar relay, casev and general support. Most intriguing were their reconnaissance role and air to ground fire in support of troops on the ground. I am an historian who grew up in Rhodesia and have a lifelong interest in aircraft and PRAW struck me as a story that needed to be told. An aviation magazine that I have written for was interested and I embarked on a fascinating expedition to find out more. The BSAP Regimental Associations around the world have been very helpful and I have talked to a number of PRAW members and recorded their tales. However I am sure there is more to hear, more pictures to see and brave people I would like to meet. Any information I gather will be made available to BSAP.org who publish books on the BSAP and hopefully one day there will be one on the Reserves in general with a couple of chapters on the PRAW. Please contact me on [guy@guyellis.com](mailto:guy@guyellis.com) if you would like to assist. I can call you on Skype, Zoom or WhatsApp and have a chat.*



Karoi, 1978  
Photo from BSAP.org

- Jeff Bonar would like to make comms with any other HF radio hams, among our members. He lives in Florida, USA and his call sign is KO4KGO.

- Finally, *My Rhodesian Watering Hole* is a private Facebook group dedicated to the rehabilitation of members of the Rhodesian security forces, suffering from PTSD. They offer support and guidance to individuals and their families who are living with the consequences of PTSD.

## **WAR AND REMEMBRANCE: THE WAR TO END ALL WARS**

~ Jackie Jackson

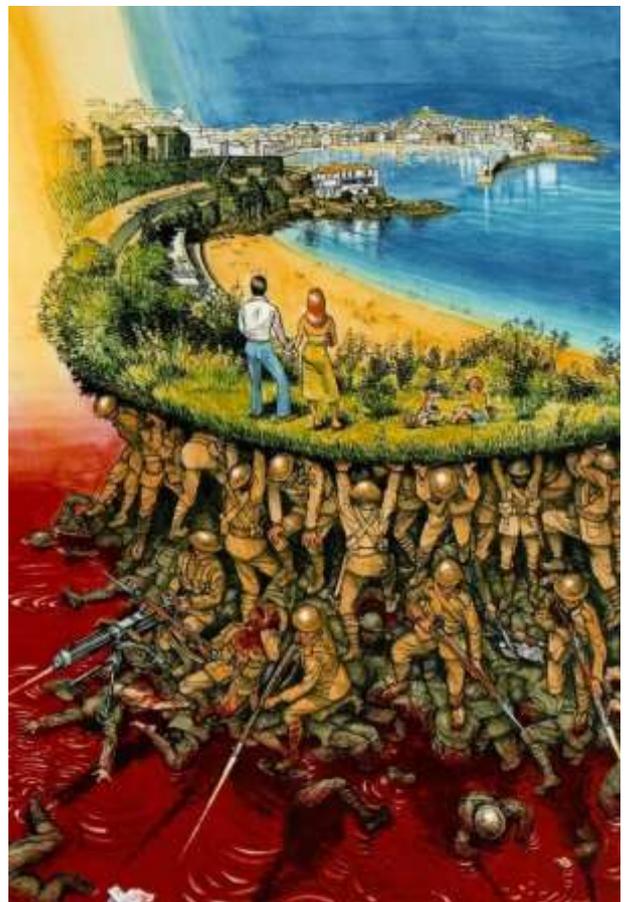
### **“The Dead are Legion”**

From *Fever*, by John Edgar Wideman

In the summer of 2018, I went on what might be termed a pilgrimage to the World War One battlefields in France and Belgium, together with my husband, Andrew. His uncle, Hector Jackson, fought with the Canadian Engineers at the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, and the Amiens Offensive. He was awarded the Military Cross and survived the horrors of the trenches, only to be killed a few months after being discharged, by a drunk taxi driver, back home in Vancouver. Hector had attended a concert in the city and was hit by the car as he cycled across the Cambie Street bridge. He is buried in the military section of the Mountain View Cemetery in Greater Vancouver.

My husband has published a book about Hector’s life, based on numerous letters he wrote to his family in British Columbia; as Canadian historian, Warren Sommer, writes in the foreword to the book: “Posted to France in October 1916, Hector’s life changed once again. The grim reality of trench life that he had only glimpsed as hospital trains arrived at railway stations in London hit him squarely in the face. His letters, formerly filled with images of a post-Edwardian society attempting to preserve the vigour of a former age, assumed a slightly darker tone. During the next two years Hector experienced the repulsive reality of the Western Front, serving on the Somme, at Vimy Ridge, and in the dreaded Ypres Salient. Although he attempted to make light of the dangers he often faced, many of those who served at his side were felled by machine gun bullets, ripped apart by shells, or had their lungs destroyed by gas. Hector repeatedly put his own life on the line during his time on the Western Front, earning several nominations for the Military Cross for gallantry under fire. Hector’s is a life that deserves to be remembered.

Andrew Jackson writes in the preface to his book: “This is a collection of letters, written by a young man thrown into one of the most horrific wars ever fought, the First World War. The Great War. The War to End All Wars. And of all the theatres of that dreadful war, the Western Front stands out as



perhaps the most desolate and most wasteful of human life. The Somme, Flanders Fields, Passchendaele. The names alone conjure up gut-wrenching images. Scarred skeletons of trees standing in shell-churned landscapes of scorched dust or mud. Long ragged lines of exhausted men, launched from the relatively safety of their sodden trenches by the blast of a whistle, to run the gauntlet of merciless machine gun fire across no man's land, only to be clawed to a deadly standstill just a few yards later by rusted barbed wire entanglements. Hector was finally released from the military to return to British Columbia. During that time, he would receive a commission in the Canadian Engineers, climb Vimy Ridge, be awarded the Military Cross for bravery under fire at Passchendaele, and be part of the final offensive that routed the German Army and forced its surrender. He would join the stream of wounded flowing from the front in the last days of the war, poisoned by mustard gas."

When I mentioned to Hugh Bomford our planned trip to see the World War One memorials, he asked if we would be willing to locate and photograph the names etched in stone, of the many Rhodesian soldiers he and his team have documented, who lost their lives and for whom there is no known grave. We were honoured to do so and managed to track down all the names on the lists we were given. Hugh is now uploading these photos to the Rhodesian Services Association online archives, alongside the names of those who perished.

During our tour, we visited the cemeteries of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the war memorials at Ypres and Passchendaele/Tyne Cot (Belgium) and at Arras/Vimy Ridge, Thiepval, and Delville Wood (France). Many of the Commonwealth war grave headstones have no names, they simply say *Known unto God*, a phrase suggested by Rudyard Kipling. At Delville Wood, the first major engagement of the South African Infantry Brigade took place in July 1916. The wood was all but obliterated in the ensuing battle but is now full of replanted trees and grassy avenues, a place of peace and tranquillity. The Delville Wood war memorial was designed by famous British/South African architect, Sir Herbert Baker, a contemporary of Kipling's. At Vimy Ridge, the site of Canada's most celebrated military victory, the ground is pockmarked with overlapping shell craters and the scars of battle, now mostly grassed over. Tunnels and trenches are still clearly visible, and some have been reconstructed. In 1936, a magnificent soaring, white marble monument was unveiled to the memory of the 11,285 Canadian Corps soldiers who have no known resting place. In 1922, the French government ceded to Canada in perpetuity Vimy Ridge and the land surrounding it; in the town, many homes and shops still display Canada's maple leaf flag.

Like Gerry van Tonder (*Rhodesian Despatches*, March 2021), we also went to the Menin Gate in Ypres, where we attended the very moving Last Post Ceremony. This honours the 89,880 British and Commonwealth soldiers – among the 300,000 who died in this part of western Flanders – who were lost with no known grave. Allied troops would pass through the original gate, on their way to the Western Front. Since 11 November 1929, the Last Post has been sounded by a group of buglers at the Menin Gate Memorial, every night and in all weathers. The buglers, from the local volunteer fire brigade, provide a solemn and haunting farewell against the backdrop of that towering monument. On the evening we were there, it was wonderful to see schoolchildren from different countries laying wreaths as part of the ceremony, which was attended by several hundred people. The German occupation of Ypres, from May 1940 to September 1944, put a stop to this nightly tribute, but the ceremony continued in England, at Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey.

On the very evening that Polish forces liberated Ypres, the ceremony was resumed at the Menin Gate, despite heavy fighting still going on in other parts of the town. Bullet marks from that time can still be seen on the memorial. In more recent times, due to the Covid pandemic, there is just one bugler and no crowds.

### **In Flanders Fields**

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

~ John McCrae



'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' on display at the Tower of London in 2014

Historic Royal Palaces: <https://blog.hrp.org.uk/>



Tyne Cot Cemetery, with concrete bunker



Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele



The Menin Gate, Ypres



Inside the Menin Gate



Shell and mine craters, Vimy Ridge



The white marble memorial and sculptures at Vimy Ridge



Canada Bereft / Mother Canada, Vimy Ridge

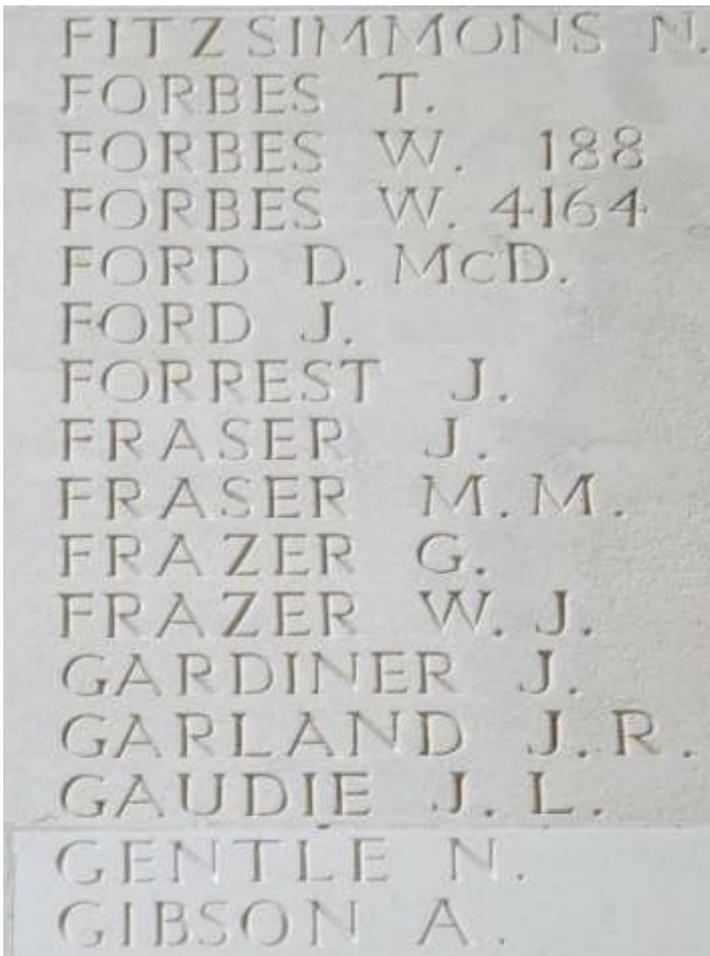


From the Rhodesian Forces Archives Project:

Rifleman James Reid Findlay, 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps  
Died on active service, 30 June 1916  
Commemorated on the memorial at Arras



The tenth column of names at Thiepval



From the Rhodesian Forces Archives Project:

Private William James Frazer, 8th Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

Killed in action, 14 July 1916  
Commemorated at Thiepval

## ROLL OF HONOUR

### **Squadron Leader Caesar Barraud Hull, DFC**

43 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Killed in action: 7th September 1940

Caesar Barraud Hull was born on 23rd February 1913 at Leachdale Farm in Shangani, Southern Rhodesia. His father served in the desert campaign in German West Africa in the First World War. In 1918 the family was farming at Nylstroom in the Transvaal, South Africa, moving in 1922 to Voeglestruiskvaal, near Rustenburg, South Africa. Hull and his elder brother were taught at home by their parents until 1926, when they went as day boys to St John's College, Johannesburg. On leaving, Hull returned to the family farm, then at M'Babane, Swaziland. He went to work for a mining company and in 1934 he was picked for the Springbok boxing team at the Empire Games at Wembley. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1935. He was one of "The Few" Battle of Britain pilots.

In May 1940 he was posted to 263 Squadron and flew Gladiators in Norway. He is credited with destroying ten enemy aircraft and three probables. He was made Commanding Officer of 43 Squadron on 1/9/1940 and was killed in action, just one week later. He scrambled with nine Hurricanes and they attacked German bombers, as they ran up to bomb Docklands, London. He was last heard speaking to the leader of his rear

section, Flight Lieutenant John Kilmartin, before diving to attack the bombers. It was believed that Squadron leader Hull, flying in Hurricane V6641, had been shot down by Messerschmitt Bf 109s (probably from Jagdgeschwader 54, a Luftwaffe fighter wing). His aircraft crashed in Purley, Surrey, England at 16:45hrs.

The award of his Distinguished Flying Cross was recorded in the London Gazette 21 June 1940: "After having shot down an enemy aircraft one day in May 1940, this officer, two days later, relieved the Bodo Force from air attack by engaging five enemy aircraft single-handed. He shot down four of the enemy aircraft and damaged the fifth. The next day, despite heavy air attack on the landing ground, he attacked enemy aircraft in greatly superior numbers until he was wounded and forced to retire". He is buried in Sussex, England.



## NEWS FROM THE LION & TUSK MUSEUM

~ Hugh Bomford

These photos show the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhodesia Regiment's Kings Colours on display in The Lion and Tusk Museum. These Colours were awarded to the units by King George V in 1920, in recognition of their service and sacrifice in WWI. The 1<sup>st</sup> Rhodesia Regiment served in South West Africa and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhodesia Regiment served in East Africa. The full history of the Rhodesia Regiment has been published by us in 'Rhodesia Regiment 1899-1981' and copies of the book are still available for purchase through the Rhodesian Services Association. The Colours were recovered from a church in Zimbabwe, where they had been laid up by persons unknown. They found their way to England, from where Martyn Hudson kindly donated them to the Rhodesian Services Association. We had them framed to make them easier to display and provide further protection for them. This museum display is still a work in progress.

The Rhodesian Services Association continues to add



to and improve The Lion and Tusk Museum. Although most of the material is military, we do have some non-military displays, which we hope to expand, funds permitting. In addition to the physical artefacts, we have a vast digital project called the **Rhodesian Forces Archives Project**. This project is collecting military records and putting them into a publicly accessible location on the internet (<http://www.rhodesianservices.org/nominal-casualty-rolls/>). The records are often used to verify service details of former Rhodesian servicemen and their widows, applying for welfare assistance in Zimbabwe and elsewhere. For the first time in history, we have compiled the full Rhodesia Roll of Honour: 1890 to 1980. This unique roll, which is constantly under review, currently numbers 5,333 names and is a record of all known Rhodesian men and women who died while serving in armed forces throughout the world. The 90-year timespan includes the native rebellions, the Anglo-Boer War, the First and Second World Wars, and the Bush War, as well as the conflicts in Malaya, Korea, Aden, Nyasaland, and the Congo Border.

## **THE CQ STORE**

New Product Announcement!

Our unique **Rhodie Wear** range of clothing and accessories showcases the Rhodesian \*Brushstroke camouflage pattern. These items, all made exclusively in New Zealand, are of great quality and are the most accurate copy of the original Rhodesian camo available anywhere.

Currently available –

**Watch cover**, NZ\$10

**Scrunchie hair tie**, NZ\$10

**Tie**, NZ\$35 (150cm long and each one unique)

Prices do not include P&P



\* 'Brushstroke' is a term used to describe a genre of camouflage pattern into which our Rhodesian camo fits. There are many different genres of camouflage patterns, for example *Woodland* and *Tiger Stripe*.

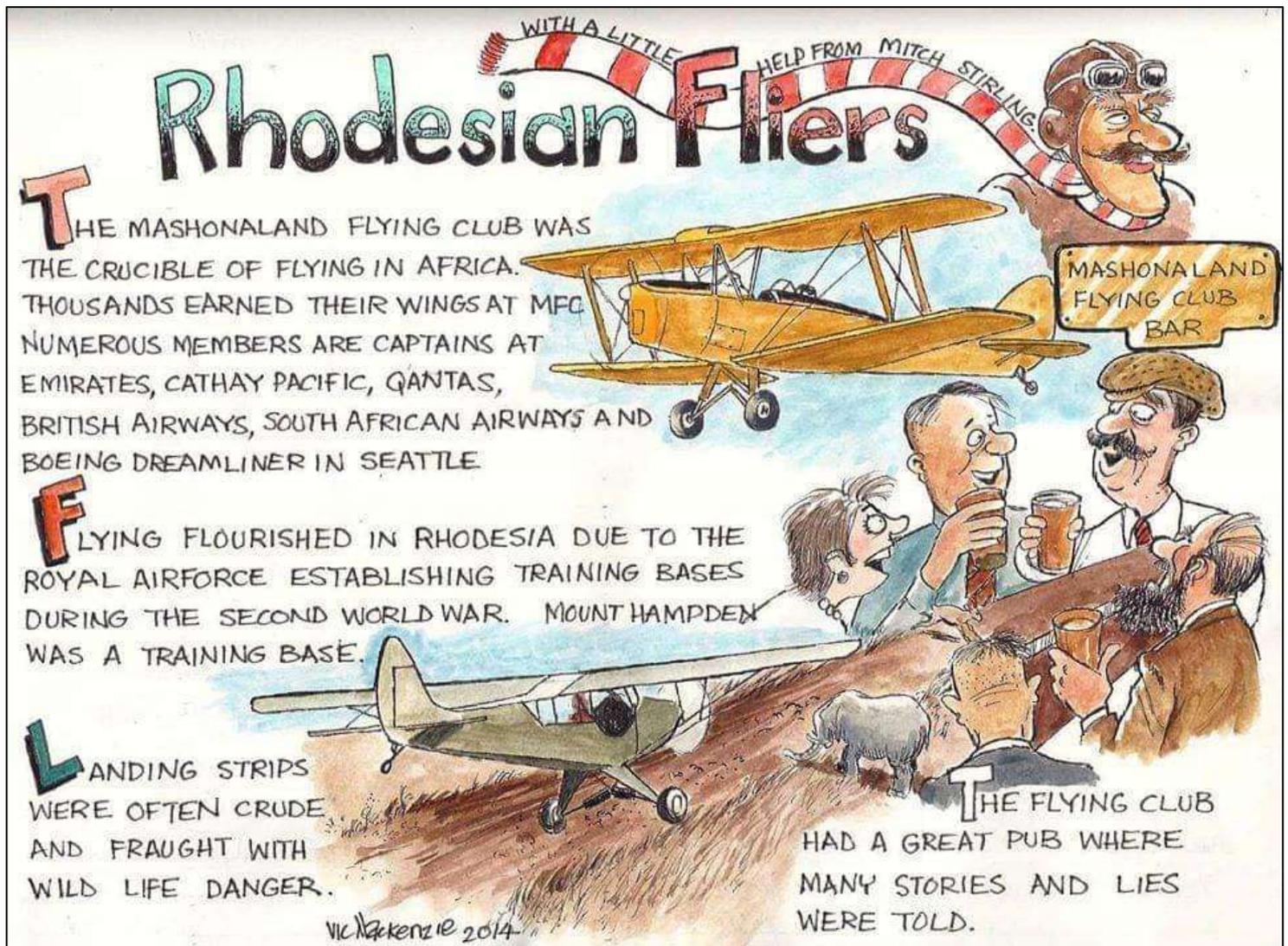
Camo hats and combat caps are also available; coming soon - boxer shorts, long-sleeve copies of our issue camo shirts, and the launch of a line of made-to-measure green blazers.

Please browse our merchandise at:

<http://www.rhodesianservices.org/clothing.htm> and <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/assorted.htm>

To order anything from the CQ Store, email [thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org) and don't forget to supply your delivery address, so that we can quote fully.

**REMEMBER** – when you buy from the Rhodesian Services Association CQ Store, you are supporting the preservation of Rhodesian history through The Lion and Tusk Museum.



This newsletter is compiled by Jackie Jackson for the Rhodesian Services Association, [jackie@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:jackie@rhodesianservices.org)

The views and comments expressed may not reflect those of the Association, or its Committee.

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



© 2021 The Rhodesian Services Association

*Registered under the 2005 Charities Act in New Zealand number CC25203*

*Registered as an Incorporated Society in New Zealand number 2055431*

Postal: PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand

Physical: Unit 10, 14 Portside Drive, Mount Maunganui, New Zealand

Web: [www.rhodesianservices.org](http://www.rhodesianservices.org) and [www.thelionandtusk.org](http://www.thelionandtusk.org)