



Contact! Contact!

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A monthly sitrep. for the

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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Please Note that all previous publications are available on line at
www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm

Greetings,

Welcome to the New Year. Mother Nature has dominated the headlines for many of us, with the earthquakes in Christchurch, New Zealand, the after shocks of which were still going on until a few days ago and still doing more damage, and also the flooding in Australia. We have received a number of messages from members who reported that they were safe from direct damage in Towoomba and Brisbane, for which we are grateful. We know that some must have been affected and lack of comms would be the end result. For them, as well as those whose lives and livelihoods will be affected, we hope and pray that things return to normal as soon as possible.

This is the seventh year that this publication has been going out to all corners of the world. As planned, there was no January issue of Contact! Contact! and I put that time to good purpose with my part of compiling the Rhodesia Regiment book. I made some headway, but not nearly enough - no sooner had I got towards the bottom of the box of material to scan than a whole lot of new material arrived, and still continues to arrive! This project, which was initiated over ten years ago, has been a dominant part of my life since July 2007. But we now have a completion date in sight. I will be very happy to cease working on it as it has been so time consuming. However, it is also true to say that it has been very educational in many ways. You can read more on the project further on in this publication.

Obituaries

Please Note that the Rhodesian Services Association holds a large Rhodesian flag for use at funerals. Please contact me at hbomford@clear.net.nz if required.



Roy Heathcote writes:

*“**Sergio Agliatta** sadly passed away on the 24th November in Auckland. I attended his funeral on the 29th. Sergio came out from Italy to help build the Kariba Dam in the late 50's and then stayed on in Rhodesia as a builder. He recently moved to New Zealand to be with his daughter. He was a Police Reservist in Rhodesia.”*

Bryn Price writes:

*“It is with regret that we have to inform you of the death of **Philip Chappel**. Philip was bought up in Northern Rhodesia and joined the RLI in the early 60's. He was a member of what was to be come 1RLI before passing the*

selection to C squadron SAS and serving on attachment with British Forces. He died in Maidstone, Kent on the 2nd December 2010."

Bill Wiggill CEO 1RLIRA writes:

"I regret to inform you that **Wayne Hanekom** (on whom the Trooper Statue was modelled) passed away on the 20th December 2010 in Pretoria RSA.

Wayne never married and is survived by his mother Elaine, brother Garry and sisters Anita and Renée. Our sincere condolences to Wayne's family and his friends at this time of great tragedy. We will mourn with them their loss and ours also. Another comrade has gone ahead.

*Fallen Soldier All Alone
Fallen Soldier Far From Home
Lying Motionless On The Ground,
The Battle Raging All Around.
For Now He Is Not All Alone.
This Fallen Soldier Is Welcomed Home.*

By Branden Hidalgo"

And also:

"It is with regret that the RLIRA informs you that **Terry Miller** passed away under tragic circumstances on Christmas Eve in Gauteng South Africa. Terry (62) was ex 1Cdo, School of Infantry (WO2) and brother to Chris.

Our sincere condolences to Chris, Karen and children Dean and Ashleigh. Our thoughts are with you and your friends at the sad loss of another RLI soldier gone to his rest.

*It seems that in life there are certain times
Which are more than "simply unfair"
When our hearts search out for better answers
But cannot seem to find them there*

*And such is the case at your passing
Contemplating the briefness of your life
All the great things that you still would have done
If you'd been granted a little more time*

*..."Your efforts will impact generations
Through lives saved, and all the good you did
Truly...you were OUR HERO
And we all thank God that you lived"*

Eddy Norris from ORAFS sent the following message:

"Sad news received from Diana Heselton (nee Webb):

Just to let you know **Leslie Webb** passed away in Bloemfontein on Saturday, January 8th 2011. He had been suffering from a bleeding colon and ulcer for some years.

Les was born in 1944 and attended the Dominican Convent, Chancellor Junior and Umtali Boys High. Les is survived by his wife Rina and children Lara, Rene and Wayne. There are also grand children, Carmen and Byron. Les started his working life with the Rhodesian Light Infantry. The funeral service was held on Tuesday 11th January 2011 at the Kingdom Hall in Bloemfontein"

Bill Wiggill CEO 1RLIRA writes:

"The RLI Regimental Association offers our sincere condolences to Rina and the Webb family. Les was one of the 'Originals' joining the RLI in 1960 when the unit was still at Brady Barracks and so it is a sad farewell to another comrade."

Carol Collett writes:

"My brother **Peter Lang** who served in 1 Cdo RLI passed away suddenly in Richards Bay, South Africa on December 16th 2010"

Don Munroe sent in the following article extracted from The Northern Echo 13th January 2011 by Lauren Pyrah:

Farewell to SAS hero David Collins - a man of true grit



“Scores of mourners have paid their last respects to a former SAS soldier who 32 years ago survived being shot in the head.

David Patrick Collins, 56, was put to rest yesterday after losing his seven-month battle with pancreatic cancer on Christmas Eve last year.

Dubbed ‘The Man Who Came Back From The Dead’, Mr Collins astonished the medical profession by surviving three days alone in the African bush after terrorists shot him in October 1977. He went on to make an almost full recovery. His extraordinary story was documented in a book by Barbara Cole, called ‘The Elite: Rhodesian Special Air Service’.

Yesterday, about 80 mourners paid tribute to Mr Collins at St Andrew’s Church, in Haughton, Darlington. His coffin was covered with the Union flag and Mr Collins was given a guard of honour outside the church.

Military flags, including that of the 4th Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve of the Parachute Regiment, with which Mr Collins served after his injury, were also paraded.

The Reverend David Bryant told how Mr Collins was from an Army family and lived all over the world before his father settled in Bishop Auckland. Leaving school at 16, Mr Collins began a butchery apprenticeship, but also joined 4th Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve of the Parachute Regiment, as well as the Air Cadets. Unable to join the regular Army because he failed a medical due to previous contact with TB, he saw an advert for volunteers to join the Army in Rhodesia and signed up, later being selected for the SAS.

Aged 23, Mr Collins was left blinded and unable to walk, talk, read or write after being shot in the back of the head in Rhodesia. The learning part of Mr Collins’ brain was affected, meaning he had to relearn all these skills again, Mr Bryant said.

After making almost a full recovery, Mr Collins returned to Darlington – where he was originally from – and in 1986 met Diane, who was to become his second wife, at a singles’ night. The couple married two years later and Mr Collins became stepfather to Elizabeth and Christopher.

He returned to work as a slaughterman, and took up photography and filming, as well as going on long runs every week and jumping with the Red Devils. Due to ongoing complications as a result of his head injury, Mr Collins was admitted to West Park Hospital three years ago. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year.

The Rev Bryant said: “Diane told me she always felt safe with Dave, and he did his best to be a good father and grandfather. His amazing courage and tenacity are an inspiration to us all.”

A bugler played The Last Post before Mr Collins’ coffin was taken from the church to a private ceremony at Darlington Crematorium.

Mr Collins is survived by his wife, stepchildren Elizabeth and Christopher and six step-grandchildren.”

Ronnie Hill died on the 6th January 2011, aged 74, in Durban. He played rugby for Rhodesia and the Springboks. See more detail in Grunter’s column below.

Iain James writes:

*“My dear old mate **Mike Tasker** died as the result of a stroke on 20th January 2001 and was laid to rest on the 27th.*

Christine and Mike lived over the road from us in Marandellas and were/are great friends. Mike was a JOC Officer at Kariba and Mount Darwin during the Hondo and ended up as Dispol (Chief Superintendent) and was the last white OC in Marandellas.

He leaves behind his wife Christine (Kinny), daughter Justine and son Andre'

Off The Radar

A number of recipients find their copy of **Contact! Contact!** either gets completely rejected by their Internet Service Provider or that it is consigned to their Spam Bin. It is extremely frustrating to have put the time and effort into production of this very fine publication and find that it is not reaching the intended destinations. If you are able, please check your systems or have your technical people check and ensure that these addresses are cleared as 'friendly':

thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org

theeditor@rhodesianservices.org

hbomford@clear.net.nz

In a lot of cases it is work addresses that are the problem. Please check with your mates and if someone is not getting **Contact! Contact!** help to sort the problem out. Providing us with a private email address such as Gmail may solve the problem.

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

Pictures From The Past

Following on from last year's very popular pictures by Peter van Hoffen, I will continue with pictures that catch my eye. The first for 2011 is this Mardon Printers advert that I came across. In future issues I will be sharing pictures with you from a calendar that Jon Gibbon sent in.

We're all proud Rhodesians

We Fight Together
against the common enemy
who comes to destroy
our crops, our homes
and our own
traditional ways of life . .
in this land we share

**United we will win
the race for prosperity!**

Mardon Mardon Printers (Pvt.) Ltd.

ANZAC Day Poppy Ruckus In New Zealand

There was understandable outrage in New Zealand when, via the media on the 10th December 2010, it was announced that the poppies sold on ANZAC Day would, from 2012, be supplied by an Australian company using Chinese made product. TV News programmes showed a Christchurch based factory, Kilmarnock Enterprises, where disabled people are employed who have been making the poppies for the Christchurch Branch of the NZ Returned Services Association which has held the contract to supply the NZSRA since 1931.

People I spoke to were all prepared to boycott future purchases of poppies. That is a hell of a thing to do to an institution that has been part of all our lives – donating money in support of the welfare of our country's veterans.

The display of a poppy on Remembrance Day relates back to the bright red flower that grew in profusion in the disturbed earth in the battlefields of Belgium and northern France during WWI and was immortalised in the poem 'In Flanders Fields' attributed to the Canadian physician Lt. Col. John McCrae, written in 1915.

I have no information on when or how the tradition started in Rhodesia and South Africa but I imagine that it ran close to the origins in Britain where it is recorded that an American War Secretary, Moina Michael, inspired by John McCrae's poem, began selling poppies to friends to raise money for the ex-Service community. In 1922, Major George Howson, a young infantry officer, formed the Disabled Society, to help disabled ex-Service men and women from WWI. The original poppy was designed so that workers with a disability could easily assemble it and this principle remains today where they are produced in the Royal British Legion's Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey.

In New Zealand it is recorded on the NZRSA website that a French woman, Madame E. Guérin, conceived the idea of widows and orphans manufacturing artificial poppies in the devastated areas of Northern France that could be sold by veterans' organisations overseas for the benefit of veterans as well as the destitute children of northern France. In September 1921 New Zealand placed an order for 350,000 small and 16,000 large silk poppies with Madame Guérin's French Children's League.

The ship carrying the poppies from France arrived in New Zealand too late for the scheme to be properly publicised prior to Armistice Day on the 11th November. This forced the NZRSA to postpone its Poppy Day campaign until the day prior to ANZAC Day on 25th April 1922. Thus precedent was set in New Zealand, in contrast to other countries around the world.

Over the following years the NZRSA experienced difficulties with the supply of poppies from France. When the contract expired with the French Children's League in 1927, the NZRSA procured poppies from the Royal British Legion's factory in Surrey. This renewed a debate over whether the NZRSA should not be manufacturing its own poppies to enable local RSAs to retain a greater proportion of the funds collected as well as providing much-needed employment for disabled returned soldiers in New Zealand. In 1931 the NZRSA finally produced its own poppies, made by disabled returned men at Auckland and Christchurch RSAs.

As a result of various conversations I was sent a circular originating from the President of the New Zealand Returned Services Association to all branches dated 13th December 2010 which is reproduced below:

“Introduction

The recent media interest in the National Executive Committee's (NEC) decision to award the poppy contract to an Australian firm has certainly had many of you questioning how did this happen and why did we take the approach we did?

You may not be aware of all the facts leading up to this decision and hence I am taking this opportunity to ensure you have all the information available on how NEC arrived at this decision to find the best possible supplier of poppies from 2012.

RNZRSA Commitment

Poppy Day is our most important fund raising appeal of the year as it provides funds specifically for the assistance of returned servicemen and women in need and their dependants, whether members of a RSA or not.

The RNZRSA is committed to ensuring that all poppy funds are properly applied to their primary and only purpose, the welfare of returned service people and their dependants whether members of a RSA or not.

To achieve this purpose National Council gave the NEC the mandate to review Poppy Day processes and:

- 1. Adopted at the 2010 National Council (Resolution 3) the requirement for all local Associations to establish a separate Charitable Poppy Trust to protect donated funds, and to make the accounts of the Trust available in their annual accounts. This will allow us to assure the public of New Zealand that all poppy funds go to this purpose, and;*
- 2. Under authority of the 2006 National Council (Resolution 17) NEC has called for tenders and accepted a successful tender for the supply of poppies.*

NEC has completed both of these tasks as required by the National Council.

It should be noted that National Office takes no money from the Poppy Day collections.

The Decision to call for tenders

Since 1999, serious concerns had grown across the national membership about the production of the poppy. Many Associations felt that Christchurch RSA, as the sole and exclusive supplier of the poppy nationwide, had created a monopoly and as an RSA were gaining financially from this monopoly.

The price, the need for transparent costings, questions of the trading margin and the need for security of supply lead to a National Council resolution in 2006. The resolution gave the NEC the option of calling for tenders for the supply of poppies.

Given the historical association of the Christchurch RSA managing poppy supply the RNZRSA made several attempts to negotiate with the Christchurch RSA a new sole contract. Unfortunately their pricing for a long term contract was unacceptable, being too high and escalating.

After direct negotiation with Christchurch RSA failed, and supply was temporarily interrupted in 2009, the NEC felt the only option was to call for tenders in early October 2010 so as to guarantee supply.

The Tender Process

Tenders were called in October 2010 and the six tenders were reviewed by an independent Tenders Panel, Mr Murray Gough OBE (Former Chief Executive of NZ Dairy Board), and Mr Hugh Rennie QC. NEC was presented their report on 29 November 2010.

Christchurch RSA submitted the highest tender. NEC noted the tender panel's comment that "the Christchurch RSA tender was so high that we do not consider that any prudent charity could accept that level of cost differential."

An NEC decision was taken to contract to Cashes Australia Pty Ltd, an Australian firm, whose tender provided the most competitive price advantage and was fully compliant. Cash has a proven business record in producing poppies including with the Australian RSL.

To put the difference in context, each Christchurch poppy would have cost in the order of one and a half times, or 15 cents per poppy more than the selected supply. (Christchurch RSA poppy costs 25.49 cents each; Cashes poppy 10.52 cents each).

Kilmarnock Enterprises

Kilmarnock Enterprises, a charitable organisation which operates as a business, has historically assembled the poppies from materials sourced from China and supplied to them from the Christchurch RSA.

Kilmarnock did not submit an independent tender to produce the poppies. Kilmarnock was a sub contractor of the Christchurch RSA tender.

The NEC was concerned about the impact of any decision on the Kilmarnock workers, hence the establishment of an independent tenders panel to ensure a fair and transparent process, however the RNZRSA charter is not to sustain a business enterprise at the expense of disadvantaging Veterans.

As a charitable organisation the RNZRSA's first duty is to maximise funds collected for Veterans and their families who need welfare assistance from our Associations. The financial loss to them in accepting a non-competitive NZ contract was just too great.

Summary

The poppy is our acknowledgement to those generous people who donate to the welfare needs of our Veterans and their families. It is given as a mark of gratitude for their donation. Its cost is an overhead which Associations must recover from their collection. The more paid for the poppy the less is available for welfare. It is our responsibility to maximise the return for Veterans inside and outside the Association."

My personal views are that it appears the media has been (as usual) selective in their reporting. It was never made clear to us that the components for the poppies made by Kilmarnock have been supplied from China and the media focussed on the Australians using Chinese product.

The media intoned that jobs would be lost at Kilmarnock as a result of losing this contract. This being the case, why did Kilmarnock not submit a tender to try and protect these workers jobs? They would be in the perfect position of knowing exact costs which would make tendering a piece of cake. Their mission statement, copied from their website states:

"Kilmarnock has celebrated 50 years of service in the community. We have a dual focus - to provide a quality commercial service to the business customers in Canterbury and beyond and provide employment and personal development for people with varying levels of abilities."

This gives a clear indication that they are motivated as a business and to help disabled people – so why no tender?

It is not clear from Cashes' website whether the poppies will actually be made in Australia or whether they will subcontract to Asia – they are unlikely to disclose this in any case. The words 'fully compliant' appears in the NZRSA notice above in reference to Cashes' tender, but we do not know what that means precisely.

I recognise the fact that the NZRSA needs to maximise their returns on Poppy Day, but I do not like seeing business go overseas - better that it is Australia and not China, but full disclosure would be in the best interests for all concerned. This brings me to my last question – why has the NZRSA seemingly done nothing to counteract the media's initial story? Other than this circular, which has not been distributed outside the confines of individual RSA committees, I am not aware of any counter-argument being made public.

There is too much murkiness here and the NZRSA needs to get a grip, in a hurry, and sort this out in a firm and transparent manner.

Grey's Scouts Reunion 2010

Thanks to Doug Kriedemann for sending us the speech made by Lt Col. Chris Pearce, Officer former Officer Commanding the Grey's Scouts Regiment

"Welcome Your Worship the Mayor of Houghton Regis, Counsellor Robin Hines; Lady Mayoress Mrs. Hines; Distinguished Guests; Lt. Col McKenna and old friends and comrades of the Grey's Scouts; Ladies and Gentlemen.

May I begin by thanking the Mayor and his Council for allowing us to be here today. We appreciate the hospitality extended to us by allowing us to hold our reunion ceremony here today.

I must also thank the Pipe Major and members of the Harpenden Pipe Band who are providing the music for this occasion and all of whom are volunteers, giving up their own time to support such events.

I must also, on behalf of the Regiment, extend our sincere thanks to Neville Croxford who, together with a very small but dedicated band of helpers, has made this gathering possible. At considerable personal cost and effort Neville has driven this reunion and it would not have happened without him. Recognising that none of us is getting any younger, his vision has been that we should gather with old comrades and remember our Regiment and those who made the supreme sacrifice during the war in Rhodesia, those who have passed on since and those who cannot, for whatever reason, be with us today. Unassuming as Neville is, we owe him a debt of public gratitude and I thank him, and his helpers, most sincerely on behalf of us all.

I would now like to say a few words about the Rhodesian Grey's Scouts and our old comrades on parade today. Before I continue however - and I am indeed ever mindful that we were Mounted Infantry- I must say how heart-warming it is to note that our foot drill has not improved over the last 30 years. I suspect her Majesty's Brigade of Guards might heave a sigh of relief that their position as the premier drill regiments remains un-assailed!

The first Grey's Scouts were a volunteer troop of horse raised in Rhodesia in 1896 by a certain Captain George Grey in response to the call to arms as a result of what was known as the Matabele Rebellion. Those Grey's Scouts, as part of the Bulawayo Field Force, fought with distinction and participated in the final defeat of the Matabele at the Battle of Bembezi on the Umgusa River. Subsequently elements of the Grey's formed part of White's Scouts during the Mashona Rebellion later in 1896 and into 1897.

Almost 80 years were to pass before internal security in Rhodesia was again threatened and the concept of Mounted Infantry was resuscitated.

If I may I will briefly talk about the four phases of the Regiment's short life before the Rhodesian Grey's Scouts were effectively disbanded and a new unit, which somewhat ironically still bore the name of Grey's Scouts, was adopted into the establishment of the Zimbabwe National Army.

Phase One

In July 1975, thanks to the vision of Captain Alexander (Beaver) Fraser-Kirk of the Rhodesian Army Services Corps and Major Tony Stephens ex-Rhodesian Light Infantry, the concept of Mounted Infantry was resuscitated. These two officers were instrumental in convincing Army Headquarters that there was a role for Mounted Infantry in the Rhodesian war effort. Somewhat grudgingly a small experimental unit known as the MIU - Mounted Infantry Unit - was formed. Stephens and Fraser-Kirk were given a year to prove the concept worked. They set about it with a will, working with no unit establishment and largely with begged and borrowed equipment. Horses were in relatively plentiful supply since horse riding, polo and polo-crosse were vibrant leisure and sport activities across the country but everything else from barrack equipment to field camping equipment and vehicles was in short supply. Much had to be done, from identifying a suitable saddle for Mounted Infantry (the McClellan) to designing saddlebags, developing a special horse-cube that would ensure the animals received the right supplements in their diet whilst on operations, since grazing off the veldt was not always the best option - and, most importantly, the development of tactics.

The MIU team persevered and convinced the powers that be that there was a viable role for the horse in anti-terrorist warfare. On 1st July 1976 the unit was renamed the Grey's Scouts and officially became a part of the Rhodesian Army Order of Battle at Company/Squadron strength with supporting sub-units both common to an Infantry Unit and a Mounted Infantry Unit - farriers, saddlers, stable staff and veterinarians being examples.

Tony Stephens has passed away but I understand we shall shortly hear a message from Beaver Fraser-Kirk who cannot unfortunately be here today. We owe them both a debt of gratitude and respect.

Phase Two

The second of the phases I have referred to was the period from July 1976 to December 1977. Grey's was still a fledgling unit. Still under-established and still struggling with equipment and transport shortages; much like the

British military serving today in Afghanistan - and whom we salute with the greatest respect for their courage and tenacity fighting a difficult, hard guerrilla war.

This was a period of continuing development and learning; learning the hard way, as it always is, the skills of fighting as infantry but with the special mobility and shock action that man and horse can achieve. WO2 Jimmy Jamieson who was effectively the first RSM of the Grey's Scouts played a key role at this time, bringing his own special blend of humanity and strength to support the unit and maintain discipline. During this time (in 1977) Tony Stephens became very ill and had to leave the Grey's. Some very difficult times followed and the unit began to lose traction in a leadership vacuum. A regiment is like a business in many ways: it needs leadership, it needs innovation, it needs strategic direction - and it needs constant management and improvement. This was particularly so with a unit such as Grey's Scouts which was still developing its potential, and to an extent fighting for its survival against sceptics who could not see the extent of the potential the unit had to offer. By the end of 1977 Army Headquarters wanted change. They wanted substantial improvement, so they sent in the A-Team.

Phase Three

The third phase, essentially the year 1978, was a year of change and consolidation. Then a Major, Mick McKenna was posted-in as CO and he brought on board Captain Mike Wilson as his number two. Together, and assisted primarily by a core of professional officers, warrant officers and senior NCOs, they set about transforming the Grey's into a highly effective fighting force. The establishment was expanded and an uncompromising selection process was undertaken, aiming to keep the best manpower consistent with achieving the army's expectations. The net result was that by the latter part of the year Grey's Scouts had an effective establishment and was a fit-for-purpose unit ready to again take on the challenges presented and to prove its viability as a Special Forces unit. A Squadron, the sub-unit made up of regular African and European and National Service soldiers, was re-formed and commanded by Mike Wilson. The Territorial Army Squadron was likewise reformed and placed under command of a Regular Army Officer - essentially whoever was available since the unit was short of officers at the time.

Operational successes followed and the Grey's Scouts began to make a name for themselves. Later that year Mike Wilson became the Regimental 2IC and Captain Theo Williams was brought in to take over as OC A Squadron. By the end of 1978 Grey's was a unit that was welcomed into any Brigade operational area. There was an appreciation of the flexibility and mobility of the unit and the ability for Grey's patrols to cover as much as 60 plus kilometres a day; an appreciation of the fact that tracking from a horse was generally much more effective than doing so on foot. There was also recognition that the Grey's were a viable and effective fighting unit.

Phase Four - The Final Phase

In January 1979 Mick McKenna was promoted to Lt. Col and left Grey's to take over as CO of the First Battalion the Rhodesian African Rifles. I had recently completed a Command and Staff Course in South Africa and was posted as CO of the Grey's Scouts. I had no riding or horsemanship skills whatsoever, which was both a plus and a minus. But I took heart from the fact that I was not the first officer posted to Grey's who could not ride a horse! What followed for me was an amazingly challenging and interesting twenty-one months. I took over a viable and vibrant unit thanks to my predecessor, and in Mike Wilson I had a very high-calibre 2IC. Working together we set about developing the unit further. Many things happened in that time, not the least being the development of a strategy to take the Grey's Scouts further as a Special Forces Unit. As Army Troops (Special Forces) under command Combined Operations for operational deployment and under command HQ Salisbury District for administration we enjoyed an interesting set of command relationships. All the commanders we were required to report to were highly supportive of the Regiment, notably the COMOPS Chief of Staff Operations, Major-General Bert Barnard.

With two viable operational squadrons, A Sqn under Theo Williams and B Sqn under a T/A officer Cedric Tipping-Wood plus HQ Sqn under GP Fitzgerald we had a sound operational base. This was proven as, outside of Fire Force operations, Grey's had the highest internal success rate in the country in 1979. With a deliberately encouraged, largely autonomous command structure the Squadrons were able to get on with what needed to be done. Much needed equipment and transport became available, thanks to the delivery of vehicles Mick McKenna had secured whilst CO. Budgets were increased for various key purchases and through the generosity of donors further stables were built. Thanks to General Barnard we received very substantial extra funding for the purchase of a significant number of horses and specialist equipment, including leather for saddlery.

Recognition by COMOPS that Grey's could play a key role by conducting deep penetration patrols cross-border, and could support other units such as the SAS in that role was finally coming to fruition when the Lancaster House peace talks were announced. What followed saw Grey's Scouts become the first Rhodesian Army unit to take over a terrorist Assembly Point when we relieved a British contingent of the Monitoring Force in Assembly Point Romeo. That in itself is an interesting tale but not one for today.

Perhaps the final recognition that we had come of age was when Grey's Scouts were included in contingency plans should there be a "hung" election, together with the elite units of the Rhodesian Army such as the RLI, SAS and Selous Scouts. In the event those plans were not implemented.

Post-elections and the period leading to the coming into being of Zimbabwe on the 18th April 1980 presented its own challenges. In particular we faced the inevitable disbandment of the T/A and cessation of National Service. Prior to that, we had obtained permission to recruit African soldiers into Grey's to form our first fully-fledged African

Squadron - C Squadron. That Squadron was made up of former Rhodesian Army soldiers who had served in 1 POU and also the T/A Battalions in Mashonaland and Manicaland who wanted to continue in the army; not for political reasons but wanting to keep their jobs. We recognised that we owed a debt of gratitude to our African Soldiers (and Grey's Scouts always had African Soldiers). Not only our "own" so to speak, but others of the 44,000 men who served with us and fought with us as members of the Rhodesian Forces.

Requiem

So what made the Grey's Scouts special? What made YOU special? What made it a unit that "punched above its weight?" The answer is, simply, the people. There was no other army unit that was commanded by infantrymen working with polo and polo-crosse players, riding instructors, social riders, non-riders (to be licked into shape), dog handlers (we had a pack of a breed of dogs known as "Coon Hounds"), vets and veterinary nurses, stable managers, mechanics, drivers, store men, farriers or blacksmiths, remount riders (jockeys), cooks and bottle washers, medics, signallers and administration and finance people.

As an infantryman I have to say that I never, ever, found any unity of opinion whosoever among our "Horse Experts." Ask three people for an opinion or for advice and you would get three totally contradictory answers. It was all very confusing! When it was decided to build a modified dip-tank so we could run several hundred horses through it to protect against tick infestations, the war of words that raged was spectacular. In the end we just did it or we would have still been arguing about it when every horse had a tick-borne disease.

Besides that sheer technical diversity I also cannot think of a unit that enjoyed such human diversity either. From very early on we had people from every ethnic group in the country living and working cheek by jowl. We had people from a multiplicity of nations: American, British, Canadian, French, South African and Rhodesian (not to forget the Scots of course...). and no, they were not Mercenaries because the pay was pretty lousy. Lost souls in a world gone mad perhaps, but still fine soldiers and fine people. Nor can I think of any unit that had the complete spectrum of the army's soldier-base: regular army, national service and T/A personnel.

I would be remiss not to remember and pay a special tribute to our lady soldiers of the Rhodesian Women's Service (RWS), two of whom we shall hear from shortly; namely Belinda Johnson and Rusty Henderson. Our RWS were an important and integral part of the regiment and they served with distinction and unstinting loyalty.

We enjoyed amazing support from the communities of the Harding and Underberg areas of Natal in South Africa who collected funds and purchased horses for us each year. Much support was also provided by two ladies, Doris Garner in Rhodesia and Meme Walker in South Africa. They provided us with medical and veterinary equipment and supplies and even paid for a block of badly needed stables. Both are remembered with affection and gratitude.

We had a very good, much respected, Jewish vet who celebrated the Sabbath every Friday, even in the hottest operational area, with candles on his tin trunk and who had to have special Kosher meals sent to him by his mother from Salisbury. A vet who saved human lives as well as horses.

We had a hard-as-nails Squadron Sergeant Major in Don Kenny. A man with a fascinating military history all of his own which included the British Parachute Regiment and 22 SAS, the French Foreign legion and the Rhodesian SAS. Grey's Scouts owes a huge debt to Don because he held the unit together in those dark days when things were not going so well. He called everyone a "something" dog and yet his men loved him and still do. Don turns 74 on the 21st November 2010 and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him all the very best for that occasion.

The entire horse fraternity from the Borrowdale Race Course in Salisbury was in Grey's Scouts with a much-respected trainer, Adrian Kelly Edwards particularly prominent - together with all the other trainers and jockeys who would help workhorses and remounts in their spare time.

Every single vet in the country was also on our books, as T/A Officers, and we even managed for a period to have a young National Service Officer who had just finished his degree. I daresay he learned as much about human nature as he did in his daily work with horses and the dogs.

Where else would you get all that?

Finale

Yes, your Regiment was indeed special. You can take pride in that for the rest of your days. We will not forget those Grey's Scouts who gave their lives in combat; those who lost their lives due to other causes; those who are too ill or infirm to join us today, or those who cannot be here for whatever other reason - and indeed their families.

It was indeed a very great privilege to serve with you and our other comrades-in-arms. I salute you all.

Thank-you"

Rhodesian Services Association update

Our current financial membership has reached a record level. Well done and thanks to all who have paid up.

We are nearing the 150 mark and so the 150th person to pay their subs will receive a customised baseball cap. Please contact our Secretary, Chuck Osborne by email thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org to check on your status and for payment details if required. Payments via PayPal can be directed to our registered account using thecgstore@rhodesianservices.org or we can bill you. This year's annual subscription is NZ\$10.

Tony Fraser, our Curator, is working (in his spare time) on a number of projects for the Rhodesia Regiment book and also the museum displays. For the model aircraft display he is making the revetments. This entails making around 250 scale size 44 gallon drums as well as poles and netting. Tony is also planning to change the current display at the Garrison Club to a Rhodesia Regiment focused one.

Watch this space for more details as progress is made.

Regimental Rumours by 'Stompie'

Editors Note:

Sorry folks, no Stompie column this month.

As you may have gathered Stompie, as a result of his aunt's passing, is now of 'independent means'. In other words, Stompie scored big time from his aunt's estate and does not have to graft like the rest of us. Not that 'graft' was ever a word that Stompie was familiar, nor comfortable with, anyway. So Stompie has been travelling around, dodging creditors and generally living the grand life, with the only commitment being to this newsletter. A commitment that some will be regarding with some suspicion because it appears that there is a strong likelihood that Stompie has some 'dirt' on people that may be used in the future.

Stompie is rather difficult to keep track of given an aversion to most forms of modern communication. It may be that there is a degree of Luddism at play here (a Luddite being someone who objects to mechanisation) or more likely born from habit of steering clear of creditors. I did gather that Stompie was in Christchurch, New Zealand during the big shake up there. Having survived "*shaken but not stirred*" and believing that the cracks in the earth signalled the release of some of Peter Jackson's 'Middle Earth' creatures. Stompie headed for the more settled and warmer climes of Australia and the lure of visits to the Bundaberg Rum distillery. We all know what happened in Australia and so I was not surprised to receive this SMS message:

"Heavy flooding here. Mate has a boat. Rescued a case of bundy and his .375. Been co-opted to look out for looters and flatdogs. Believe both can be shot on sight. Feels like old Fire Force days."

It seems that wherever Stompie goes, calamity follows. Hopefully normal transmission will resume next month.



Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings All

I hope this finds you all in good health after a deserved Christmas/New Year break. We had a long overdue trip back to Africa and stayed in Durban for Christmas with my Mum, Dad and sister. Unfortunately my brother Rory has just moved to the UK and was unable to join us. A great time was had by all and at long last cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents were together again after nearly eight years. It all went by very quickly and sadly it was time to say goodbye again.

Another sad note was the passing of one of Rhodesia's greatest rugby players and Springbok, Ronnie Hill, who passed away near Durban. I was sent this from his son-in-law Hugh Farrell:

"Ronnie Hill was my father-in-law. He died on the 6th January 2011 aged 74. He was capped over 70 times for Rhodesia and played eighteen games as a Springbok with eight test Caps. He was in only one losing side, that which lost to Australia at Ellis Park. He was a member of Avril Malan's unbeaten Grand Slam tour in the early 1960's."

Ian (Platt) Marais (ex Hamilton Boys High 1978) was the host Preacher at the memorial service in Durban. Ian MacIntosh, Des Van Jaarsveldt, Ron's girlfriend's daughter and I did the memorial speeches. The service was held at Rovers with approximately 150 people in attendance. There were many old Rhodesian and ex Springboks there.

We will be taking his ashes to Msuna Island in the Zambezi River (upstream of Milibizi) later in the year to be scattered there at Ngwenya Lodge where we have been going fishing every year for past eight years.

He leaves his ex wife Joan and his girlfriend Fiona along with four daughters and six grandchildren as well as four step grandchildren.

RIP Ronnie

Cheers,

Hugh"

On behalf of the Rhodesian Services Association and all his friends who sent in their respects I would like to pass on our condolences to Hugh Farrell and the Hill families.

We left off last year with a few snippets on shooting as a sport in Rhodesia and, as promised, the stories that came in are set out below. They are copied from what was sent in so are as told - straight from the horse's mouth so to speak.

The first story comes to us from someone who needs no introduction to any of you. As you all know, Hugh Bomford works tirelessly for this association and his commitment is admirable. This is from Hugh:

"I had dreamed of representing Rhodesia at cricket. I had played under John Kitkat at the Ruzawi River Country Club. At school I had been with many notables - Henry Fotheringham, Andy Pycroft who were senior to me and Rob Bentley who played in the same Under 11 age group team. I had always been a good shot but did not take it seriously. Around 1978 I beat Wrex Tarr at a shooting match in Marandellas where he demonstrated his frustration by chucking his very nice custom FN on the ground, which was not a good look. Unfortunately (with hind sight) I did not complete the full two days of the competition as I had a cricket match on the Sunday.

When I came to New Zealand in 1981 and once 'sort of' settled, Diana and I joined a shooting club in South Auckland that competed out doors with .22 rifles. This suited our meagre income. I figured that as I had not represented Rhodesia in a sport, then my opportunity was to represent NZ and shooting seemed the best path for me. I competed locally, nationally and finally internationally.

My first big event was the .22 Silhouette section at the Oceania Shooting Championships in Adelaide in the late 1980's. I again represented NZ at the Oceanias in Auckland in the early 1990's winning a silver medal in the individual and a bronze in the team events. At these competitions I got a taste for one of the Olympic disciplines - the 10m Air Rifle. This is a competition shot in the standing position - 60 shots with the bull being .5mm (half a millimetre) diameter. This is an extremely challenging prospect. So I changed disciplines and shot for NZ in an Oceania Championship in Auckland. My last competition was the Asian Shooting Championships in Jakarta in around 1996. I had my eye on the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia but a change in business meant that I could not put in the practice time required, so let it all drop.

Diana also shot competitively and represented Waikato in Small Bore Rifle. She also officiated at various Oceania events. We met some wonderful people during our time shooting and had some great laughs. My biggest highlight was shooting off for silver against an Australian in a one on one - I got my shot in first, registering a perfect central hit on my target; I turned to watch my competitor and saw him wilt and miss under pressure. The biggest laugh was watching a Women's Smallbore Three Position final and seeing an inquisitive rat run along the firing line jumping over the girls boots and stopping to consider climbing up the inside of the trouser leg of New Zealander, Sally Johnson. The wag next to me muttered "Mr Rat - I wouldn't go there!"

Some of you may know Fred Tatos and would have heard that he is not well. We admire his bravery and wish him all the best. I received this from Fred:

"The following represented Rhodesia in Munich in 1975 at the World Moving Target Championships - Rupert van der Riet, Chris Fenton-Wells, Jason Cambitzi and Rob Waller shooting Olympic Trench and myself shooting Olympic Skeet.

Because of all the politics, we had to travel NOT wearing any colours, and even our issued bags with the Lion and Tusk on were covered up. At the ranges we were MOST welcome by ALL shooters (East and West) and not ONE, not ONE objected, or even said anything untoward.....it was just amazing how welcome they made us. Needless to say we wore our colours with pride all over Munich for some three weekswe were even invited to the Mayors main dinner event!

We didn't bring home any trophies!"

The last piece comes to us from Danny Hartman whose wife Eileen was also a World Champion:

"Practical Pistol Shooting, formerly known as Combat Pistol Shooting, had been around for a while before it became a World Championship Event with the first World Championships being held in Zurich in 1975. In 1976 they were held in Salzburg and in Rhodesia in 1977 from 25th to 31st August.

The 1977 Rhodesian World Championship team comprised of Dave Westerhout (Captain), Lionel Smith, Alec du Plessis, Peter Boniface and Andy Langley with reserve, Danny Hartman. Peter Maunder who was in the 1976 team

in Salzburg was ranked only 15th in the 1977 Rhodesian Championships but shot extremely well and took the Silver behind Dave."

Medal winners in the 5 matches were as follows:

Practical Match

Gold - Dave Westerhout (Rhod)
Silver - Danny Hartman (Rhod)
Bronze - Peter Boniface (Rhod)

Urban Match

Gold - Dave Westerhout (Rhod)
Silver - Terry Hill (RSA)
Bronze - Jerry Usher (USA)

Moving Match

Gold - Peter Maunder (Rhod)
Silver - Thomas Campbell (USA)
Bronze - Jerry Usher (USA)

Turning Match

Gold - Mike Dalton (USA)
Silver - Vidar Nakling (Norway)
Bronze - Ron Lerch (USA)

Standard Exercises

Gold - Ray Chapman (USA)
Silver - Dave Westerhout (Rhod)
Bronze - Len Knight (USA)

Overall

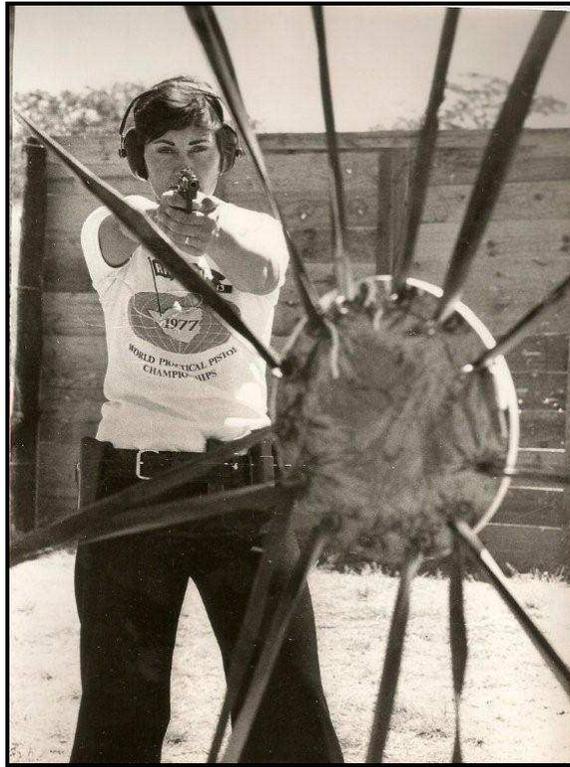
Gold - Dave Westerhout (Rhod)
Silver - Peter Maunder (Rhod)
Bronze - Raul Walters (USA)

Overall Ladies

Gold - Eileen Hartman (Rhod)
Silver - Gillian Rissik (RSA)
Bronze - Lesley Rissik (RSA)

Team placings:

1. Rhodesia
2. USA
3. South Africa
4. Great Britain
5. Germany
6. Belgium



Eileen Hartman

The following records are a continuation from Adrian Hagget's piece published in the December issue:

Southern Rhodesia - King's Medal for Shooting

1926 Sergeant FG Elliott British South Africa Police
1927 CQMS Fred Hilton Morgan MBE Rhodesia Regiment
1928 CQMS Fred Hilton Morgan MBE Rhodesia Regiment
1929 CQMS Fred Hilton Morgan MBE Rhodesia Regiment
1930 Sergeant NA Fereday Rhodesia Regiment
1931 Sergeant NA Fereday Rhodesia Regiment
1932 Lieutenant Fred Hilton Morgan MBE Rhodesia Regiment
1933 CQMS NA Fereday 1st Battalion Rhodesia Regiment
1934 CQMS NA Fereday 1st Battalion Rhodesia Regiment
1935 Rifleman DF Butcher 2nd Battalion Rhodesia Regiment
1936 Pipe Major A Macbean 1st Battalion Rhodesia Regiment
1937 Rifleman PJ Cumming 1st Battalion Rhodesia Regiment
1938 Lieutenant Fred Hilton Morgan MBE 2nd Battalion Rhodesia Regiment
1939 Sergeant DF Butcher 2nd Battalion Rhodesia Regiment
1940 No awards made
1941 No awards made
1942 No awards made
1943 No awards made
1944 No awards made
1945 No awards made
1946 No awards made
1947 No awards made
1948 Sergeant Major WDP Cook 1st Battalion Royal Rhodesia Regiment
1949 Sergeant G Lamont 2nd Battalion Royal Rhodesia Regiment
1950 Sergeant G Lamont 2nd Battalion Royal Rhodesia Regiment
1951 Sergeant G Lamont 2nd Battalion Royal Rhodesia Regiment

Southern Rhodesia – Queen's Medal for Shooting

1952 Inspector Henry Roper Cooke British South Africa Police
1953 Captain Robert Victor Allan DFC 1st Battalion Royal Rhodesia Regiment

Rhodesia and Nyasaland – Queen's Medal for Shooting

1954 Rifleman A D Scates 1st Battalion Royal Rhodesia Regiment

1955 No competition
1956 Staff Sergeant Donald Hollingsworth British South Africa Police
1957 Staff Sergeant Donald Hollingsworth British South Africa Police
1958 Lieutenant Michael Charles Godfrey Central Africa Command Training School (School of Infantry)
1959 Captain Michael Charles Godfrey 1st King's African Rifles
1960 Unknown or no competition held
1961 Unknown or no competition held
1962 Unknown or no competition held
Federation dissolved in 1963

1963 Inspector Donald Hollingsworth British South Africa Police
1964 Inspector Barry William Pratt British South Africa Police
1965 Inspector William Hewey Osborne British South Africa Police
11th November 1965 – Unilateral Declaration of Independence - links to the British crown retained.

1966 WOII AK Tourle BCR Rhodesian Light Infantry
1967 Sergeant MJ Cary 1 Engineer Squadron
1968 Inspector David George Toddun British South Africa Police
1969 Colour Sergeant Peter FG Maunder Special Air Service
2nd March 1970 - Rhodesia severs ties with the British Crown.

Rhodesia - President's Medal for Shooting of the Security Forces:

1970 Inspector David George Toddun British South Africa Police
1971 Inspector David George Toddun British South Africa Police
1972 Staff Sergeant GR James Rhodesian Army
1973 Staff Sergeant GR James Rhodesian Army
1974 Sergeant JC Lamprecht Rhodesian Air Force
1975 Lieutenant PA Miller Rhodesian Army
1976 Unknown
1977 Unknown
1978 Field Reservist Wrex Tarr British South Africa Police Reserve
1979 Chief Inspector (Technician) David George Toddun British South Africa Police
1979 Field Reservist Wrex Tarr British South Africa Police Reserve
1980 Believed no competition held
Independence from United Kingdom on 18th April 1980

Republic of Zimbabwe President's Medal:

1981 Unknown
1982 Unknown
1983 Special Constable Colin MacDonnell Zimbabwe Police

Editor's Note – there may be some inaccuracies in the information above as records after 1965 are difficult to find.

Next month we will preview the Super 15 while I try to make head or tail of how it works. It is no longer a simple round robin tournament.

Please send me your stories, questions or ideas - they will be much appreciated.

Until then have a good one.

Regards
Grunter
Email fourstreams@clear.net.nz

What's On In New Zealand?

ANZAC Day 25th April 2011

This year ANZAC Day coincides with Easter Monday. Once again many of us will be marching at Hobsonville, Auckland. We encourage as many of you as possible to come along. For those taking part in the march please - no shorts and tackies! The Hobsonville RSA accord us the privilege of marching directly behind the New Zealand

Veterans which puts us at the head of the column and our numbers are greater than the NZ Vets. So please show respect by being decently attired – longs and a jacket if possible with medals. It has become a tradition to wear berets as well. This year Steve Geach BCR will be laying the wreath.

A number of us come up from the Bay of Plenty on the Sunday and plan to have a braai after the parade on Monday evening at the motel across the road where we stay. Anyone wanting to join us is most welcome.

AUCKLAND

If you reside in the Auckland area please email Wolf and Alison Hucke at whucke@slingshot.co.nz for more details of the monthly social meetings. Generally these are on the third Saturday of the month either at the Hobsonville RSA or the Massey Archery Club, Redhills Road, Massey. All are most welcome.

Wolf and Alison are going to be extremely busy over the next three months, so if any one else would like to organise some social evenings or events, please contact Alison.

TAURANGA

The Garrison Club run by the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. 'Graze and Movie Evenings' are held on the 2nd Friday of every month with proceeds being donated to the Hauraki Museum. Email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to get on that mailing list to see what is on and notification of any changes.

HAMILTON

Hamiltonians - please contact Tinka Mushett email mushett@slingshot.co.nz or cell +64 21 722 922 for details of socials being planned in your area.

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

Please give our CQ Store consideration when buying a present for friends or family. Above is the web page link and below is a list of our stock.

We have a number of new products that have come on stream. All our embroidery is done by Sew Hot in Mount Maunganui and it is of the highest quality. The new Flame Lily pattern is really good and the owners of the company say that the Rhodesian Coat of Arms is their favourite pattern and one which they are most proud of doing

Aprons at NZ\$30 each plus postage.

These are full length hard wearing aprons – good for working around the braai or in the kitchen. Colours and styles as pictured below – Rhodesian Services Association with Lion & Tusk, Flame Lily and Rhodesian Coat of Arms.



New range of polo shirts with a pocket NZ\$45 plus postage

If, like me, you grew up with a packet of 30 Madisons in your top pocket and since giving them up you now carry two cell phones, a pen, a notebook, ID wallet, business cards and God knows what else around and you have tried sticking that lot in your pants pocket along with wallet and keys – you have a problem! So you either go for a 'man bag' or you wear shirts with a top pocket. This new line of polo shirts with a top pocket is available for all our embroidery patterns.



Flame Lily embroidered beanie NZ\$22 plus postage.

This is a polar fleece lined beanie and is very warm. This pattern best suits a green beanie.



Flame Lily embroidered cap NZ\$25 plus postage

Our ever popular baseball caps in green or black both with gold trim in the peak. Picture below shows the back with Rhodesia and front of the cap with the Flame Lily



PATU bumper sticker NZ\$5 plus postage

By popular demand, Dudley Wall has developed this new addition to our 'Unit Badge' selection of bumper stickers. There are printed with high quality long lasting inks on vinyl. Similar stickers have been on the outside of my car for nearly three years and are showing no sign of wearing, nor fading. They are approximately 150mm high.



Below is a sample of CQ Store inventory, for more details go to the webpage.

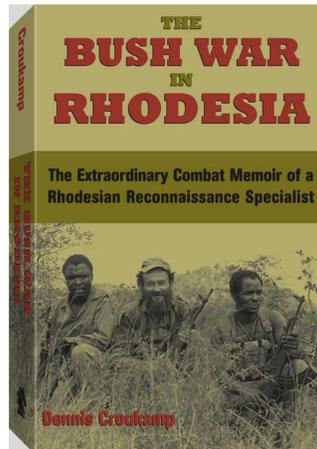
ITEMS EXCLUDING POSTAGE	PRICE in NZ\$
4RR Hackles	\$17.50
Bumper Stickers, Rhodesia/NZ or Australia flags; Rhodesian flag; Rhodesian Services Assn Lion & Tusk	\$3 each or 2 for \$5
Bumper Stickers – Unit	\$5ea
Business Card Holder – stainless steel with Lion & Tusk engraved	\$20
Berets	\$50
Cuff link & tie pin boxed set	\$55
Dog Tags	\$30
Embroidered Aprons	\$30
Embroidered Baseball Caps	\$25
Embroidered Beanies	\$22
Embroidered Polar Fleece jackets	\$65
Embroidered Polo shirts	\$38
Embroidered T-shirts	\$30
Embroidered Women's v-neck stretch shirts	\$30
Lapel pin - Para Wings – gold plate or Enamel	\$15
Lapel Pin – Rhodesian Flag	\$10
Medal Ribbon Devices – MFC, Commissioner's Commendation, bars etc.	\$30
Name badge	\$15
Number plate surrounds – 4 styles to choose from	\$12
Pocket Insert Medal Holder	\$15
Poster "Be a man among men"	\$25
Poster "Rhodesian Bush War"	\$30
Poster – Rhodesian Map accurate as at Oct. 1977	\$60
Poster "Terrorism Stops Here!" 2 in series	\$50 ea
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	\$40
Regimental ties – Rhodesia Regiment	\$45
Regimental ties – Rhodesian African Rifles	\$40
Regimental ties – SAS (badged SAS only)	\$55
Rhodesian General Service Medal copy (silver plate bronze) full size medal with ribbon	\$100
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$125
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon – full size	\$10/length
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature (solid silver) with ribbon	\$40
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon - miniature	\$10/length
Rhodesian Medal for Territorial or Reserve Service full size copy (solid silver & gold) with ribbon	\$150
Rhodesian Police Long Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$160
Southern Rhodesia War Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$150
Rhodesian Flag 3' x 5' (900mm x 1500mm) ready to fly	\$40
Rhodesian Flag, embroidered 110mm x 50mm	\$20
Rhodesian replica rugby jerseys – short or long sleeve	\$125
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge full size	\$22.50
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge miniature	\$15
Various medal ribbons – please inquire	POA
Various full size & miniature medals – please inquire	POA
Various small embroidered badges (RLI & BSAP)	\$5
Zimbabwe Independence Medal copy - full size with ribbon	\$65
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size ribbon	\$5/length
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature with ribbon	\$35

Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature ribbon	\$5/length
'Zippo' type lighter – "Rhodesia 1890 – 1980" with Lion & Tusk	\$25

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.

The Bush War In Rhodesia by Dennis Croukamp NZ\$90 plus postage. Soft cover 482 pages 6" x 9" with photographs.



Back in stock by popular demand, in *The Bush War in Rhodesia* Croukamp chronicles his eventful service with the Rhodesian Regular Army, the Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI) and the Selous Scouts Reconnaissance Troop as he took part in cross-border reconnaissance operations, HALO jumps behind enemy lines, urban ops in the townships of Salisbury, raids, ambushes, demolition missions, prisoner snatches and more. And through it all, Croukamp brought along a camera, providing a remarkable visual documentation.

This searingly honest, action-packed memoir is sure to become a classic, ground-level account of the bloody "bush wars" of Africa.

Dennis Croukamp excelled in combat, earning Rhodesia's third highest award, the Bronze Cross, for gallantry under fire; becoming the first warrant officer in the history of the RLI to command a troop; and surviving an epic, six-day E&E from behind enemy lines.

Coming soon! Commemorative issue of *The Cheetah*. Soft cover 80 pages approx A4 size. Price expected to be around NZ\$30 plus postage



The Cheetah is the regimental association magazine for the Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI). It was last published in hard-copy format in 1980 at the disbandment of the RLI following the cessation of the bush war in the embryonic republic of Zimbabwe.

Prior to this, the magazine, renowned for its witty and informed content, was a much sought-after and eagerly-awaited publication for civilians and servicemen alike, being sold commercially through the southern African book trade. (Today, original copies change hands for ridiculously high prices, being regarded as collectables.) With the revival of the RLI Regimental Association (RLIRA) in 2007, the magazine has been published on a quarterly basis since then, in electronic format, also being viewable on the RLIRA website www.therli.com. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the RLI on 1st February 1961, and 30 years after the disbandment of the regiment, the RLIRA has decided to bring out this hard-copy commemorative glossy edition that takes a nostalgic journey back in time, as well as highlighting the association's efforts of today in keeping the regimental esprit de corps alive.

Please email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to reserve a copy if you reside in New Zealand or Australia or go online to www.30degreessouth.co.za for other parts of the world.

Please use the page link www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm to view our stock of excellent books. When buying for someone else you cannot beat a good book as a gift.



The Rhodesia Regiment – Book Project



This book is being compiled for the Rhodesian Services Association. Over 160 people have submitted material so far; seven very dedicated people are involved with in depth research and assembly of this material; then there is the publishing team who are aiming at publication in 2012. This project has turned into a true team effort and the individual contributions are amazing. I thank everyone who has put their shoulder to the wheel.

We have reached the point of deadlines which are:

- All written material must be received before the end of April 2011

- All photos and illustrations must be received by the end of October 2011 – scans at 300dpi please

We still need your help with the compilation of the following records. These lists have never been attempted before. All details are important to us and so anything that you can assist with will be of value.

- A complete Rhodesia Regiment Roll of Honour 1898–1980
- A complete list of Honours and Awards made to soldiers serving in the Rhodesia Regiment 1898–1980
- A full list of all Battalion and Independent Company OCs, 2ICs and RSMs

In addition we need your input on the following:

- Personal recollections during the 1979 and 1980 elections
- Personal recollections on the disintegration of the Regiment in 1980 along with any laying up ceremonies and the formation of the post-Rhodesia organisations.

The task of compiling this book to the standards that we have set ourselves, in particular the lists above, is daunting and we are aware that we will not get it perfect, but it must be attempted and we will deal with resultant additions and corrections post publication.

Can you identify this officer in the Royal Rhodesia Regiment? He is wearing WWII pilot wings.



Material can be sent to:

- Hugh Bomford hbomford@clear.net.nz
- Chris Cocks info@30degreessouth.co.za

We owe it to our forefathers, our mates and ourselves to produce this book. Don't live to regret not being involved.

The Global Forked Stick – Snippets and Requests

Roan Antelope Music

Dear Friends, Rhodies & Countrymen, The Roan Team have some news for you - firstly the release of a new CD; a very good remedy to help you cope with 2011 - something for you to laugh about! We are presenting on CD for the first time ever - "RTV Fun Channel" with John, Johnny & Wrex.

From deep in the depths of obscure archives we, at Roan Antelope Music, have unearthed and secured some priceless Rhodie comedy tracks. Thanks to sound engineer Neil Thain in the UK, archivist Dr. Andre Korkie and Johnny Haswell in South Africa, we have some rare material for our listeners. From John Edmond we have three 'live' comedy sound tracks from the 1978 Umtali Bless 'Em All Show. John Edmond in comedy never before on CD! From Wrex Tarr we have a most sought after track that was only released on a single before; "The Poachers Lament" and his hilarious "Radio Ranga" (which is not on Cream of Chilapalapa as there was not enough space). From Johnny Haswell, who at one time reached top comedy album seller in the 70's, there are eight side-splitting tracks on the adventures of Tickey Ndlovo.

What a scoop! If you enjoyed Cream of Chilalapa here is something that you will enjoy equally if not more! This time the accent is there, but no degree from the University of Zimbabwe in Chilalapa is needed to aid the humour.

Live Concert; by popular demand John Edmond will be doing a show at the When Weez Pub, Hartebeespoort Dam, on Saturday 26th February 2011. John will be performing the same routine that he did in Las Vegas for the Rhodesian's 30th Reunion. So come along and enjoy the music, good food and a chibuli! For bookings contact Rensia on 07 414 32684. A firm booking is essential. CDs will be on sale at the concert.

So folks, for the month of February, hot off the press, we are offering the "RTV Fun Channel" with John, Johnny & Wrex CD at a special launch price which includes packaging and postage as follows:
SA R135.00 UK £21.00 USA \$39.00 AUS \$45.00 NZ \$47

Roan Antelope Music:

Web site www.johnedmond.co.za E-mail: info@johnedmond.co.za Tel: +27 (0) 71 699 0362 Fax: +27(0) 86 273 5492 For bank details see web site or phone the Roan office.

Until next month, remember - laughter is the best medicine in the world.
The Roan Antelope Team

Kathy Pistorius Dunbar

If anyone knows how to contact Kathy Pistorius Dunbar who was a director of a company in Harare called Isandton Investments(Pvt) Ltd and is now believed to be working in security in Amanzimtoti please contact Hennie Schoeman on email barsonwheels@xtra.co.nz

Neville Clipston

Neville was originally from Umtali and was presumably the son of Maurice "Clippie" Clipston who was killed in a contact whilst with Maj. Buster Johnson and "F" Company 4RR. If you can help, please email Cedric van der Horn email vanderhornc@acolchem.co.zw and John Pile Jpile@cliprisk.co.za

The New Zealand Defence Service Medal

The Rhodesian Services Association has members all around the world, some of who I am aware are eligible for this medal.

The New Zealand Government announced on 11th October 2010 that it has established the New Zealand Defence Service Medal subject to the Queen's approval. The New Zealand Defence Service Medal recognises non-operational service since 3rd September 1945. About 160,000 people will be eligible for the medal which will be available to those who served in the NZ Forces for more than three years and those who did compulsory military training or national military service.

Cabinet has approved \$3.85 million for the medal's manufacture and distribution. This will be the largest medal issue project New Zealand has undertaken since 1950-1954 when the majority of the World War II medals were issued.

The initial call for applications (likely in February 2011) will be restricted to those aged 70 years and over, but after six to twelve months it will be opened up to all others. In cases where an ex-serviceman or woman is deceased, their family can apply for the medal.

For further information on eligibility etc. please visit <http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdsm/faqs.html>

New Year's Honour

Rhodesian raised and educated Rev. (Major) Alan Christopher Steele, serving as a Chaplain in the British Army, was awarded the Member of the British Empire (MBE) for notable service with 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in Afghanistan.

Well done Alan.

Rhodesian born author releases first book - Storm Clouds Over Africa

Douglas Cunningham was born in Umtali in 1943. In his early years, Doug spent much of his time hunting and exploring the wide open spaces of the African bushveld. Raised in a relatively poor family, he started hunting elephant at 16 years old and selling ivory from 18. Although now a passionate conservationist, he has a wealth of stories to share, some of which have made their way into this book. This is his first book. set in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. The story is about two boys, one a descendant of the proud ruling house of the Matabele, and the other, the son of a white settler, a pioneer.

They grow up in paradise on a farm in the rugged Matopos area of Matabeleland. Their friendship develops and they declare themselves blood brothers, vowing that nothing would ever separate them. Their friendship is moulded and forged in the crucible of innocence, but as time passes, the stones of prejudice and politics wear down their

vow. One friend joins the "freedom fighters", and the other enlists in the Rhodesian security forces. They are blood brothers no more.

For more information and to place an order go to www.douglascunningham.co.za

Buckles and Tees

Mike Vivier in Blenheim, New Zealand is a long standing member of the Association and a staunch supporter who has donated much over the years. Mike is running a business specialising in the sale of belt buckles and t-shirts. You can view his website at www.bucklesandtees.co.nz to see the amazing range of products that he has on offer. His stock covers all interests.

Mike is currently running a number of lines of Rhodesian related items. From all sales of Rhodesian related goods he makes a generous donation to the Rhodesian Services Assn.

Mike is selling various 'Advice To Every Terrorist!' products including t-shirts, braai aprons (pictured below) and coffee mugs. Mike is developing a Rhodesia Regiment belt buckle. The expected pricing of the belt buckle will be very affordable. I recommend that you take a look at his website and any developments on the Rhodesia Regiment belt buckle will be advertised in **Contact! Contact!** Mike is keen to know how many of you out there would be interested in the Rhodesia Regiment belt buckle so drop him a line at mike_joVivier@xtra.co.nz



Until next time - go well.
Cheers Hugh



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

*The concept of 'Rhodesia Day' was brought to my attention by Eddy Norris and family. During the 90 year life of Rhodesia we experienced the best of times and the worst of times. I encourage everyone to use this day to remember the good times and to spend time remembering those who are no longer with us.

You can make a donation to the Rhodesian Services Association by clicking on our 'Collection Hat' below which is a typical slouch hat of the type used by the Rhodesian Army up until the 1960's. Click on the hat (or this link https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MLMB2B8Y2UY3G) 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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