



Contact! Contact!

April 2012

A monthly sitrep for the

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

Registered under the 2005 Charities Act in New Zealand number CC25203

Registered as an Incorporated Society in New Zealand number 2055431

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

Greetings,

Something that has been grinding my gears this month has been initiated by 'internet chatter' concerning frauds and criminals linked to our extended community. One of Rhodesia's notorious thieves, Aiden Diggeden, has been the topic of some emails recently. Why anyone wants to build this criminal into some sort of 'legend' beggars belief, when Rhodesia was so well endowed with brave people who made honest livings. While Diggeden obviously had athletic ability and cunning above average, it must be remembered that he was just a thief who wasted a lot of Police time and resources. It also appears that he got a free flight to England and the potential to start a new life in 1978 (where he reverted to kind and continued with his criminal habits, it is understood) while the rest of us who moved to new countries had to pay our own way and start again, the hard way.

Through this publication we endeavour to convey information every month about people who I regard as true Rhodesians. It is unfortunate that there is also the need to illuminate the undesirables from time to time as well. Just as Diggeden stole from his victims, so other people defraud people by parading themselves in regalia and medals that they have no rights to. Over the years a number of people have been exposed. In 2007 a man who uses the name 'Doug Steyn' was exposed as fraudulently wearing Rhodesian SAS regalia. He had been a regular attendee at the Sydney ANZAC Day parades prior to this, passing himself off as SAS. Steyn's downfall was, in most part, due to the huge networking ability and speed of communications opened up by the internet. Steyn is a South African who had not served in the Rhodesian Security Forces.

Other frauds use the anonymity afforded by the internet to boost their egos by befriending people and feeding them loads of lies about their alleged time in Rhodesia. It is far too easy to create a background on the internet and, if found out, to disappear and re-emerge elsewhere these days.

Why do they do it? Who knows, but what I do know is that everyone who carries out their lives to the best of their ability in an open and honest manner should be given more recognition than the lowlifes described above.

Rhodesia had a phenomenal number of people who should be held in high regard; our decorated war heroes, sports men and women, community leaders, local characters, and so the list goes on and on. They were the stuff of which our country was made and I will end with the mention of an unknown Rhodesian teenage female described in a New Zealand soldier's diary, written at the time of his service in Zimbabwe Rhodesia as part of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force. We take up the story where he describes landing at Lupane in a C130 Hercules on the 27th December 1979:

“Approaching Lupane we were forewarned to strap in tightly, as everything would be needed to stop our plane on the short airstrip.

Landed safely, quickly disembarked and moved into all round defence, the grunts that is.

A crowd (mixed) of about one hundred or so were at the airstrip. A white girl twelve to fifteen years old was wearing a holster complete with weapon. Still weren't really sure what was in store for us”.

I don't know who this girl was, and it would be interesting to find who she was, for in reading this soldier's diary and what he saw, typifies the bold, pioneer spirit for which our people should be remembered and I would bet that this girl would have been able to put to effective use that 'holstered weapon', just as had other civilian teenagers like Jamie Scott (see Gerry van Tonder's column below for details of Jamie's gallantry) and Derrick Hattingh in protection of their families and themselves.

Post Script: Since writing this editorial it has been suggested to me that this girl may have been the daughter of the local DC whose name was 'Tiny' Potgeiter. Perhaps someone knows?

Rhodesian Services Association Purpose & Web Links

The Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated is an Incorporated Society as well as a Registered Charity under the New Zealand Charities Act 2005. The purpose of the Association is to provide benefit and education to the community. For detail and disclosure please refer to the opening page of our website www.rhodesianservices.org

We also have a Facebook group which you are welcome to join. We have loaded up a lot of photographs from various events, as well as others from our museum displays. We have found that Facebook is another platform assisting our purpose of preserving Rhodesian history. If you want to find us, search for Rhodesian Services Association on Facebook.

Please use these links on our website www.rhodesianservices.org for the following resources:

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

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

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

Obituaries

The Rhodesian Services Association holds a large Rhodesian flag for use at funerals. Please contact me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to arrange delivery if required.



Graham McDonald died in Arizona, USA on 6th February 2012. Our condolences go to his wife Anne, daughter Katherine and son Andrew. Graham served in PATU and was well respected in Rhodesia and in his new country, the USA.

Off The Radar

Some recipients may find that their copy of **Contact! Contact!** gets rejected by their Internet Service Provider or it is consigned to their Spam Bin. When this happens I find it extremely frustrating as I (along with others) have put the time and effort into producing a quality publication that we work hard for and are justifiably proud of, only to find that it is not reaching the intended destinations. More time is then spent trying to rectify things. In a lot of cases it is work addresses that are a problem.

We want this publication to reach as many people as possible, so if you are able to, please check your systems or have your technical people check and ensure that these addresses below are cleared as friendly or white listed:

theseecretary@rhodesianservices.org

theeditor@rhodesianservices.org

thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org

hbomford@clear.net.nz

Please also check with your friends and if someone is not getting **Contact! Contact!** help them to sort the problem out. Providing us with a private email address, such as Gmail, is sometimes the best solution.

The following subscriber's addresses have gone dead. If you are in contact with them please have them contact me or relist from the link on this page <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.php>

- **Rob MacDonald** – Mauritius
- **Peter Steiniger** – USA
- **Charles Miriel** - Spain

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

Craig Bone Original Auction

This auction is set to finish (NZ time and day) at midnight on the 30th April.

While this auction is run on the net it is not on eBay and your Editor come Webmaster is the person assigned to the task of running it. All updates and outgoing emails are done manually which take a little time to effect so as a consequence, yours truly will be on hand to run things. If there is a flurry of bidding right on the finish time I will extend bidding to ensure all is accounted for.

This extension will only be for ten minutes after the last registered bid. So, if you are bidding or intend to bid please ensure that you get yourself sorted out and know what time and day it is in NZ.

At the time of writing the bidding has reached US\$25,000. This is well short of our reserve.

The reserve is confidential and as stated in our rules this Association reserves the right to negotiate with the highest bidders if the reserve is not reached.

This painting has been valued and we have based our reserve on this.

If the reserve is met shipping and insurance will be paid for by this Association.

Craig Bone, kindly donated this magnificent painting in order to help raise funds for the Association's museum projects. The painting which features a Fish Eagle is framed in solid oak, and measures 1730mm x 1060mm (approx. 68 inches x 42inches).



Please go on line to <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/craig-bone-painting-auction.php> to view more details.

ANZAC Day 25th April 2012

Rhodesians will be parading in New Zealand, Australia and some Pacific Islands once again in a few weeks time. It has become an adopted tradition for Rhodesians to join the Kiwis and Aussies on ANZAC Day.

There is a list of contact people and venues listed on our website at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/events.htm>

I have been asked by a couple of 'lone rangers' in New Zealand to see if there is anyone in their area they can link up with:

- Waikari (North Canterbury) - email Geoff Weller gff.weller@gmail.com
- Carterton (Wairarapa) - email Dave McIntosh dave.mcintosh@actionmeetings.com

I have also been asked by Allan Campbell to push people in Melbourne to get along to their parade as numbers have dwindled over the years. Contact Allan on al-cam@bigpond.net.au or mobile 0419 393 328

Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings Everyone

As I write this the last day of the third test between the Proteas and the Black Caps has ended in a rain affected tame draw. The weather saved the Kiwis from what would have been another comprehensive loss in this much anticipated series. After going one/nil up in the first 20-20 match the Kiwis have been soundly beaten by an all-round better team. This puts into perspective the Kiwis win over Zimbabwe and brought me back to how poor Zimbabwe were on their tour here in January.

I recently was looking through some Mashonaland Country District Cricketing Annuals from 1975 and '76. Straight away the thing that struck me was how well organised everything was and how every cent was accounted for. Having played a little bit of Lilthurbridge Cup cricket for Mvurwi, it certainly brought back some happy memories for me. Many a winter Sunday morning (after a late Saturday night after the club rugby match the day before) was spent picking up a couple of mates and trekking off to some far corner of the Mashonaland farming districts for a game of cricket. This was the same for every rural club in Mashonaland and if one had flown over these areas you would have been sure to find two teams playing the age old English game of cricket. The cricket was played to a high standard and the fact that it was played in winter meant that you were almost guaranteed sunny clear skies. Lovely home baked tea and cake were always supplied by the home team, as well as a fine lunch, and after the game was always celebrated with a few speeches and a social gathering that sometimes went quite late into a Sunday evening. Many lifelong friendships were made and great was the laughter and banter that went hand in hand with it all. I am sure the ghostly echoes still reverberate around the long since abandoned shells that used to be our clubs. The stories those walls could tell would fill a book and what a fantastic book that would be. We certainly came from tight knit communities with wonderful spirit and our memories of this will never fade.

In the 1975 Annual there is a 'Flashback to the Past' and seeing that it involves my home team of Umvukwes I am going to include some snippets here:

Lilthurbridge Cup Final 1955 Umvukwes vs Hartley (by Teddy Bridges)

Hartley start well.

The Umvukwes ground looked at its best for the occasion and the outfield has improved tremendously over the last year and a reasonably large crowd saw Bourdillon and Bentley go out to bat for the home team after Len Brown, the Umvukwes skipper had won the toss. Connie Heyns opened the Hartley attack and immediately bowled Bentley. At sixteen he bowled Bourdillon and at the same score Hector McDonald was dismissed by his Hartley namesake. With the total still only on thirty five, two more wickets had fallen with Heath and Colin Bray both back in the pavilion.

Umvukwes make a partial recovery.

Len Brown came in and with Pat Fallon twenty more runs were added and the procession was halted for a while. Heyns however was not finished and dismissed Fallon with a beautiful ball that swung late from leg and removed his off stump. Jellicoe and Micklem stayed there while Brown scored fast and well with strokes all around the wicket, but Umvukwes still had only 104 runs when the last man came in. Len Brown decided to monopolise the strike and kept his partner Peall away from the bowling while forty two runs were added.

Hartley reply.

The Umvukwes total of 146 did not seem beyond the capabilities of the visitors, but they too made a disastrous start and were soon four wickets down for twenty five. Cross and Parker's resistance took the score to sixty four. When Parker was out Courtney, playing an effective if unorthodox style, settled down to play with determination, but wickets now began to fall rapidly.

Brown finishes off the tail.

Hartley had, alas, not yet finished with Len Brown and in quick succession he dismissed two more batsmen. When the last man came in twenty five more runs were needed, but the gap was too big and Hartley were not quite good enough. This was Len Brown's match, seventy runs undefeated with the bat and 6 wickets for 54 with the ball in an unchanged spell of bowling. It was a fine sporting match. Carol Heurtley presented the Cup at the end of play and the evening closed with a pleasant social gathering in the clubhouse.

As you can see, not a lot changed until the year 2000. Now, not one of those teams still exists and all that is left for us are these pleasant memories we were once privileged to experience.

Please send me any of your recollections or anecdotes of any sport that you were involved in to fourstreams@xtra.co.nz I also appreciate your feedback.

'Till next month go well.

Regards
Grunter



Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980 by Gerry van Tonder



April

Newsflash Headlines+++On 10 April 1896, five members of the Rhodesia Horse Volunteers are killed by Matabele rebels while on patrol in the Gwanda area +++ On 1 April 1905, the two opposite sections of the Victoria Falls Bridge are finally linked together +++ On 28 April 1942, Minister of Finance, Max Danziger, announces that half of the country's budget will go towards war expenditure +++ On 7 April 1947, King George VI, the Queen, and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret arrive in Salisbury at the start of an official visit +++ On 13 April 1964, Ian Smith takes over from Winston Field as Prime Minister of Rhodesia, becoming the first PM to be born in the country +++ On 16 April 1970, the Acting Chief Justice, Mr Justice Macdonald, swears in Mr Clifford Dupont as Rhodesia's first President +++ On 4 April 1972, Game Warden Len Harvey is killed and three others mauled in Wankie when a lioness entered their hut through a window +++ On 15 April 1977, the Ministry of Manpower and Social Affairs starts a re-registration exercise of uncommitted men in the 38-50 age group +++ On 13 April 1974, one hundred detainees are released from Wha Wha as the transitional Executive Council lifts restrictions and detentions on political prisoners +++

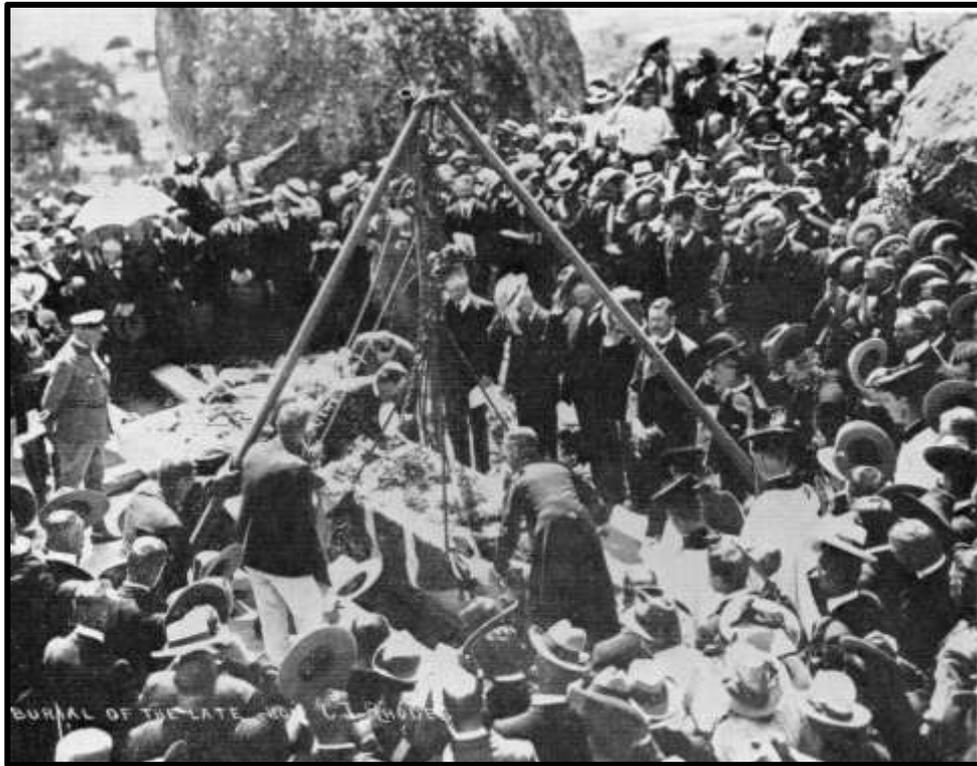
In Brief

On Monday 7 April 1947, Bulawayo schoolgirl Moira Derby presented Princess Elizabeth with a brooch from the schoolchildren of the Colony of Southern Rhodesia. At an informal ceremony at Government House attended by six children representing the different races in the country, the future monarch accepted the gift of a platinum Flame Lily encrusted with diamonds. The brooch, designed by Mr HG Bell, cost £600 to make. The Princess, turning to Lady Kennedy who was the only one to accompany her to the presentation, exclaimed, "Isn't it a lovely brooch." Queen Elizabeth was seen wearing it as recently as December 2011 during her annual Christmas message on television.



Flame Lily Brooch

On Thursday 10 April 1902, Cecil John Rhodes' body is interred in the Matopos Hills near Bulawayo. A train carrying his body, contained in a series of four coffins, passed through a Transvaal Republic still plagued by Boer guerrilla operations, and through Bechuanaland, arriving in Bulawayo on 8 April.



Hats are removed as Rhodes' coffin is lowered into its final resting place in the Matopos

The service, conducted by Bishop Gaul of Mashonaland, was attended by Frank and Arthur Rhodes and Dr Leander Jameson. The BSA Company flag and three faded wreaths, from the Queen, "Brothers and Sisters" and from Jameson, remained on the coffin as it was lowered into a hole cut in the solid granite hill.

On 28 April 1966, the "Battle of Sinoia" took place on Noel Matthews' 10,500 acre maize and cattle Hunyani Farm. Seven terrorists, who had infiltrated the country from Zambia, were heading for Salisbury when they encountered a group of forty regulars and reservists of the BSAP, intent on foiling their plans. In running skirmishes, the Police, led by Chief Superintendent John Cannon, accounted for all seven terrorists, using a miscellany of firearms including SLR rifles, WWII vintage Sten guns and .303 rifles. Assistance had been given by four Air Force helicopters in the search for the gang, and it was the impatience of one insurgent who took a shot at one of the Alouettes, flown by Flight Lieutenant Peter Petter-Bowyer, that compromised the terrorists' position. Sgt. George Carmichael, firing a crudely mounted MAG from pilot Murray Hofmeyr's chopper, claimed the Air Force's first kill of the war. Criticism would however be levelled for using 176 rounds to achieve this!



.303 SMLE (Short Magazine Lee Enfield) Rifle. Illustration by Dudley Wall

The Augsburg Raid 17 April 1942

On 17 April 1942, six Lancaster bombers of 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron took off from their base at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire, England. Joined by a further six bombers from 97 Squadron at RAF Woodhall Spa, their target would be the MAN marine diesel engine factory in Augsburg, Germany, 1000 miles away.

At just after 15:00 hours, the Lancasters, flying in formations or Vic's of three, led by Squadron Leader John Nettleton in R5508 'B', roared low over the English countryside in a southerly direction towards the rendezvous point at Selsey Bill on the West Sussex coast. The aircraft dropped to fifty feet as they skimmed the waves of the English Channel towards the French coast. As a diversionary tactic to keep their way clear of enemy interference, thirty Boston bombers, accompanied by hundreds of fighters, struck at enemy installations further north in the Cherbourg area.

For the first part of their flight at low-level over occupied France, Nettleton's formations, now some distance ahead of those of 97 Squadron, seemed to avoid detection by German ground defences and fighter aircraft. However, the very audacity with which the raid was being conducted in broad daylight would very quickly compromise the presence of the heavily-laden English bombers. As the 44 Squadron aircraft navigated around the edge of a German airfield at

Beaumont le Roger, they were spotted by German fighters returning from engaging the diversionary RAF aircraft at Cherbourg.



Map by Dudley Wall

Messerschmitt 109s and Focke-Wulf 190s of II Gruppe/Jagdgeschwader 2 Richthoffen immediately set upon the vulnerable bombers, with inevitable and disastrous consequences. In quick succession, the second formation of three succumbed to the German fighter onslaught. Crum's Lancaster, falling victim to Unteroffizier Pohl's Me-109, became the German squadron's 1000th claimed kill of the war. The whole crew survived the crash, including Rhodesian WO Albert Dedman. They all spent the rest of the war as POWs.

The fighters, now joined by 100-victory ace Oesau, turned their attentions to the remaining formation of three Lancasters. Using his cannon and guns, Oesau let loose a close-range and devastating hail of fire on Rhodes' bomber. With both port engines ablaze and the fire rapidly spreading to the starboard ones, the stricken bomber suddenly stalled and nose-dived towards the ground, just missing the remaining two Lancasters of Nettleton and Garwell. At this stage, lack of fuel forced the German fighters to break off their attack, leaving the two damaged Lancasters to limp on towards Augsburg.

Finally reaching their target, the two bombers released their payloads of four 1000 pound GP high-explosive bombs each. As they began their run-out, however, Garwell's aircraft was hit by heavy ground fire, causing him to crash-land the bomber, saving the lives of most of his crew, including Rhodesian WO Laurence Dando. The approaching darkness provided Nettleton with welcome cover as he struggled to get himself and his crew safely home to England. At one o'clock the following morning, Nettleton landed his aircraft at Squire's Gate aerodrome near Blackpool. He telephoned Waddington to say that he had returned, only to receive the devastating news that he was the only one from 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron to do so.

AUGSBURG RAID 17TH APRIL 1942 - 44 RHODESIA SQUADRON RAF



Illustration by Dudley Wall

The six Lancasters of 97 Squadron fared little better, as two were hit on the run-in. Of the twelve Lancasters that set off from England on this raid, only five would return. Of the 85 pilots and crew, 49 were missing.

414452 Squadron Leader John Dering Nettleton, born in Natal, South Africa, was awarded the Victoria Cross for displaying "...unflinching determination as well as leadership and valour of the highest order."

80207 Pilot Officer Patrick Arthur Dorehill of Ft Victoria was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and 777675 Sergeant Donald Norman Huntley of Salisbury and 778173 WO Laurence Dando the Distinguished Flying Medal, for displaying "courage, fortitude and skill of the highest order."



VC, DFC and DFM awarded for actions during the Augsburg Raid

Fellow Rhodesian crewmen Sergeant Pilot Albert Dedman and Sergeant Laurence Dando survived their aircraft crashes and were taken prisoner by the Germans.

The Rhodesians who paid the ultimate price on this fateful raid were Pilot Officer Haworth Peall, Sergeant Pilot Brian Moss and Sergeant Wireless Operator/Air Gunner Peter Venter. All three are buried in the Beaumont le Roger Communal Cemetery, France.



Sqn. Ldr. John Nettleton and crew

Nettleton was killed in action on 13 July 1943 when his Lancaster, KM-Z was shot down over the Bay of Biscay. His body and those of his crew were never recovered. Huntley would be killed in action just a few months after the Augsburg Raid on 14 September 1942 over Bremen, Germany. He is buried in Epe General Cemetery in the Netherlands.

Above and Beyond

On 20 April 1979, the Conspicuous Gallantry Decoration, (C.G.D.) for acts of the highest gallantry and brave conduct of an outstanding order in a non-combatant capacity, was awarded to Jamie Scott, a fifteen year old school-boy at Churchill High School, Salisbury. He was only the second person ever to receive the award.



**The Conspicuous Gallantry Decoration (C.G.D.)
The highest civilian award for gallantry in Rhodesia**

In February 1979 Jamie and his friend, Pieter Visser, were riding a motorbike in the Beatrice area when they saw a group of terrorists. The terrorists fired and hit Jamie twice as the school-boy fired his rifle back at them. Jamie was hit a third time and he dived to take cover with his injured friend. Then his rifle jammed. He managed to clear his rifle just as three terrorists advanced on them thinking they were dead or had run out of ammunition. As they approached Jamie jumped up and ran towards the 'terrs' firing at them at the same time. Although he was shot again he carried on until the terrorists withdrew. Only when the terrorists had gone and help had arrived did Jamie collapse. The bullets had hit him in the back, the thigh, the calf and heel; a fifth bullet had grazed his chest.'

He sold his medal in 1986 to raise money for the payment of medical expenses.

A Snapshot in Time

Thank you for a great response to last month's Snapshot, "At the Charge".

As correctly interpreted by District Officer Ken Tuckey's mom, Jean, it is a striking shot (one of a series of official Ministry of Information photographs) of elements of the Internal Affairs Mt. Darwin Horse Troop, also sometimes called Latham's Horse, after the then District Commissioner, Jim Latham. This would have been in the mid-1970s.

Jean comments..."*thank you for that lovely photograph of my son charging through the bush with his Intaf aides and his fox terrier bitch Pippy - when she got tired she would leap up and balance behind Ken...*"

Hugh Bomford comments..."*I had two foxies - brilliant dogs and I could write all day about them - Snap and Shumba. Hunters of note they would tackle anything from an elephant down.*"

Ex Brown Boot Paul Garnett used his CID-type skills to..."*see two of the mounties are brandishing what look like Browning 9mm hand guns - which could mean Police ops...number two has traditional cavalry stirrup positioning even at that pace, which leads me to suspect Morris Depot equitation squad...the white ouen (second from left) I note that he was in desperate need of a haircut and, on that basis alone, I am compelled to suggest that they are from BSAP Support Unit - Mounted Troop.*"

I will leave his last comment up to all the bunny-huggers amongst you to debate over, as Paul claims to "...recognise the 'Full-Gallop Foxie' as being a reject from the Police Dog Section selection trials."

Ken Tuckey has also made contact, the first time we have communicated since Mt. Darwin in 1976. Ken was the founder commander of the horse troop, serving for three years in this position.

This month's Snapshot in Time was taken at what appears to be a "Beard of the Month" photo-shoot, using some unusual props. All your comments, preferably polite, and suggestions as to the time and place may be submitted to this columnist at g.van-tonder@sky.com or the Editor please.



Alan Bryant Update

Alan Bryant continues to do us all proud with the excellent work he is doing in Bulawayo renovating the graves of fallen Rhodesians. He recently came across four Rhodesian military graves which, as can be seen from adjacent ones, were badly neglected. Now, with grass and weeds removed, fresh gravel and polished military headstones, these stand as a renewed reminder that we cannot afford to forget those of our number who paid with their lives.

From the furthest to the nearest, lie Sgt V Stuhardt of the Protection Company, RDR; Pte T McLeod of 3RHU; C/Sgt D Miller of 1RHU; and Cpl C Potgieter of 6RR.

We all thank you Alan for your dedication in this regard.



Brothers in arms together at rest. (Photo by Alan Bryant)

At the Going Down of the Sun

On the night of 29 April 1975, near Mukumbura in the Mt. Darwin District, a patrol of Selous Scouts based up for the night, going to sleep in a head to toe straight line, typical of the method used by terrorists for greater safety at night. The sentry that night was a turned or 'tame' ZANLA insurgent now operating with this Special Forces unit. During the night, however, he reverted to his guerrilla cause, shooting and killing five of those lined up in their sleep. Three were Selous Scouts, and two from the BSAP's Special Branch on attachment.

We remember...

-  645102 Cpl. Fanwell Muchenje
-  644830 Tpr. Edward Musafare
-  645182 Tpr. Israel Pakayi
-  19294 Cst. Maxwell Muchichwa
-  20916 Cst. Francis Zaranyika



Illustration by Dudley Wall

Who is Dudley Wall?

By now many of you will have become familiar with the excellent graphics that Dudley Wall supplies on a regular basis. The map and 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron montage, and the soldier silhouette picture above are all examples in this month's column from the talented 'pen' of Dudley. He also does work for other projects and causes, all willingly and freely, giving abundantly of his time to respond to various requests directed at him.

An old Umtali Boys High pupil, Dudley served with Internal Affairs, rising to the rank of Senior District Officer in charge of the 'B' Troop (Mashonaland East) ARU, an in-house combat unit. His anti-terrorist activities during this time, including surviving three landmine blasts in Land Rovers, earned Dudley the Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) in 1979. He is also the recipient of the Ministry's Commendation, an Oliphant worn on his RGSM.

Just before Zimbabwe independence, Dudley joined the SADF, serving in various Recce units until his retirement in 2006 as a full Colonel, having been awarded the South African Meritorious Medal.

Immigrating to the UK, he now lectures at a Further Education College on various subjects pertaining to the Uniformed Public Services, and on occasion has been seen leopard-crawling during military exercises on Salisbury Plain!

Dudley also maintains a website on Intaf which can be found at <http://www.freewebs.com/dudleywall/>

He has published three books on military insignia entitled "Insignia and History of the Armed Forces of Rhodesia 1890 - 1980" and "Starting Out Collecting South African Militaria". He has one of the largest private collections of Rhodesia militaria, hence his authority on the subject. He has also contributed to several publications on various military matters including strategy and tactics. He is currently my co-author on a book about Intaf's role during the Bush War.



Col. Dudley Wall MSM, MMM

One of the last true gentlemen, quiet and unassuming, and preferring to stay out of the limelight, Dudley we thank you for all your tremendous input into so many facets of our on-going service for Rhodesia. An historian, researcher, collector, author, linguist and artistic designer of note.

Editor's Note:

Dudley Wall has been incredibly helpful to this Association on many occasions. His on-going work in relation to the Rhodesia Regiment book is also much appreciated and valued.

Across the Globe

- On 14 April 1912, the RMS Titanic sinks after hitting an iceberg
- On 17 April 1961, US-backed Cuban rebels invade the Bay of Pigs on the south coast of Cuba
- On 11 April 1979, the Ugandan dictator Idi Amin is deposed

And.....

Three Rivers is a small town (pop 2182) in Tulare County, California, USA, with topography similar to that of Rhodesia's kopje-dotted countryside. The Burnham and Blick families started a large cattle ranch there, building homes that grew into the town of today. So?

These are people whose lives are interwoven in the fabric of Rhodesia's pioneering history!

- Fred Burnham: Saw active service as a scout in the Matabele War- where he was one of only three of the Shangani Patrol to escape with their lives- the Matabele Rebellion and the Boer War. He is recognised as the father of the international scouting movement, having provided Baden-Powell with the inspiration to take on the banner. His wife Blanche lived in Africa through the two Matabele conflicts. Their son Roderick lived in Africa from 1893 to 1897, later going on to serve in WWI.
- John Blick: Served in the Matabele Rebellion, being amongst those who bravely fought off the Matabele's final attempt at taking Bulawayo.
- Judd Blick: Fought in the Matabele Rebellion.
- Pete Mills: Served alongside Fred Burnham as a scout during the two Matabele conflicts. He was also one of only three to escape the Shangani massacre. His wife was Grace Blick, a member of this same family.
- Horner Blick: Fought in the Matabele War.
- James Blick: Patriarch of the Blick clan, fought in the Matabele Rebellion.

Editor's Note – I know of Blinks in Perth, Australia, it would be interesting to know if there is any relationship with these American Blinks.

As Gentle as a Fairy's Kiss by Mitch Stirling

Memories of Vickers Viscounts are deeply etched in the Rhodesian psyche. They played a very important role in the history of our 'land of lost content'. If you lived in Salisbury and listened carefully you could even set your clock to the distinctive high-pitched whine of the four Rolls Royce Dart engines as RH828 turned left off runway 06 and headed out across the city to Kariba, Wankie and Victoria Falls. Black or white, big or small, young or old, you loved the Viscounts - those elegant, graceful old birds. But, like any great love story, there was heartache as well.

We lost our first Viscount in a part of the world that is making history today - Libya. That was a long time ago, and young folk today wouldn't even know this piece of their history. Though older folk, the 'madalas', may remember the shocking news on that fateful night of August 1958 when Captain Cyril Sindall was the commander of Viscount VP-YNE (Mpika) on a normal, scheduled Zambezi service to London. On a night approach in good weather into Benina airport, near Benghazi, the aircraft hit high ground approximately five miles short of the runway and broke up. Miraculously fifteen passengers and three crew members survived the crash; tragically thirty two were killed. Captain Sindall was a highly respected war-time pilot (Course Number 3 Southern Rhodesia Air Unit) and with him was a very experienced crew who had flown the route Entebbe-Khartoum-Wadi Halfa-Benina many times. But something went terribly wrong that night after they were cleared for a standard instrument approach onto runway 33 Right. The accident investigation revealed no aircraft malfunction and said it was a 'controlled flight into terrain' - a very cold, dispassionate conclusion. A contributory factor may have been an incorrect altimeter setting. All very clinical. But there will always remain the unknown, that 'human factor', in such tragedies so we will never really know what happened on that dark, desert night. One of the survivors was Bill Mann who was sitting in the back as a passenger positioning to London. Bill was later to become a well-known Air Rhodesia/Air Zimbabwe captain. And a wrist watch belonging to my old friend Ralph Ward (radio operator CAA) was recovered from the wreck. It was on its way to London for repair. Ralph was still wearing it when he died in Harare a few years ago. Sadly Clifford du Pont lost his children in the crash. I can't remember any other fatal accident involving a Viscount in all the days they operated for CAA and its descendants - Air Rhodesia and Air Zimbabwe. Except the loss of Hunyani and Umniati, of course, and that was certainly no accident. It was the greatest tragedy of all, and those responsible will remember it, in purgatory, forever.

Much has been written about our Viscounts; they have been eulogized by others far more qualified than I. Here are a few interesting facts about them that some may not know and others may have forgotten. The Viscount was the first successful airliner powered by turbine engines in the world and it heralded a new era in quiet, comfortable air travel. 'You could balance a coin on its edge during flight.' VP-YNA was the first of 'our' Viscounts, brand spanking new off the production line in Hurn, England. Named Malvern it was our flag ship and arrived at Salisbury's new International Airport on 25th April 1956 decked out in silver, dark blue and white and crewed by Rob Orbell, Bob Nash, Bob Hodgson and Jock Elphinstone. CAA, Air Rhodesia and later Air Zimbabwe operated a total of 14 Viscounts some of which came from other carriers before their arrival in Central Africa. VP-YND (Umniati) visited Russia before delivery and was the first prop jet aircraft to enter the Soviet Union. VP-WAS (Hunyani) was operated by the government of Iran before delivery. Others were operated by Middle East Airlines (MEA), one by Trans Australian, the Union of Burma, Jordanian Airways and Jersey Airline.



Rhodesia's first Viscount VP-YNA
Photo courtesy of the Gwelo Museum

After the break-up of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland an ingenious name-change was devised to allow an aircraft to quickly change identity and operate CAA, Air Malawi and Zambia Airways schedules all on the same day.

Millions of people travelled on the Viscounts - many of them famous celebrities, prime ministers, presidents, and monarchs. The Queen mum was a favourite. One aircraft VP-YNB (Shangani) had over 50 000 hours in her log book and over 25 000 landings. Her engines were changed over 130 times. Over the years 'our' Viscounts were modified, upgraded, panel beaten, re-sprayed, hired out, re-sold and even belly-landed. One notable incident occurred at Salisbury with Senior Training Captain Ray Sherwood and Capt Cliff Venter at the controls during a routine training flight. The starboard undercarriage would not extend. And after trying all the usual tricks, unsuccessfully, to release the wheels the decision was made by the captain to land on the port main and nose wheels. Not on the grass verge, as some people may have thought, but on the hard, black top runway. Apparently the risk of somersaulting on soft grass is very high. The pilots did all the right things and it was a text-book display of precision flying and good crew coordination and, apart from two buckled propellers on the starboard engines, there was very little damage. The Herald reported the next day that the landing was 'as gentle as a fairy's kiss'. Air Rhodesia was the only airline outside the UK where engineers were registered to overhaul Rolls Royce Dart engines and so the aircraft was in the air again and back in service within a short period of time.



This was typical of the resilience and resourcefulness of all Rhodesians. Despite all the political problems and hurtful economic sanctions imposed by the British government of the day Air Rhodesia survived and made a profit in every year of its short twelve years of existence. This can be attributed, mostly, to a wonderful aeroplane which helped us survive all the troubles and misfortunes of the times.

What's On In New Zealand

AUCKLAND

If you reside in the Auckland area please email Wolf and Alison Hucke at whucke@slingshot.co.nz for more details of the monthly social meetings generally based around the Hobsonville RSA. All are most welcome.

No planned social in April as we look forward to seeing everyone on ANZAC Day on 25th April at Hobsonville.

TAURANGA

The Garrison Club which is run by the 6th Battalion Hauraki Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. 'Graze and Movie Evenings' run by members of the Rhodesian Services Assn. are normally 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. Other local events are also advertised via email. The next Movie and Graze evening is 13th April 2012.

ANZAC Day Wednesday 25th April 2012

The Rhodesian Services Association gathers at the Hobsonville RSA, Auckland in force. Please be at the RSA by 9am. After the parade we hold our own service and then socialise in the RSA. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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. It has become a tradition to wear berets as well for those who have them. Medals worn 'in memorial' go on the right chest, awarded medals on the left chest. Full size medals are the correct order (miniatures are only for wearing with mess kit or dinner jacket)

Assembly begins after 9am at the Hobsonville RSA on Hobsonville Road. March off from the Hobsonville Primary School is around 9:45am

Steve Geach BCR will be laying the wreath for us this year. Steve did his National Service in Intake 150 with the RLI. Steve was serving as a Rifleman with the 5th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment on the 21st April 1979 when he displayed courage of the highest order and saved two men's lives for which he was later awarded the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia.

After the service we will be taking a collection so look out for our Rhodesian slouch hat.



CQ Store

Visit www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm to see what is in store for you. Please give our CQ Store consideration when buying a present for friends or family. Profits from the sale of these items go towards the Museum Fund.

All prices are in NZ\$ and do not include postage.

To order:

Email thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org with your requirements. We will get it weighed and priced and get back to you with a total.

Payment

NZ customers can pay by direct deposit with bank details being supplied on request

Overseas customers - we prefer payment by PayPal, personal or bank cheque. We can accept personal cheques from most countries with the exception of South Africa. If you elect payment by PayPal, we will bill you from

thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org Please note that we can only process credit cards via PayPal. We do not accept postal orders or Western Union transfers. Rest assured, if you want to make a purchase we will make a plan to enable you to pay!



[Clothing](#) - shirts, jackets, caps, beanies, aprons, and regimental ties.



[Berets & Badges](#) – most Rhodesian units available.



[Medals & Ribbons](#) – an extensive range available.



[Posters & Maps](#) – high quality reproductions.



[DVDs & Phone tones](#) – historical footage, unique cell phone tones.



[Other goods](#) - flags, bumper stickers, lighters, and more, as well as quality products direct from our contributing supporters.

Here are this month's recommendations from our huge range of products:

[Name Badges](#) – pictured below is our current range of badges that we have available. We will produce others on request. Price is NZ\$15 plus postage.

We acknowledge Dudley Wall's input with drawing the badges for us to use.



The badge looks like this below. It is 80mm x 30mm and has a safety pin fastener on the back



[Remembrance Poppy](#) – we have produced two designs as illustrated below in order to supply to those people who want to wear a Remembrance Poppy as a mark of respect on special days, not necessarily the nationally marked days of Armistice and ANZAC. We are also aware that some countries where Rhodesians are now living do not have any Remembrance Poppies available anyway.

The Lion & Tusk design is obviously aimed at the Rhodesian market. The Kiwi design is in response to the increasing number of New Zealanders who have become associated with our Association as well as our intention to produce a better item than that which we see for sale in shops here.

We have deliberately kept our designs completely different to anything on the market or currently used by veteran's welfare groups. Our statement on each label is as follows:

"The Rhodesian Services Association is a Registered Charity under the New Zealand Charities Act 2005. Registration number is CC25203.

This Remembrance Poppy is not designed to replace poppies sold for the welfare of veterans. This poppy can be worn on any occasion to commemorate those who are no longer with us.

Profits from this sale are directed towards the development of museum displays and preservation of historic items."

Each one comes with a small label card in which you can write an inscription if you are going to be giving it to someone.

Price is NZ\$10 each plus postage.

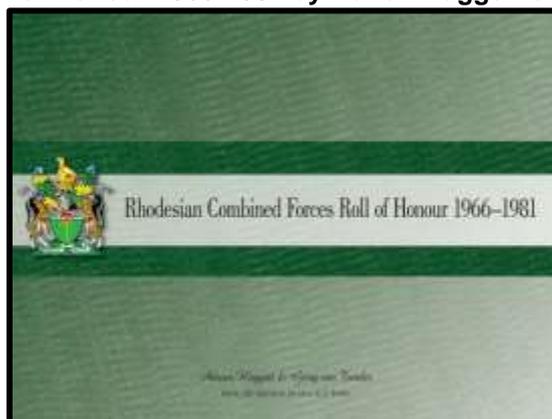


Books for Africa

I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm These sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, the Association does benefit indirectly from these sales. A great selection of books, many with a Rhodesian connection, can be found on the link above. All prices are in NZ\$ and do not include postage.

This month's recommended buy:

Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour 1966-1981 by Adrian Haggett & Gerry van Tonder



Quite literally, no book on Rhodesia has ever been written that contains more details of gallantry and sacrifice than this book. This book is not just a list of names and dates; it is eminently readable on account of the well-researched personal information on many of these Rhodesians who died serving their country. The way that this book has been compiled and produced is a credit to all concerned.

Price NZ\$70 plus postage.



The Rhodesia Regiment Book Project



This project is on the path to publication but there is a lot of work still to do to finish off the illustration cataloguing, editing of the text and completing various rolls. Publication will be in 2013.

We require information on the following:

- ❖ National Service Intake numbers, dates and details – please email Gerry van Tonder at g.van-tonder@sky.com with details. See the list below of intakes that we have no information on.
- ❖ We have some conflicting information relating to Intakes 120 to 125. Please can anyone from those intakes, who has not already contacted Gerry van Tonder do so urgently on email g.van-tonder@sky.com
- ❖ Leadership details – CO, 2I/C and RSM of all Battalions; OC, 2I/C and CSM of all Independent Companies up to 1978 - please email Gerry van Tonder at g.van-tonder@sky.com with details.
- ❖ We require someone skilled on Google Earth to extract and mark some maps for us. Please email hbomford@clear.net.nz if you have the time (labour of love) and skill.
- ❖ We require information on the 1 RR and 2 RR pipe bands. A principal question is what tartan they wore. Please email hbomford@clear.net.nz
- ❖ We require photos and details of rifle grenades and hand grenades used in the 1970's. Email hbomford@clear.net.nz

Details required for the following intakes:

18	38	62	100
20	40	63	101
21	44	67	103
22	45	68	104
23	46	72	110
25	47	73	115
26	50	74	117
28	51	75	118
29	52	76	127
30	53	78	135
31	54	80	148
32	57	83	166
35	58	85	
36	60	86	
37	61	90	

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

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

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

The Association is very grateful to all our contributors, please reciprocate this support by supporting them in turn. Please don't forget to mention where you saw their advert.

Roan Antelope Music special for March 2012

Hi folks,

Have you got this fantastic piece of Rhodesiana on your bookshelf? If not, now is the time to add it to your collection. *Bushcat- Minstrel of the Wild* by our legend John Edmond. An easy read which will make you laugh, cry and give you information and insight into the feelings of the ordinary citizen and soldier that lived through that interesting political era of Southern African history. It is not to be missed.

Although Roan Antelope Music has just released John's comprehensive song and storybook called *Behind the Songs* which gives insight into how and why the songs were written together with music chords, John wrote his autobiography *Bushcat- Minstrel of the Wild* in 1997. This hardcover book is totally different from *Behind the Songs* as it is a trilogy which describes pre and post-colonial times of Rhodesia, John's childhood in Scotland, Rhodesia and South Africa, his musical career and his involvement in the Rhodesian bush war, the Congo Border Campaign, as well

the South West Africa war. The book also contains lyrics of one hundred of his songs as well as one hundred black and white photographs.

Our special this month is this hard cover collector's item (Over 300 pages) at a special rate which includes postage and packaging. On this offer, John will personalise and sign your copy if requested.

Price:

RSA R250 then add the following for post and pack to:

UK + R105 USA + R100 AUS + R140 NZ +R145

Other news:

John will be playing in Natal at the fundraiser and launch of the book *Viscount Down* by Keith Nell. Also see John's latest video on the web site www.johnedmond.co.za or YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRxxKGvkBIM> on *Elands River* one of the songs of his CD *The Boer War In song*. Love to hear some comments!

Roan Antelope Music www.johnedmond.co.za

Email: info@johnedmond.co.za

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

Buckles and Tees www.bucklesandtees.co.nz

Mike Vivier has a number of Rhodesian related lines which include the 'Advice to Terrorists' image on t-shirts and aprons as well this stunning Rhodesia Regiment belt buckle which sells for NZ\$24.95 excluding postage. 100% New Zealand made.



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

The Global Forked Stick - Snippets and Requests

Blackboots (BSAP Support Unit) Book

From Barry Woan:

"Research for our Book " Blackboots - The History of the BSA Police Support Unit" is coming along nicely. We are hoping to publish early in 2013. We are receiving a great deal of help from all quarters, not only ex BSAP members, which is most pleasing. We are still looking for more, particularly personal accounts from ex members of the Force and from others including Army and Air force personnel. Would appreciate any help. I can be contacted on woanbrc@tiscali.co.za"

Jeremy Bull, Rhodesian Air Force.

Would anyone who served with or knew Jeremy Bull please email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz

We believe that Jeremy served with 7 Squadron.

Jeremy and his newly-wed bride Karen nee Leach were killed when the Viscount *Hunyani* was shot down with a SAM-7 missile by ZIPRA CTs. The aircraft had just left Kariba en route to Salisbury, when it came down in the Urungwe TTL, Karoi District, Op Hurricane. Jeremy and Karen were returning from a week's honeymoon in Kariba for Jeremy to go back on duty. A memorial service was held for them in the Gwelo Baptist Church, the same church where they were married only two weeks earlier.

Col. 'Mad' Mike Hoare's medals

Craig Fourie writes:

"We were speaking to Col. Mike Hoare and trying to piece together his full medal entitlement.

We have applied for him for an unclaimed Territorial Reserve medal for his service in the UK but he mentioned many years ago he donated two of his medals to a museum "on the eastern border of Rhodesia".

So presuming he meant Umtali we are hoping someone will remember seeing these medals and tell us perhaps what they were? I am guessing these are for service in the Belgian Congo. Sadly Mike can't remember but at age ninety three he is still doing well.

Any help would be most appreciated.

Thank you,

Craig

Email rhodesia@telkomsa.net “

Editor's Note:

Prior to publication of this request, a number of people connected to the Umtali Museum (including Peter Locke) have been contacted and none of them have any knowledge of these medals.

Calling DRRR Intake 55

Bill Knott writes:

*“I was Intake 55 from Nov '62 - Mar '63. I am looking to track down mates who were there. I have found some and I am now specifically looking for **Graham Southgate**.*

Bill Knott

Email mufulira@mymts.net “

Rhodesian graves under Commonwealth and War Graves control

A few weeks ago the world learned of the desecration to Allied Forces WWII graves in Benghazi, Libya. We are pleased to be able to advise that the two Rhodesians known to be buried there have not been touched. We are grateful to Mitch Sterling and his son Mark (who is in Benghazi) for providing this information and the pictures below.



Malachi David Stirling behind the headstone of Rifleman RC Huntly, a Rhodesian who served in the Kings Royal Rifle Corps.



Headstones of Corporal LC Ashby and Private R Riggs, Rhodesians who served with the Buffs (Royal east Kent Regiment)

It should please people to know that the graves of those who died during WWII who are buried in the Commonwealth War Grave section of the Athlone Cemetery, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe are being well looked after as shown in the photo below that was supplied by Alan Bryant recently. You will note the unkempt state of the area behind the trees which is outside the CWG area. The majority of graves in this photo are Royal Air Force personnel. There are Rhodesia Regiment graves in here too.



The World's Fastest Hunter

Gary Hughes writes:

"I read the article on the Hawker Hunter in the March issue of **Contact! Contact!** and as you say all Rhodesians know that Hunters are made to fly. On the 20th November 2010 two Rhodesians, Ron Wheeldon (Pilot) and Gary Hughes (Navigator) flying a Hawker Siddeley Hunter T68 (ZS-HUN) established a World Speed record over a closed 500 km course with an average speed of 908.691Km/hr here in South Africa. This is one of two Hunters currently owned by Ron. Subject to a couple of issues such as funding and being in a position to obtain certain parts, there are two additional speed records that may be attempted, the 1000km and 2000km records.

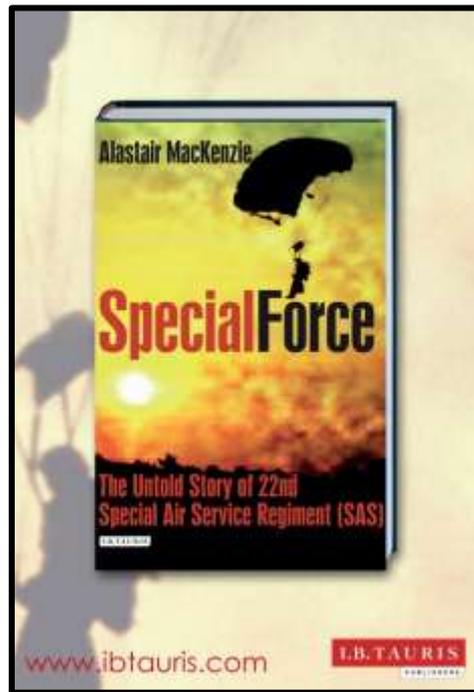
No bad for a plane that is 60 years old!"

Gary included some photos from the day and noted that the plane has been returned to its original Swiss colours from the yellow which was a sponsorship from MTN previously.



From left: Samson Mafala (gofer), Gary Hughes (navigator), Johan Rosenstrauch (tech), Ron Wheeldon Snr (pilot), Ron Wheeldon Jnr. (gofer), Andrew Gratton (gofer).

Special Force – The Untold Story of 22nd Special Air Service Regiment by Dr Alistair MacKenzie



The exploits of the British Army's elite 22nd Special Air Service Regiment - the regiment of the SAS that forms part of the Regular army - are shrouded in mystery and myths abound about its members. But what is the truth behind the public facade of clinical professionalism? How has such a small regiment attracted so many weighty legends? And what is the purpose of the SAS in the 21st century?

Special Force provides an original and unusually critical overview of the activities of the SAS from the Malayan Emergency of 1950 to the present day. In the context of a detailed and often controversial analysis of the post-war activities of the Regiment, MacKenzie establishes that the Regiment's almost legendary professional competence is often not backed up by reality. Far from being part of a structured deployment of strategic military assets, MacKenzie argues that the use of the SAS in recent years has been primarily driven by the 'entrepreneurial' actions of a few SAS commanding officers. Special Force not only offers a revelatory history of the SAS in the modern period, it is also a disturbing expose of the truth behind the myth. It will be essential reading for anyone with an interest in the British military - past, present and future.

Alastair MacKenzie has been a supporter of our Association for some years. While he did not serve in Rhodesia, he did serve alongside a number of Rhodesians in the South African Army post 1980. Alistair comes from a military family of long standing and he served as an officer with the New Zealand infantry in South Vietnam and in the special forces of South Africa, Oman and the UK, where for four years he was a troop commander in the 22nd Special Air Services Regiment. After his retirement as a full-time Army officer he enjoyed a successful commercial career with Royal Ordnance and British Aerospace before setting up his own consultancy firm. In civilian life he retained an involvement with the Territorial Army as an SAS officer and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2001. He obtained his PhD in Politics in 2005 and is the author of a number of articles for military journals.

To purchase go to www.ibtauris.com and use the ISBN number 9781848850712 to search and enter the discount code 6MO when prompted.

Until next time – go well
Cheers
Hugh



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



*The concept of 'Rhodesia Day' originates from Eddy Norris and family. During the 90 year life span of Rhodesia we experienced the best of times and the worst of times. I encourage everyone to use this day to remember the good times as well as remembering those who are no longer with us.

Rhodesian Services Association donations.

You can make a donation to the Rhodesian Services Association by clicking on our 'Collection Hat' below which is a typical slouch hat of the type used by the Rhodesian Army up until the 1960's. Click on the hat or this link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MLMB2B8Y2UY3G

and if you are registered with PayPal the process will be immediate. If you are not a PayPal member you will be given instruction on how to make a credit card payment via PayPal. Thank you - every bit helps.



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

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