Greetings,

Earlier this month a spate of emails were flying around about the state of health of Ron Reid-Daly. The author of the original email that set this rumour mill running was asked to, and subsequently did, apologise to the Reid-Daly family and Selous Scout Association. While the original intent of the email was probably well meaning, the net result was very unpleasant. Contrary to the impression that this email gave, whilst he is indeed ill, Ron is not exactly struggling to take his last breaths. We have to be mindful of the power of this internet and the speed with which false information can be perpetuated.

I previously illustrated this with my report on some nonsense that was written about the origins of The Last Post. You will recall that a false story was spread about the internet that some American Civil War officer rescued a wounded man from no man's land and later found that it was his son and had a tune played at his burial which later became The Last Post. Unfortunately this falsehood was used in a speech at an ANZAC Day parade by an army officer. This simply gives strength to a lie. Folks - the internet is full of lies - always be mindful that there are plenty of people with a seemingly endless supply of spare time who like nothing better than to create lies and get their jollies from seeing their rubbish spread far and wide.

Ron Reid-Daly has had a medical condition for some time and understandably, added to that, he is not getting any younger. He does not have email and any good wishes etc. can be directed via Tom Thomas

I received this email from one of our subscribers in the USA recently which is a reflection of many emails I get which are in a similar vein - that Rhodesia, what we stood for, and how we did it, is still very much in people's minds. This publication owes its quality and popularity to the numerous people who contribute and support it so this letter is for all of you, not just the addressee:

"Dear Hugh,
I just wanted to write and tell you how much I enjoy the association newsletter. I'm a Yank. I have never been to Africa and in all likelihood will never go there. So my connection to the RLI is zero, with the exception of my participation in jumping with the WWII ADT (see www.wwiiadt.org ) What captures my interest and immense admiration is the dedication, valour and ferocity with which all the services served and fought for Rhodesia. Your history is fascinating to me and I very much appreciate the opportunity to learn more with every issue of Contact!

Contact!"
God Bless you for your work to preserve the history and God Bless Rhodesia.

Steve Mayville Bozeman,
Montana U.S.A."

On another positive note I was able to put a South African visitor to England in touch with the right people and information so that he could visit the Troopie Statue and also the RLI Museum in Bedford. For future reference for any would be visitors, please note what Alan Reid reported:

"What an experience. The museum is fantastic in what they have and what they have done. Although I didn't serve in RLI, as a Medic I was attached to them a few times and ran JOC medical facilities in Darwin, Centenary and Fort Vic. I was moved by all I saw and read etc. They have done amazingly well.

The Troopie is in such an amazing setting, deserving of such a statue and whilst its role is RLI only it stands in tribute, I feel, to all who served and died. I wish that I had been sooner and will be back again - I recommend any Rhodesian to visit The RLI Museum is at the RAFA club (upstairs) which is open in the morning and evening. Catch a train from St. Pancras station to Bedford (what better name!!). It takes about 45 minutes. Walk out of the station, cross the road, turn left and it is 200 meters away. Martyn Hudson can give you more details. I suggest that you contact Martyn to arrange for access. Email martyn.hudson2@btinternet.com

The Troopie is easily got to as well. Take the train from St Pancras to Hatfield (another appropriate place name) - walk across the road to Hatfield House and ask for directions to get to the Troopie as it is a bit out of the way. Hatfield House is open all day, except in winter when it is closed completely, as I understand. See www.hatfield-house.co.uk for more details."

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.

Russell Franklin writes:

"Hi Hugh,

Just to let you know that Trevor Blythe passed away on the 6th April 2010. Trevor was a member of 6 Independent Company and was seriously injured during an attack on the company base camp in Ruangwe in August 1976. For the remainder of his life Trevor was a quadriplegic and lived with his parents in Harare.

Here is an extract from the Internet:

At 03:30 hrs 31st August 1976, the camp was subjected to a sharp attack by terrorists later estimated by the police to have numbered in excess of 90, supported by porters. The damage inflicted during the 30 minute fire fight against the 30 members of the company, was quite severe. Twelve servicemen were wounded. Severe wounds resulted in some soldiers becoming paralysed, blinded or receiving permanent brain damage.

It was fortunate that the ammunition pit was not hit, but all the vehicles that had been in the base area were put out of action. At first light, a sweep of the area revealed discarded equipment and blood spoor. Later police reports informed that ten men believed to have been killed in the fire fight had been found hidden among rocks not far from the scene. Also at first light, helicopters carrying medical teams landed and Cpl. Basson the National Service medical orderly who had done so much excellent work caring for the wounded during the hours of darkness, was able to relax. Also from one of the aircraft came many hundreds of sandbags which, had they arrived when requested nearly two months earlier, might have saved some of the men being hit by ricochets and rock splinters produced by the enemy's rockets, medium mortars and heavy machine guns.

Best wishes,
Russell Franklin"

Hilton Heath Morgan died on the 30th May 2010 peacefully at Middlemore Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand, aged 80 years. Darling husband of Dot for 56 years. Loving father and father in law of Barry, Jenny and Trevor. Dearly loved grandfather and shining example to Warren, Ryan, Greg, Heath and Craig. "A true gentleman who will be dearly missed by all his family and friends". Heartfelt thanks to the staff at Takinini Lodge for their care. A service for Hilton will be held in All Saints Chapel, Purewa, 100 St. Johns Road, Meadowbank on Friday 4th June at 3pm. In lieu of flowers memorial donations to the Alzheimer’s Foundation, PO Box 24-237, Royal Oak, Auckland would be appreciated or may be left at the service.

Hilton followed in his father Fred’s sporting footsteps. Fred Morgan MBE was Rhodesia’s greatest Bisley shottie who also found time to play cricket and soccer for Rhodesia in the 1920’s. Hilton played hockey for Rhodesia and the Springboks and soccer for Rhodesia. Hilton was voted Rhodesian Sportsman of the Year in 1957 and received the John Hopley Memorial Trophy. Hilton laid the Rhodesian wreath at the ANZAC Day parade in 2009 at Hobsonville, Auckland. Hamba ghashle Hilton – we will miss you.
Norman Travers MC, MSM, farmer and game conservationist, was born on October 10, 1921. He died of a heart attack on the 18th March 2010, aged 88 in Zimbabwe.

From the Times Online:
“Only the elephants could have delivered such a moving tribute to Norman Travers. Shortly before he was buried last month on his farm, Imire, in eastern Zimbabwe, two 40-year-old bulls arrived unbidden, wandered through the crowd of 250 mourners, lumbered up to the coffin and sniffed it, long and intently.

When the last spadeful of earth had been cast on the grave, they stood together on the heap of ground he lay beneath. Three times in the ensuing week, they returned and stood by the grave. Travers’s family is convinced they were mourning, for elephants are known to have a fascination with death.

Travers was an eccentric Englishman, a war hero, an inspiring community leader and a lover of wildlife whose affection for his elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards, hyenas and warthogs was as close as it was for his children. His numerous innovations in breeding, training and establishing techniques to enhance their survival drew scorn from experts but he was always proved right.

His three sons and daughter grew up in a household where his animals, including a half-ton juvenile rhino, wandered in and out of the house, ate up the flower beds and shared breakfast with the family on the lawn on Sundays. Most days he and his wife would go for walks with Cassius the lion (named after Cassius Clay, later Muhammad Ali), Bere the hyena, Dudley the warthog, Potter the otter, two labradors, a dachshund and a cat.
Norman Meckiffe Travers was born in 1921 in what is now North Korea, where his mother, Amelia, ran a seaside hotel. His father used to hunt Siberian tigers before he abandoned the family for good when Travers was 6. The boy was put on a boat to England to attend school in Tunbridge Wells. While back in Korea on holiday in the 1930s he was interned for three years with his mother by the Japanese during their annexation of the peninsula.

In 1940 he joined the British Army for the war (Editor's note – WWII) and rose to command a tank regiment. In a battle with a German Panzer unit in Italy, one of his tanks took a direct hit, and Travers plunged into the blazing vehicle to pull one of the men out, an act for which he was awarded the Military Cross.

After the war he joined thousands of British veterans looking for a better life in Rhodesia, where he worked on a farm in the rolling hills of the Wedza district, about 110km east of Salisbury (now Harare). In 1950 he bought Imire nearby and began farming tobacco, maize and cattle.

In the late 1970s, during the country’s independence civil war, he was awarded the Legion of Merit award from the Rhodesian government for holding together the small white farming community at Wedza while under frequent attack from black nationalist guerrillas. (Editor’s note – Norman was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Civ) not the Legion of Merit according to Gazetted records as well as the Police Reserve Long Service Medal)

Around the same time, bored with conventional agriculture and longing for the presence of wild animals, Travers decided to branch out into game farming, and bought a herd of impala. They thrived and in ten years the farm was fully stocked with waterbuck, kudu, sable and eland as well.

In 1980 he took on an orphaned baby elephant from a wildlife sanctuary in Harare. As Nzou began to grow out of the confines of the Travers’ yard he decided to train her, defying the conventional wisdom that the African elephant was safe only behind a solid stockade.

The Indian mahouts’ technique of subduing elephants with painful jabs behind the ear from a sharp iron rod was anathema to him. Instead, he used kindness, affection and rewards of bucketfuls of horse cubes to overcome the animal’s mistrust of humans and to condition it to heed commands willingly. Soon Nzou was taking tourists for rides on her back, and Travers, simultaneously with a separate project on a farm north of Harare, could claim to be the first to domesticate the species.

He put Nzou and a bull elephant in a large paddock to breed, alongside a herd of buffalo. The bull died, and Travers stumbled onto another nuance of animal behaviour — that elephants, rather like Konrad Lorenz’s geese, could take on the identity of species other than their own. Nzou adopted the buffalo and became their matriarch. She has continued to protect the bovines fiercely since then, and has killed 13 buffalo bulls who tried to separate females from the herd. When a bull pinned down one of Imire’s guides and was on the point of goring him, Nzou came to the man’s rescue and crushed the bull under her knees.

Ironically, Travers learnt of elephant behaviour close at hand from hunting expeditions since the 1950s in the Zambezi Valley. With curious detachment, he shot his last elephant at the age of 72. He argued that keeping down elephant populations was a vital strategy for their conservation in the wild.

In the 1980s, when Zimbabwe’s black rhino population crashed in an onslaught of poachers seeking rhino horn, Travers recognised the threat to the suddenly endangered species’ gene pool and decided to set up a breeding programme. Most experts derided him, insisting that a species from the dry heat of the Zambezi valley could not possibly survive in the freezing winters of Wedza. Travers’ answer was the 700-year-old cave paintings of the San people (Bushmen) near his farm and the many rhino depicted in them. If they were abounding there then, they could survive there now. He got approval for his project.

However, the two-and-a-half year weaning period for a baby rhino — after gestation of 15 months — would be too slow to stabilise the population. Travers applied the basic barnyard precedent of early separation of cattle calves from their mothers. He took baby rhinos from their mothers at a year to be bottle-fed, and had the mother back in oestrus within months. In 20 years Imire’s three female rhinos produced 14 calves to restock private and national reserves, twice as fast as other rhino breeding programmes.

In 1990 he took on an orphaned baby elephant from a wildlife sanctuary in Harare. As Nzou began to grow out of the confines of the Travers’ yard he decided to train her, defying the conventional wisdom that the African elephant was safe only behind a solid stockade.

The Indian mahouts’ technique of subduing elephants with painful jabs behind the ear from a sharp iron rod was anathema to him. Instead, he used kindness, affection and rewards of bucketfuls of horse cubes to overcome the animal’s mistrust of humans and to condition it to heed commands willingly. Soon Nzou was taking tourists for rides on her back, and Travers, simultaneously with a separate project on a farm north of Harare, could claim to be the first to domesticate the species.

He put Nzou and a bull elephant in a large paddock to breed, alongside a herd of buffalo. The bull died, and Travers stumbled onto another nuance of animal behaviour — that elephants, rather like Konrad Lorenz’s geese, could take on the identity of species other than their own. Nzou adopted the buffalo and became their matriarch. She has continued to protect the bovines fiercely since then, and has killed 13 buffalo bulls who tried to separate females from the herd. When a bull pinned down one of Imire’s guides and was on the point of goring him, Nzou came to the man’s rescue and crushed the bull under her knees.

Ironically, Travers learnt of elephant behaviour close at hand from hunting expeditions since the 1950s in the Zambezi Valley. With curious detachment, he shot his last elephant at the age of 72. He argued that keeping down elephant populations was a vital strategy for their conservation in the wild.

In the 1980s, when Zimbabwe’s black rhino population crashed in an onslaught of poachers seeking rhino horn, Travers recognised the threat to the suddenly endangered species’ gene pool and decided to set up a breeding programme. Most experts derided him, insisting that a species from the dry heat of the Zambezi valley could not possibly survive in the freezing winters of Wedza. Travers’ answer was the 700-year-old cave paintings of the San people (Bushmen) near his farm and the many rhino depicted in them. If they were abounding there then, they could survive there now. He got approval for his project.

However, the two-and-a-half year weaning period for a baby rhino — after gestation of 15 months — would be too slow to stabilise the population. Travers applied the basic barnyard precedent of early separation of cattle calves from their mothers. He took baby rhinos from their mothers at a year to be bottle-fed, and had the mother back in oestrus within months. In 20 years Imire’s three female rhinos produced 14 calves to restock private and national reserves, twice as fast as other rhino breeding programmes.
Travers also pioneered the first introduction of wild buffalo on to farmland in 1980. Until then, buffalo were natural carriers of foot-and-mouth disease and had been restricted to corridors on the country’s extremities, outside a foot-and-mouth disease barrier. The African buffalo is one of the “big five” large mammals prized by big-game hunters, and its absence from private wildlife ranches in the rest of the country was a drawback to the industry.

Scientists at a research station near Harare, however, had developed the nucleus of a herd bred free of the pathogen and needed to test their hypothesis that buffalo could live on ordinary cattle-ranching land. Travers took them, and Imire soon became a breeding centre for foot-and-mouth-free buffalo too.

Travers is survived by his wife Gillian, two sons and a daughter.

Gary Loxton (Selous Scouts) passed away after a long battle with illness in Zimbabwe on the 11th May 2010. He will be fondly remembered by all, especially his Plumtree mates.

Off The Radar
Surprise, surprise – no listings this month! Please remember to email me if you change address.

Peter van Hoffen Calendar
One of our Auckland members, Ted Preston, lent me a calendar that his good friend Peter van Hoffen published in 1980. Peter died many years ago and his widow Myfanwy (who was in the BSAP A Reserve) lives in Auckland, New Zealand. Peter was an engineer by profession and also a very talented water-colour artist, specialising in landscapes. During his spare time whilst on call-ups with the Police Reserve, Peter painted a number of scenes which he incorporated in a calendar. Publishing in 1980 and coinciding with Independence, the timing was obviously inopportune and sales were not good.

Over the next few months we will include Peter’s illustrations in Contact! Contact! Our thanks to Ted and Myfanwy.

Convoy Escort Vehicle

ANZAC Day Parade – Hobsonville, New Zealand
Last month I was pushed for space. Here are a few more photos from the parade on the 25th April 2010. I am grateful to Colin Logie and Lindy Payne for the photos.

Once again I remind you that the Rhodesian Services Association is honoured by the fellowship that exists between our organisation, and the Hobsonville Returned Services Association. This fellowship has existed since the early 1980’s and we encourage all former Rhodesian servicemen and women, in New Zealand, to belong to an RSA. We recommend that you affiliate through the Hobsonville RSA and by so doing, support those who support us. Membership inquiries should be directed by email to hobbyrsa@xtra.co.nz or by writing to:
Hobsonville Returned Services Association (Inc)
As you can see from the photos below we take pride in our standard of dress and that most of us can still march in step. This was the biggest Rhodesian turnout that I have seen at Hobsonville – and may it continue to increase. Next year I hope that many more of you will attend.
This shot below is a good representation of what ANZAC Day at Hobsonville is all about – time to spend some time together and remember the good and the bad. It also illustrates the multi-national aspect of the Rhodesian Security Forces that has been retained through the years. Both men served in the Rhodesian Light Infantry as well as in the armies of their country of origin. Steve Kennedy from New Zealand and Mike Rogers from Australia. Mike also served with the South African army for about fifteen years, spending most of his time with 32 Battalion.

Mike is a regular attendee at Hobsonville, flying over from Australia every year and Steve has been coming up from Rotorua for years, so don’t let distance be your excuse next year!

October RV – Labour Weekend 22nd to 24th October 2010
It is time to start preparing for the RV folks. Accommodation in Tauranga is always booked out so please start sorting that out for yourselves well in advance.

The format will be much the same as previous years and we will update you closer to time. We do need items of quality for our auction so if you have something to donate please contact me.

Regimental Rumours by ‘Stompie’
Hello people, I am back. Did you miss me?....... No - I was not keeping Gary Glitter company in Vietnam, I was on far more serious and less grubby business.

I did note coarse remarks made by the editor in the last newsletter and will be making submission in regards to my costs for supplying valuable historic material in due course – if your subscription rates rise please refrain from blaming me.
The Editor (I call him other things out of earshot) tells me that new subscribers are committing themselves to receiving *Contact! Contact!* in a constant stream. This probably has a lot to do with the quality of this column. The drawback is that the new chums will not be up to pace with the previous letters and so may not follow the story in its entirety. What I suggest you do is set aside some quality time, get a container of your favourite tipple, and go to this web page [www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm) then go through some of the previous issues. They do take a bit of time to load on your computer because they are large files so be patient.

This month’s recovered letter is below for your education. It does raise some serious questions as to how history may have taken a different path in Rhodesia had Trooper de Klerk not been present at the Indaba recorded below. No names have been altered as I have no fear of the truth, therefore no libellous charges could be laid and if they were – remember I have just returned from some serious duck shooting and have a few shells left over.

---

**BSA Column Encampment**  
**Near Gubulawayo**  
**Matopos area**  
**Matabeleland**

18th February 1893

The Hon. Clarence Willoughby-Scorn, Bart.,  
c/o the Royal Naval Chandlery  
Avenida filho de Porka Miseria  
Plaza de Mayo  
Luanda  
Província Ultramarina de Angola.

Esteemed Tosser,  
Heartiest greetings to you. This finds me encamped in an area in which we have experienced considerable adventures over the past few weeks. You will recall that we left Nylstroom quite some time ago after successfully outflanking that Teutonic scoundrel there (one shudders to think what he would have been capable of on a croquet lawn). After battling the onset of the rains, malaria, rinderpest, locusts, horse sickness and the continual caterwauling of the women in de Klerk's wagon, we managed a successful crossing of the Limpopo river with the loss of only one wagon.

Here I must mention the selfless devotion of Trooper de Klerk who plunged into the swollen river and in the nick of time managed to rescue a cask of Dewar's Scotch and three large tins of Fortnum and Mason's pâté de foie gras from the sinking wagon, some of which he returned to me. Regrettably his hands were full and he was unable to also rescue the poor stores clerk, Herbert Smedley. The latter, being from London's East End and a non-swimmer, was last seen heading downriver making unfortunate remarks in a loud voice about the ancestry of de Klerk and some interested crocodiles in equal parts, using very poor grammar that clearly marked his unfortunate origins. We will, though, miss his meticulous book keeping and it is my firm intention to send the balance of his pay to his aged mother, after deducting the cost of the supplies lost while in his charge.

This morn sees us camped near the capital of Matabeleland in the west of the region known as Munhumatapa. It is presided over by a warrior of Nguni extraction called Lobengula, who rules his country with an iron fist - or assegai as the locals call the deadly spear he carries (the name has no bearing on any particular bodily part of an enemy against whom the spear is used).

We suffered some exciting skirmishes initially with the impis of this tyrant who regards the subservient other tribes as a source of continual food, women and cattle (I must confess to a certain admiration of his ways). Here I must also mention that an impi is not a diminutive of an elf but is the name applied to a regiment in the local vernacular. The skirmishes were brought to a swift conclusion by the rapid fire of our Martini Carbines and some well invested black powder and ball. I personally saw how decisive this was from my temporary camouflaged position among three reinforced steel cabin trunks under a wagon, while directing the fire of twelve troopers in line abreast just fifteen yards forward of me. One assegai actually came within fifty yards of my position. It is devilish hard to maintain a co-ordinated response from the firing line when the men have to continually look back for instructions, but the lives of officers of breeding are of course of paramount importance. I have prepared a suitable citation for myself (playing down my part in the campaign as befits my modesty) and I anticipate presenting it to Dr. Jim for signature after a few drams later this evening.

I will have to choose my time, preferably when that awkward fellow Colenbrander is not around. He is a stickler for unnecessary detail such as identifying exactly where troopers and officers were placed during an action before supporting commendations (I have met his type before and sometimes blind envy of the schools attended by their betters can unfortunately cloud their judgment in delicate matters such as the exercise of bravery).
I must tell you, Toss, that an interesting development followed the sound defeat of these Matabeles; Lobengula, realizing that we of the cooler climes are not to be trifled with, actually extended an invitation to Cecil and others, including myself, to visit his home, the famed settlement which we now call Bulawayo. It is an imposing gathering of grass huts, with ferocious warriors ambling around among bare-breasted women of little modesty. The paths, though, are very neat, quaintly lined with skulls of former enemies.

We have been royally entertained by Lobengula, a large man with an imposing stomach and wearing an assortment of skins that suggest no acquaintance whatsoever with the ministrations of soap and water. He summoned a large crowd to greet us and the festivities began with a feast of beef and goat plus large quantities of a porridge made of maize meal. Entertainment was initially provided by the King himself, who playfully speared three members of his retinue, just to get everyone's attention; it was a little difficult to understand the exact meaning of his announcement that followed, but screaming can be distracting.

We were to find that the main event was the antics of a witchdoctor who was to 'sniff out' a suspected sorcerer or witch (I must say that I heaved a genuine sigh of relief that my maternal Aunt Bertha, once responsible for my care, was not present, since I fear she would have been pointed out without delay). The witchdoctor was an intimidating and evil creature dressed in skins and a headdress of horns, with eyes shiftier than those of a Bombay pay clerk. His feet and legs were bare but for anklets of animal claws beneath the calf sections of a bloodstained pair of Oxford 1st XV rugby stockings (the latter appeared to bear out earlier rumours I had heard as to the demise of the renowned Oxford don, Jonathan Baldwin-Stump, believed to have been studying the culinary habits of tribes in the Southern African continent).

But I digress; the witchdoctor, whose unlikely name was Musnifauti, was prancing uncomfortably close to where Cecil, myself and the others sat nervously awaiting the outcome, because a mere indication by the good doctor's stick meant certain and immediate death at the hands of the accompanying warriors, regardless of school, class or club membership. He was prone to drawing clues and inspiration by the downing of a form of African beer from clay pots and gourds cunningly scattered at various points among the crowd, including near ourselves. As I understand it, the sweeter the contents, the more likely the 'witch' was to be nearby and the greater the risk to any unfortunates seated near such a container.

As it happened Musnifauti leapt upon a calabash which was actually at the feet of none other than Hero de Klerk - the tension was unbelievable but for some reason de Klerk, although rather flushed, had an unaccountably serene expression on his face. Swift as a snake, Musnifauti swept up the calabash and downed it in a trice. To our collective astonishment no sooner had he emptied it than he jumped up, spinning a full circle in mid air and let out a fearsome shriek. His mouth had become a mask of revulsion and he spat out the contents and sped off with his retinue, not to return.

Once we had concluded formalities with Lobo (as we like to call him), and returned to our wagons I summoned de Klerk who, perhaps due to the sun, appeared to look a little owlish and spoke in a rather distorted way. From what I established, thirst had overcome him during the witch-hunt and he had slaked it with what was a very sweet tasting drink from the nearest container. This in turn had had an unfortunate effect on him, provoking delirium (as he put it) and he also soon felt nature's urgent call. In the hallucinatory state that now affected him, he saw what was actually the same container, but in his delirium he now confused it with an earthenware pot that used to stand under his Ouma Jakoba's bed, provoking him to put it to similar use. It was at this point that the evil Musnifauti, thinking he was on the point of consuming a particularly sweet batch of local beer (which he knew to be at that location) and thus exposing a group of hated white interlopers to a dose of spear practice, found himself consuming it only after it had exfiltrated Trooper de Klerk's body.

Regrettably there is no reasonable way that one could recommend such action for an award and thus only my own citation will be put forward for now. All in all a commendable end to an interesting day of furthering the interests of Her Majesty's Empire.

I look forward to hearing of your further progress.

Salutations

Tugger

P.S. I enclosed a small sketch. Melton Prior, by chance, captured the moment of my meeting with Lobengula. I am on the left of course.
Grunter’s Good Oil
The Super 14 has come and gone for 2010 and the Bulls having won their third title have started something of a dynasty in Pretoria. The way they swept aside the Stormers on Saturday convinced me that on the night, no one in the world would have beaten them. Let’s hope that politics don’t play too large a part in the selection of the Bok team this year. If picked on merit it will be a very powerful side indeed.

This month’s article is all about rugby defence. I have delved into the archives, where Ian MacIntosh recalls the grit and determination of a Rhodesian team in 1973. This is taken from an article in the Sharks magazine.

"Playing into the wind Rhodesia held a slender lead at halftime. I knew that facing the stiff north-easterly in the old stadium, where, some may recall, the wind surging through the old gaps in the stands became a gale force, the
points were not enough and would be hard to defend. And so it was with Rhodesia camped in their 22 for almost the entire second half. Inevitably Natal took the lead as wave after wave attacked our line.

If it wasn't the long haired Keith Thoresson flying down the one wing then it was the other long haired wing, Danny Delport. I witnessed unbelievable commitment and character by the Rhodesian players to defend their line at all costs. I still recall our tighthead prop Dick Coleshaw, disengaging from a scrum just outside our 22m line and cover defending well enough to bundle Danny Delport out on the opposite side of the field as he was diving for a try in the corner.

In the dying minutes Natal eventually dropped a ball just out side our 22m line. Our big bearded lock, Rob Stewart, who had played football until he had left school, dribbled the ball all the way up field, around the bewildered Natal fullback, Malcolm Swanby, to gather and score under the poles, thus securing a most unlikely and rare win (19 - 13) against Natal away from home.

The emotion and comradeship afterwards in the change room amongst the players, knowing that everyone had put their bodies on the line at great odds to win in their opponents' back yard, not to mention the sheer exhaustion, was an experience of pride I will never forget and ranks right up there with any other victory. Yet a certain selector who had travelled with the team saw it differently. He reported to his co-selectors back home that the team had played poorly, were lucky to win and certain top players had not put up their hands. The result was they made seven changes, including the captain, to the team.

I was furious and felt hurt for the players. I conveyed my feelings to the convenor in no uncertain terms and said he better make it eight changes - the extra being me the coach! This landed me in hot water and a disciplinary hearing with the board.

We drew our next game against Eastern Province at home, which the selectors claimed vindicated their decision. Yet, I knew in my heart that had they rewarded the undeniable courage and commitment shown from those players against Natal we would have thrashed EP. No folks, never negate the importance of defence. I have always said that a team that can defend like that to save a game is a team that has heart and character.”

How many of the names that appeared in the 1973 Natal - Rhodesia programme do you remember?

RHODESIA: I Robertson, I Viljoen, J Loots, L Lloyd-Evans, F Youngelson, T Bowes, D Christian (Capt), B Murphy, C Blythe-Wood, P Chalmers, R Stewart, R Robertson, R Coleshaw, R Stewart, A Aird, Manager: E Painting, Coach: I McIntosh


Please send your news and snippets to me at fourstreams@clear.net.nz

Till next month go well.
Regards Grunter

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 in 2010. 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.

Please note that there will be no meeting in June, the next one is in July.

For Rhodesia Day on November 11th it is hoped that the Hobsonville RSA will open for one hour at 11am. On Saturday 13th November there will be a braai at the Archery Club, Redhills Road, Massey from 10am to 2pm. Bring your own meat, salad and dessert to share with everyone else. There will be a minutes silence to remember Rhodesia. It is planned to have some bows and arrows for those who would like to have a go at a spot of archery.

TAURANGA
The Garrison Club run by the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. ‘Curry 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 mushett@slingshot.co.nz for details of socials being held in your area.

OCTOBER RV
This will be held once again in Tauranga over Labour Weekend - 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 24\textsuperscript{th} October. Be sure to book your accommodation early. More details will be released closer to the time.

CQ Store visit [www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm](http://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. On the CQ Store web page you can now download and print off a catalogue of the entire store. This is useful to pass on to people who do not have computer access.

If you want medals that have to be engraved and mounted, we need a couple of weeks under normal circumstances and longer if someone in the chain is off sick or on leave, so please allow time when placing your orders.

**Rhodesian Coat of Arms embroidery**
We now have recently developed the Rhodesian Coat of Arms as pictured below that can be embroidered on our regular stocked garments. The colours in the Coat of Arms lend themselves best to a green background. It looks fine on black but some details get lost – like the sable’s tail. Prices are the same as for the Lion & Tusk embroidery. The embroidery is very detailed so it is not well suited to beanies and as such we are only stocking beanies with the Lion & Tusk.

---

CQ STORE INVENTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEMS EXCLUDING POSTAGE</th>
<th>PRICE in NZ$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Caps as above**
- **Lined polar fleece jackets (very warm)**
- **Polo and t-shirts**

**Cuff Link and tie pin combo**
We are around a month away from releasing a new product which is a set of gold plated cuff links and a tie pin featuring the Rhodesian Coat of Arms. This is another quality product made here in New Zealand which will make an ideal gift. Watch this space for more information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4RR Hackles</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Bumper’ Stickers, Rhodesia/NZ or Australia flags; Rhodesian flag; Rhodesian Services Assn Lion &amp; Tusk</td>
<td>$3 each or 2 for $5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Card Holder – stainless steel with Lion &amp; Tusk engraved</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berets</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapel pin - Para Wings – gold plate or Enamel</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapel Pin – Rhodesian Flag</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion &amp; Tusk Aprons</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion &amp; Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Baseball Caps</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion &amp; Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Beanies green or black</td>
<td>$22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion &amp; Tusk Dog Tags</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion &amp; Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Polar Fleece jackets – long sleeved in green, black, navy</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion &amp; Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Polo shirts - black or green</td>
<td>$38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion &amp; Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms T-shirts - black or green</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion &amp; Tusk Women’s v-neck stretch shirts - black</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medal Ribbon Devices – MFC, Commissioner’s Commendation, bars etc.</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name badge – resin coated</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number plate surrounds – 4 styles to choose from</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocket Insert Medal Holder</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster “Be a man among men”</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster “Rhodesian Bush War”</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster – Rhodesian Map accurate as at Oct. 1977</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster “Terrorism Stops Here!” 2 in series</td>
<td>$50 ea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regimental Cap Badges – RLI, Intaf, RAR, RDR, BSAP, Grey’s Scouts, RRR, RR, Service Corps, Staff Corps, RWS, DRR and more</td>
<td>Priced from $20 – inquire for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regimental ties – Rhodesian Light Infantry</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regimental ties – Rhodesian Regiment</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regimental ties – Rhodesian African Rifles</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regimental ties – SAS (badged SAS only)</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesian General Service Medal copy (silver plate bronze) full size medal with ribbon</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesian General Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon – full size</td>
<td>$10/length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature (solid silver) with ribbon</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon - miniature</td>
<td>$10/length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesian Medal for Territorial or Reserve Service full size copy (solid silver &amp; gold) with ribbon</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesian Police Long Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Rhodesia War Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesian Flag 3’ x 5’ (900mm x 1500mm) ready to fly</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesian Flag, embroidered 110mm x 50mm</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodesian replica rugby jerseys – short or long sleeve</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge full size</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge miniature</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various medal ribbons – please inquire</td>
<td>POA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various full size &amp; miniature medals – please inquire</td>
<td>POA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various small embroidered badges (RLI &amp; BSAP)</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe Independence Medal copy - full size with ribbon</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size ribbon</td>
<td>$10/length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature with ribbon</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature ribbon</td>
<td>$10/length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Zippo’ type lighter – “Rhodesia 1890 – 1980” with Lion &amp; Tusk</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 can be found on the link above.

Sales are picking up which indicates that the recession is wearing off slowly. The books and DVDs that we stock are high quality but not high volume production and so unfortunately the price to the consumer is representative of these factors. Our goods are unique and are worth saving for.

The following new titles are available:

**Blood Lily by Mason Cranswick** $30 (soft back)

![Blood Lily Cover](image)

War and decay are transitory … but the land is forever. Scott is facing bankruptcy amid the turmoil that grips the financial markets of 2008. He is saved when money is transferred to his account from an unexpected source. We flash back to war-torn 1970's Rhodesia where Scott is growing up as a privileged white boy alongside his best friend, Simba, a black boy, on his parents' farm.

A sweeping tale of naivety, treachery, war and genocide, of love and friendship...and ultimately of hope and regeneration.

**Pathfinder Company 44 Parachute Brigade - 'The Philistines' by Graham Gillmore** $50 (soft cover)

![Pathfinder Company Cover](image)

160 pages, 200 colour, b/w photos, maps

Jan Breytenbach writes in the foreword: “On Ascension Day, 1978, a composite South African parachute battalion jumped onto the tactical HQ of SWAPO's PLAN army, based at Cassinga, 250 kilometres north of the Angolan border to destroy the facility, their logistics, and to wipe out a strong concentration of SWAPO guerrillas. The airborne assault, part of Operation Reindeer, was an unqualified success; the whole base was destroyed. 608 PLAN fighters were killed, with many more wounded which pushed the final SWAPO death toll to well over a thousand. We lost only four paratroopers killed in action plus a dozen or so wounded. According to airborne experts in Britain and Australia, this was the most audacious parachute assault since the Second World War; the mounting airfield was well over 1,000 nautical miles away. I was the commander of that airborne assault, which although successful above all expectations, also highlighted many shortcomings, some of which nearly led to a disastrous outcome.”

44 Parachute Brigade was formed later that year, with the need for a specialist Pathfinder Company patently clear. Into the ranks came professional veterans from the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Rhodesia and elsewhere, from such Special Forces units as the SAS, Selous Scouts and the RLI. “This is their book, a collection of stories about the founding and deployment of a unit of 'Foreign Legionnaires', from different parts of the world who became welded together into a remarkable combat unit, unsurpassed by any other South African Defence Force unit in their
positive and aggressive approach to battle. For me it was an honour to have faced incoming lead together with them.”

Standby - South African Air Force Search and Rescue by Brig.-Gen. Dick Lord $50 (soft cover)

This is the story of unsung heroes - the selfless heroism of South Africa's airmen.

In the air force no mission receives greater priority than the mission of mercy. When lives are at stake all resources available are dedicated to the task. Aircrew, ground crew, paramedics, doctors, mountaineers, navy divers, policemen and trained civilian volunteers are rapidly organized into a rescue team and dispatched with all haste to the disaster scene. This requires training, preparedness, dedication, determination and courage. Rescue missions are often flown in weather conditions that would normally ground all aircraft. Scenarios are as diverse as high-rise fires, mountain, flood and maritime rescues, to white-outs in the snows of Antarctica.

Originally published in 1999 as Fire, Flood and Ice, this updated edition includes yet more spectacular South African Air Force (SAAF) search and rescue missions, both military and civilian. Included is the remarkable rescue of all 581 people from the ill-fated liner Oceans, for which the author was mentioned in dispatches for his role as commander of the rescue operation. Also new are heart-warming accounts of SAAF rescues during the devastating floods of 2000 in Mozambique, which captured the world's attention.

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

Thank you for all the responses from the May edition of Contact! Contact!

We need still need your input with regard to the following:

- Intelligence Section of the Rhodesia Regiment during WWII. We have some interesting information that we want to follow up. We are looking for any family who had a member in the Regiment at this time who would have served in Rhodesia.
- In 1947 the Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment was deployed to Northern Rhodesia in reaction to civil unrest on the Copperbelt mines - we need more information.
- Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953. We would like more and in particular are looking for anecdotes pertaining to members of the Rhodesia Regiment who were there.
- Nyasaland Emergency in 1959. In particular if anyone has information on Colonel Ken Harvey ICD, DSO, MBE, ED who was a Major in command of the Royal Rhodesia Regiment and on Operation ‘Wet Dawn’
- Northern Rhodesia during the 1960 Congo Crisis.
- Technical unit structure etc. from the period 1950 – 1960
- 1964 Riots – we need anecdotes and information from those deployed in support of the BSAP during this period.
- Information on deployments during the early stages when infiltrators came across the Zambezi resulting in Operations Pagoda I and Pagoda II
Individual recollections relating to the following operations in 1968/69 - Nickel, Breeze, Cauldron, Cosmic, Griffin, Mansion and Gravel
Individual recollections of deployments in Mozambique prior to that country’s independence.
Depot Rhodesia Regiment - information on the technical background to the training, the organisation and the structure of the DRR.
Were any elements of the Regiment involved with Operation Mardon which was a series of co-ordinated attacks on bases inside Mozambique between 20th October and 2nd November 1976?
Comments and reflections on the Indefinite Call Up period.
Comments, reflections and strategies on general patrolling, OP, ambush and garrison duties
Were any Rhodesia Regiment personnel part of the first response to the Viscount Disasters?
The occupation of Mapai took place during Op Aztec in May/June 1977. I believe that elements of 2RR were involved. Please contact us if you were involved.
We believe that elements of 10RR were involved in ‘Operation Favour’ post the elections that saw Muzorewa come to power in 1979. A number of Sithole’s ‘Auxiliaries’ were contacted and killed near Gokwe. We would like to get in contact with Henrick Ellert and also Captain Andy Samuels who was GSO2 at 2 Brigade as well as anyone else with information.
Were any elements of the Rhodesia Regiment used in support of Operation Bastille in 1979 – the raid on Nkomo’s house by the SAS.
Were any elements of the Regiment used in support of Operation Uric September 1979 when Mapai was occupied
Recollection from deployments during the cease fire and 1980 election and the period after that.

Your input is essential to this book. We welcome material from anyone who was connected to or served with the Rhodesia Regiment or who has pertinent material to share - don’t live to regret not doing something now!

You do not have to present your information in a well written format - we will sort that out. I can do recorded verbal interviews over Skype if necessary.

Photos in 300DPI please. If you do not understand scanning – we can help, alternatively you can send the photos to us and they will be returned. All input will be acknowledged.

Material can be sent to:
- Hugh Bomford hbomford@clear.net.nz
- Chris Cocks info@30degreessouth.co.za

The Global Forked Stick – Snippets and Requests

Grey’s Scouts - Website and Reunion
A new website for the Grey’s Scouts is now live at www.rhodesiangreyscouts.co.cc

On November 13th 2010 Grey’s Scouts will be holding a commemorative parade in Houghton Regis, Dunstable, England to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the disbandment of the unit in Salisbury on the day of the elections in 1980 before it became a Zimbabwean unit. A full military band (the Royal Scots Guards) will precede the parade and all members of the unit are invited to attend. The Grey’s Scouts flag will be raised and lowered for the last time in remembrance of those that lost their lives.

Senior officers of the unit will be attending the parade and a number of invited guests, including the town mayor. Major Theo Williams will take the salute. There will be a dinner at the Hilton Hotel after the parade.

Email Neville Croxford greyscouts@aol.co.uk for information and dinner tickets

It is hoped that as many unit members, friends and family as possible will attend.

BSAP website
“Dear Hugh
I wonder if I could ask that in one of your future publications you could ‘spotlight’ the www.bsap.org website for the benefit of your readership. I am sure many former servicemen would find the site interesting, especially the history section which is being developed. At the same time, I would like former members of the force, including members of the Police Reserve, to visit and register with the web administrator. Obviously we would like to bring them all into the Regimental Association network, but I should stress that registration is merely a mechanism through which I can keep in touch with former members.

With best wishes,
Andrew Field
Zimbabwe”
Roan Antelope Music – John Edmond
Dear Friends, Rhodies and Countrymen

It's the final count down and not long to go before the Soccer World Cup. TV, Radio and the media are full of the hype and excitement around this great event. Everything is for sale - Bafana Bafana shirts, Vuvuzellas, flags, caps – you name it!

Unfortunately Roan Antelope Music do not have any of the above products available but they do have cammo caps celebrating Rhodie music for all guys and gals and children of those that were at “the sharp end” in the seventies. This music still lives on today and is even played in Afghanistan where sons of Rhodies are serving!!

If you are not going to the world cup and not blowing Vuvuzellas, why not be different, stock-up on your Rhodie music for your next braai or party. This month Roan Antelope Music is offering a free cammo cap with any two CD's that you purchase, be it a double CD or any two single CD's.

Special runs from 1st June to 30th June 2010

To order: Forward your details, credit card, name, postal address and telephone number to info@johnedmond.co.za

Bush wishes from all at Roan Antelope Music
www.johnedmond.co.za
Tel: +27 (0) 14 735 0774

2010 30th Rhodesian Association Reunion, Las Vegas, USA
Start Time: Friday, October 8, 2010 at 4:00 pm
End Time: Sunday, October 10, 2010 @ 11:00 am
Location: Alexis Park Resort, 375 East Harmon Street, Las Vegas, Nevada

Special guest – John Edmond

Enquiries to Peter Steiniger, Rhodesian Association Treasurer, PO Box 2594, Walnut Creek, CA 94595 USA. Email Peter at petersteiniger@comcast.net or visit www.rhodesianassociationusa.com

Seeking the lone 5th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment Piper
Alf Hutchison writes:

“Hello Hugh,
I wrote 'Cowboys Don't Cry' and I am trying to locate or identify the piper who was the inspiration for it who I think was from Bulawayo. Perhaps you can print the story below and ask if anyone knows of him.
Cheers
Alf Hutchison
5th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment
Email info@obadiahoutreach.org

My old and dear friend Frank Du Toit always used to remind me “Alf, cowboys don't cry; not in front of their horses anyway”.

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

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

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

I have just returned from the Edinburgh Tattoo and the lone Piper there was unbelievably brilliant, but he couldn't hold a candle to our Piper; on that unforgettable eventide he played magnificently. If cowboys don't cry, as Frank insisted, I can tell you for certain that battle weary and hardened Rhodesian soldiers do; even in front of their horses.
My very dear friend Frank died on his farm in Raffingora some time ago, but I will remember that day we shared with that piper as long as I live; the day when we wept openly for all the friends we had lost; for a country we loved; for a war we believed in, but which tore us apart inside.”

RLI History Publication – ‘The Rhodesian Light Infantry - From Border Control to Airborne Strike Force’
As indicated a little earlier on this month, the RLI Association worldwide has launched a book project driven by Mark Adams and to advise you men of the framework agreed to and content, please note the below abridged scope of work.

The book will be a factual history of the Regiment and will include colour plates of the evolution of uniforms and ‘operational’ kit so as to accurately depict the Regiment’s metamorphosis. The development of tactics, training and equipment will be recorded from your contributions and not from any theories. The perspective from Battalion, Brigade and Army will also be presented for you military history buffs. ‘Tasteful’ anecdotes will also find a place. All subunits to be given coverage

Content Summary: 60% Pictorial/Graphics and 40% written expose.

Nominal Roll included, Roll of Honour included, Honours and Awards included.

Anticipated D-Day: 30th June 2011

Expected sale cost: Equivalent SAR 399.00 (Will depend, to a degree, on distributors orders and orders from the members) profits to go into Regimental Welfare coffers.

Contributors material cut off date: 31st October 2010. Send your photo’s and stories to Mark Adams email mark@markadams.co.za or Chris Cocks email info@30degreessouth.co.za ASAP.

Book fund donations and pre-orders to date equal R700.00) The target is R250 000.00 This is another call for all of you to send in your photos and stories. All contributors to the book will be acknowledged in the publication.

Stay Good
Bill Wiggill
Chairman
1RLIRA-SA

Intake 159 - 1 Indep Coy RAR
Does anyone have a unit photo of Intake 159 when they were at Llewellin (complete with names would be good)? A good quality scan would be preferred. Please email hbomford@clear.net.nz

Supporter’s Website
Mike Vivier is a solid supporter of the Rhodesian Services Association. His website is now on line at www.bucklesandtees.co.nz Have a look under his new ‘Rhodesia’ section. In addition to his belt buckles and t-shirts he has biltong and droe wors.

Phil Burns, Natal, South Africa
Phil Burns, aged around 50 years old, is a diesel fitter working on projects on the Natal North Coast. He is probably the only surviving relative of Puma 164 victim Bruce Burns, and we are trying to locate him to tell him we have found his brother’s grave near Mapai. Please contact Neil Jackson email neillj@vodamail.co.za if you can help.

Rhodesian Heritage Material
Eddy Norris is busy with a number of projects. As well as his Air Force and Umtali material he is reproducing a number of Rhodesian publications covering all sorts of subject matter. I recommend that you email orafs11@gmail.com and ask to be added to his mailing lists.

Mudzi 1975
Rob Picton writes:
"I would be curious to hear if there were any of your readers who were involved in an incident that took place during my National Service. I have related the experience in the piece that I submitted to Dudley Wall for the Intaf book and would like to seek more details. It occurred in Mudzi district in probably August/September of 1975.

I was stationed at a keep to the north of the road to Nyamapanda and together with some other National Servicemen from neighbouring keeps we decided to head for a bit of unofficial R&R. We set off in an Intaf SWB Landrover, with some District Assistants, to a deserted game warden’s house on the bank of what might have been the Mazoe river. Because of a lack of communication, it turned out that we had driven into a No-Go area, and blew an ambush set up by either the RLI or Rhodesia Regiment.

The first we knew about it was going down a dried up donga twenty klicks or so from the river when a group of eight or so troopers emerged out of the bush, weapons levelled at us, and we came to an abrupt halt. They radioed up to
the CO, who was on an OP on a kopje to the east, and checked out our credentials - he who was understandably
pretty irritated as we had compromised their setup. We had to give our names, rank and numbers, and got a
severe rollocking from our DC later, although he admitted that we hadn’t had an update to the current frozen areas.

If anyone reading Contact! Contact! remembers the episode - my apologies, and please let me know what the
consequences were from their point of view.

Cheers
Rob Picton
Email robert.picton@btinternet.com

RSM A. Lang ESM
Gerry van Tonder writes:
"I have come across some pictures of an A. Lang, who started his army career with HQ Company, 1 Royal
Rhodesia Regiment, based at the Inkomo Training Barracks. He later became a WO1/RSM apparently with the
Corps of Engineers soldiers as shown in the picture below."

If anyone has any information please email Gerry at g.van-tonder@sky.com

RSM Lang is seated 3rd from left of picture.

ANZAC Day at Gallipoli, Turkey
Heather Powell may have been the most reluctant and un-soldierly woman to have ever been trained in Rhodesia,
but she was indeed a wonderful person and tremendous asset to the staff at Tsanga Lodge where she assisted our
wounded to better lives in her own unregimented style. Heather's exploits are well recorded in a number of books
by Dick Paget and herself (see our Supporters Page http://www.rhodesianservices.org/our-supporters.htm for more
details) So, when I got this email from her I was not surprised!

"Hi Hugh
Thanks for newsletter. Would you believe it - but I too did the ANZAC 'thing' this year! Well it was a singing thing
really. I was with the 'Sing Australia' mob who flew to Gallipoli (I always wanted to see Turkey!)

A motley crew of around thirty people from all over Australia accompany Colin Slater (originally an opera singer who
started up the singing network) each year to do the Gallipoli thing as the Turks don't know how to sing their own
National Anthem it seems. So we learnt it - even me... and sang with great gusto at the Dawn Ceremony, plus a
few hymns so it would appear on TV that all those gathered were singing. They had been camped there all night,
we had a bus! I must say it WAS hugely moving as the sun rose, and the jagged cliffs were illuminated, and then
some very regal looking Maori female sang what was I suppose a Maori lament - spine-tingling as her clear voice
soared towards the heavens over a tranquil bay. (Editor's note it is called a 'karakia')

Turkey is an AMAZING country - We spent three weeks in all. Quite mind-blowing (if, of course one has any mind
left to blow).
Stay well 
Cheers
The mad Irish Heather*

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.

---

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 it 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, Secretary of the Rhodesian Services Association. It contains many personal views and comments which may not always be the views of the Association or Committee.

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