



# Contact! Contact!

**July 2009**

A monthly sitrep. for the

## Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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**Please Note that all previous publications are available on line at**  
**[www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm)**

Greetings,

Above is the new look to our newsletter. What do you think?

For many moons now I have been chewing over a name for this publication. I have settled on 'Contact! Contact!'

No word uttered in quick succession had as much meaning during many of our lives. "Contact! Contact!" were generally the first words shouted into the green hand piece of a radio, and to the accompaniment of gunfire and explosions. Those were the first confusing and frightening moments many of us experienced. It was also the word that was used in news bulletins and sometimes heralded the unwelcome news of a friend or loved one who had been killed. 'Contact' would have been one of the most widely used words in our youth and means a lot to Rhodesians. 'Contact' now has new significance because it is what a lot of our people do today – try to make contact with family and friends who have been scattered all over the world.

You will note that we also used our unique camouflage pattern. From a length of cloth donated to our museum collection we have digitised the full section of the pattern which I believe was originally drawn by a woman in response to a competition. I stand to be corrected, and welcome the full story.

Last month I initiated a Guest Map on our website in response to demand. I am happy to say that it has been well used and we have now paid a subscription which has meant that there are no 'pop up' adverts to annoy you when you use it. Please make use of it to find other Rhodesians in your area and elsewhere. The link is at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/guest-map.htm>. The map is quite small so do not try to be too precise with where you drop your pin. The important bit is the 'List' section where everyone's details are displayed.

It is always great to get feedback and this was one of many:

*"I have to tell you that the Mapai Revisited rendition by Andrew Standish-White was one of the funniest that I have read in ages (apart from the more sombre bits, into which he also managed to somehow inject some humour!), what with the old Rhodesian Army jargon coming though quite strongly. Thanks for a wonderful product and all the effort that it takes you, each month, in order to make it happen. South Africans that I work with and who involved in the old SANDF are amazed and are highly respectful of the fact that the Rhodesian community is still very much alive, and that us old soldiers keep in comms!"*

**Obituary**

The Rhodesian Services Association holds a large Rhodesian flag for use at funerals. Please contact me if required.



Extracted from ORAFS briefs and Our Story <http://www.ourstory.com/orafs> and with grateful thanks to Doug Pasea

**“Charles Connolly** died in Christchurch, New Zealand during the evening of June 22, 2009.

*Charlie attested with 26 LAR in January 1970, earned his commission into ATC with 25 PTC. He was a true friend and supporter of ORAFs and I will miss his rugby banter. Eddy Norris*

*Obituary by Doug Pasea*

*Sqn. Leader Charles Edward Connolly*

*Charles was born in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia on the 25th February 1952. He was the third son of John and Sheila Connolly who had six children. Charles went to Queensdale Primary and Allan Wilson secondary Schools where he was head boy and a first fifteen rugby player.*

*Leaving school he joined the Air Force and started on a Technical course before applying to become a pilot. He was not successful on the pilot's course and remustered to Air Traffic Control.*

*He spent the rest of his Air force career in ATC rising to become SATCO at Thornhill in 1979. Charles was always a popular and enthusiastic Officer who gave everything he did a 100% effort. He played rugby for Thornhill and the Air Force helping to defeat the Army on several occasions. He also played representative rugby for Midlands province and was on a short list to represent his country.*

*In 1978 he married Sandy Smith and they have had a wonderful marriage producing two fine sons, Ryan and Donovan.*

*In 1982 they left Zimbabwe for Muscat Oman where they stayed for about five years before emigrating to New Zealand in 1987. Here they remained starting off at Ohakea Air Base in the North Island and then from 1992 in Christchurch, South Island. All was well until they went on holiday in 2004. Charles slipped in a Greek shower and hurt his back. When they returned they found that he had broken some vertebra. When these did not heal, tests were made, and he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma.*

*Throughout the resulting five years Charles never complained despite being in terrible pain. He broke his arm digging in the garden as his bones were so brittle. They pinned it but did not look close enough. After many weeks of pain they found that there were in fact two breaks and Charles had taken all this with his wonderful stoicism. Charles had stem cell transplants from his own body and then from his brother Tony. Tony and Sue not only donated these life-giving cells but then also emigrated to be nearby if any further requirements arose.*

*Charles had risen in the New Zealand Airways corporation to the position of Supervisor's Manager and he continued in this function up until the last ten days of his life. Charles was very well respected and liked by Controllers and Technicians.*

*Charles was a wonderfully gregarious man and this is witnessed by the astonishingly large circle of friends that Charles and Sandy have around the world and that there were approximately 300 at the funeral.*

*Finally I would like to say that he was a lovely man, straight and honest and never had a bad word to say about anyone. It was a great pleasure and honour to be able to call him my friend.*

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE"**

## **Off The Radar**

The following people's addresses have gone dead. If you are in comms with them please ask them to contact me. Please also remember to let me know if you are changing your email address.

- **Norman Stockton** – South Africa
- **Rod Schmulian** – New Zealand – his ISP has barred my emails so I need a home address for him
- **Frank and Fiona Tyrrell** – New Zealand

## Museum News

The old enemies of 'time' and 'having to work for a living' have played havoc with our plans for a long time. Shortly the Ian Smith Display at the Classic Flyers Museum will have extensive work done on it which should bring it to completion. As with all things Rhodesian, many people had an input – Rhodesians and Kiwis. It is marvellous what people will do for us.

Our museum collection relies largely on the donation of items however where there is a need we do make purchases. We recently bought a specimen set of full size Rhodesian medals. This was a major expense for us but something the majority of the committee felt was warranted and was covered by our stated purpose of "Maintaining, protecting and adding to the collection of memorabilia and artefacts of Rhodesian interest and origin". We have the medals in our possession and we are now working on how to display them.

**Your assistance please** - We got the medals for a very favourable price for which we are grateful, it has however made a large dent in our bank account. To this end we ask that if you have been considering making a purchase from our CQ Store please do so. Profits from our sales go towards these projects so by trading with us you are helping. Also if you are not a financial member this may be an opportune time to stump up the \$5 annual membership. Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September so there is not much of the current year left but the price of a beer at a rugby game is not a lot to ask and every little bit helps us. Straight out donations would also be most welcome.

This purchase also included a Rhodesian teak chest. This chest weighs in at around 40kg. It is to be stored by my brother in the Cape, South Africa. Again we are trying to work a plan to get it to New Zealand economically. If anyone can assist please contact me. Perhaps someone is immigrating who can add it to their container load?

We will also be refreshing some of the existing displays as and when time permits. We have had a section of vinyl printed with the Rhodesian camo pattern that I mentioned in the Editorial. This will be used as a background to the Golf Bomb.

All in all we have plenty to do!

## Regimental Rumours by 'Stompie'

Editor's Note – In April 2009 we ran a story titled 'A Tale of Two Vehicles' and you may like to refresh your memory of it which you can do by reading it on line, details at the top of this page - see 'Previous Publications'. Subsequently Stompie received a letter from one of our members that forms the basis of this piece which adds a little more to the story.

Greetings again,

And then there was the story about a certain Monitoring Force Land Rover which went "missing" from Marandellas JOC.....

The perpetrators of this incident, I hear, had ideas of dumping the Landy in the swimming pool at Marandellas High School, but luckily good sense prevailed and the unfortunate vehicle was abandoned on dry ground. The skellems ('mischief makers' for our readers not familiar with Rhodesian slang) were located and sent to Court.

The Magistrate appeared to be fairly amused by the story and did not charge them with "Theft of a Vehicle" as this would have earned them criminal records along with all the attendant consequences - endless problems at border posts, endorsed passports and of course, problems with police clearance if they decided to emigrate. (I reckon the Magistrate just wanted them GONE and out of the way and wasn't about to impose any charges that would inhibit their speedy departure!).

He reduced the charge to one of "Borrowing a Vehicle Without the Owner's Consent" - a mere traffic offence. When the charge was announced, one of the perpetrators stated as his defence that he had phoned Buck House to obtain the Queen's permission but unfortunately, she wasn't in residence that day! Your Honour must have been in a particularly affable mood that day because our mates weren't even charged with Contempt of Court after that comment!

But it didn't end there.....

About 20 years later, the son of one of the 'borrowers' was running his own pizza business in Manchester, England. One evening, a particularly la-de-dah gentleman came in to order a pizza and on recognising the owner's Rhodesian accent, began relating tales of his time with the Monitoring Forces in Marandellas. He ended his story with, ".....and would you believe it, old chap, but one of the blighters actually stole our bally Land Rover one evening.....?!?"

So you see, you can run.....but you can't hide! Your "history" does catch up with you eventually, no matter where or how far you go, and inevitably, comes to the attention of Stompie.....!

Go well folks, and do keep your stories coming in to me at [stompie@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:stompie@rhodesianservices.org) Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far.

Cheers for now  
Stompie



### **Grunter's Good Oil**

Greetings everyone from a bitterly cold and wet NZ.

I held off a bit in writing this to wait for the result of the Lions vs Bok 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. What a game it was and I am pleased to say that the Boks clinched a close fought victory to take an unassailable 2-0 lead.

It was a brutal match played at a very high intensity. I am glad the Boks won this week as I don't think my nerves would have lasted another week and standing at one test each. I have to say that Schalk Burgher gave his critics ammunition with a sudden stupid run of blood barely 20 seconds into the match. The Lions were to score 10 points in the 10 minutes that he was off. He has since copped an eight week ban. All is not lost however as the injury that forced him to miss the first test has unearthed a real prospect in Heinrich Brussow who had a brilliant first test and also made an impact when he came on in the second. I must say this series has made me pretty homesick as I hear from so many mates that went to the games of the fabulous atmosphere around the test cities on match day. This is one of the biggest sporting events of the year and is most defiantly the biggest rugby event and yet it has been given very little coverage in this supposed rugby mad country. Despite the dead rubber, I am eagerly looking forward to the third test in Jo'burg.

The Tri Nations is hotting up and I have my tickets to the Bok vs All Black game in Hamilton. The All Blacks cupboard is looking decidedly bare and I detect a fair bit of worry reverberating around the country. One of the things likely to stop the Springboks is their own coach who puts his foot in it every time he opens his mouth. That is a separate story on its own, but I must say I am pleased that the media are not feeling sorry for him and are telling it exactly how it is.

I look forward to your comments on [fourstreams@clear.net.nz](mailto:fourstreams@clear.net.nz)

Cheers  
Grunter

### **The Happy Wanderer (aka Lewis Walter)**

Having boasted that this publication was received on six continents, we offered up a small reward to anyone receiving our comms on the Frozen Continent expecting nothing to happen.

Quite soon thereafter, I received an email via some sort of satellite link from Lewis Walter, saying that he was on a ship in Antarctica and had received our newsletter. From there on I was able to cut another notch in the desk lid and state that the Rhodesian Services Association newsletter has reached all seven continents!

We had one of our caps, green with gold trim on the peak bearing the Lion and Tusk specially embroidered on the back as you can see below.



**The Happy Wanderer, home in South Africa, looks out to sea planning another trip to who knows where.**

Gerry van Tonder, a former colleague of Lewis' gave him the name 'Happy Wanderer' and as you can see it is very apt.

Lewis sent the photos below which was taken at the Argentinean scientific and naval base at Esperanza, Antarctic Peninsula, on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009 - near where he sent the satellite email to me. Note the Rhodesian flag which bears the Rhodesian Services Association contact details, plus those of the Flame Lily Foundation. He says that we should not expect a flood of letters as very few "wanderers" wind up there.

Lewis adds that the flag at Esperanza has a mate at the Ukrainian Vernadsky Research Station at about 65 degrees South and 65 degrees West, which he left there on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2005, and another at the Tambopata Research Centre in the Amazon Basin, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007. Happy wanderings indeed!



**Lewis Walter the Happy Wanderer**



Argentine researcher at Esperanza. Note the 'Green & White'.

### **'Cabbages and Kings' by Colin Neilson**

This is another blast from the past! Thanks to Adrian Batcheller-Adams for putting me on to Colin Neilson.

Colin Neilson wrote a column in the Rhodesian Herald titled 'Cabbages and Kings' under the pen name 'The Carpenter' over a period of about 14 years. He did it full time from 1977 up to the time that he was given two hours to clear his desk by Tommy Sithole the Editor in Chief in 1983. Then when people rang up to find out what had happened to him they were told "He is sick".

Colin still has a few of his articles, but as he does not have a scanner he has re-typed this one for us to produce below. Hopefully we will be able to publish more of them in the future.

This article illustrates the Rhodesian way of volunteering for service – when Britain went to war Rhodesians had to drafted to force an adequate number to stay at home to keep the country running; when 100 were required to go to Malaya 1,000 volunteered. It also resulted in him being transferred out of the Police Reserve into Internal Affairs – perhaps because there was a greater chance of him being shot at!

### **Cabbages and Kings 14<sup>th</sup> June 1977 – The Great Call-Up**

*Three hundred middle - aged men stood in a tightly packed queue at the Police Camp at 8 a.m. on Saturday. They had been called up for a one-day-parade for medical examinations. I was one of them.*

*The first thing that struck me was how old some of them looked. After all, we were all aged between 38 and 49. But some of my age group looked considerably older than one of the doctors who were examining us, who is 63 and now teaches in the Law Faculty at the university. Some of the under 50's were as bald as eggs or boasted snow-white hair. They were craggy, deeply lined and decrepit. I was told that a full one third of us were rejected as unfit on Saturday.*

*There was a prominent man there. He was prominent in all directions. His tummy must have been 175 cm in circumference. I guessed he must weigh at least 150 kg. I enjoy seeing a man of that calibre. He makes me look slim.*

*Some of us clutched sheaves of medical reports on our various ailments. These included gout, brain ops, (one man had undergone one recently and was passed as Grade C) heart conditions or suffered from fits. One chap told the doctors he had back trouble. They asked to see his medical report. He had broken vertebrae, shoulder blades, both legs as well as an arm and ribs when his parachute opened late when he was in the SAS some years ago.*

*I arrived early. I brought a vacuum flask of tea and had drunk the lot before the queue began to move by 9 a.m. "May I have your attention, please, gentlemen," the voice came from a Chief Inspector standing on a table. The hubbub of voices continued. "Quiet, please, gentlemen, " said The Chief Inspector, "please co-operate. We are doing our best to process you. The first thing is to tick your names off our lists. Then you will be asked to give a sample of urine."*

"What from here?" shouted a wag at the back of the crowd.

The queue moved briskly after the initial bottleneck had been cleared. At first there was only one orderly processing the documents. Then we were each given a plastic cup to provide our samples. The cups were small. I felt like the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

We had our chests measured (with cold tape measures) and our eyesight on fairly large type. ("That line is quite normal sight," said an Army medic.) I could have read it at double the distance without glasses.

Then we had our blood pressure recorded and then we were passed onto a group of doctors in white coats. One of them recognized me. "You are lucky you did not pass through my hands," he shouted cheerfully. "I would have passed you A One, without looking at you."

A fellow I know came with a complete history of his diseases. The doctor interviewing was interested. "Oh, you have had that, have you? And that? Goodness me, and what is your occupation. A journalist. Oh, well, you're in. Grade B."

Another reporter who was attending the parade, for which we were each paid the sum of \$5.20 for attending, said that he thought the medical examination was cursory. "They told me that my teeth were fine. Now, I have got teeth that I can pull out with my fingers!"

Part of the examination included an assessment of state of mind. This reporter told me he could read upside down and noticed that he had been put down as "apprehensive."

Earlier, I had remarked to a retired Police Inspector who was standing in the queue that I could detect all kinds of odours including after shave lotions and expensive cigars. "Yes," he replied, "and the smell of fear."

Having been passed by a panel of doctors I was greeted by the bald-headed Chief Inspector (I remember him, his name was Pringle) who said "Welcome to the Police Reserve."

Later I saw a friend. "How did you get on?" I asked. "Grade B, and you?" "Grade C." "I kept asking them: 'How's my heart? How's my blood pressure?' And they would answer: 'Fine, fine.' It was one damn disappointment after another."

The Carpenter

SHAVINGS . . . I wonder if there was any connection between the headlines used on the SABC News broadcast by the RBC at 8 a.m. yesterday:

One was that Ambassador Andrew Young said he would resign if any of his utterances proved harmful to the United States; the other was that the price of bananas had been raised.

P.S. A policeman told me he saw a tee-shirt (with a young man inside) walking about Gordon Avenue on Friday. On it were these words: Join The Army – See Exotic Places – Meet Exciting New People – And Kill Them'

## What's On In New Zealand?

### Auckland

Wolf and Alison Huckle arrange social evenings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. Generally these are held at the Hobsonville RSA however the next gathering is on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July** from 6pm onwards and will be at the Massey Archery Club, 11 Redhills Road (just off Don Buck Road), Massey West, Auckland.

Please bring something for a pot luck dinner. The bar will be open and the pool table costs \$1 per game. Tea, coffee and hot chocolate will be supplied. In addition there will be a DVD to watch about the Rhodesian Bush War which drew a good audience and comments when shown in Tauranga last month. Friends are most welcome to attend.

Email Wolf and Alison at [whuckle@xtra.co.nz](mailto:whuckle@xtra.co.nz) for more details and to get on their mailing list.

### Tauranga

The Garrison Club run by the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hauraki Association is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. On most 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays of every month we put on a meal and show a movie. Email me at [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) to get on that mailing list. We have people coming through from Whakatane, Rotorua and Waihi so if you live out of the immediate area please contact me as you may be able to share transport.

### October RV

To be held over **Labour weekend 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009**. We will be using the same venues as previously (the Garrison Club in Tauranga and the Classic Flyers Museum, Mount Maunganui). If you will be attending the RV, please book your accommodation early to avoid disappointment. More details will be made available through this newsletter 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**

Below is a list of our stock. Please give our CQ Store consideration when buying a present for someone in your family. We do ask that you order early in case we do not have your size in stock and also to allow for shipping time if the destination is outside New Zealand.

Currently we have good stocks of our replica Rhodesian Rugby jersey in all sizes long and short sleeve, get yours before we have to restock to avoid delay. Those of you outside of Australasia should start thinking of what you need for Armistice Day parades in November – medals, berets etc.

Please remember to give us adequate time to assemble your order and ship it. Medals for example generally have to be engraved and then mounted. This takes a couple of weeks under normal circumstances and longer if someone in the chain is off sick or something.

A new addition to our inventory are enamel lapel badge para wings. They are 17mm tip to tip and priced at \$15 plus postage.



We are also producing flashes for Royal Rhodesia Regiment berets based on the originals with the black and green felt with one, two or three bands of red cord indicating the battalion. Please see our website for more details.

We have had fantastic support from you all – thank you and please keep it coming bearing in mind what I said above about replenishing our coffers after the medal purchase.

## **CQ STORE INVENTORY**

<b>ITEMS EXCLUDING POSTAGE</b>	<b>PRICE in NZ\$</b>
4RR Hackles	\$17.50
'Bumper' Stickers, Rhodesia/NZ or Australia flags; Rhodesian flag; Rhodesian Services Assn Lion & Tusk	\$3 each or 2 for \$5
Bullion wire blazer pocket badge – Rhodesia Regiment	\$100
Business Card Holder – stainless steel with Lion & Tusk engraved	\$20
Berets	\$50
<b>NEW PRODUCT</b> Lapel pin Para Wings	\$15
Lion & Tusk Baseball Caps	\$25
Lion & Tusk Beanies green, black or other (even pink!) on request	\$22
Lion & Tusk Dog Tags	\$30
Lion & Tusk Polar Fleece jackets – long sleeved in green, black, navy	\$65
Lion & Tusk Polo shirts - black or green	\$38
Lion & Tusk T-shirts - black or green	\$30
Lion & Tusk Women's v-neck stretch shirts - black	\$30
Name badge – resin coated	\$15
Number plate surrounds – 4 styles to choose from	\$12
Pocket Insert Medal Holder	\$15
Regimental Cap Badges – RLI, Intaf, RAR, RDR, BSAP, Grey's Scouts, RRR, RR, Service Corps, Staff Corps, RWS, DRR and more	Priced from \$20 – inquire for details
Regimental ties – Rhodesian Light Infantry	\$40
Regimental ties – Rhodesia Regiment	\$40
Regimental ties – Rhodesian African Rifles	\$40
Regimental ties – SAS (badged SAS only)	\$55
Rhodesian Army Recruitment poster copy "Be a man among men"	\$25

Rhodesian Army Recruitment poster copy "Terrorism Stops Here!"	\$50
Rhodesian General Service Medal copy (silver plate bronze) full size medal with ribbon	\$100
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size medal copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$125
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon – full size	\$10/length
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature (solid silver) with ribbon	\$40
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon - miniature	\$10/length
Rhodesian replica rugby jerseys – short or long sleeve	\$110
Rhodesian flag 3' x 5' (900mm x 1500mm) ready to fly	\$40
Rhodesian Flag, embroidered 110mm x 50mm	\$20
Rhodesian Flag Lapel Pin	\$10
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge	\$22.50
Various medal ribbons – please inquire	POA
Various full size & miniature medals – please inquire	POA
Various small embroidered badges (RLI, BSAP & Nyasaland Police)	\$5
Zimbabwe Independence Medal copy - full size with ribbon	\$50
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size ribbon	\$10/length
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature with ribbon	\$35
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature ribbon	\$10/length
'Zippo' type lighter – "Rhodesia 1890 – 1980" with Lion & Tusk	\$25

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

### 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](http://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.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June we recently put up sales tables at the D-Day commemoration weekend hosted by the Classic Flyers Museum. We had four areas of display and sales: Our full range of books and DVDs; our khukuris (refer [www.khukuriimports.co.nz](http://www.khukuriimports.co.nz)); some items of NZ militaria as well as articles of general interest from the CQ Store. The weekend was a big success with over 3,000 ticketed entries and good weather. Our display areas were well received with much interest and a few contacts being made and new Rhodesian Service members being signed up. Sales of the khukuris went better than expected. The books went pretty much along the lines I expected having done this sort of thing before. The CQ Store had too much on display and in future we will trim it down.



**Our Curator earning his keep for a change!**



## History of the Rhodesia Regiment



As previously reported by this newsletter Alex Binda withdrew from the project some months ago. This project was instigated by me and I have been supported by Chris Cocks of 30° South Publishers from the beginning. Attempts to repair the damage in the relationship were made, but the rift has proved irreconcilable.

Many of you have written to me expressing sorrow at this parting of ways. You should not be upset by this. It is a disagreement between people who have strong opinions and if that cannot be resolved then it is best that we go our separate ways.

From my point I can unreservedly assure you that I will continue to give this project my heart and soul. What I stand for is in plain view when it comes to matters Rhodesian. This book was a germ of an idea between Dave Gordon, (son of the late Ginge Gordon who was one of my late father's best mates in Burma) and myself. It is the spirit of men like these that drive me. They were our fathers and better men are hard to find these days. They were the spirit of Rhodesia as we knew it. For them, and those like them, I remain true to myself and what I do. Names on book covers are naught but smoke screens.

Those of you who submitted material will have received emails recently from me and perhaps Alex Binda. My emails clearly stated my position. But to put anyone else who is interested, or may have only received one side of the story then this statement below should clarify matters.

### **Rhodesia Regiment Book Project**

After months of frustrating discussions with Alex Binda, negotiations have now finally broken down irrevocably. Although this will create some minor delays, the project is still firmly on track with an anticipated 2011 publication date. The editorial committee of myself (representing the Rhodesian Services Association), Chris Cocks (30° South Publishers), and senior Rhodesia Regiment ex-members are presently talking to professional writers with suitable credentials and expertise, to take up the authorship reins. Someone who is prepared to thoroughly research and document the full history of the Rhodesia Regiment in it's entirety and with accuracy.

We are now led to believe that Mr Binda has found a home for his manuscript with a publisher in South Africa, whom we do not endorse. Whilst Mr Binda is entitled to publish where he so chooses, it nevertheless jars that he is doing so with a project commissioned by ourselves, and with personal anecdotal material generated by the Rhodesian Services Association. Be this as it may, it will have no bearing on this worthy project that is so close to our hearts.

We look forward to your continued support – so please keep sending you material contributions through.

## **The Global Forked Stick**

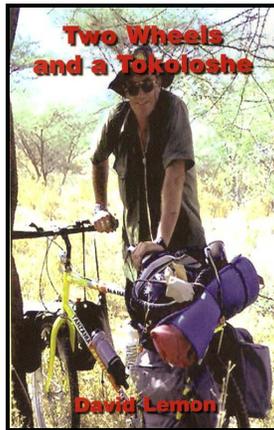
### **Information sought on Rhodesian Manufactured Firearms**

Chas Lotter is leading a Pretoria Arms and Ammunition Association (PAAA) project team to accumulate information and photographs on all firearms manufactured in Southern Africa in the 20th century and to publish the data collected in book format for reference by collectors and historians. This is being done in an attempt to establish a standard reference work since very little has been published, so far, on the subject.

Rhodesian designed or manufactured firearms, obviously, form an important part of this work. This is an important part of Rhodesian history that needs to be nailed down as tightly as possible before it is too late. The PAAA is an accredited South African firearm collectors' association. The history of the Association may be found at [www.paaa.co.za](http://www.paaa.co.za) Details of the project can also be found at that website. All contributors will be acknowledged in full unless they request otherwise.

Should anyone have any relevant information or weapons to photograph or photographs available, they are requested to contact Chas Lotter at [chaslotter@mweb.co.za](mailto:chaslotter@mweb.co.za) or the Pretoria Arms and Ammunition Association at PO Box 101804, Moreleta Plaza, 0167, South Africa.

### **Two Wheels and a Tokoloshe by David Lemon**



Review by Diana Bomford:

Who among us has not had that desire to take off into the wilds on our own adventure? Well in 1999 David Lemon did just this - he bought a bicycle and rode from Nairobi to Cape Town, sampling the wilds of Africa as he travelled on his own with just his trusted bike (named Harriet) for company.

Two Wheels and a Tokoloshe is the tale of this epic ride and his encounters with the peoples of the 6 countries he rode through. David describes the Tokoloshe as a mischievous spirit however it appears to have been more of a lucky charm rather than trouble, or perhaps it was his age and the traditional ways of the African to treat their elderly with respect. Because, with surprisingly few bad encounters, David travelled down Africa, seeing it from the great vantage point of the seat of a bike rather than the speedy confines of a car or aeroplane as most that have travelled will only have done. He met a wide variety of interesting people, communed with the wild life and ate many traditional foods to certain degrees of enjoyment.

This book is a great read and thoroughly recommended. Please order directly from [www.elephantlemon.com](http://www.elephantlemon.com)

#### **Pensions**

This is an extract from an ORAFS newsletter. Please contact Eddy Norris [orafs11@gmail.com](mailto:orafs11@gmail.com) to subscribe.

*“Christopher Hudson replies to Keith Kemsley's insert on pensions:*

*Go and have a look at [www.ospa.org.uk](http://www.ospa.org.uk) the website of the Overseas Service Pensioners' Association. I have been a member for years because I know how their chairmen over the years have fought to get the British governments, both Conservative and Labour, to acknowledge a responsibility, at least moral, if not legal, for maintaining Federal and Southern Rhodesian civil servants' pensions. The fight has not borne fruit, unfortunately, but they have tried, with questions being asked in both the Commons and the Lords down the years. The latest state of play is set out in the Chairman's Report 2008/09 which can be accessed from the home page of OSPA. It is all there, right at the beginning of the report.*

*Peter Petter-Bowyer PB responds Keith Kemsley's query concerning Britain's obligation to honour unpaid pensions: Barry J Lennox has done battle with the British parliamentarians and House of Lords individuals on this issue for many years. His refusal to give up on the issue is amazing considering the ongoing lame response that Britain has no obligations considering the entire responsibility for pensions was accepted by the Zimbabwean government in the Lancaster House Agreement.”*

**Nigel Lamb** (information source attributed to ORAFS)

Nigel Lamb, former Rhodesian Air Force pilot and current Red Bull Air Race pilot has a web site at [www.nigellamb.com](http://www.nigellamb.com) If you have ever seen these guys on TV you will know what reactions and nerves they must have - check out this website.

#### **Southern African Commercial Farmers Alliance - Zimbabwe**

Mike Mason wrote to me giving the email address with which to list to receive their newsletters. It is [sacfazim@netconnect.co.zw](mailto:sacfazim@netconnect.co.zw)

#### **John Edmond - Roan Antelope Music**

To order go to [www.johnedmond.co.za](http://www.johnedmond.co.za) or Tel: +27 (0) 14 735 0774 Fax: +27 (0)86 601 1817 or email: [info@johnedmond.co.za](mailto:info@johnedmond.co.za)

**Incident at Jebel Sherif: In Search of the First Clash of the Special Forces 1941/2009** by Kuno Gross, Roberto Chiarvetto and Brendan O'Carrol

This email from Brendan O'Carrol

*“Hi folks,*

Just to advise for your interest, that the book, *Incident at Jebel Sherif: In Search of the First Clash of the Special Forces 1941/2009* by Kuno Gross, Roberto Chiarvetto and Brendan O'Carroll, has now available in New Zealand for sale.

This will not appear in bookshops and I will be the only seller/distributor in this country.

The book is A4 size, hardback 188 pages and 230 colour and B&W photos, plus maps and charts. See [www.jebelsherif.org](http://www.jebelsherif.org) for images and description of the book as well as ordering details for sales excluding NZ.

It is a magnificent work, beautifully illustrated with a wealth of detail and reference relating to the discovery of the NZ Chev LRDG trucks and the wartime history of the battle of Jebel Sherif from both the Italian and NZ sides.

Price NZ\$80 plus \$5.00 PP

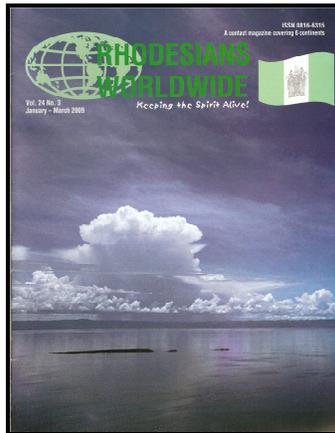
Best Regards,

Brendan O'Carroll

Email [ocarrolls@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ocarrolls@xtra.co.nz) or write to 1317 Dominion Road, Mt. Roskill, Auckland 1041, New Zealand\*

### **Rhodesians World Wide magazine**

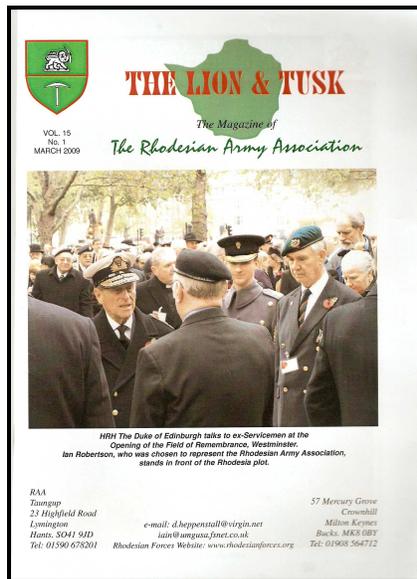
The current issue is out. Subscriptions are very reasonable. Payments are easy, with most countries cheques being acceptable or direct deposits into bank accounts in a number of countries as well. This magazine is a solid part of Rhodesian communications around the globe and makes a great gift. If you are in NZ I have introductory copies available. Email me at [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) For the rest of the world email the editors Chris and Anette Whitehead at [rhodesia@rhodesia.org](mailto:rhodesia@rhodesia.org)



**Cover picture: From The Heights-Kariba at it's Fullest 1981. Picture by Mick Hawkes**

### **The Lion & Tusk magazine of the Rhodesian Army Assn.**

This is another institution in Rhodesian communications that has been around for a long time. This excellent magazine can be subscribed to by emailing David Heppenstall [d.heppenstall@virgin.net](mailto:d.heppenstall@virgin.net) or Iain Harper [iain@umgusa.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:iain@umgusa.fsnet.co.uk)



**Cover picture: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh talks to ex-Servicemen at the Opening of the Field of Remembrance, Westminster. Ian Robertson, who was chosen to represent the Rhodesian Army Ass. Stands in front of the Rhodesian plot.**

Until next time - go well.

Cheers  
Hugh

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

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