Contact! Contact!

July 2010

A monthly sitrep. for the

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand.
Web: www.rhodesianservices.org
E-mail hbomford@clear.net.nz
Phone +64 7 576 9500 Cell +64 27 545 8069 Fax +64 7 576 9501

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

Greetings,
I have completed a lengthy project of converting the fifty odd archived newsletters that are on our website into PDF format. This makes them quicker to download than the previous MS Word format. You can go and look through them using the link advertised just above this.

The current newsletter will continue to be sent out to all subscribers in HTML format as this is by far the easiest way for people to receive it. HTML is also the most compact method and allows the people that are on dial up to be able to receive it. If I was to email this publication in PDF format, the file would be too big for dial up download. For those of you who have not a clue what I am talking about – don't worry read on!

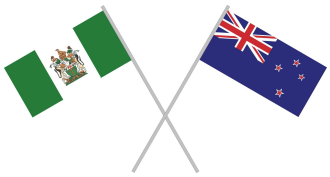
While on the subject of internet still, please note that while I have a listing on Facebook I prefer to communicate directly by email.

If anyone is travelling between Zimbabwe and New Zealand please could you contact me as we have some items that have been donated to our museum collection that we would like picked up so as to avoid possible loss in the postal service. These items are not of a "sensitive" nature. If anyone thinks they can help I am happy to discuss it further.

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.

Jock Elphinstone former Chief Engineer with Central African Airways died in England on 19th May 2010.



Lance Abel born in Bulawayo, Rhodesia on 24/07/1942 and died on 18/06/2010 in Hastings, New Zealand.
Lance went to school at the Duke of York in Nairobi, Kenya. After school he joined the Royal Air Force, resigning his commission after three years and returning to Rhodesia to marry Margaret. Their children Lindsey and Gary went to school at Marandellas High. Lance and Margaret divorced and some years later Lance married Jane Holland of Marandellas in 1982.

Lance spent most of his working life in the agricultural support industry working as an agronomist and sales rep. in Marandellas, Mazowe and Chegutu/Kadoma areas. In 1992 Lance and Jane bought a small farm near Peterhouse School where they farmed ostriches and cattle. In 2001 their farm was designated, so they left Zimbabwe and went to England for a few months before arriving in New Zealand in 2002. Lance worked on a mushroom farm but deteriorating health meant he had to give up work. Lance suffered from Alzheimer's for the last five years of his life. He spent the last year of his life in full time care.

Lance's funeral was on the 25th of June. Jane writes:
"*His coffin was covered in a Rhodesian flag. The sight of that and the nostalgic photos as well as the African bird calls providing the processional music brought tears to the eyes of most Zimbabweans there. I, as well as grieving for my lost husband, am also still grieving for a lost country and I think the funeral service did that for many. The cry of the Fish Eagle as the coffin was brought into the service was what set many of us off, but then we did have a chuckle at the unfortunate timing of the call of the 'Go Away Bird' (Grey Lourie) as the coffin was lowered onto the dais! But that's the kind of thing that would have appealed to Lance's wicked sense of humour.*"

Editor's Note:
Lance was part of a bit of fun during the time that the Monitoring Force were in Marandellas in 1980 when he and another skellem called Mike 'borrowed' one of the MF land rovers. The various accounts of this story were published in two editions of this newsletter, in April 2009 as '1980 Ceasefire – A Tale of Two Vehicles' and July 2009 in Stompie's column.

David Thomas Gent.
His son Dan writes:
"*My father, David Gent, died on Sunday after a long illness. He came out to Rhodesia from Britain in about 1960 and was in both the RLI and C Sqn SAS. After the break up of the Federation in 1963 he joined the SMT (School of Military Training) in Zambia for a short time before coming out to NZ and joining the army here."*
Obituary in the New Zealand Herald reads:
"*Gent, David Thomas - WO1, 3 Para, RLI, C Sqn, Zambia Rifles, 1 Ranger Sqn, NZSAS. Died on July 4th 2010 peacefully at Howick Baptist Hospital. Dearly loved husband of Anne and much loved dad of Roger, Wanda and Martin, Danny and Serena and loved granddad of Luis. You will always be in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. Pat and family invite friends to attend a Service of Remembrance for David which will be held at St Marks Chapel, Papakura Military Camp, Grove Road, Papakura on Thursday July 8th at 10.30am.* ***Photo ID required for access to the camp***."

Off The Radar

The email addresses of the people listed below have bounced the last communication sent. If you are in comms with them could you ask them to contact me.

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

- **Syd Weatherall** – England
- **Mark and Sue Johnson** - Australia

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. Published 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.

Last month's illustration of the Mazda convoy escort raised this comment from Fred Punter:

"*I liked the painting of the escort vehicle, I think these were Mazda 1800's and considering the weight of the 'turret' in the back they performed very well and covered amazing distances. I seem to recall a CMED workshop manager telling me that one of them had done 300,000 but I can't remember if it was miles or kilometres. I also believe that Dunlop tyre factory in Bulawayo used some of the escort vehicles to test their tyres*."

"Outer Perimeter, Relay Station"

A Tribute To The Veterans Of The Sky by Mitch Stirling

The book, 'They Served Africa with Wings', pays tribute to the wonderful spirit of early African aviators with beautiful old photographs and stories about civil aviation in central Africa from 1920 to 1980. The co-author Mitch Stirling immigrated to Canada recently and he is now a resident of Victoria. He tells people that he used to live in Fort Victoria (Rhodesia) but now he lives in Fort Victoria (British Columbia). Mitch sent me this piece below. He can be contacted on email m.stirling@shaw.ca John House, the co author, was one of my teachers and cricket coach at Ruzawi School in the 1960's. For someone who did not really excel or like school very much, I remember John as an excellent teacher. The Ruzawi under 11A cricket team was undefeated against all comers in that year – John's coaching, my captaincy or the fact that Rob Bently played for us?

In the years that followed the Second World War, many ex-servicemen and women moved from the United Kingdom to her colonies. Canada, Australia and Southern Rhodesia were favourite destinations. My parents moved to Salisbury in sunny Southern Rhodesia where new immigrants were encouraged to help build a young, growing nation.

We moved into a hostel that had been used as barracks for the many airmen from all over the world who trained there during the war. Southern Rhodesia was second only to Canada in training thousands of pilots and navigators and bomb aimers in what was known as the Empire (later Commonwealth) Air Training Scheme.

At our new home in the old Cranborne barracks I began to learn about the wonderful history of the men who had passed through this place. In a young school boy's imagination I could sense their presence in the bits and pieces of discarded aviation, left over from times gone-by.

The nearby primary school that I attended was called Nettleton. It was dedicated to the memory of these men and named after Squadron Leader John Nettleton VC who led the fateful low level bombing attack on the MAN diesel engine factory at Augsburg in 1944. Six Lancaster bombers of 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron RAF were engaged in the attack; only one came home! There were two Canadians in those downed Lancasters; F/Sgt AE Ross and Sgt PJ Venter.

Years later I was to meet some of the surviving pilots of the war, in the cockpit of an Air Rhodesia Vickers Viscount, when I was a young and rather nervous first officer. Pilots who had flown Lancasters, Hurricanes, Spitfires and Typhoons and received many medals of honour for bravery; DFC's and DSO's and many more, were now sedately flying passengers around. But 'flying around' with some of these war-hardened old boys was not always easy, as one of our new 'boy-pilot' first officers discovered.

“Sir, what shall I call you in the cockpit?” the ‘boy-pilot’ asked.
“You will address me as captain”
“And after flight, on the ground, should I still call you captain, or Sir, or Mister, or may I call you by your first name?”
“You don't speak to me on the ground”

There's no doubt these men formed a group of tough individuals, highly-skilled and professional, but they also grew flowers and loved classical music and wrote lovely poetry. They were old-school officers and gentlemen, and their frequently naughty behaviour and their practical joking became legendary in aviation circles. I guess that's airmen the world over.

Now, the Vickers Viscount, there's a thing of beauty. The first one arrived at Salisbury's old Kentucky airport (now Harare airport, Zimbabwe) in 1956. More Viscounts were to follow in later years; a total of 14 in all. But VP-YNA, christened 'Malvern' and decked out in silver, dark blue and white, became the flagship of Central African Airways, the forerunner of Air Rhodesia. In her long and distinguished life she carried hundreds of thousands of passengers, her engines were changed 139 times, and she made more than 25,000 landings. On her retirement in 1985, in the colours of Air Zimbabwe, she had flown 40,737 hours.

‘Malvern’ arriving in Salisbury 1956

I carried out its valedictory flight as captain, so it is little wonder that I feel a strange tingling sensation up and down my spine, and a wee tear comes to my eye when I view and touch a Canadian Viscount on display in Victoria's fascinating Aviation Museum! Her sister ship 'Malvern' sleeps peacefully, I hope, in the Aviation Museum at Gweru, Zimbabwe.

All the Viscounts in the fleet were much-loved by pilots and passengers alike. They were gracious old birds and they deserved every word of the compliment paid to them, 'you can balance a coin on its edge during flight'. But terrible tragedy visited our Viscounts when two were shot down and destroyed near Kariba dam in Rhodesia by heat seeking Grail missiles during the politically troubled years of the 1970's. The nation grieved the loss of friends and family and crew members. I'm getting that strange tingling feeling again!

Central African Airways also operated another aircraft type very close to the hearts of all Canadians, the de Havilland Beaver. These sturdy, ubiquitous little 'half ton trucks' of the bush were hard at work all over Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and Nyasaland (Malawi) in the 1950's and 1960's. A lovely story about the busy Beaver appeared in the Scanner magazine of 1962, the magazine of Central Africa Airways.

RMA "Eland" at Balovale, Barotseland circa 1950's

"*In this day and age of jet travel most places are but a few hours (or two beers) apart, leaving little time to study the scenic beauty of the terrain below. And in any case the countryside, if visible, seems well-nigh featureless from 18 000 ft. in a Viscount. It was my good fortune, therefore, to get a lift home to Salisbury from Lusaka in a Beaver, cruising along at a leisurely pace at 2,000 ft. The rugged hill formations of the Zambezi escarpment stood out clearly in bold relief, and the river itself could be traced for many miles into the hazy distance. Everything; farms and mines and villages, drifted slowly by below.*

Time seemed to stand still as the distant prospect of Salisbury remained stationary on the horizon and the city only became clearly visible in the sloping shafts of the late afternoon sun when we were about twenty minutes out. We slipped down quietly and landed on the cross-runway; and what perfect timing, a Friday afternoon at 4:30 when all the other CAA staff were packing up for the weekend and heading for the Airways Club.

The age of elegance may have ended with the passing of the stagecoach, but its twentieth century counterpart can be experienced in the graceful progress of the Beaver. So if you ever get offered a lift in one, seize it with both hands."

The Beavers played a very important role in the social development of central and southern Africa by linking together remote, inaccessible areas and providing basic services to the local populous by transporting medicines, stretcher cases to hospital, mail, car spares, fresh food, family cats and even new-born babes. And there was a Beaver on floats that did a survey of the upper Zambezi river above the Victoria Falls in beautiful Barotseland.

These days, I occasionally hear the sound of that distinctive Pratt and Whitney radial engine approaching the Victoria harbour here in BC when my wife and I are out walking around Macauley Point in the evenings. Is it an old Wasp Junior engine I wonder? It makes me realise that Canadian and Rhodesian pilots have a lot in common; they have the same pioneering spirit that opened up wild places and they flew a number of the same aircraft types that grace our history books.

October RV – Labour Weekend 22nd to 24th October 2010

It is time to start preparing for the RV. Accommodation in Tauranga is always booked out so I recommend that you book well in advance.

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

Rhodesian Services Association Museum Update

Progress with the FAF Display Classic Flyers Museum in Mount Maunganui, New Zealand has been slow recently due to work and family commitments by those involved.

If there is an experienced model builder in New Zealand who is able to help with the revetment please contact me. This will involve making model 44 gallon drums, poles and overhead netting. Most of it has been worked out but the time I thought that I would have to put into it is not available.

I have received emails about the restoration of the Alouette chopper. This will be a lengthy process as well. Obtaining or making parts will be our biggest challenge. Anyone living in the Hamilton area who is able to be involved in the project please contact Chuck Osborne email c.osborne08@gmail.com to offer a hand. These sorts of projects take years to complete.

Our Visitors Book at the Classic Flyers display area gets a lot of positive comments. We see a number of people who leave notes indicating their connection to Rhodesia. It is indeed a small world these days.

Regimental Rumours by 'Stompie'

Howzit?

This month I thought that I might steal Grunter's thunder and get a first hand report from a World Cup Soccer (sorry Football) game. Unfortunately they would not let me in with my vuvuzella……

…….damn! Never mind. I will leave Grunter to the sports stuff and stick to what I know. This month I have deciphered (at great loss of personal 'quality time' as they call it these days), two letters to Jasper Sidebottom. The first is from his chum Clarence Willoughby-Scorn and the other from his former headmaster Blackheart-Wilkinson which was accompanied by two caricature sketches. These sketches were still in their original wrapping. It appears that Jasper never took the pictures out of their wrapping and when you read the letter from his old headmaster you will see the reason why. Mind you, would you want pictures of your old headmaster?

The Diggers' Arms
Von Weiligh Street
Johannesburg
Transvaal

21st January, 1893

Viscount Ethelred of Slouch, Jasper Sidebottom
BSA Column Encampment
Near Gubulawayo
Matoppos area Matabeleland

Tugger, old chum

I am in receipt of your latest missive from within the dark heart of the evil Matabeelee Empire and am keener than a walloping dose of Froggy mustard to get to grips with these vile heathens. As you will note from my address, I am indeed hot on your heels and, as soon as I can find the means to cover the fare of a Zeederberg coach for Freddy and myself, I shall be joining you on the Frontier, post haste. I cannot fail to disguise and, openly admit, my profound envy of your situation - a noble Christian fight for a noble Christian cause - while I find myself in somewhat distressing circumstances, having been obliged to depart Cape Town in unseemly and undignified haste.

You might recall from previous correspondence that Freddy had become overly chummy with a strapping Swedish chap, a Jack Tar by the name of Sven Gali, on the voyage out. I had assumed that the friendship would come to an end on docking in Cape Town; however, it appears that the matelot had become besotted with young de la Douche, quite maniacally and possessively so. More than alarming, and in such poor taste, I hasten to add. Freddy and I had taken modest lodgings in Long Street, planning to catch the first northbound train to Kimberley three days later. Taking in the sights of Cape Town of an evening, we came upon a tavern on the Heerengracht and, on a whim, decided to peek inside with a view to perhaps imbibing an ale or two, or, in the vernacular: to "*klap a dop*". Picking our way through the jostling flotsam and jetsam of Cape humanity - a term I use loosely to describe the toothless wretches crowding the thoroughfare, spewing foul invective on one's ancestry and one's mother and, curiously, on cats (something about "*your ma's puss*") - we finally made it to the door of the establishment, where, by the grace of God, a corpulent Dutch fellow - apparently the gaffer - with a hide whip, called a shambock, proceeded to belabour these churlish Hotnots about the body in an effort to disperse them. With much wailing and gnashing of gums, the mob was finally broken up.

Lo and behold! We were then rescued by a large pair of bronzed arms, adorned with tattoos of anchors and Michelangelo's David, and rather unceremoniously dragged inside the tavern by none other than Sven, who, as fate would have it, had been sharing several drams with Mr. Kipling, himself recently disembarked from our very own HMS *Bangalore*. I shan't bore you with the tedious details of how the happy shipboard reunion went awry, other than mention that later that evening, when the gaffer called time and presented the slate to our table, I was mortified to find my purse was no longer on my person - clearly pick-pocketed by the Hotnot vagabonds outside - and was obliged to hurriedly make my excuses as to urgently requiring the use of a lavatory. On my return, and praying that Rudders or Sven had settled the bill in my absence, I was vastly relieved to find that a fracas had developed in the vicinity of our table. Nothing quite like a mêlée as a handy distraction, what!

On closer inspection, amidst the heaving mass of pugilism, it appeared that the sailor Gali had Mr. Kipling in something of a stranglehold, with poor old Rudders pucer than a ripe plum, and emitting the most ghastly rattling sounds from his throat. Sven, quite beside himself with rage, was obviously intent on dispatching Rudders into the

hereafter, while Freddy - sobbing and screaming at the same time-was ineffectually attempting to prise the Swede from Mr. Kipling by flailing him about his blond head with a neckerchief. Eventually, the Dutch gaffer intervened with his shambock and saved the day for Rudders.

It transpires that Mr. Kipling had inadvertently placed his one hand beneath Freddy's one buttock, thinking it belonged to a Hotnot waitress, and was gently kneading the latter's derrière, when Sven had spotted the infraction and erupted in a fit of enraged jealousy. Seizing the moment, I escorted the woebegone Mr. Kipling outside onto the Heerengracht, mentioning the unfortunate loss of my purse and that a small financial consideration from him would assure my future discretion. In somewhat poor taste, and unbecoming of a Poet Laureate in waiting, Mr. Kipling issued forth a stream of oaths and flung a handful of sovereigns at my feet. Such little gratitude.

Freddy, still all a tizzy, enhanced by the revelation of our precariously impecunious state, flounced off down the street, saying he was going to "earn some money on the wharf". In spite of my curiosity as to what income-generating activities are available at the docks at midnight,

I restrained my urge to pry the following morning and simply accepted the dozen guineas he presented to me. By now, word had reached me that the local constabulary were desirous of interviewing me in connection with an apparent, but clearly ludicrous, matter of blackmail. So quickly packing our valises, and waiting for the right moment (when the landlord was preoccupied in the kitchens), we sidled out of the hostelry into an alleyway off Long Street, untethered a brace of saddled steeds outside some adjacent stables and galloped north toward the town of De Aar. Here, fortuitously, we were able to sell the horses to a Yiddish merchant by the name of Barnato for twenty guineas apiece and, when the conductor was otherwise engaged, slyly boarded a freight wagon on a train bound for the Witwatersrand.

So, here we are, on the greatest Reef in the world, a veritable cesspit of bounders, cads and rogues posing as miners. Our lodgings - selected for reasons of anonymity in the event of an unexpected departure - are humble but adequate. Situated nearby, on the corner of Commissioner Street, is a convenient alehouse called the ‘Molly MacGuire’, where Mr. Fitzpatrick and his 'Atelanders' meet periodically to foment revolt against the boorish Kruger and his brutish South African Republic. Tonight, there is a Music Hall evening at the Molly and the irrepressible Freddy has somehow managed to bag the plum role of Nell Gwyn, a part which pays the princely sum of half a crown a night. Word on the street is that several dozen Lithuanian and Armenian ladies of the night have arrived in town, courtesy of the Russki mining magnate, Boris Dzvorsky, and that they will be making their debut at the Molly this evening.

I shall sally forth for an evening of wine, women and song. I hear the card tables shall be in action, so will sign off now as I need to prepare that pack of cards you so generously gave me for my last birthday. It does appear to be an incomplete deck: there is only one Ace of Spades.

Your chum,
Tosser

A.J.M. Blackheart-Wilkinson BA, MA
Rector Cerberus School
Hades Downs
England

25th January 1893

Viscount Ethelred of Slouch, Lt. Jasper Sidebottom
BSA Column
Matabeleland

My dear Sidebottom,

Your recent letter to the Old Boys' Association concerning your travels and adventures in Africa has been kindly passed on to me, by the Secretary, Miss Hortense Phugley-Sphincter.

As Head, I take great pride and interest in following the lives of the former pupils of this fine institution.
Regrettably, one is oft in receipt of reports via third parties, such as the Liberal press and avaricious Solicitors eager to bleed the school over trivial incidents. A recent example of this foul play led us to vigorously defend our physical development programme when it was reported, quite erroneously, that some pupils had come to harm.
One or two of the weaker pupils may have succumbed to a minor degree of frost bite and some temporary mental lapses were noted by Matron but, as you know, we pride ourselves in being more robust than those wet-blanket

Scottish Presbyterian schools. I understand that they have stopped sending their boys for an early morning circuit of the lake in the winter term. Unthinkable! Here at Cerberus we would never desist from such healthy outdoor pursuits-clean body, healthy mind is our motto.

Clearly your grounding here has placed you in your current enviable situation. All those years of Latin and Greek were not a complete waste of time nor, dare I say, the odd thrashing that you received when you challenged the rules. As you continue your journeys in the far flung corners of the Empire, I am sure that you will continue to draw strength from your time here.

You will no doubt recall my niece, Ethel, who used to give extra mural French lessons to the senior boys in the old shed behind the Upper Sixth form annex? Her assistance with the conjugating verbs most certainly helped a number of boys through their exams. You were one of her regulars as I recall. Quite why she insisted on locking the doors and shuttering the windows was beyond me but she did say that she had the full attention of the students and the odd "oh la la" that did escape the confines was proof enough to me that she was going about her lessons in adequate manner.

But I digress. Ethel has secured employment as a governess in Austria, of all places. Her charge is a dreadfully petulant five-year-old boy who, when angered, stamps his feet and raises his voice along with his right arm in some sort of tantrum. She has tried singing some Yiddish lullabies that she learned from a Jewish friend but this seems to enrage the child further, so she has taken to locking him in the basement without nourishment until the fit passes. Strangely, the parents have asked for me to be his mentor. I believe that under my tutelage I shall enlighten him with art and encourage some military training as an outlet for his anger. I trust that in this way he will one day make his mark on the world.

I am enclosing the sketches that hung above the old leather arm chair in my study - the chair that you and other miscreants were oft bent over to receive a caning. The pictures were presented to me by the Officers' Mess when I was serving with the Royal Fusiliers. My aquiline features, which are more deserving in description of a raptor than a sparrow, have been somewhat exaggerated. Since you were in attendance of the defaulters' parade more often than any other pupil, I see fit that you should keep these pictures and that they will remind you of your generous old headmaster.

In closing, I trust that you remember your old school and hope that you will contribute most generously when you find fortune on the Dark Continent, along with Mr. Rhodes who we understand is setting up a scholarship scheme. My banker's details are enclosed for your record. I find it simpler to keep track of such donations via my own account than the school's as the Treasurer is such a stickler for minor details.

With sincere best wishes,
AJM Blackheart-Wilkinson

Until next time – do it, but don't get caught

Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings everyone,
This month with all the Football World Cup on the go, I have decided to discuss the current sporting events with special reference to the Zimbabwe connection where applicable.

The World Cup is nearing the semi-final stage with the methodical Germans and the often under achieving Spaniards making up the one Semi-final and Uruguay and Holland making up the other. I have never fully understood Football, but would have to say that it has certainly lived up to its billing as the greatest sporting event in the world. One would also have to give South Africa full marks in the way they have hosted the event. From the outside anyway it looks to have been a huge success. For me, I hope the Germans go on to lift their 4th title, not only have I always supported them but it will certainly save me a few bucks. Somehow I got conned into a bet with my son Jason, that if Spain win I owe him the new Odyssey White Hot XG putter valued at $250.00!!! If they don't win however he gets to clean my car inside and out.

The northern hemisphere rugby teams have made their annual June pilgrimages south and in most parts were sent back packing. Only England with their 'oh so one dimensional play' had any luck and Scotland with two wins out of two in Argentina. Englishman Andy Robinson has certainly turned things around with Scotland and I would have to say that England should have won the first test to go with the second that would have made it 2 - 0 against the much vaunted Australians. In the first test, with a massive superiority in the scrums, all England managed to do was try the pick and go. They did this with a dogged determination for about 30 minutes of the match where if just

once they had sent the ball wide they would have scored with ease. Apparently Martin Johnson tore into them at the end of the match with a tongue lashing that he was famous for. Ireland also tested the Australians and Robbie Deans must be wondering when the Aussie team is going to deliver all that it has been threatening. Bradley Barrett, son of Bruce Barrett who played for Rhodesia, got a call up to the England team to play the NZ Maori. The former Natal Shark had a very good debut and after being shunned by the Springboks (mainly due to the quota system) he looks set to have a career with England and we wish him all the very best. The Tri Nations gets underway in Auckland next week and again promises to be an intense few weeks for all involved. I can feel the nerves tingling already and I for one, will be highly strung come kick-off on Saturday.

Other Zimbabweans on the radar this last month include Brendon De Jonge and Miles MacLagan who is Andy Murray's tennis coach. After the first day of the US Open at Pebble Beach De Jonge was leading the field. He eventually finished a creditable 33rd but no doubt the experience would have been invaluable. We wish him the best of luck in the up coming British Open. Andy Murray was knocked out in the Wimbledon semi final by Rafael Nadal. Unfortunately Murray seems to make a habit of going out in the semis. He needs to kick on past this stage if he wishes to make a name for himself otherwise, like Tim Henman, he will just be another name that came close but never delivered.

On a more sinister political note Zimbabwe springs to the fore on the cricket front. Former Australian Prime Minister John Howard has been snubbed as a nominee for the ICC vice presidency. Zimbabwe is miffed over John Howard's critical stance on Mugabe and his regime over the last decade and have successfully lobbied India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Bangladesh and South Africa to out vote England, Australia and New Zealand. While it does not surprise me it still saddens me to see South Africa firmly behind the former group. Another worrying factor for me is India's increasing dominance of the sport. If their team does not like a decision against them or they are not happy with an umpire they immediately strike and all their demands are instantly met. This does not bode well for the future of the game. Gone are the days when South Africa and Zimbabwe would have been in the opposite camp which kept a check and balances on the likes of India. Who can forget the disgraceful way umpire Darrell Hair was hung out to dry by the ICC because Pakistan were unhappy with him?

So the line up for this coming month, Tri-Nations Rugby, Football World Cup semis and final (should I get the bucket and sponge out?), British Open Golf at St Andrews to name a few.

On a sadder note John Morkel the captain of the victorious 1949 Rhodesian Rugby team over the All Blacks, is not well. I also learned that Brian Coghill, the Rhodesian scrum-half in the late 70's has died. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all their families and loved ones.

Please send your news, views 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.

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 - 22nd, 23rd, 24th 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 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.

I have recently revamped the CQ Store page with some additional details – go on line and see for yourself.

With the onset of the rugby season we are seeing increased sales of our rugby jerseys.

NZ$125 + P&P

Winter in the southern hemisphere also means we are selling beanies and other 'winter woolies'

Fleece lined beanie – very warm NZ$22 + P&P

Lined Polar fleece jacket NZ$65 + P&P

CQ STORE INVENTORY

ITEMS EXCLUDING POSTAGE	PRICE in NZ$
4RR Hackles	$17.50
'Bumper' Stickers, Rhodesia/NZ or Australia flags; Rhodesian flag; Rhodesian Services Assn Lion & Tusk	$3 each or 2 for $5
Business Card Holder – stainless steel with Lion & Tusk engraved	$20
Berets	$50
Lapel pin - Para Wings – gold plate or Enamel	$15
Lapel Pin – Rhodesian Flag	$10
Lion & Tusk Aprons	$30
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Baseball Caps	$25
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Beanies green or black	$22
Lion & Tusk Dog Tags	$30
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Polar Fleece jackets – long sleeved in green, black, navy	$65
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Polo shirts - black or green	$38
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms T-shirts - black or green	$30
Lion & Tusk Women's v-neck stretch shirts - black	$30
Medal Ribbon Devices – MFC, Commissioner's Commendation, bars etc.	$30
Name badge – resin coated	$15
Number plate surrounds – 4 styles to choose from	$12
Pocket Insert Medal Holder	$15
Poster "Be a man among men"	$25
Poster "Rhodesian Bush War"	$30

Poster – Rhodesian Map accurate as at Oct. 1977	$60
Poster "Terrorism Stops Here!" 2 in series	$50 ea
Regimental Cap Badges – RLI, Intaf, RAR, RDR, BSAP, Grey's Scouts, RRR, RR, Service Corps, Staff Corps, RWS, DRR and more	Priced from $20 – inquire for details
Regimental ties – Rhodesian Light Infantry	$40
Regimental ties – Rhodesia Regiment	$45
Regimental ties – Rhodesian African Rifles	$40
Regimental ties – SAS (badged SAS only)	$55
Rhodesian General Service Medal copy (silver plate bronze) full size medal with ribbon	$100
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	$125
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon – full size	$10/length
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature (solid silver) with ribbon	$40
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon - miniature	$10/length
Rhodesian Medal for Territorial or Reserve Service full size copy (solid silver & gold) with ribbon	$150
Rhodesian Police Long Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	$160
Southern Rhodesia War Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	$150
Rhodesian Flag 3' x 5' (900mm x 1500mm) ready to fly	$40
Rhodesian Flag, embroidered 110mm x 50mm	$20
Rhodesian replica rugby jerseys – short or long sleeve	$125
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge full size	$22.50
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge miniature	$15
Various medal ribbons – please inquire	POA
Various full size & miniature medals – please inquire	POA
Various small embroidered badges (RLI & BSAP)	$5
Zimbabwe Independence Medal copy - full size with ribbon	$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

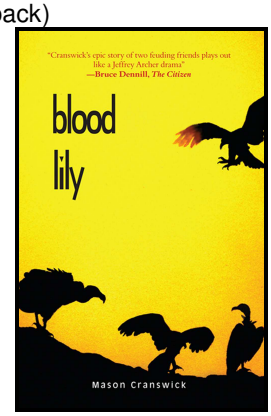
Books for Africa

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 providing a good read are now available:

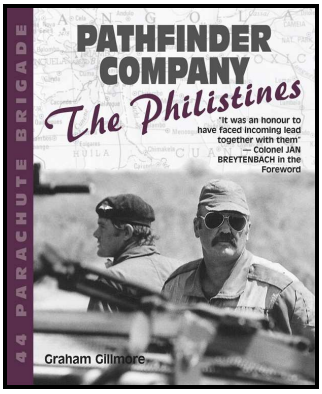
Blood Lily by Mason Cranswick $30 (soft back)



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)



The South African Army formed 44 Parachute Brigade from a need for a specialist Pathfinder Company. Into the ranks came veterans from the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Rhodesia and elsewhere. Many Rhodesians were from the SAS, Selous Scouts and the RLI. This book is 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, recognised for their positive and aggressive approach to battle.

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.

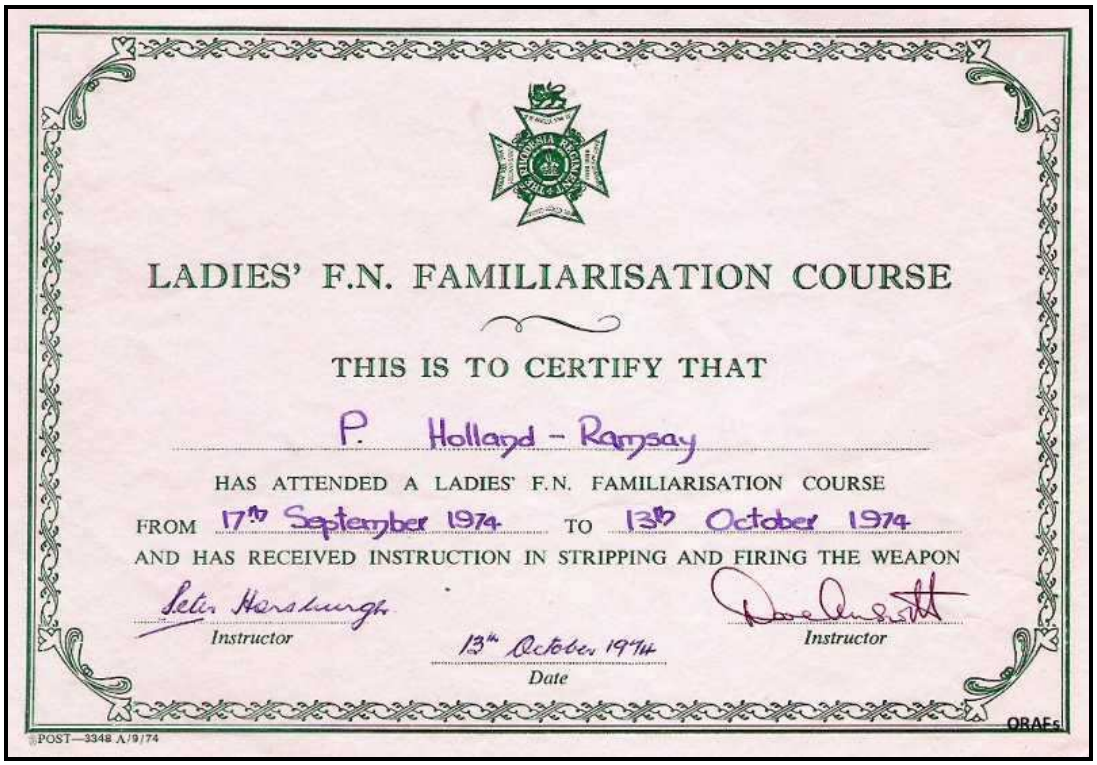
The Rhodesia Regiment – Book Project

Thank you for all the responses from the June edition of ***Contact! Contact!***

A recent article by Eddy Norris to his Umtali Folk group titled 'Ladies' F.N. Familiarisation Course' was of interest to us as the course was run by 4RR. The illustrations below were supplied to Eddy by Penny Maitland-Stuart (nee Holland-Ramsay) who noted:
"*I only remember 3rd from the left (seated) Judy du Plessis and 4th from left (seated) Penny Holland-Ramsay – luckily still remember myself*!"

Ladies' F.N. Familiarisation Course - September 17, 1974 - October 23, 1974
Umtali - Rhodesia

ORAFs



LADIES' F.N. FAMILIARISATION COURSE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

P. Holland - Ramsay

HAS ATTENDED A LADIES' F.N. FAMILIARISATION COURSE

FROM 17th September 1974 TO 13th October 1974

AND HAS RECEIVED INSTRUCTION IN STRIPPING AND FIRING THE WEAPON

Peter Horsburgh
Instructor

13th October 1974
Date

Instructor

ORAFs

POST—3348 A/9/74

I passed Eddy's email on to Col. Peter Browne, the last CO of 4RR, who wrote these notes for us:
"*Peter Horsborough was the chief instructor on that particular course and many such courses took place arranged through 4RR.*

Peter was one of the regulars attached to 4RR at the time and I think I am correct when I say he was badged RAR, he was a great chap and very dedicated in what he did.

Other courses were held as it was requested from a lot of the farmers wives, who after all, were the very front line of our defence system and bore a major part of the brunt with their dedicated duties both in the home with the family, and on the farm with the work when their loved ones were so frequently called away.

My wife attended one such course and on this particular course the wives were requested to bring along their 'weapon of choice' i.e. the weapon they would use in the defence of their home or themselves. I can assure you that many differing types of firearms were presented! They were then trained up on their own weapon. I can also say that great teas with plenty of eats were served.

It is here that I would like to recall, and certainly not at the expense of my great wife Zia, the story of her on one of these courses. The time came when the actual firing of the FN was to take place and they were all allotted places on the firing line and instructed to shoot at their particular lane number. Well dear Zia was given lane number 5 and firing commenced. I was watching from behind and after a few rounds no hits were recorded on her target, this didn't seem right to me so she was asked what she was doing, her quick reply was priceless. She said "You told me to fire at number five and I have been doing so" she had been firing at the number on the top of the butts. We as a family have never forgotten that."

Thanks for sharing that Peter. If anyone can add any names to the photo above or has any similar material please write to me.

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 the beginning of Operation Hurricane in 1972.
- 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.
- Rhodesia Regiment Dress Regulations.

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.

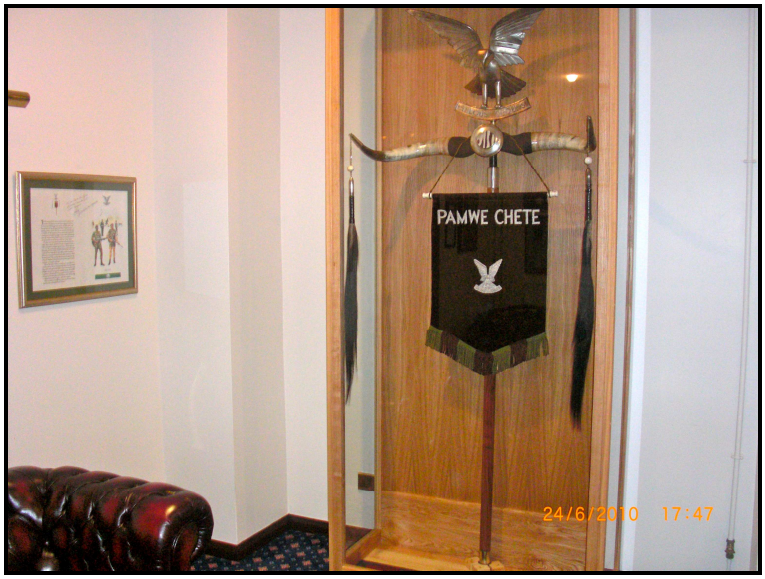
Photos in 300DPI please. If you do not understand scanning – we can help, alternatively you can send the photos to us and they will be returned. All input will be acknowledged.

Material can be sent to:

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

The Global Forked Stick – Snippets and Requests

Selous Scouts Standard
After a very long process the Selous Scout Standard has reached its final resting place in the 22nd SAS Officer's mess at Hereford in England. The process has involved the Selous Scout Association, the Imperial War Museum and the Special Air Service. After much red tape, rules and regulations to be followed for the transportation, housing and preservation of The Standard, it is now safe and displayed as pictured below.



As it is now housed on a high security British army base, visits to view the Standard are by pre-arranged appointment only. Contact details for a request to visit can be supplied on request.

Roan Antelope Music – John Edmond
Dear Friends,
By popular demand we are running the June special again for the month of July as we now have more Rhodie caps in stock!

It's the final count down and the soccer world cup's in full swing, what a pity Bfana Bafana did not go through to the next round, however they did us proud sorting the French out!! T.V. Radio and the media are still full of the hype and excitement around this great event.

Unfortunately Roan Antelope Music still do not have any vuvuzella's or flags 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 1st July – 30th August 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

Intake 159 - 4 Indep Coy RAR
We are still trying to find a unit photo of Intake 159 when they were at Llewellin. Please email hbomford@clear.net.nz if you can help.

Supporter's Website
Mike Vivier is a solid supporter of the Rhodesian Services Association. His website is at www.bucklesandtees.co.nz Open the 'T-shirt' link, then 'Rhodesia' to see the 'Advice to Terrorists' t-shirts that he can supply.

Information request on air crash of 49 Sqn. in Kenya 1955
Extracted from an ORAFS notice.

"*Richard Bartlett writes:*
My father was killed while flying with 49 Sqn. Royal Air Force in Kenya in 1955. A witness to the accident was Flight Sgt. Jim Moody, Royal Rhodesian Air Force. I am trying to find out if anyone knows of him.
Replies to Richard's email rbm1953@cox.net and copied to orafs11@gmail.com"

'Save Hwange' Screensaver
Mike Clements and Kirsty Lubbe write:
"*Link South Africa is raising money for The Friends of Hwange Trust, a group of dedicated Zimbabwean conservationists who have taken into their own hands the care of the wild animals and maintenance, particularly water supply, of Zimbabwe's largest national park. So please sacrifice a couple of coffees this week and download our $10 screensaver to support Hwange. Just $10 gives 1 day of water to 400 elephants! Please help us. Read more…….*"

Seeking Ivor Boyd
Extracted from an ORAFS notice:
"*Andre Sely is wanting to contact Ivor Boyd who served in the Rhodesian Air Force. Ivor lived in Mabelreign and was married to Denise.*

If you can assist, please email Andre at andre_sely@yahoo.com and copied to orafs11@gmail.com"

Pioneer Society Appeal
Gavin Cumming forwarded this information to me:

"*Pioneer descendants and members of The Pioneers Society are now scattered to all corners of the world. Wherever they are they can be proud of their heritage, their history and resilience.*

It is in keeping alive this history and our heritage that we The Pioneers Society, (custodians of this history) send out this urgent appeal to you all. Please make whatever donation, of any amount you can, to help us survive, as well as to keep the fires burning.

Reminder also that children, grand children, great grandchildren etc. are also eligible to become members. Application forms available from The Pioneers Society.

The current cost of Life Membership and Scroll is US$55 each. This does not have to be paid all at once, especially if there are several members to be registered, it can be paid in instalments, which can be arranged to suit you.

The Society finds itself, from being financially sound and independent, to being destitute. The funds of The Pioneeer Society were completely lost due to the removal of an additional twelve zeros from the Zimbabwean Currency in February 2009. We are now unable to meet the basic functions of our office i.e.: electricity, council rates, water, or telephone as well as staff wages and salaries. This disaster also affected many of our elderly people who became penniless and now have to rely on hand-outs or assistance from family members, friends or charitable organisations. We are no longer able to assist members financially.

In order to minimise the high costs of transferring funds, (normally a minimum charge of approx US$35 at the transferring bank) it is suggested that any funds originating from outside Zimbabwe should be accumulated in a designated account in the country of origin. Anyone in a position to assist is asked to contact us.

Details of the relevant accounts to be used can be obtained by email request from email pioneers@gatorzw.co.uk or the Executive Chairman Paul McCay Eastnor@netconnect.co.zw

Thank you in advance
Paul McCay
The Pioneers Society
130 A Jason Moyo Street
Postal: PO Box 100
Bulawayo
Zimbabwe
Telephone / Fax 65367"

Items for sale
Angela Salzmann has items of her father's that she is offering for sale:

- Grey's Scout beret with badge
- Grey's Scout stable belt
- Rhodesia Regiment beret with badge but no flash

I have viewed photos of the items and they appear to be in very good condition

Please email Angela at asalzmann@gce.net.au

Prince of Monaco set to marry a Bulawayo girl.
Charlene Lynette Wittstock who was born 25th January 1978 in Bulawayo, Rhodesia is set to marry Albert II, Prince of Monaco. Wittstock was a member of the South African women's 4 x 100 m medley team at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, which finished fifth.

Ben Freeth MBE
Ben Freeth, a Zimbabwean farmer who has worked tirelessly for the right of commercial farmers and farm workers to continue producing crops for the nation in the face of mass-scale state-sponsored harassment, has been awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire).

Freeth's name appears on the British Government's Diplomatic Service and Overseas list, published as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours 2010. The citation reads: "*Benjamin John Freeth: for services to the farming community in Zimbabwe*". Freeth (40), is one of 44 people worldwide who will be invited to Buckingham Palace in London to receive an MBE award from the Queen.

Security Fencing
If you are in the upper half of the North Island of NZ and need security fencing, I recommend you get people who know what security fencing is all about – see this link http://www.nocowboys.co.nz/businesses/defence/

Until next time - go well.
Cheers Hugh

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

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

You can make a donation to the Rhodesian Services Association by clicking on our 'Collection Hat' below which is a typical slouch hat of the type used by the Rhodesian Army up until the 1960's. Click on the hat (or this link https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MLMB2B8Y2UY3G) and if you are registered with PayPal the process will be immediate. If you are not a PayPal member you will be given instruction on how to make a credit card payment via PayPal. Thank you - every bit helps.

This newsletter is compiled by Hugh Bomford, 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.