



Contact! Contact!

August 2012

A monthly publication for the

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

Registered under the 2005 Charities Act in New Zealand number CC25203

Registered as an Incorporated Society in New Zealand number 2055431

PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand.

Web: www.rhodesianservices.org

Secretary's e-mail thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org

Editor's e-mail theeditor@rhodesianservices.org

Phone +64 7 576 9500 Fax +64 7 576 9501

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

Greetings,

This is a bumper issue, made so due to the support of our contributors to whom I am most grateful.

Please remember that the October RV draws ever closer and everyone is welcome to attend. This is not an "ex services only event", it is a time to get together and have a good time. If you are intending to use motels or camp grounds, please get your booking in early to avoid disappointment. We have some plans for the RV which are slowly coming together, but until we have confirmed things we do not want to advertise them just yet. We are anticipating a unique experience with a particular emphasis for anyone connected to or who served with the 4th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment. Please can any 4RR soldiers who are able to come to the RV contact me.

Please use the links below and especially take a look at our Events page <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/events.htm> where there are a number of new listings.

We have been contacting everyone whose membership for the 2011-2012 year has lapsed. We are a bit late in doing this owing to a change of computer systems which no longer allows the sharing of address books between our Secretary, Chuck Osborne, and mine so we have had to 'make a plan' which does work but means that all bulk emails have to be sent from my computer only. The membership year runs 1st October to 30th September. Those attending the RV will pay their subscription automatically with the RV fee.

Enough from me – you have a hell of a newsletter ahead of you so settle in and enjoy.

Rhodesian Services Association Purpose & Web Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Obituaries

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



From Fred Punter:

“Bert Freemantle died on 17 July 2012 in Perth, Australia.

Bert joined the BSA Police in June 1946. He was born in Dublin and came from a military family. Bert first worked for a newspaper company, after leaving school, but shortly before WWII he had, apparently, falsified his age to join the Territorial Army. The outbreak of war saw him called up early, with the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry, and serving in the Middle East. He transferred to the Parachute Regiment in early 1943 and served in North Africa and Italy. During the Battle of Arnhem, (September 1944) he was captured and held as a POW until June 1945, when he re-joined his regiment. He served a further year with the Parachute Regiment before demobilising and shortly thereafter joining the BSA Police.

His career in the force started in Bulawayo and was followed by a tour in Gatooma District. He was promoted to Assistant Superintendent in December 1963, at which time he took over command of the new Support Unit which had just been upgraded from an Askari Platoon to a three troop establishment of men. It was he who modelled this often unsung unit into a credible fighting force, and it was sometimes jested that he never took it "Airborne".

Following a lengthy tour at Tomlinson Depot, Bert served on a few district commands. He was promoted to Senior Assistant Commissioner in July 1976 and took command of the Victoria Province at that time. Bert was the recipient of the PMM and PLSM. He retired from the force in December 1977 and later emigrated to Perth, Australia.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to his wife, Sylvia, family and friends, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy. R.I.P.”

Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings everyone

As I write this August is almost upon us, which means to those of us in the Southern Hemisphere that spring is around the corner. Next weekend brings us to the final of the Super 15 which I fear for the Sharks will be a hurdle too far. Having to travel to Brisbane, back to Cape Town then turn around and go to Hamilton all in the space of about 10 days is a hang of a lot of travelling (though I wouldn't mind some of the air miles they must have clocked up). I wish them all the luck in the final and it would be a magnificent feat if they were to pull it off. Playing under Kiwi coach John Plumtree they have certainly had a good run at the end of the season and the side is playing with a huge amount of team spirit.

The much awaited London Olympics also opened this weekend with a magnificent opening ceremony that only the Brits know how to do well. There has been much talk on the subject of security and I hope for all of that the games are remembered for all the right reasons. With the financial gloom and all that goes with it the last thing we all need is another tragedy on a grand scale. Personally I don't know a lot about who is expected to do well or at what event, but I have to say that when Kirsty Coventry came into the stadium with the Zim flag it brought a lump to my throat. I look forward to following the results as they come in.

Last weekend saw a fabulous sporting weekend for South Africa. It started off with the Sharks beating the Queensland Reds in Brisbane to catapult them into the semi-finals. Then at the Oval in the first test match between England & South Africa, the Proteas beat England by a crushing Innings and twelve runs. With South Africa posting an amazing score of 637 for two it meant that a couple of batsman got a hell-of-a-lot of runs. Unless England step up they will lose their "Number 1" crown to South Africa by the end of this series. Then, to put the cherry on top, Ernie Els proved that like a good wine you can improve with age as he swept the field to take his fourth Major in the British Open at the Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club. It couldn't happen to a nicer guy as the "big easy" was all smiles and as humble as ever at the presentation.



While looking through the Chirundu.com website the other day I came across this remarkable achievement by a Zimbabwean.



Samson Muripo created history by becoming the first person from an African country to win the Karate World Championship when he claimed gold in the middle weight Kiyokishini Karate in Osaka Japan.

The remarkable performance in Japan earlier this year means he joins other Zimbabwean sporting heroes like diver Evan Stewart and swimmer Kirsty Coventry by turning himself into a world champion in his chosen sport.

A third Dan black belt holder, Samson is also the African middleweight champion and the technical director of the Mas Oyama Dojo club at Harare's Raylton Sports Club. He beat five other karatekas on his way to winning the world championship. He beat Alberto Santamaria of Spain in the first round and then knocked out Degeniyazov Nurken of Kazakhstan in the next round to proceed to the quarter-finals. In the quarter-finals, he beat Herman Laschak of Germany and suddenly he was just two steps away from the gold. Australian karateka Daniel Fox was the next victim, falling in the semi-finals, to give Muripo the ticket into the final.

In the final he went up against local boy Kikuyama Yasumichi of Japan and, once again, Muripo won the bout to capture the gold medal for Zimbabwe in the middleweight division.

This breaking news as I write this piece: The New Zealand women's hockey team have beaten arch-rivals Australia in their opening match of the 2012 Olympics.

'Till next month enjoy all the sport on the go at the moment and go well everyone.

Remember to send us your thoughts on fourstreams@xtra.co.nz

Regards,
Grunter.



Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980 by Gerry van Tonder

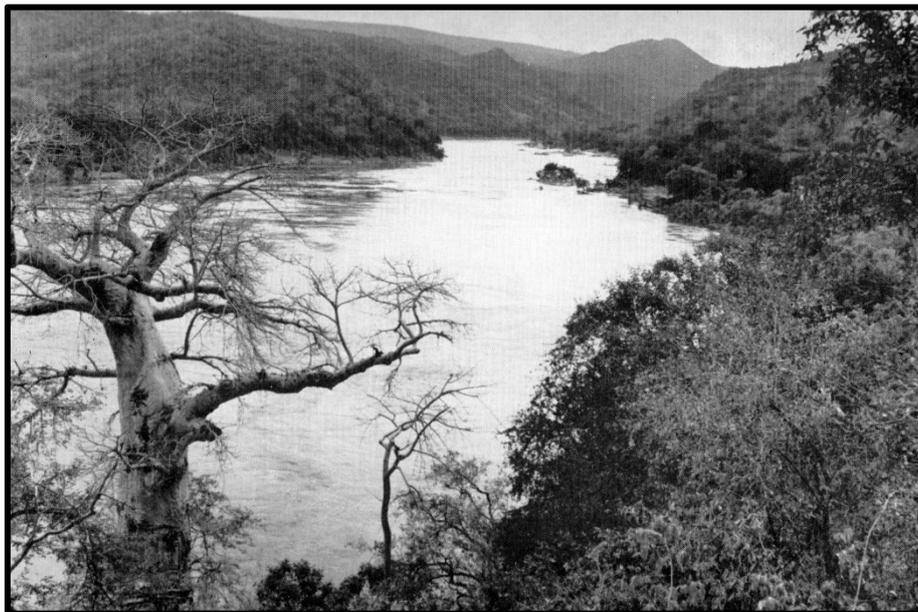


August

Newsflash Headlines +++On 13 August 1890, the Pioneer Column ascends Providential Pass, then establishes Ft Victoria nearby +++ On 21 August 1896, Rhodes, Plumer and Colenbrander hold an indaba with Matabele chiefs to end the Matabele Rebellion +++ On 10 August 1914, the British South Africa Police is placed on an active service footing as war breaks out in Europe +++ On 1 August 1945, the railway line through the Lowveld to Lourenco Marques is opened +++ On 8 August 1963, members of ZAPU dissatisfied with Nkomo's leadership, form ZANU +++ On 6 August 1975, a dusk to dawn curfew is imposed along Rhodesia's border with Botswana +++ On 28 August 1975, the Rhodesian Government announces national registration for all races +++ On 1 August 1979, the Commonwealth Conference in Lusaka gives Britain the mandate to mediate in a final Rhodesian settlement+++

In Brief

On 6 August 1956, an advanced party of fifty-six engineers and workers, employed by the Italian civil engineering consortium Impresit, arrived in a remote inhospitable part of Rhodesia to commence construction on one of the largest ever man-made dams in the world. Thereafter they were flown in at the rate of one hundred per month from northern Italy, on two and a half year contracts paying the lucrative sum of between 5/1d and 6/6d an hour, with a fidelity bonus of £15 a month. Married men were encouraged to bring their families with them, an unusual luxury. The project would attract the elite of Italian labourers, laid off during the European winter when dam construction in the north Italian mountains was suspended for three to four months.



The upper reaches of the Kariba Gorge

On 26 August 1975, various Rhodesian political parties, including the Rhodesian Front, met in a South African railway coach on the Victoria Falls Bridge, that monument to colonial engineering excellence that straddles the Zambezi River.

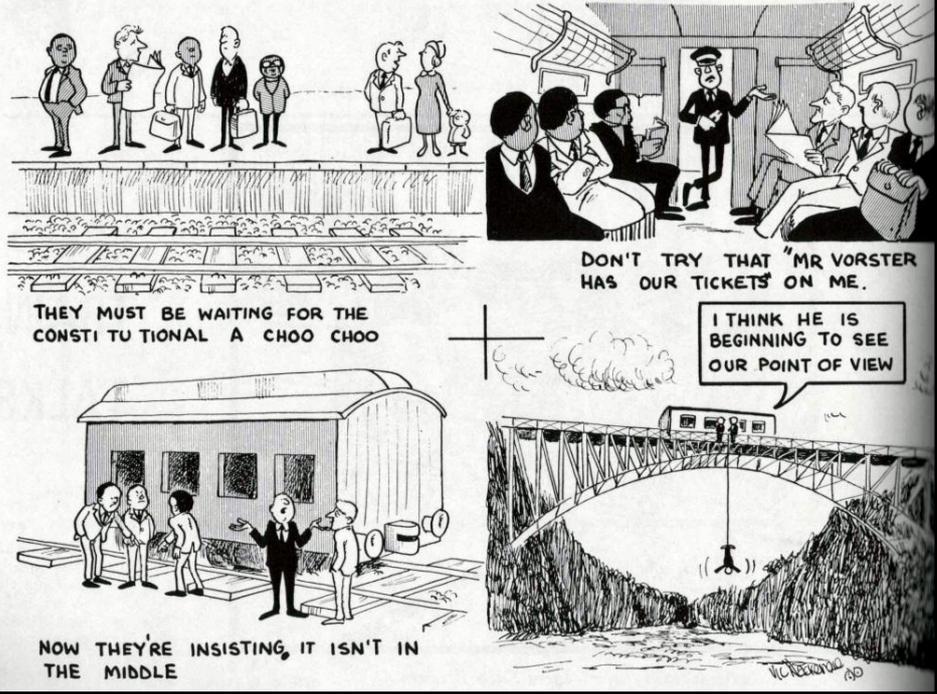
The conference was doomed to failure even before the opposing protagonists set foot on the coach. Prime Minister Vorster of South Africa, in an attempt to woo Zambia's President Kaunda through his policy of regional détente, had essentially brokered the meeting. The nationalists and Ian Smith paid the fiasco lip service, in spite of the latter's recriminations about Vorster's withdrawal of his police from duties in Rhodesia on 1 August.

In his book *A Short Thousand Years* (Galaxie Press 1979) Paul Moorcraft writes that "...some white Rhodesians were very rude about this piece of railway diplomacy; they talked about the 'chatter nigger choo-choo.'"

ALL CONFERENCE MUST BE HELD ON BRIDGE, SAYS ANC

Saturday 16 August 1975

THE President of the ANC, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, yesterday insisted that the whole of the proposed constitutional conference should take place in the South African Railways coach at Victoria Falls Bridge.



17-8-75
Sunday Mail

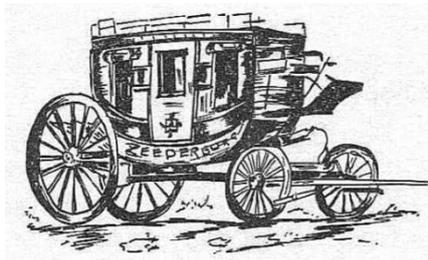
(Thanks to Vic Mackenzie)

What's in a Name

Lying some sixty-three kilometres south of Umvuma is the small hamlet of Chatsworth, through which the pioneer original pioneer route passed to Ft Salisbury from Ft Victoria and Ft Tuli. At that time, the site was called Makori and later Makowries. Being a stopover point for the Zeederberg's coaches, a trooper of the BSACo Police was based here to ensure the road remained open.

The local Mashona, fearful of Matabele raids, also sought refuge here, thus triggering the growth of a permanent settlement. Because of postal confusion with Makwiro, in 1919, the village was renamed Chatsworth, after a neighbouring farm owned by a Mr Peck. The railway station was the first building of any consequence, erected in anticipation of the arrival of the railway in 1911.

The train journey from Gwelo took a very long time, carrying mixed goods and passenger traffic, the latter having to travel with their own "chop box" of food. There would be much shunting at sidings, and goods such as cream cans, chicken crates and agricultural products collected. The train was also known, on occasion, to stop along the track when the crew would wander off to have a chat with a local farmer, especially if he also had a pretty daughter.



Situated some 48 kilometres south of Marandellas, is a commercial farming area known as Wedza, a corruption of the name of a nearby range of mountains called Hwedza, chiShona for a place of wealth. Large deposits of iron were found by the locals in the range, which they used to manufacture spears, axes and hoes. The area was part of a huge tract of land owned by the BSA Company, managed by a Mr Scorer. He was responsible for the establishment of a police post near Ndudzo's kraal, because of an incident of stock theft from the Chartered Company's property.

At Mt Wedza, thirteen kilometres south of the village, Dr Leander Jameson was forced to spend some time after he fell off his horse and broke several ribs. Together with Colquhoun and Selous, they had left the Pioneer Column at Ft Charter to visit Chief Mutasa in Manicaland.

The BSACo ran a settlement training scheme at Wedza, where approved settlers would spend a year learning how to farm under Rhodesian conditions. They were encouraged to develop local farms, and then in turn take on trainees, allowing the settlement to develop itself on the "snowball principle." Trainee farmers received free board and lodging, but received no pay. They had to provide their own linen and blankets.



Siege of Elands River: 4 - 16 August 1900

With the capitulation of Johannesburg and Pretoria by early June 1900, the Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in South Africa, Lord Frederick Roberts VC, divided the Western Transvaal operational theatre into districts, with the sole objective of mopping up pockets of Boer resistance. The Marico District, including the towns of Mafeking, Zeerust, Lichtenburg and Rustenburg, was assigned to Maj. General Robert Baden-Powell, his force including 1,100 Rhodesia Regiment troops, Southern Rhodesia Volunteers and BSA Police.

Boer Generals Koos de la Rey and Christiaan de Wet continued to believe that victory might still be within the grasp of their respective Republics. With pockets of die-hard '*bitter einder*' commandos scattered throughout the region, especially in the Magaliesberg, Baden-Powell deployed two mobile columns to effectively search out and neutralise these Boer units. One of these columns, the northern one, was under Colonel Herbert Plumer, with a force of 500 mounted men of the Rhodesia Regiment, with four guns of the Royal Canadian Artillery. A small reserve of 100 mounted men of the BSAP was split between the two columns. In addition to this, 200 dismounted troops of the Rhodesia and Protectorate Regiments were each held at Mafeking and Zeerust.

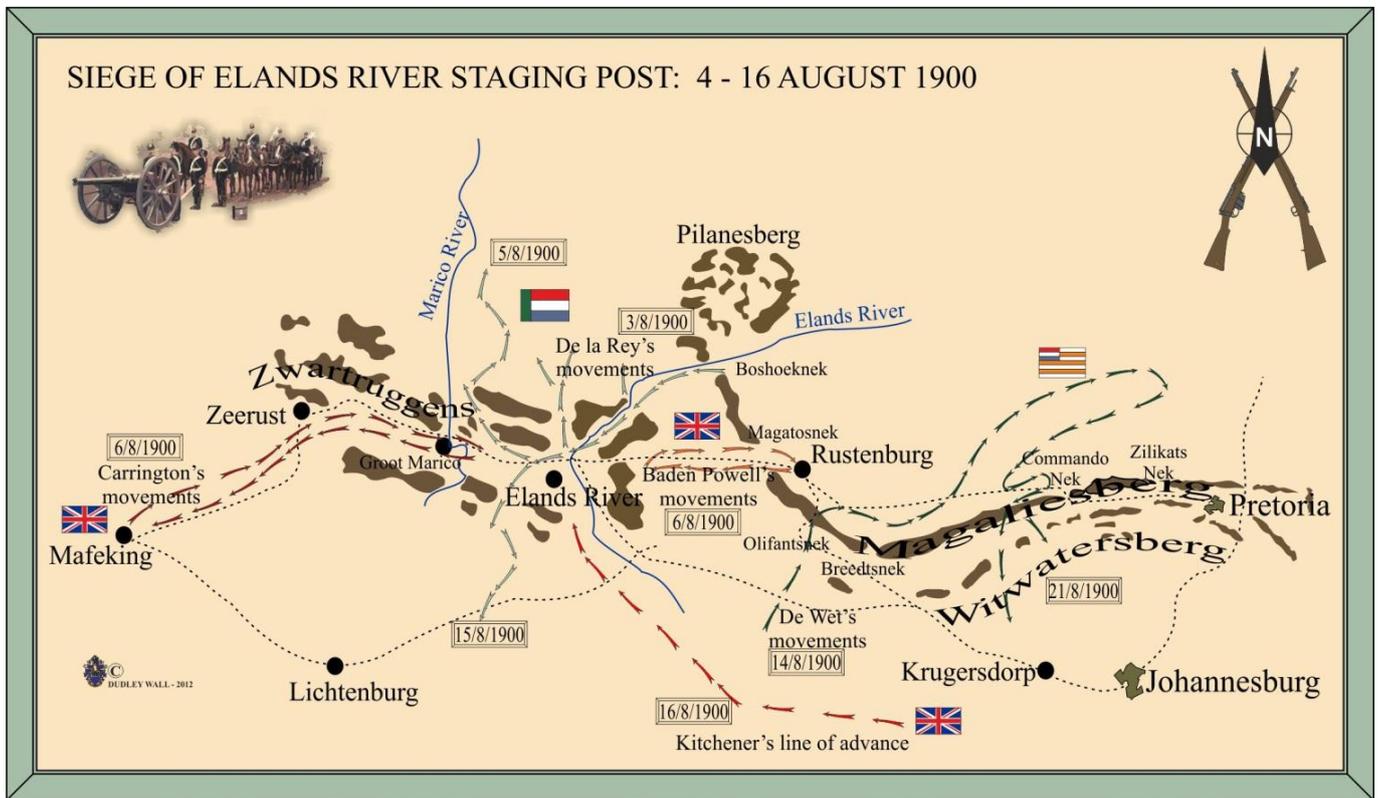
Of note was that there were no British troops in the whole north west of the Transvaal Republic. Sir Frederick Carrington, protecting the northern frontier on the Limpopo, had a force of 4,000, comprising Yeomanry Battalions and Bushmen from Australia and New Zealand.

With the objective of occupying Rustenburg, Plumer's Column moved eastwards from Zeerust via Magatosnek in the rugged Magaliesberg. This extensive range of mountains provided a substantial barrier, but several passes, referred to locally as '*neks*,' allowed access for columns of troops with field guns. En route, Plumer left a garrison of 100 men of the Southern Rhodesian Volunteers at the drift over the Elands River. Large supplies of provisions and ammunition destined for Rustenburg and brought up by wagon from Mafeking and Zeerust would be secured at this staging post. Baden-Powell, in the meantime, had moved closer to Pretoria, occupying the Zilikats and Commando Neks to the west of the Transvaal capital. He left behind at Rustenburg a squadron of the Protectorate Regiment under Lt Colonel CO Hore, but a few days later Hore was ordered to retreat down the road towards Zeerust and the staging post at Elands River, as reports were being received of a large force of Boers descending on the town.

Carrington, in response to a requirement to bolster troop strengths in the region, had reached Mafeking on 27 July, but was told not to proceed any further east than Elands River, in anticipation of Rustenburg being evacuated in the face of large numbers of Boers under de la Rey, de Wet and Lemmer.

By now, Elands River on Brakfontein Farm, in the shadows of the Swartuggens Mountains and once just a communications post between Mafeking and Rustenburg, had become a fortified stronghold under the command of Lt. Colonel Hore. His force, made up entirely of colonials, comprised 201 Rhodesian Volunteers and BSAP troops under Captain Sandy Butters, 105 New South Wales Bushmen, 141 3rd Queensland Mounted Infantry, 53 Mounted Infantry from other Australian states, and 50 African drivers. Significantly outnumbered, surrounded by high kopjes and mountains, and with only one 2.5" 7-pounder gun and two maxims to supplement their small arms, the garrison dug in, hoisted the Union Jack, and prepared themselves to defend the accumulation of stores and ammunition for which they were responsible.

Arthur Conan-Doyle would describe their actions as the finest resistance of the war.

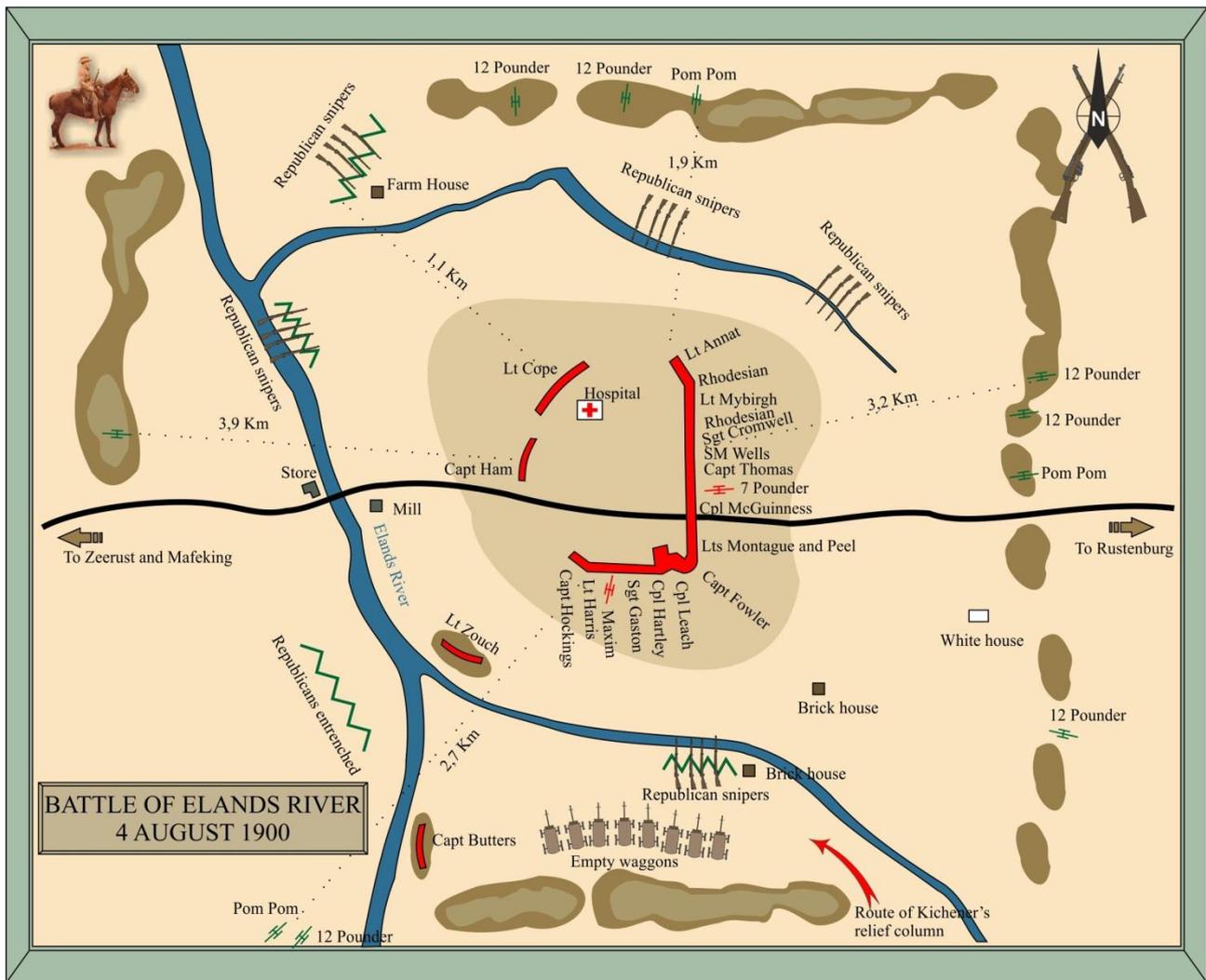


(Illustration thanks to Dudley Wall)

On 3 August, Carrington with a column of 1,100 colonial volunteers and irregulars had reached the Marico River, where he left 350 men with the fifty waggons needed to uplift the stores and ammunition at Elands River. He believed his progress would be faster without the lumbering ox-waggons, plus he would replenish his own supplies when he arrived at Hore's camp. Two days later, and a mere eight miles from Elands River, Carrington parked up the mule transport and continued east with 650 men. As the column neared their objective, Carrington became concerned that the superior numbers of the Lichtenburg and Marico Commandos would not only hinder his passage, but that attempting to cross the last two or three miles over open ground would prove to be disastrous. After deploying two small patrols to find their way to Hore's camp, just to have them taken prisoner, Carrington withdrew. As he retired, he felt that the only safe position would be Mafeking, resulting in his decision to recover all his troops from the Marico and Zeerust.

The post at Elands River was left to its own fate, but Hore and his men were not to know that they had been left on their own to hold their position. This was to prove historically unique, as there were no Imperial armies anywhere nearby, with the consequence that Rhodesians would fight for Rhodesians and Australians for Australians.

At breakfast on 4 August the siege commenced as the first Boer artillery shell destroyed the telegraph. This was followed by barrage of artillery and rifle fire from the surrounding Boers, a force of 2,000. From kopjes to the west and east, seven and twelve pound guns and Pom Poms opened fire on the post, ranging from 3,000 to 4,000 metres. The Boer guns to the north were much closer, bombarding the hapless colonials, and in the process killing 1,379 of the 1,540 draft animals and horses in the camp. Boer snipers had entrenched themselves in the dry creeks to the north and south, and on either side of the Elands River to the west where it cut the Zeerust to Rustenburg road.



(Illustration thanks to Dudley Wall)

On the first day of the prolonged Boer artillery onslaught, no fewer than 1,500 shells landed within the confines of the 12-acre camp, the hospital taking several hits. Five were killed and 32 wounded on that day.

On 6 August, Baden-Powell attempted a rescue bid, but when hearing that Hore had surrendered, and while still twenty miles from Elands River, turned around and returned to Rustenburg where preparations were also in hand to evacuate the town and retire to Pretoria. Lord Roberts made the decision to withdraw not only Baden-Powell, but also the forces of Colonels Hamilton and Kekewich, the latter from the garrison at Olifants Nek. After destroying 400,000 rounds of ammunition, Baden-Powell joined the other commanders, leaving the area between Mafeking and Commando Nek totally devoid of any resistance to the Boer forces under de la Rey. All that remained was the beleaguered garrison at Elands River.

The wily Free Stater, General Christiaan de Wet, seized the opportunity to not only join forces with de la Rey, but also to slip under Lord Methuen's forces who were desperately trying to corner him. This bold move by de Wet, facilitated by Lord Roberts withdrawing all British forces west of Commando Nek, further exacerbated the situation at Elands River.

On 8 August de la Rey sent a message to Hore, stating that he had driven back Carrington and suggesting the garrison surrender. In reciprocal gentlemanly fashion, Hore declined, but asked that the Boers desist from shelling the hospital. The request was complied with, but fighting continued while Roberts mobilised his battalions to ensnare de Wet in the Magaliesberg.



Boer Field Guns of the Staats Artillerie

Only by the 13th was news received that Hore was bravely holding out at Elands River, despite round the clock bombardment. The Boers commenced attacks at night, with the objective of cutting off the garrison's water supply. The fortified camp safeguarding the war material was in fact about half a mile from the Elands River, their only source of water. Such forays by the Boers were repulsed by a small party of Southern Rhodesia Volunteers under Captain Butters, operating from a kopje to the east of the camp. A small detachment of Australian Bushmen under Lieutenant Zouch was similarly deployed on an adjacent kopje overlooking one of the creeks. Such defence however, came at a price. Capt. Sandy Butters, was mentioned in Lt. Colonel Hore's dispatch to Lord Kitchener:

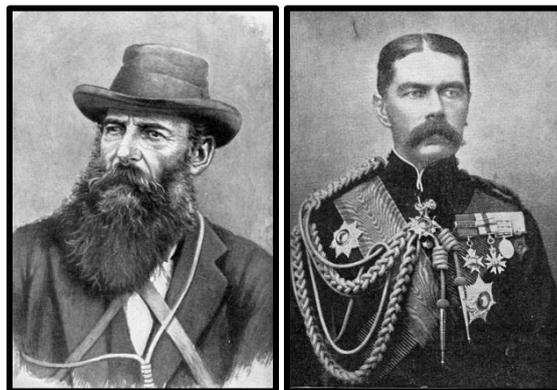
"I would especially mention Captain Butters SRV for his gallantry in holding a detached post through the whole siege in face of the enemy who were entrenched within 250 yards, and thereby enabling me to retain command of my sole water supply." Later Captain Butters took up a commission in the newly formed Commander-in-Chief Bodyguard. He was wounded in action on 3 January 1901 at Kromspruit, 20 km west of Reitz. Captain Butters died of wounds on 6 January 1901.

A Native messenger had been despatched by Hore on 10 August, seeking immediate assistance. By this time, de la Rey had withdrawn some of his investing forces in order to occupy Rustenburg and Olifants Nek, left vacant by Roberts' troop recall. Shelling had consequently eased, and a relaxation in the cordon allowed the messenger to break through the Boer lines, reaching Carrington on 13 August. There was at last reaction from Roberts, who instructed Carrington to re-occupy Zeerust and assist with the relief of Elands River. Carrington's force had been refitted and rested at Mafeking, and had been increased with the arrival of extra troops from the north.

Now fully committed to succour the post, Roberts diverted his resources away from the pursuit of de Wet, ordering Methuen's division, the nearest force, to move to Elands River at maximum speed. Lord Kitchener had however started before the order was received. Taking with him two cavalry brigades, Ridley's Mounted Infantry and Smith-Dorrien's battalions, Kitchener left at 2 am on 15 August, and after a rapid march of thirty-five miles, rode into the Elands River camp the following morning with a force of 10,000 men. Broadwood's cavalry had ensured the road was clear on the 14th, followed by Hart's force.

Whilst Kitchener was engaged at Elands River, Methuen, the senior officer in the Magaliesberg, continued the pursuit of de Wet. Carrington with almost 3,000 men had reached Otto's Hoop, only half way to Zeerust from Mafeking, and still a considerable distance from Elands River.

De Wet remained impossible to corner. It would ultimately take considerable persuasion by a very tired de la Rey for de Wet to accept British peace proposals, which did not include independence for the Republics. His bitter-end had come.



The opposing leaders, General Koos de la Rey and Lord Herbert Kitchener; different in every possible way

The men of the Elands River garrison had had to endure almost two weeks of constant attack from the Boers, spending days in roughly hewn pits, suffering from heat and thirst and the all-pervading reek of the rotting carcasses of dead animals. Four Rhodesian Regiment troops were killed, the Volunteers lost two, and a further two BSAP troopers perished during the siege. The Australians lost seven; seven native porters were also killed. There were 58 wounded.

History continues in its attempts to vindicate the decisions and actions of some of Roberts' senior officers in the first half of August 1900. In July 1899, Baden-Powell had been sent to Rhodesia to raise two regiments, namely the Rhodesian under Colonel Plumer, and the so-called Protectorate under Colonel Hore. Baden-Powell took the Protectorate regiment to Mafeking, where Hore was to gain considerable experience in the handling of siege conditions. Little did he know what else lay in his future. Plumer would go on to protect the Tuli area of Rhodesia, with the Rhodesia Regiment and elements of the BSAP. After the relief of Mafeking, there was considerable fragmentation of the Rhodesia Regiment, with the result that there were small detachments throughout the Western Transvaal theatre.

Carrington only appeared later, having crossed Rhodesia after landing at Beira, commanding a brigade of Australian Bushmen. He therefore entered the Transvaal from its North West border. It is argued that the forces at his disposal were significantly diminished by the fact that he was compelled to split the Rhodesian Field Force to reinforce Baden-Powell and Plumer. He however still had a force of 1,000 and a supporting battery of 15-pound guns, enough for a determined push through to Rustenburg, clearing the Elands River staging post at the same time.

After a minor skirmish and some reconnaissance, Carrington turned back, but not only to the Marico or Zeerust, but all the way to Mafeking. Some of his officers and men noted the speed with which seventeen miles were covered that night by the retiring troops.



Union Jack Rallying Point atop an Elands River post sangar



The defenders with their only gun, a 7-pounder

Baden-Powell, having heard cannon fire in the direction of Elands River as he was making his way towards the post, concluded that either Hore had been overrun, or that Carrington had relieved the siege. He therefore returned to Rustenburg. A lack of supplies at Rustenburg prevented Baden-Powell from committing his force to a further attempt to assess the situation at Elands River.

The Boer General Jan Smuts said of the defenders of Elands River, "*Never in the course of this war did a besieged force endure worse sufferings, but they stood their ground with magnificent courage. All honour to these heroes who in the hour of trial rose nobly to the occasion ...*"



Graves of fallen Rhodesians in the Elands River Garden of Rest (Photos thanks to Mitch Stirling)

After Elands River, the Rhodesian Regiment and Volunteers operated east of Rustenburg for a further short period before being disbanded in November 1900, but sadly not before five men of the Rhodesia Regiment were killed in action at Klipdrift.

On 20 August 1900, Lt Colonel John Spreckley of 'E' Squadron and his party were surrounded by some Boers, who, being dressed in khaki, were first taken for friends. When the mistake was discovered and Spreckley and his party were called upon to surrender, he replied, "Never give in to them, lads" and was immediately killed. By his death, Rhodesia lost one of its best-known and most popular men. He saw much service during the war, the Rhodesian Regiment to which he belonged having been in many battles and actions. Sergeants George Blurton and Alexander Downis and Corporal Robert Caffyn, all of 'A' Squadron, and Trooper Francis Forster of 'E' Squadron fell with their Commanding Officer.

Footnote:

This particular feature article on the Siege of Elands River proved very challenging, as it demanded an enormous amount of digging in records, archives, official British Government accounts, the Net, and ultimately a huge dollop of assistance from the Queensland Branch of the Australian National Boer War Memorial Association (NBWMA). Colleen O'Leary, a committee member, gave me an address which contains the individual page-by-page records of the actual Rhodesia Regiment nominal roll for the Anglo-Boer War, all in that beautiful script of the time. This was an incredible find, a holy grail for someone like me who spends every minute of his spare time looking for information relating to any one of the five book projects I am currently working on. Together with Mitch Sterling's photos from the Elands River Garden of Rest, I have consequently been able to identify seven of the eight Rhodesians reported killed during the siege.

I am also indebted to Peter Wilmot, Chairman of the Victoria Branch of the NBWMA who is currently writing a book on the siege at Elands River. He has generously shared his research findings with me that proved pivotal in identifying seven of the eight Rhodesians killed at the post or who subsequently died from wounds received during the siege. They are: Troopers John Gamble, Oswald Gordon and James Wares of the Rhodesia Regiment; Troopers T Kenyon, JH Heughe, and WA Clark, of the Southern Rhodesian Volunteers; BSAP Trooper EJ Mathais.



The memorial plaque at the site of the siege (Photo: National Boer War Memorial Association - Queensland)

Know the Medal

A rose-shaped silver medal, awarded to members of the Fire Brigade for long service and good conduct. The obverse of the medal carries a fireman's helmet with crossed axes. The first clasp is for 25 years' service, the second for 30 years.



Fire Brigade Long Service Medal

Station Officers PJ Crassie and GC Broad, Snr Crewleader F Gillgower, and Firemen RC Timm and AY Stoddart were the only recipients of a second clasp; only sixteen received the 25-year clasp.

Above and Beyond

These are extracts from the Victoria Cross citation for Trooper Herbert Stephen Henderson. The incident took place during the Matabele Rebellion of 1896.

On the morning of the 30th March 1896, just before first light, Captain Macfarlane's party was surprised by the natives. Troopers Celliers and Henderson, who formed part of the advanced guard, were cut off from the main body, and Celliers was shot through the knee. His horse also was badly wounded and eventually died.



Victoria Cross

Henderson then placed Celliers on his own horse, and made the best of his way to Bulawayo, The country between Campbell's Store, where they were cut off, and Bulawayo, a distance of about thirty-five miles, was full of natives fully armed, and they had, therefore, to proceed principally by night, hiding in the bush in the daytime. Celliers, who was weak from loss of blood, and in great agony, asked Henderson to leave him, but he would not, and brought him in, after passing two days and one night in the veldt without food.

Herbert Henderson was invested with his Victoria Cross by the Governor of Cape Colony, Lord Milner, in Bulawayo on the 14th November 1897. Henderson, who went on to mine at West Nicholson, died in Bulawayo on 10th August 1942. He was seventy two years old and is buried in the city.

A Snapshot In Time

In last month's snapshot, the occasion was the very unlikely and dubious Declaration of Unity in Lusaka on 8 December 1974. Not only was there discomfort amongst the disparate nationalist leaders, based on incompatible tribal and ideological differences, but at that very moment there was also a rebellion being staged within ZANU itself. Read into the body language what you may, but the faces of those seated, Sithole, Muzorewa, Nkomo and Chikerema, certainly do not display satisfied acceptance of what President Kaunda, in 'Humanism' shirt, is eulogising about! Mugabe, in traditional shirt behind Muzorewa, seems equally unimpressed and suspicious.

This month I am looking for a caption. Please identify the scene and the man in the cap who appears to be having a chat with the little horse! Wonder what he is saying?



Arms at War

Weapon: Uzi

Type: Sub-machinegun

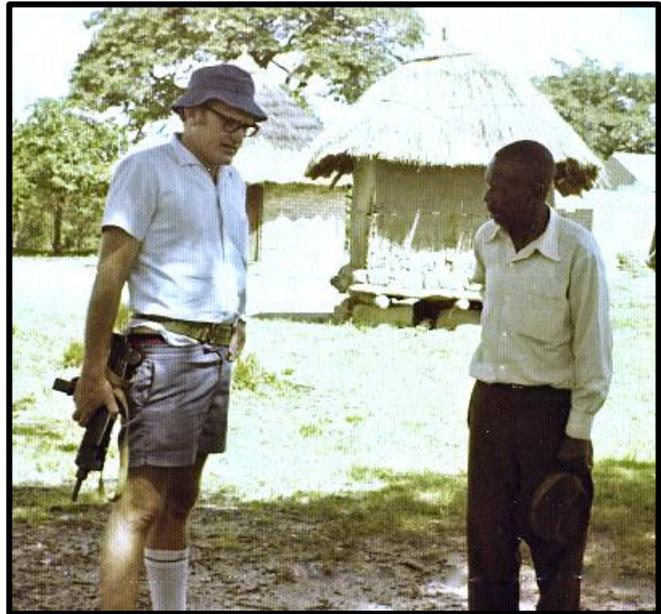
Calibre: 9mm Parabellum

Manufacturer: Originally Israeli Military Industries; elsewhere under licence

Effective Range: 200 metres

The first Uzi submachine gun was designed by Israeli Major Uziel Gal in the late 1940s. The prototype was finished in 1950, with full production and issue to Israeli Special Forces in 1954.

The Uzi was issued to the BSAP, Intaf, Army and the Air Force. It replaced the Sterling in the army and police, but because of the demands for a Sub Machine Gun (SMG) it was still issued in certain sectors alongside the Uzi. Many farmers were also issued with Uzis for home protection. The Rhodesian version was generally the type made under licence in South Africa, but the first ones issued were Belgian made. They came with a 25 round magazine, but some people were able to scrounge magazines with a bigger capacity. Being the same calibre as the Sten and the Sterling, as well as many pistols, including the Star and Browning used by Rhodesian SF, there was generally no problem in procuring ammunition for a variety of weapons at once.



**District Commissioner for Marandellas, John Saunders with Uzi, talking to Chief Nyandoro
(Both images thanks to Dudley Wall)**

The Uzi comes with a bayonet. However, they were never issued in Rhodesia. In South Africa, the Uzi bayonet became the symbol of the commanding officer of an infantry unit, each being presented with one on a wooden stand with a brass engraved plaque showing name, unit and dates of command.

For many it remained a weapon of personal choice, arguably useful when travelling in a vehicle. For most though, stoppages and the inherent dangers of a fixed firing pin and a breechblock that was easily dislodged from its cocked position, meant it was a weapon to be shunned.

At the Going Down of the Sun

On 22 August 1967, two members of 1 Platoon, A Company, 1 Rhodesian African Rifles, fought and died together in an ambush in the Tjolutjo TTL in Northern Matabeleland. In on-going operations named Operation Nickel, troops of the RAR and RLI had been deployed to account for a group of 79 ZAPU and SAANC insurgents that had infiltrated the north west of the country.

Lt. Nick Smith, one of the last Rhodesians to graduate from Sandhurst before UDI, was leading the patrol on the spoor of the so-called Lithuli Group, when they came under an overwhelming barrage of small-arms fire.

WOII Havahli Timitayi, a Malaya veteran and Nick Smith held a brief discussion to discuss tactics. Timitayi took up a standing position behind a tree, and placing an MAG in a fork of the tree, started laying down controlled fire in the direction of the terrorist positions. Sadly, a stray bullet passed through a branch of the tree, striking him in the head. He died instantly. Smith, on his way to assist Timitayi, also sustained a fatal wound.

Nick Smith's fiancée, in the Deaths column of The Rhodesia Herald said, "I beg God to forgive the insanity of the world. Mary Ann."



590 Lt Nicholas John Smith

R3063 CSM Havahli Timitayi



Across the Globe

- On 3 August 1914, Germany and France declare war on each other, starting WWI.
- On 15 August 1945 Japan surrenders, ending WWII.
- On 24 August 1968, France explodes its first nuclear bomb, becoming the world's fifth nuclear power.

And.....

...on 15 August 1969, the Woodstock Music Festival opens with 500,000 fans promising to "make love, not war!"

Report on return trip to the Puma 164 crash site near Mapai, July 2012 by Neill Jackson

Towards the end of 2011 it became obvious to the search team that some family members of the victims of the Puma 164 tragedy desired to visit the crash site in order to pay their last respects to their men, but did not have the wherewithal to undertake the trip. Rick van Malsen and Neill Jackson consequently decided that they would offer to lead a group of next of kin to the site during the July school holidays. Accordingly an email was sent out to family members in January 2012, giving dates for the proposed trip and requesting commitments from interested parties. The initial response was nothing short of overwhelming and firm plans began to be formulated.

Contact had been made at the Johannesburg launch of *The Search for Puma 164* with Sergio Pais Mamede, the son of Orlando Pais Mamede, the man who founded and built Mapai as a ranch headquarters, and Rui Morais, the grandson of Orlando Pais Mamede, and it was decided to invite these gentlemen to join the tour group in order to learn more about the history of Mapai. Although some people were forced to withdraw from the trip, the eventual tour party comprised 25 people, made up as follows:

Rick van Malsen and wife Val; Neill Jackson and wife Johanna; Rui Morais and son Miguel; Keith Matthews, a friend of Rui Morais and his son Connor; Greg Velleman, brother of Puma 164 pilot Paul Velleman; Hermien Velleman, sister-in-law of Paul Velleman and her two adult children Jacques and Laetitia Velleman; Pat Osborne, mother of Puma 164 co-pilot Nigel Osborne, with her four adult daughters; Debbie Vaughan, Diann Bosch, Sally Rutter and Ingrid Elam. The Osborne family were accompanied by Pat's brother; Colin Hart and his wife Joy, their daughter Angelia and son Andrew, and Osborne cousins Mike Crooks and Graham Young. Also in the party were Delia Forbes, sister-in-law of LeRoy Duberly and her husband Allan, who were on their second visit to the crash site. Sergio Pais Mamede was going to be in Mozambique at the time and advised that he would meet us at the team base at Mamba Camp, in the Parc Nasionale do Limpopo near Mapai.

With the main group being made up predominantly of families of the SA Air Force men, it was decided to approach the SA Air Force Association to provide a cross to be erected at the smaller of the two graves at the crash site. This was arranged by old friend and former Puma pilot Ola Grinaker and the cross was presented to Neill Jackson by Association members at the SAAF Memorial in Pretoria on Thursday 28 June.



L to R: Philip Weyers, Immediate Past President, SAAFA; Neill Jackson; Brigadier General Neville Greyling, National President, SAAFA; Major General Hugh Paine, Vice Chairman of the Pretoria branch of SAAFA.

The van Malsens and Jacksons met up at Pafuri River Camp on the afternoon of Saturday 30 June and were joined just in time for dinner by Rui and Keith and their two hyperactive boys, having taken a long and circuitous route to Pafuri thanks to a mis-programmed GPS. The evening was spent getting to know each other and enjoying a good meal of rump steaks around the campfire.

Early the next morning the team set off through the Kruger National Park for the border post at Pafuri, where the advantages of having a Portuguese-speaking Mozambican in the team became immediately obvious. Rui chatted at length to the border officials, most of whom knew of the Pais Mamede family and of their accomplishments at Mapai, and our passage was expedited with the minimum of fuss.

The 100-odd kilometre journey to Mamba Camp in the Parc Nasionale do Limpopo took approximately five hours, with the road conditions varying from rocky and rough to sandy and smooth. The scenery was magnificent, although devoid of any wild animals, and the group passed through a magnificent Fever Tree forest before coming across a huge baobab at which the Pais Mamede family traditionally stopped for a rest and a cold drink.



Gabriel, the camp guard arranged by Sergio, was collected at the small village near the entrance to the National Park and the team passed through the park boom with minimal fuss, thanks once again to the linguistic efforts of Rui and the prior briefing of the rangers by Sergio, who had passed through some hours previously. The team arrived at Mamba Camp soon afterwards and tents and kitchens were set up while the boys collected wood and made an enormous campfire, destined to become a welcome feature of the next four evenings. Mamba Camp is extremely

isolated in beautiful lowveld scrub bush, with a dry pan next to the camp with adequate ablution facilities and piping hot showers. An old Lister diesel engine pumps water out of a borehole for the tank in the camp and also fills a small depression in the pan that nourishes the occasional visiting duiker and nyala.

The following day Sergio led us all on a fascinating guided tour of the family's Ngala company headquarters at Mapai and explained how his father had carved a veritable empire out of the virgin African bush. Orlando had initially set up Mapai as a labour recruiting station for the gold mines in South Africa and then branched out to develop a vast business including cattle and game ranching, crop farming, safari hunting and the transport and distribution of supplies throughout Gaza Province. The village of Mapai grew up around the family headquarters and the Pais Mamede family provided electricity, water, schools, clinics, shops and bakeries for their 1000 plus employees and their families. The family were ordered to leave Mapai in 1975 when Frelimo took over the buildings, livestock and vehicle fleets to set up a transit base for ZANLA insurgents.



The nerve centre of Ngala HQ at Mapai; the office of Orlando Pais Mamede, with the first ever water point in the area visible in the foreground.



An office building at Mapai, clearly showing signs of damage from the battles for the town.



One of the Ngala company transport vehicles, taken over by Frelimo in 1975 and destroyed by Selous Scouts during Operation Long John in June 1976, along with a fleet of mostly new buses.



Sergio Pais Mamede shows Rick van Malsen the ruins of the Ngala company club at Mapai, used as a cinema to show films to the company employees and later used as an armoury by Frelimo. It is on the upper floor of this building where Jannie Nel was killed, Dale Collett seriously wounded and paralysed, and Tim Bax badly wounded, on 26 June, 1976, during Operation Long John. Miguel Morais and Connor Matthews follow closely behind, listening intently to every word.

Editor's Note:

In the September issue of **Contact! Contact!** we will carry the full story behind what took place in this building on that day in 1976 as related by Tim Bax in his book *Three Sips Of Gin*. Unfortunately there is insufficient space in this issue to include it.



The ruins of Sergio's once-beautiful home, overlooking the Limpopo River, destroyed by Frelimo following the Selous Scout raids in 1976 (Operation Long John) and 1977 (Operation Aztec).



All that remains of the magnificent family home of Orlando Pais Mamede.



Three generations stand together among the ruins of the family legacy; Sergio Pais Mamede, Miguel Morais and Rui Morais stand in the wrecked cab of one of the first Land Cruisers imported into Mozambique. Sergio's destroyed office building stands in the background.

After a short trip into the town of Mapai, where Sergio arranged for a guide for the following day, the team returned to Mamba Camp, where the Velleman family had already arrived and set up their campsite. Another pleasant campfire

evening ensued, as the group shared travel stories and became acquainted. The next day, Tuesday 03 July, the team collected Sergio's guide, Ernesto, from Mapai and set off to search for the last resting place of Ian Donaldson, David Hawkes and Rob Warraker, who were killed when their Canberra was shot down over Malvernia in January 1977.

Reports had indicated that the men had been buried some distance away from the Canberra crash site, but this proved not to be the case. Ernesto led us to Malvernia, now known as Chicualacuala, and located an administration official who then directed the team to the village of an eye witness to the crash. This local villager took the team to the Canberra crash site, initially located by Bob Manser and his team in November 2008, and from his eye witness account it became evident to us that the three men did not survive the crash and that their remains had been cremated on site by Frelimo soldiers immediately afterwards. The last resting place of these three men is marked by a white metal cross that was erected on the crash site by Rick van Malsen's Puma search team in April 2009.



The white metal cross, surrounded by debris from the destroyed Canberra, marking the last resting place of Ian Donaldson, David Hawkes and Rob Warraker.

Satisfied that they had, beyond reasonable doubt, finally located the last resting place of the three men, the team returned to Mamba Camp, arriving shortly before sunset. Meanwhile, the Osborne family had arrived en masse at the team base, amid much hilarity and teasing, as the inexperienced campers attempted to fathom the workings of their unfamiliar loaned equipment. The Osbornes provided a breath of fresh air to the camp atmosphere and there was scarcely a moment that went by without someone bursting into raucous laughter. The four daughters even managed to bring an embarrassed blush to the face of the usually unflappable Sergio with their antics, some of which will be long remembered for the numerous animated re-tellings around the campfire. The following morning began well before sunrise, as the Osborne clan had all forgotten to turn off their alarms, set to wake them early for the long journey the day before.

The entire group moved out of Mamba Camp on time, heading for the Puma crash site on the other side of Mapai, stopping in the middle of the drift over the Limpopo River for each member to pick up a large stone to take to the grave site, as per their early morning instructions. Briefly stopping at the Ngala headquarters for Sergio and Miguel to explain some of the intriguing family history to the gathered families, the group soon arrived at their long awaited destination.

Former Rhodesian Air Force pilot Ray Haakonsen had earlier been consulted by Neill Jackson regarding the format of a short service to be held at the graveside of the SAAF men. Ray had felt that the position of the Limpopo River between the team base camp at Mamba and the crash site where their loved ones lay was very symbolic and suggested that the service be based upon the story of Joshua leading the Israelites across the Jordan River. He recommended that the family members each collect a stone from the river to place on the grave and that they also take something home from the site, albeit only a piece of metal, a handful of sand or a small stone.

On arrival at the crash site the family members were shown the two graves and informed of the sequence of events that had unfolded on the morning of Thursday 06 September 1979. The menfolk then took turns digging in the hard clay soil to prepare a hole to place the SAAF cross. Two plaques were countersunk into the top of the grave dedicated to Paul Velleman and Nigel Osborne, by their respective families. The family members then positioned their Limpopo River stones around the cross and the plaques and a short memorial service was conducted.



Preparations for the placing of the SAAFA cross, with family members looking on.





Mapai Memorial Service Wednesday 04 July 2012 Readings:

Joshua 1: 1-9

Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua, the son of Nun, Moses minister, saying: 'Moses my servant is dead; therefore the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them.' 'This is my command: Be strong and very courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord thy God is with you wherever you go.'

Joshua 4: 1-9

When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua:

'Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. Tell them; Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.' So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen - one from each of the tribes of Israel. He told them: 'Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder - twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. We will use them to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you; What do these stones mean? Then you can tell them; They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord's Covenant went across. These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.'

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me: Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Ashes and Dust, by Chas Lotter:

Turn back the years Pick through the bones
We left behind.

Examine our few remains

In vain

The search is useless.

For the raw, rich stuff of life

Has long since fled us.

Resurrect our rusty rifles

From the ever-hungry earth

Carefully place the faded rags Left of that which clothed us In warm museum halls.

Guard well the curling, yellow photograph

You found

Gaze upon our faces

Frozen In a tattered message

Addressed to those who are still to come.

Argue, analyze, theorize

On the force that drove our people.

We were only human.

We bled, loved, laughed and cried

And we laid the foundation stone

Of the world you live in.

Rick van Malsen then read out the Roll of Honour of the seventeen men who had lost their lives at this place, followed by these poignant words from Laurence Binyon's poem; The Fallen:

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

The verse inscribed on the plinth of the RLI 'Trooper' statue, from John chapter 15; verse 13, was then read out:
Greater love hath no man than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends.

Keith Matthews then closed the service with the following prayer:

Lord, You were here on the day that Puma 164 was downed and these brave men lost their lives.
We remember each one of them as we have called their Roll of Honour.

They will not be forgotten.

You were with each one of them on that day . . . as you are here with us today.

Thank you for that, thank you that they were not alone.

Thank you that these families carry their memories in their hearts.

You have brought us here today, each one with a specific purpose.

Most to find closure . . . healing . . . peace . . .

And some to find new purpose.

Lord, have Your way.

Bring healing and closure.

We ask for Your peace which passes all understanding.

As we return home, please grant us travelling mercies.

We ask all of this in the name of Jesus Who taught us when we pray to say:

Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.

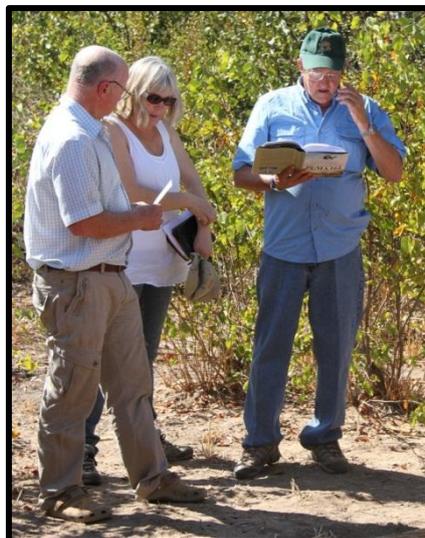
Forever and ever.

Amen.

After the service the family members were shown around the crash site and the nearby trench system, from where the fatal RPG-7 rocket was fired, and they collected small pieces of wreckage and artefacts to take home as mementoes.

A small group of Frelimo officials and soldiers arrived to enquire what we were doing at the crash site, but after one of them phoned the District Administrator and was told that we were friends of Sergio, we were allowed to go on our way.

The group were then led by Rui Morais to an old family hunting camp on the escarpment overlooking the Limpopo River, where a quiet, relaxed lunch was enjoyed by all, before returning to the team base at Mamba Camp for the last time.



Rick van Malsen reading the Roll of Honour, flanked by Neill and Johanna Jackson.

Early the next morning tents were dismantled and equipment packed up, again amid much hilarity from the Osborne clan, before the group split up and headed their separate ways; some further into Mozambique, some back to Botswana and the majority back to their homes in South Africa.

All in all a most successful trip, with all tasks fully accomplished: Much interesting history was learned about the origins of Mapai and the enormous positive influence of the Pais Mamede family in Gaza Province; the final resting place of the Donaldson Canberra crew was confirmed and peace and closure was finally attained by the Velleman and Osborne families; the SAAF Association cross was planted on the smaller grave and some great new friendships were forged. Our grateful thanks go out to all who accompanied us on this trip and contributed to making it such an enjoyable success, in particular Sergio Pais Mamede and Rui Morais; true sons of Africa.

Neill Jackson July 2012

What's On In New Zealand

AUCKLAND

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

Viscount Disasters Commemoration Day Sunday 2nd September 2012

Venue: Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead

Time: 10:30

Location: Private function in the Downstairs Function Room.

Details: Full finger-food sit down meal and coffee for \$8.00 per person. The bar will open from 11:00. The DVD *Viscount Down* will be shown along with other Rhodesian related material.

Contacts: John Glynn 09-832 1300 or Jack Maddox 09-488 9928 for more details. Please confirm bookings with Alison Hucke by email whucke@slingshot.co.nz by 25th August please.

Bring the family. There is easy parking and we have our own private function - lets honour the fallen.

TAURANGA

The Garrison Club which is run by the 6th Battalion Hauraki Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. 'Graze and Movie Evenings' run by members of the Rhodesian Services Assn. are normally held on the 2nd Friday of every month with proceeds being donated to the Hauraki Museum. Email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to get on that mailing list, to see what is on and notification of any changes. Other local events are also advertised via email. The next Movie and Graze evening is 3rd August 2012.

October RV – Labour Weekend 19th – 21st October 2012

Costs:

We have yet to work out costs but it will be around NZ\$40 per adult to attend the RV on Saturday and NZ\$12 for the AGM and lunch (includes free access to the whole Classic Flyers Museum). Noting that NZ\$10 of the RV fee is your annual subs for membership of the Rhodesian Services Association.

Agenda

The basic structure of the weekend is as follows:

Friday 19th October – From 4pm we gather at the Garrison Club, 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regiment, Tauranga. The bar will be open; we will put on some food and also run a DVD.

Saturday 20th October – Golfers are invited to participate in a tournament in the morning. At 2pm we assemble back at the Garrison Club to begin the RV.

Sunday 21st October – We assemble at the Classic Flyers Museum, Mount Maunganui for our AGM after which we have free run of the museum and we provide a braai lunch.

For those who have not experienced an RV it is an excellent experience. Please mark this on your calendar and book accommodation early. EVERYONE is welcome.

Full details will be in the September issue of **Contact! Contact!**

CQ Store

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

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

To order:

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

Payment

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

Overseas customers - we prefer payment by PayPal, personal or bank cheque. We can accept personal cheques from most countries with the exception of South Africa. If you elect payment by PayPal, we will bill you from thecgstore@rhodesianservices.org Please note that we can only process credit cards via PayPal. We do not accept postal orders or Western Union transfers. Rest assured, if you want to make a purchase we will make a plan to enable you to pay!



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



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



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



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



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



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

Here are this month's recommendations from our huge range of products – Lapel Pins:
Remembrance Poppy \$10 plus postage



Rhodesian Flag \$10 plus postage



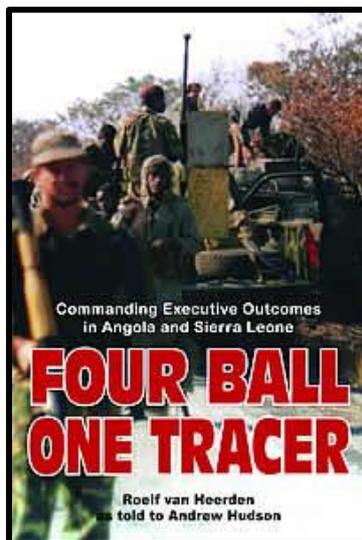
Books for Africa

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

This month's new title:

Four Ball One Tracer - Commanding Executive Outcomes in Angola and Sierra Leone by Roelf van Heerden as told to Andrew Hudson

Price \$60 plus postage



Hardback; 320 pages 234 x 156mm 100 colour & b/w photos, maps

Unapologetic, unassuming and forthright, the combat exploits of Executive Outcomes (EO) in Angola and Sierra Leone are recounted for the first time by a battlefield commander who was physically on the ground during all their major combat operations. From fighting UNITA for the critical oil installations and diamond fields of Angola to the offensive against the RUF in Sierra Leone to capture the Kono diamond fields and the palace coup which ousted Captain Valentine Strasser, van Heerden was at the forefront. He tells of the tragedy of child soldiers, illegal diamond mining and the curse of government soldiers who turn on their own people; he tells of RUF atrocities, the harrowing attempt to rescue a downed EO pilot and the poignant efforts to recover the remains of EO soldiers killed in action. Coupled with van Heerden's gripping exposé, hitherto unpublished photographs, order of battle charts and battle maps offer unprecedented access to the major actions as they took place on the ground during the heydays of EO.



The Rhodesia Regiment Book Project



This project is on the path to publication in June 2013. We require information on the following:

- ❖ National Service Intake numbers, dates and details – please email Gerry van Tonder at g.van-tonder@sky.com with details. See the list below of intakes that we have no information on.
- ❖ We have some conflicting information relating to Intakes 120 to 125. Please can anyone from those intakes, who has not already contacted Gerry van Tonder do so urgently on email g.van-tonder@sky.com
- ❖ Leadership details – CO, 2I/C and RSM of all Battalions; OC, 2I/C and CSM of all Independent Companies up to 1978 - please email Gerry van Tonder at g.van-tonder@sky.com with details.

Details required for the following intakes:

18	25	30	36
20	26	31	37
21	28	32	38
23	29	35	40

44	58	78	110
45	61	80	117
46	62	83	118
47	63	85	127
50	67	86	135
51	68	90	148
52	72	100	166
53	74	101	
54	75	103	
57	76	104	

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

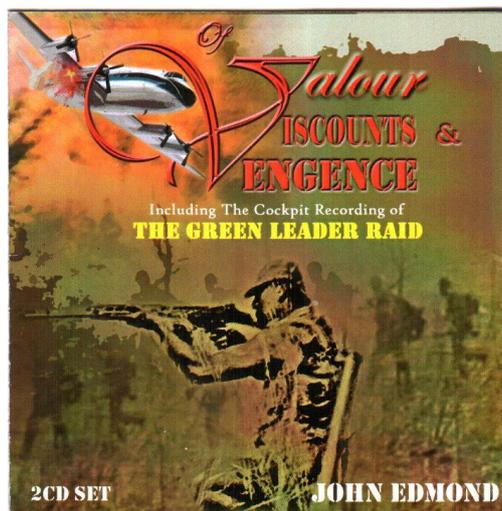
This section is for individuals and businesses who support this Association either by giving us something for auction at the RV in October; by donations from sales generated from our listings of their product or service; by offering discount to buyers who mention the Rhodesian Services Association when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

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

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

Roan Antelope Music special for July 2012

It has finally happened! Available from 1st August 2012 our *Of Valour, Viscounts and Vengeance* double CD is hot off the press. It will be publicly launched by John Edmond at the Imperial War Museum's Arms Fair, Johannesburg on the 4th and 5th August 2012.



Of Valour, Viscounts & Vengeance Includes many of John's most powerful songs plus the much sought after cockpit recording of the Green Leader raid. John will sign books and CDs and perhaps sing a song or two. All John's products will be on sale at a special price.

Event details:

Time: 9h00 - 15h30

Museum entrance fee: Adults R25; Pensioners and Children R15

Location: War Museum Saxonwold, Johannesburg.

This fair should be very interesting with many stalls to visit, not to mention the war museum itself.

This new double CD commemorates the Rhodesian journey from 1890 - 1980 and the Viscount disasters of 1978 and 1979. On this collection you can hear John's new powerful song *The Deafening Silence* together with a new version of *You ain't no hero* plus the live cockpit recording (with script, commentary and booklet) of the Green Leader Raid on the terrorist base at Westlands farm in Zambia. This latter event has been written about in many books and is embodied on some primitive cassette tape recordings scattered around the world.

This is how the songs run:

In 1890 five hundred pioneers left Kimberley with Cecil John Rhodes' blessing to colonise a region north of the Limpopo and to develop a land to be known as 1: *God's Country*. For ninety years they developed the land, fought for

Britain their motherland in two World Wars; were rejected in favour of Communist backed radicals; declared Unilateral Independence (as the Americans did in 1776) and flew a new flag on which was the motto 2: *Sit Nomine Digna* (May she be worthy of her name). There were eventually over 300,000 of these people in the region together with the indigenous population who they partnered with progress in education and a better life - they were 3: *The Great White Tribe*. But after exhaustive talks with Britain they were rejected and had no option but to say: 4: *We Stand Alone!* Communist terrorists infiltrated the land, sanctions were enforced by the powers that were and the world press slated their efforts 5: *Snakes and Snipers* they were! But the nation black and white, with their heritage of fighting for their motherland look a stance. It was hard to instil into the young soldiers, the cause they were fighting for but in hindsight the cause was right - undoubtedly 7: *Troopie Boy You Won*. The rural black population was subjected to atrocities by the terrorist infiltrators, but many had the courage to stand up to these crimes and even fought sometimes when 8: *When Nobody Was There* to help them. They fought on. Although criticised by the world, Rhodesian achievements were great the 9: *Whenwe Song* depicts their resilience. A generation later, children born and bred in a conflict situation and relocated to other lands heard parents talk about prior hardships and asked the question 10: *Where Do We Come From?* The white nation was scattered but still bonded by their heritage as they went to many corners of the globe and were then 11: *Rhodesians Of The World*. They were indeed sold 12: *Down The River*. Bravely fighting for what they knew was right 13: *It Makes Me So Sad* that so many people on both sides were lost.

Author Keith Nell has written a stunning book called "Viscount Down" which should be read by every Rhodesian. To obtain a copy of this book Keith can be reached at keithnell@hotmail.com or info@viscountdown.com A memorial for the Viscount victims will be erected close to the Garden of Remembrance in the grounds of the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria.

Thousands of people from all over the world will see this long overdue monument in memory of innocent men, women and children who died in these tragedies. Keith Nell has already raised R30,000.00 towards this memorial and another R20,000.00 is still needed. A benefit concert was held in Durban arranged by Keith where John Edmond and Dave Monks (of Leprechaun) performed. Anyone who would like to make a donation to this great cause can send their remittance to Flame Lily Foundation, ABSA Bank, Branch code 335345, Acc no. 1500680799. Swift address: ABSAZAJJ, donors please include "Viscount" and their name as a reference. Also notify Flame Lily Foundation by email rasa@iafrica.com of their donation. Those donating R500.00 or more will be sent a receipt for Tax purposes.

Of Valour, Viscounts & Vengeance Double CD

Price R250 plus postage SA Freepost UK +R105 USA + R100 AUS + R140 NZ + R145

To order go to:

Roan Antelope Music www.johnedmond.co.za

Email: info@johnedmond.co.za

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

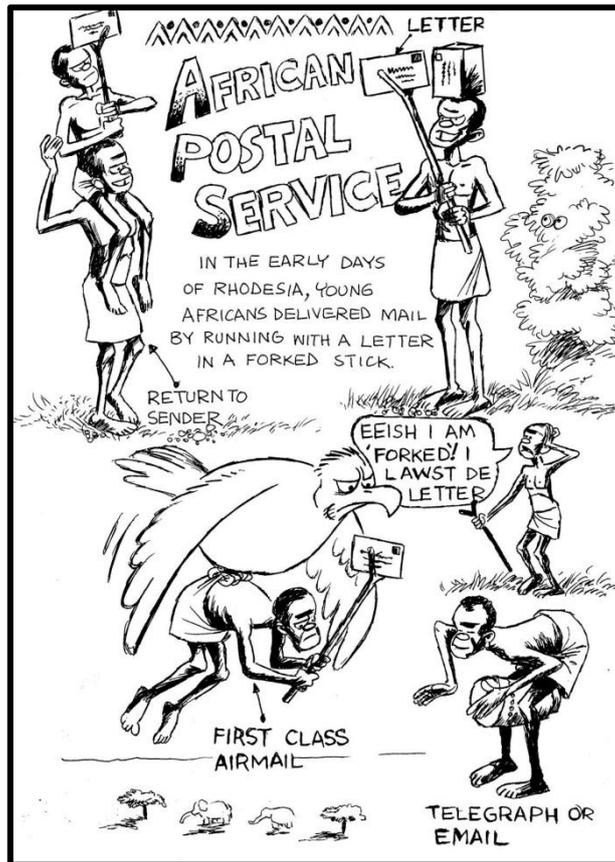
Buckles and Tees www.bucklesandtees.co.nz

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



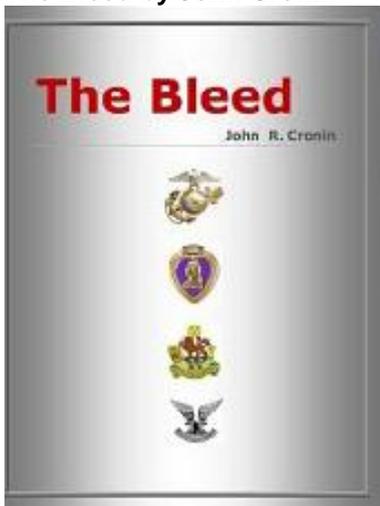
Mike donates a portion of his income from all Rhodesian related items sold to the Rhodesian Services Association. Please email Mike at mike_jovivier@xtra.co.nz with your order or query or go to www.bucklesandtees.co.nz and do it on-line.

The Global Forked Stick - Snippets and Requests



With grateful thanks to Vic MacKenzie for use of this illustration to better explain the 'forked stick' connection for those who were not raised in Africa.

The Bleed by John Cronin



These memoirs are a 40-year window into the life of someone who walked silently on patrol with Marine Recon in the jungles of Vietnam, fought in Fire Force with Rhodesia's RLI and infiltrated guerrilla groups on counterinsurgency operations with the Selous Scouts, navigated the teeming streets of Cairo and was kidnapped by Hizbollah in Beirut, and then left this life behind for the highly competitive atmosphere of a graduate program in London, where survival came in a much different form.

This book is available in Kindle format from www.amazon.com for US\$3.99. It is recommended that you put "The Bleed by John Cronin" into the search bar to find it.

Och aye! Calling all Rhodesian Jocks in Scotland

For the first time Rhodesians will parade in Edinburgh.

November Remembrance Week Timetable:

5th November - 11 am - Princess St. next to Scott Memorial - Placement of Remembrance Crosses in the Remembrance Garden.

11th November - 10 am - High St. (Mile Walk leading to the Castle entrance) opp. Deacons - Veterans Parade. After the parade is finished we all (with families) move to the Ex- Servicemen Club in Smiths Road - Leith - off Leith Road - for a buffet lunch (free of charge) and drinks (to be paid). contact Jose Sacadura jmsacadura@hotmail.com for more info.

Seeking men from Rhodesian Army, 3 Brigade Light Aid Detachment.

John Lyons is trying to contact some old mates from back in the day:

WO1 Keith Wilbore, Staff Sergeant Norman Potter, Sergeant Joe Ferrera, Private Dennis Call.

Please email John at John.Lyons@fndc.govt.nz if you can help.

Seeking Neville Raymond

Colin Grieve would like to contact 119250 Neville Raymond from Intake 160

Please email Colin at cgrieve@worldonline.co.za if you can help

Intake 29 – B Coy DRRR 1959

If anyone has the unit photo from this intake please contact Skatie Foure email skatief@polka.co.za

Former Congo Mercenaries

Please contact James MacKenzie on email militaria@netpoint.co.za

Until next time – go well

Cheers

Hugh



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

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

Rhodesian Services Association donations.

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

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

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



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

This newsletter is sent to registered subscribers. To unsubscribe press this link: [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) and send the email.