

Rhodesian Security Force Service Number Information.

Compiled by Hugh Bomford from information supplied by Craig Fourie and with assistance from Wayne Kennerley, David Stedman, Tony Fraser and Ron Kaagman.

Number - Designated Range - Comment

78---- Regular Army officer 780001 – 781400 Zimbabwe continued use of this range in sequence

79---- Regular Army officer RWS 790001 Zimbabwe continued use of this range in sequence

72---- Regular Army White OR & NCO 720001 – 729999 72 added on to old 4 digit number after computerisation ie: 3456 became 723456

73---- Regular Army White OR & NCO 730001 – 730500 Zimbabwe continued use of this range in sequence

77---- Regular Army RWS OR & NCO 770001 Zimbabwe continued use of this range in sequence

6----- Regular Army African OR & NCO 640001 – 649999 6 replaced old R after computerisation ie: R44567 became 644567

65---- Regular Army African OR & NCO 650001 – 659999

66---- Regular Army African OR & NCO 660001 – 666699

R Regular Army African OR & NCO As above the R was replaced by a 6 after computerisation ie: R44567 – 644567

XR Ex Regular Army OR & NCO On retirement ie: 723456 became XR3456

R RhAF Territorial White OR & NCO R precedes certain Territorial numbers ie: R66352

V Territorial Army Officer V0001 – V7122 (highest number recorded by researcher David Stedman)

PR National Service number prefix PR001 – PR99999. Letter designation PR is believed to stand for Public Registration and dropped away after service number 100000

52---- National Service African OR & NCO 520001 Conscripted Africans after 1977 through Depot Rhodesia Regiment

R----T Rhodesian Defence Regiment RDR Territorial Army prefix, designation unknown

4--- RhAF Officer 4000 – 4550 Zimbabwe continued use of this range. 80 added after computerisation 4123 - 804123

6--- RhAF White OR & NCO 6000 – 6900 80 added after computerisation ie: 6123 became 806123

5---- RhAF African OR & NCO 50000 – 59000 8 added after computerisation ie: 50123 became 850123

BSAP Regular White Male BSAP 0001 – 10599

BSAP Regular White Male BSAP 110600 - ? New computer system forced the use of a 6 digit number

WP--- BSAP Regular White Female 195* onwards

BSAP Regular African Male 0001 - 28178

BSAP Regular African Female

BSAP NSPO numbering started at 900000 and once National Service was completed the first zero was dropped ie: 901239 became 91239

BSAP Reserve White Various letter suffixes

BSAP Reserve African

BSAP Auxiliary Constable African 2----- Believed to start at 200001

BSAP Special Reserve White

SRWAP 0001 177 World War II

BSAP White Cadet

BSAP Black Cadet

AL--- BSAP African Labourer Presumed starts at 1

TA--- BSAP African Attendant

Key:

BSAP – British South Africa Police

OR – Other Rank

NCO – Non Commissioned Officer

NSPO – National Service Patrol Officer

RDR – Rhodesia Defence Regiment

RhAF – Rhodesian Air Force

RWS – Rhodesian Women's Service

SRWAP – Southern Rhodesia Women's Auxiliary Police

Notes:

- Some final range numbers are approximate
- Older WW2 Veterans would have shorter numbers ie R320 for RAR
- Some rolls confuse the issue by use of both first letter and digit ie R44123 recorded as R644123 in error
- BSAP Regular White and African Personnel used consecutive numbering ranges from Member number 1
- There are certainly other ranges and oddities not recorded here.
- Computerisation brought about the use of single letter at the end of the service number. This is called a Check Letter. The letters beginning with A were applied consecutively to service numbers as they were issued. A would follow Z and the process repeats eg: 730001A, 730002B etc. Letters I and O were not used.