



# Contact! Contact!

**April 2013**

A monthly publication for the

## **Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated**

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

Greetings,

The increase in applications to subscribe to this publication is overwhelming – every day we are getting new people on board. Welcome to you all.

At the same time there are a number of email addresses which have gone dead. I have had a big purge of these dead addresses and removed them from our address book. It is far too labour intensive to go around chasing people who have changed their addresses. If you know anyone not receiving this publication, please direct them to our web page <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.php> where they can fill in the online form and get on our mailing list. Please note, this form is for people wanting to register or change address – it is not designed to be used for messages to me. If you want to send me a message, please do it by email. Thank you.

Lastly – we require the services of a suitably equipped and capable person who can make up some bracelets from coins that we have. We need to have lugs and fasteners welded onto the coins and then we will arrange electro plating. Someone with jewellery making experience would be ideal. Email me if you can help please.



## **ANZAC Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013**



It is that time of year again for those residing in the Antipodes to brush off your jackets and make a plan.

Our Events Page at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/events.htm> carries as up to date information that I have available. Please contact those listed for information. (If that info is not current – please don't blame me – blame the people concerned for not asking me to update their details).

The Rhodesian Services Association will be focussed at the Hobsonville RSA in Auckland, NZ once again. This year Russell Franklin will be laying the wreath. Russell was wounded in action whilst serving with 6 (Independent) Company Rhodesia Regiment in 1977. He has been totally blind since that injury. Russell moved his family to New Zealand where he has been a successful computer programmer.

Please come along to the parade. We recommend that you arrive there by 09:30 for fall in at 10:15. Please dress appropriately – long pants and jackets (if possible) with medals 'in memorial' to be on the right. Unit berets and peak caps are encouraged. There has been a long standing tradition of the women folk being part of the march.

After the main programme has completed we will assemble in the lower car park for our own parade following which we will adjourn to the RSA for food and drinks and the opportunity of a catch up. Please look out for our Slouch Hat which will be collecting donations for the wreath and our annual donation to our hosts.



## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) to arrange delivery if required.



Extract from JAG newsletter:

**"Rory Martin Hensman 16/12/1946 – 26/02/2013**

*Brother to Dinny and Alistair, Gary and Jo, Uncle to Sherri-Lyn, Karen and Hylton, Nikki and Doug, and their families, Husband to Lindie, and father of Sean, Michael and Mary.*

*Rory passed away in his sleep on 26<sup>th</sup> February after a brave fight with cancer and its after effects.*

*Now at rest, at last, with no more pain and suffering. He will be up there, somewhere, training his beloved Elephants and Polo Ponies. He was a man amongst men and will be sorely missed by all who knew him."*

From Will Ransom:

*"It is with great sadness that I report the passing to Higher Service of **Mary Walker**, wife of Brig. (retd.) Vic Walker, Chairman of the RAA (UK), in hospital just before midday GMT today (7/3/2013).*

*Mary had just started a new round of cancer treatment last week, and she succumbed this morning".*

**Group Captain Peter 'PB' Petter-Bowyer** MLM (Ops), DCD, MFC (Ops) died in the Kings Lynne Hospital, England on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

Whilst serving in the Rhodesian Air Force PB was renowned for his ability to track terrorists from the air. He was also credited with the development of the Alpha and Golf bombs, as well as the unique method of refuelling the Alouettes by use of a venturi system harnessing the engine's jet to suck fuel ultra-fast out of a drum - as against the 'kamina kawena' hand pump. The French manufacturers of the Alouette were astounded at the ingenuity and (I believe) adopted this method of refuelling.

His amazing record of service in Rhodesia was published in his auto biography 'Winds of Destruction'.

Published by JAG and forwarded to me by Cherith Roberts:

**Hamish Smith**, formerly of Umzururu Farm, Nyabira, died in Glasgow, Scotland, on 30 March 2013 after a brief illness.

Husband of the late Jean, and father of Alastair and David Smith and Margaret Swanepoel, he was a world renowned cattle judge.

Margaret can be contacted by e-mail at [avalon@earth.co.zw](mailto:avalon@earth.co.zw)



## Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980 by Gerry van Tonder

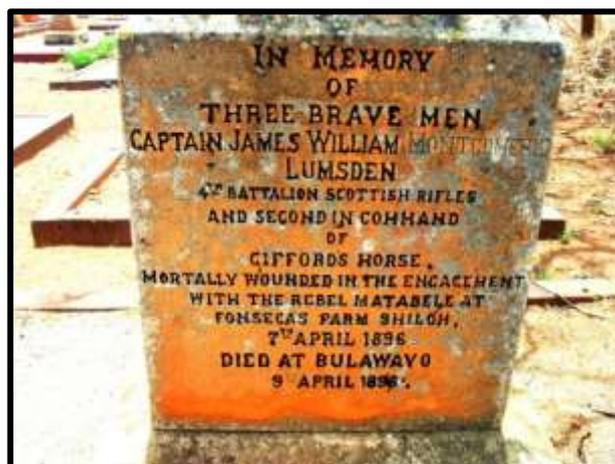


### April

**Newsflash Headlines** +++ On 22 April 1896, Tpr Frank Baxter of the Grey's Scouts is killed in action in an act of gallantry for which he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross +++ On 08 April 1919, future Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith is born in Selukwe, Rhodesia +++ On 14 April 1939, the United party wins the General Election and Godfrey Huggins becomes Prime Minister +++ On 24 April 1944, Rhodesian Spitfires undertake their first operation from Corsica, flying into occupied Italy +++ On 30 April 1947, the Rhodesian Parliament agrees to purchase the Rhodesia Railways for £30 million +++ On 26 April 1956, troops of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Rhodesian African Rifles arrive in Singapore on board the *Empire Clyde*, for deployment against guerrillas in Malaya +++ On 10 April 1966, the United Nations Security Council agrees that Britain be allowed to use force to prevent oil from reaching Rhodesia via Beira in Mozambique +++ On 14 April 1973, Air Rhodesia acquires three Boeing 707 jet airlines from an undisclosed source +++ On 27 April 1976, American Foreign Secretary Henry Kissinger announces in Lusaka that the United States will support majority rule in Rhodesia +++ On 12 April 1978, the Transitional Government releases 461 political detainees, mainly Muzorewa and Sithole followers +++

#### **In Brief**

On the night of 4 April 1896, a bright moon lights up the Shiloh Patrol, as Lt Colonel Maurice Gifford sets out from Bulawayo, with a total of 118 troopers from Gifford's Horse, 'F' Troop, and the Grey's Scouts. Taking with them a Maxim gun and 49 Colonial Boys, they head for the Shiloh Hills. Their route crosses the Khami River, then over to Inyati, finally coming out where the Salisbury Road and the Bembesi River cross. Upon reaching Fonseca Farm, they hastily laager as large numbers of Ndebele rebels descend on them. Gifford carries the day, but at a cost of three killed and four wounded. Gifford himself would have an arm amputated as a result of a gunshot wound to the shoulder.



**A memorial in Bulawayo Cemetery to Capt Lumsden who, together with Cpl Ernest Reynolds and Tpr Samuel MacKenzie died of wounds during the engagement at Fonseca Farm**

(Photo thanks to Alan Bryant)

On 17 April 1974, the Government of Rhodesia launches a campaign in which cash rewards are offered for information leading to the death or capture of terrorists, and for their war materiel. Depending on 'rank', a *Gandanga* (terrorist) carries a bounty of between R\$1000 and R\$5000. A *chimbambaira* (landmine), chiShona for sweet potato (found underground), will earn the finder a massive R\$1000. The chiShona word *pfuti* is generic for a firearm, in this case the AK47, worth R\$300. The RPD machine gun carried by the *Gandanga* on the right carries the onomatopoeic

chiShona name, *chigwagwagwa*, attracting R\$500. An RPG-7, described in the absence of a chiShona word as a Bazooka, no doubt adopted from the word the terrorists used, attracts a reward of R\$1000.



Poster: Rhodesian Ministry of Information.

(Dudley Wall collection)

On 25 April 1974, the military in Portugal assumes power in a bloodless *coup* referred to as the Carnation Revolution. Within months, the junta would offload its African colonies which, after many years of unsuccessful attempts at combating black nationalists, were crippling the Portuguese economy. The coup takes place exactly a month after Premier Ian Smith had assured journalists that he was "...satisfied that it is the intention of the Portuguese Government to get on top of this problem and eventually push the terrorists out."

As FRELIMO's Samora Machel forms an independent government in Mozambique, Rhodesia suddenly finds its whole eastern border now vulnerable to ZANLA incursions from FRELIMO-sponsored bases in Mozambique, necessitating the establishment in 1976 of two new operational areas, *Thrasher* and *Repulse*.

The massive Nachingwea training camp in southern Tanzania, which had served the FRELIMO forces, is now also offered to ZANLA, who would process 5000 recruits through this camp every six months.



L-R: Samora Machel (FRELIMO), President Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia) and President Julius Nyerere (Tanzania) meet at the Nachingwea training camp

(Photo Ricardo Rangel)

What's in a Name

Situated on Rhodesia's border with Botswana, some 45 kms south west of Matetsi in Northern Matabeleland, is the very early settlement of **Panda-Ma-Tenga**. A trader named George Westbeech established a camp there on the side of a small stream, calling the place Panda-ma-tenga, or the tree from where trading takes place. It served as an important outpost for pioneering European adventures into Central Africa. From here Westbeech travelled by ox-wagon to the Zambezi, where he traded in ivory, a commodity which at that time was attracting extremely high prices on the international markets. The camp soon attracted missionaries, wishing to use the spot as a mission base from which they could carry out their work into Barotseland. Rev Francois Coillard of the French Missionary Society arrived first, followed by Jesuit priests. However, malnutrition and malaria provided constant barriers to their pastoral work, eventually resulting in their withdrawal in 1885, the Jesuits establishing missions at Empandeni near Plumtree and Chishawasha near Salisbury.

The construction of a new road via Wankie, and the railway line to Victoria Falls in 1904, saw Panda-ma-tenga rapidly lose its place as a haven of 'civilisation' for the traveller and the sick. As many know, Panda-ma-tenga regained prominence during the Bush War as an entry point for ZIPRA from Botswana.



Some 200 kms by road east of Bulawayo and 90 kms south west of Fort Victoria, is the mining village of **Shabani**. It is named after a petty chieftain called Shabboni by the early settlers. In early 1894, with Lobengula's kingdom essentially no longer in existence, Johan Colenbrander headed up a column into the area to apprehend Shabboni, who was continuing to raid neighbouring tribes. The captured chieftain was tried by Inspector Sykes of the BSACo Police and found guilty. He was sentenced to death and summarily shot. In 1916, the Bechuanaland Exploration Company started pegging asbestos claims in the area, as the First World War created a large demand for this mineral. Up until the early 1920s, the growing settlement, which now included women and children, still struggled for want of better communications and a passable road. With production reaching 1200 tons a month from the five companies now operating at Shabani, transport was still wholly reliant on ox-drawn wagons. In 1928, a branch railway line from Somabula significantly improved the situation, with Shabani becoming the largest producer of asbestos in the southern hemisphere.



### **Battle of Tanlwe Chaung, Taungup, Burma, April 1945**

In December 1944, the Rhodesian African Rifles (RAR), as part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> East Africa Brigade, arrived in Chittagong, India, as the Allied Land Forces in South East Asia prepared to retake Burma from the Imperial Japanese forces.



(Image thanks to Dudley Wall)

As General Slim's Army came in from the east of the Arakan ridges, Indian and African units were deployed along the Taungup-Prome Road to secure several strategic passes which bisected the Arakan. Working their way south along the banks of the Tanlwe Chaung, the RAR battalion's four Companies only made brief contact with the Japanese, finally setting up their HQ on 20 April 1945 in an area overlooking the Tanlwe Chaung. With 'A' Company remaining in this position, the other three moved out to take up pre-designated positions: 'D' Company by the chaung; 'B' Company crossing the chaung opposite 'D' and taking up a position on a spur; 'C' Company crossing further down and taking up a position directly south of 'B'; and, moving into the chaung, Battalion Headquarters and Admin Group established camp near where 'C' Company had crossed.



RAR askaris undergo Bren gun and assault course training shortly before deployment to Burma

(Photos thanks to Brig. Dave Heppenstall)

Unknown to the Rhodesians, their movements were being closely watched by Japanese troops who, at 1300 hours, opened up with mortar and artillery fire, sustaining this assault through the night and for part of the following day. Torrential downpours added to the misery of the men who were more accustomed to the African bush back home.

From their positions in the chaung, the companies faced two prominent lofty features, codenamed *Bergner* and *Valerie*. With forward observation extremely difficult in this broken and heavily wooded terrain, two patrols were sent out to reconnoitre these features to establish exactly where the Japanese were. The patrol from 'D' Company, under Lieutenant Cummings, approaching *Bergner* along an adjoining ridge, came under fire from two concealed Japanese light machine guns, forcing Cummings to return to HQ to report that *Bergner* was held by the enemy. Lieutenant Leask, heading a patrol from 'C' Company, found the ascent to *Valerie* so steep that he was unable to continue. However, two of his askaris managed to scale to the top, from where they were able to establish that the feature was also held by the Japanese.



**Improved RAR patrol on a river in Burma**

(Photo thanks Brig. Dave Heppenstall)

On 24 April, a further three reconnaissance patrols were sent out to establish exact enemy positions. Lieutenant Sletcher, leading his 'D' Company patrol, failed to gain access to *Bergner* from the east, the way blocked by a very deep chaung. Lieutenant Turner's 'C' Company patrol fared no better, as they could not find a track known to run along the western approaches to *Valerie*. But by drawing fire from the Japanese with their two-inch mortar, they were at least able to confirm that the enemy had not moved. A third fighting patrol from 'B' Company was able to clear Point 1232 southeast of *Bergner*, thereby allowing Intelligence Officer Lieutenant Wright and a sapper to assess if an elephant trail marked on their maps could be used for mule-trains.

Later that afternoon, Cummings again took his men out, determined to pinpoint the exact positions of the Japanese machine-gun nests. Following his earlier route, he found the placements of both light machine-guns, but not that of a medium machine-gun which also opened up on the patrol. In the meantime, the 'B' Company patrol encountered heavy machine-gun fire, which resulted in their Bren gunner sustaining fatal wounds. Undaunted, CSM Ferreira immediately grabbed the Bren from the dead askari, moved forward and, firing the weapon from his hip, enabled his patrol to retire. His actions were mentioned in despatches. Sletcher was now sent out to locate this machine-gun, the only information that was still required to draw up a final plan of attack. With two-inch mortars from Cummings' section drawing enemy fire, Sletcher and his men followed the ridge for a short distance before sighting an enemy position, which Sletcher neutralised with his Bren gun. The Japanese machine-gun positions responded immediately, including the medium machine gun which was sighted on the northeast corner of *Valerie*, from where the approaches to *Bergner* were defended.



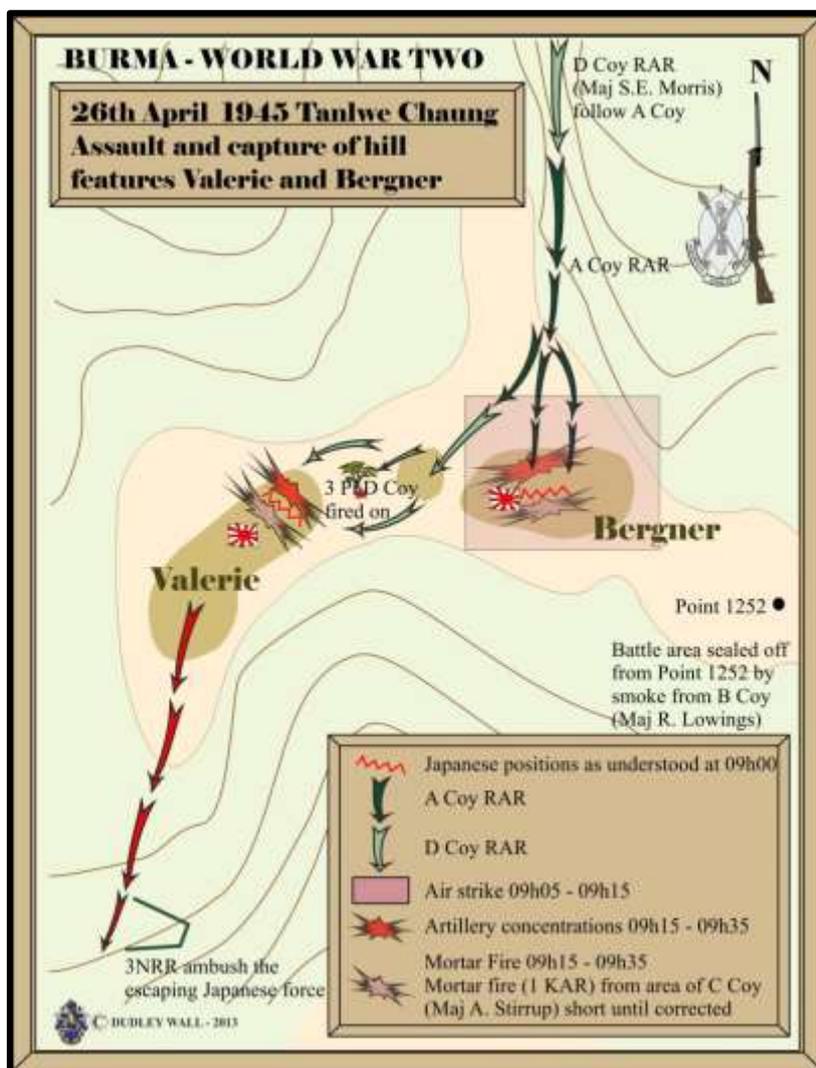
**RAR askaris in a dugout in the Burmese jungle**

(Photo thanks Brig. Dave Heppenstall)

On the morning of 26 April, Hawker Hurricanes strafed *Valerie* and *Bergner*, followed by an artillery barrage on *Bergner* by two West African .37 Howitzer batteries. Another troop opened fire on *Valerie*, while the RAR's own mortar platoon, from their position at Battalion HQ in the chaung, opened up on *Bergner*. As the aircraft completed their bombing runs, and under cover of the artillery and mortar fire, 'A' Company, followed by 'D' Company, advanced along the spur towards *Bergner*. As the assaulting troops came to within 100 metres of *Bergner*, artillery and mortar fire at this target was stopped, and diverted to *Valerie*. 'A' Company's No. 2 Platoon, led by CSM van Heerden, stormed up the lower slopes of *Bergner* finding that the enemy, having been caught unawares, had temporarily vacated their foxholes.

The Japanese made a desperate move to re-occupy their positions, but the sight and sound of a very determined group of Rhodesians running, screaming and firing up at them, made them withdraw to the back slopes of the ridge. As van Heerden and his men reached the peak, they found the enemy in a state of disarray, pulling back to a chaung further south.

On the heels of No. 2 Platoon, Lt Wilks and his men of No. 4 Platoon veered off to the right towards *Valerie*. Joined by 'D' Company led by Maj Stan Morris they, however, ran in to heavy light and medium machine fire, supported by accurate shooting from a sniper in a tree. In the front of the fire-fight, No 13 Platoon found it very difficult to pinpoint the enemy through the thick stands of bamboo. Eventually they managed to neutralise the sniper, but in the process Lt Sletcher sustained a gunshot wound to his arm. Sensing a slowdown in their forward momentum as Sletcher was evacuated, Morris personally came forward and directed the troops on to the Japanese positions. Sgt Hesketh took a section of No. 13 Platoon down the slope, arcing around the left side of *Valerie* and directing flanking fire at the enemy positions. This enabled Morris and his men to reach the medium machine nest, killing the Japanese gunner, but sustaining heavy losses to those with him on the assault.



(Image thanks to Dudley Wall)

'A' and 'D' Companies consolidated the gains, taking up positions on *Valerie* and *Bergner*, enabling the Battalion Headquarters to reposition itself just north of *Bergner*. The Battalion, in the absence of a Japanese counter attack, took stock of its position. It quickly became evident why the enemy valued the strategic importance of these two

features, as both offered commanding views of any troop or logistical movements in the surrounding area. During the assault, seven askaris were killed in action, while a further twenty two were wounded. Most of the casualties were from 'D' Company.

The battle was small within the broader context of the Allied advances in the Arakan peninsula, but it was a uniquely Rhodesian-only effort, with black askaris loyally following their fellow white Rhodesian officers.



(Thanks to Dudley Wall for this montage from his own collection)

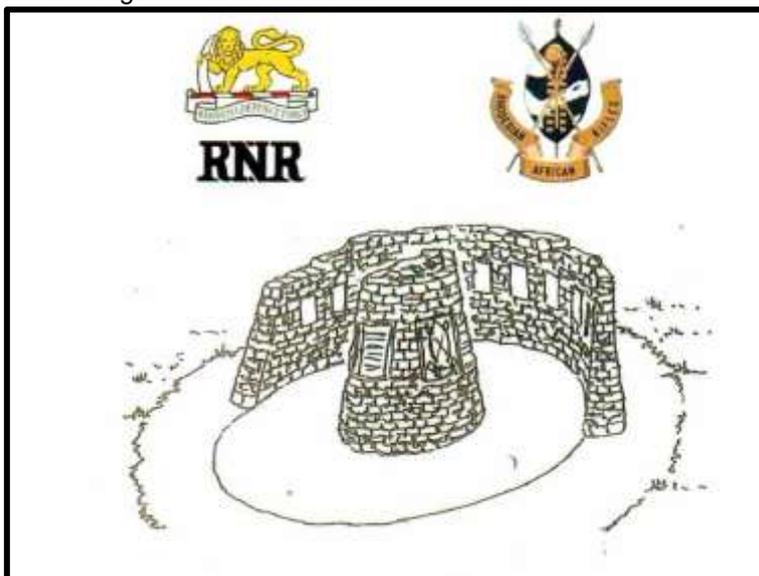
That night, as the Rhodesians dug in and strengthened their newly-won positions, defiant and accurate Japanese mortaring and shelling of *Bergner* commenced, with a slit-trench in 'A' Company's outer defences taking a direct hit, killing three askaris. Later still, groups of Japanese crept up on some of the rear areas, specifically targeting the RAR Admin Box, which housed support staff such as muleteers and ambulance personnel. As the enemy started lobbing grenades at these hapless individuals, panic set in, followed by a stampede out of slit trenches and into the night. In spite of efforts by officers to restore order, there was much careless shooting and throwing of grenades. Large numbers of confused askaris sought shelter in a nearby chaung where, sadly, being mistaken for the Japanese, four lost their lives through friendly fire.

Isolated skirmishes followed, as the RAR mopped-up in the direction of Point 1252. Eventually, over three nights at the end of April, artillery barrages and aircraft strikes cleared this feature which, it was believed, had been defended by a platoon of Japanese troops, armed with light machine guns.

Pushing further south towards their objective, the Taungup-Prome road, 'C' Company joined up with elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the King's African Rifles, to carry out an assault on a heavily defended Japanese position on a hill code-named *Abbott*. 'D' Company followed, crossing the Taungup Chaung, where they came under heavy determined machine gun fire from a hill feature code-named *Powell*. As they drew closer, heavy fire from 75mm guns and 90mm mortars stalled the RAR's southerly movement, and with it went their hopes of linking up with the West Africans on the Taungup-Prome road by 5 May. On 7 May, an air strike was directed onto this Japanese stronghold, followed up by an artillery and mortar bombardment and a frontal assault by 'B' Company. By this time, elements of 'A' Company had pushed east, meeting up with the Gold Coast Regiment at Milestone 102. On the morning of 8 May, Typhoons and Spitfires tried to dislodge the Japanese from *Powell*, but by that evening, after the Battalion had endured intensive fire from the Japanese, the whole Brigade moved around the western approaches to *Powell*, striking the Taungup-Prome road where they were able to replenish their very low stocks of rations and ammunition. Reflecting on forty days of struggle through inhospitable jungle against a die-hard enemy, the Rhodesian African Rifles buried their dead.

The manner in which the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the Rhodesian African Rifles, acquitted themselves in Burma during World War II, would earn the Regiment the Battle Honours "*Burma 1944-45*", "*Arakan Beaches*" and "*Taungup*", proudly emblazoned on its colours. The day of the Battle of Tanlwe Chaung, 26 April 1945, has become enshrined in the very fibre of the Regiment, as successive Rhodesian and United Kingdom Regimental Associations annually celebrate this proud day in the history of one of Rhodesia's top regular units. To sustain and perpetuate this memory, the UK Branch of the RAR Regimental Association has been successful in its application to erect a memorial to both the Rhodesia Native Regiment and the Rhodesian African Rifles at the expansive National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in the English Midlands, a 150-acre landscaped parkland which is already home to a BSAP memorial.

A Book of Remembrance, a copy of which will be placed in the NMA chapel, has been commissioned, and fund-raising is underway for the Memorial, which will resemble Great Zimbabwe, carrying plaques of the names of all of those who gave their lives for the Regiment and Rhodesia.



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, dedicated custodians of World War I and World War II cemeteries and memorials in every corner of the world, list on the Rangoon War Memorial in the Taukkyan Cemetery in modern day Myanmar fourteen names of men of the RAR who died on 26 April 1945, in the successful assault by the Rhodesian African Rifles on *Valerie* and *Bergner* in the Tanlwe Chaung area of the Arakan, Burma. They are listed as “No Known Grave”, which would almost certainly mean they were buried immediately in the area of the chaung:

RHO/1105	Pte Abero
RHO/691	L/Cpl Chikange
RHO/1158	Pte Dick
RHO/1889	Pte Embruku
RHO/4096	Pte Imonda
RHO/31	L/Cpl Lazilosi
RHO/900	Pte Ndro
RHO/2315	Pte Ronald
RHO/592	Pte Ruzvidzo
RHO/880	Pte Silimbwana
RHO/1152	Pte Simon
RHO/1689	Pte Tawaziwa
RHO/1618	Pte Timotiya
RHO/2146	Pte Tirivanhu

### Know the Medal

The Police Long Service Medal was awarded to all ranks after eighteen years for long and exemplary service in the British South Africa Police. Clasps are awarded after twenty five and thirty years. A 36mm round silver medal, the obverse, or front, carries the national armorial bearings. The reverse, or back, carries a truncheon on a laurel wreath, surrounded by the words, *For Long Service and Good Conduct*.



**The Police Long Service Medal**  
**Left – Obverse; Right - Reverse**  
 (van Tonder collection)

## Above and Beyond

On 11 April 1974, the Rhodesian Government Gazette listed the awards of the Silver Cross of Rhodesia (SCR) to Air Lieutenant Roger John Watt and Sergeant Garry Whittal of No 7 Squadron, The Rhodesian Air Force.

*“During a recent mission in the operational area, Air Lieutenant Watt and his tech, Sergeant Whittal, sighted a group of eight to ten terrorists running in a river bed. The latter, upon realising they had been discovered, opened fire on the Rhodesian Alouette III helicopter. Undeterred by the heavy ground fire, Air Lieutenant Watt circled the terrorists in a wide orbit, while radioing for immediate support. Sergeant Whittal assisted with the containment of the terrorists by using his own rifle against the targets on the ground. This continued for twenty five minutes, until ground troops arrived at the scene, immediately engaging the terrorists, killing, wounding and capturing several. Quantities of arms, ammunition and documents were also recovered, the whole operation deemed very successful due to the high-risk efforts by the crew of the 7 Squadron helicopter.”*

Air Lieutenant Watt's citation attested to the fact that he *“...has been involved in numerous engagements with the terrorists and his personal courage, enthusiasm and determined aggression have been an inspiration to all members of his squadron”*.

Sergeant Whittal's citation states *“... during this and other engagements, (he) has revealed a degree of personal gallantry and devotion to duty far beyond the call of normal duty.”*

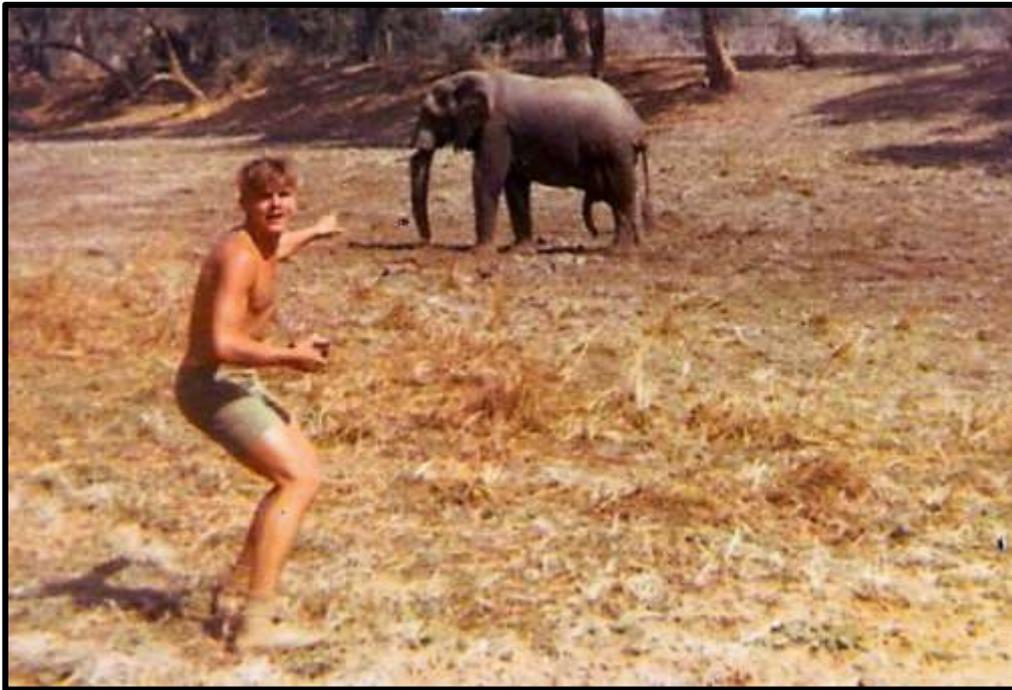


**Silver Cross of Rhodesia**  
(van Tonder collection)

## A Snapshot In Time



Many thanks to those of you who responded to the picture of the 11RR National Serviceman which appeared in last month's column. Unfortunately, suggested quips referring to the camo cap and "short-arm inspections" were deemed inappropriate by the Rhodesian Board of Censors! The picture is, of course, of actress Britt Ekland, taken during the shooting of the movie "The Slavers" at Lake Kyle in late 1976, early 1977. The photograph appeared in the January 1977 edition of the BSAP monthly, *Outpost*.



The photo in the month's Snapshot in Time above clearly shows, when in the bush, expect the unexpected...

Please send interpretations and/or anything you may know of this to me on [g.van-tonder@sky.com](mailto:g.van-tonder@sky.com)

#### **Who's Who**

##### **Colonel John Banks Brady, DSO, OBE, ED**

Born in Ireland in November 1875, Brady began his military career shortly after leaving Dublin University when, with the outbreak of the South African War in 1899, he enlisted with the 45<sup>th</sup> "Irish Hunt" Company, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Imperial Yeomanry. Arriving in South Africa in 1900, he was subsequently commissioned in the Commander-in-Chief's Bodyguard and Kitchener's Fighting Scouts.

After the war Brady decided to remain in South Africa to pursue his chosen profession in education, serving as Headmaster of Grey College in Bloemfontein, before becoming a schools inspector. In 1909, he took up the post of Senior Inspector of Schools in Southern Rhodesia, from where he joined the hundreds of Rhodesian volunteers heading for Britain to enlist at the start of World War I in 1914. Commissioned on the Special List as a Lieutenant, he had the distinction of being the first commander of the Rhodesian Platoon of the KRRC, thus starting the long association of Southern Rhodesia with this famous British Regiment.

After a period as a Company Commander with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion KRRC, Brady was appointed as a General Staff Officer with the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps and then Brigade Major to the 148<sup>th</sup> Irish Brigade, before returning to regimental duty in 1917, becoming Second-in-Command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion KRRC. Brady commanded the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the last four months of the war, then serving with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine, where he also commanded a battalion. Wounded twice, Brady was appointed a companion of the Distinguished Service Order, awarded the Croix de Guerre, and mentioned in despatches four times.

Returning to Southern Rhodesia in 1920, he continued to serve both with the Reserve of Officers of the Regular Army, and as the District Commander of the Southern Rhodesia Territorial Force. Upon his retirement in 1937, Brady was promoted to Colonel. He then entered into politics, successfully taking the Bulawayo North seat. With the outbreak of World War II, Brady again put on his uniform, this time as Military Observer and Liaison Officer for Southern Rhodesia to the Middle East Campaign. However, ill-health forced him to return home, his service being recognised in June 1943 by the award of the OBE.

Colonel John Banks Brady DSO, OBE, ED, died at the age of 77 years.



### **At the Going Down of the Sun**

On 14 April 1974, during a reconnaissance flight over Mozambique, Trojan R3244 of No 4 Squadron the Rhodesian Air Force, was brought down by anti-aircraft fire from the ground. Intensive search missions commenced immediately. On 20 April, a Provost and Trojan R3427, flying in tandem, were traversing the area, when a Sam-7 missile struck the Trojan, causing it to crash. The Provost pilot marked this position and called in ground forces, who quickly reached the site, recovering the bodies of the Trojan pilot and his technician. Air force technicians accompanying the ground troops started collecting wreckage, in the process finding a second nose-wheel. This turned out to belong to the first Trojan that had been shot down a few days earlier, the crash site 400 metres from that of the second one. The bodies of the two-man crew were also recovered from the wreckage.

We remember:



4173 Flt Lt Barry Christopher Weinmann (28), No 4 Sqn Pilot of Trojan R3244



6328 Snr Ac Tech Patrick Rickman Durrett (19), No 4 Sqn Tech of Trojan R3244



4289 Air Sub-Lt Robert John Wilson (22), No 4 Sqn Pilot of Trojan R3427



5681 Flt Sgt Roger Stephen Andrews (27), No 4 Sqn Tech of Trojan R3427



### Across the Globe

- On 21 April 1918, Baron Manfred von Richthofen is killed in action
- On 12 April 1961, Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space
- On 4 April 1968, Martin Luther King is shot and killed by James Earl Ray in Memphis

### And.....

... new on the market for the discerning Bisley shooter in 1937:



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*B.S.A. Match Rifles - Latest pattern Parker Hale  
Aperture sights - Telescopes and Stands  
Range Bags - Cleaning Rods, Brushes and Oils  
Slings and Rifle Rests - Elbow Pads, etc. etc.*

ARMS, AMMUNITION and CYCLES

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Box 539 Phone 2122, SALISBURY Tel. "Fereday"

### Kenneth Mathew Rogers (1922-2001) by Mitch Stirling

A few years ago I had the great pleasure of inviting Ken Rogers of Agricaire to demonstrate a Piper Pawnee in action to a group of young schoolboys from Ruzawi school, Marandellas. The idea was that my good friend John House and I would assemble this group of boys in a suitable open space and, at a pre-determined time, a Pawnee from Charles Prince Airport would arrive and 'do its thing'. All was ready... with boys anxiously waiting, eyes fixed to the heavens. Suddenly, a Pawnee appeared from behind a line of nearby gum trees and raced towards us at 'tallest schoolboy' height. "DUCK!" was heard in unison above the roar of a 235 Lycoming engine as Ken Rogers swooped down and drenched the lot of us with a spray of water! You can imagine the chaos with boys running for cover, only to be outrun by John House and me!



Later, after Ken had carried out a display of precision flying (poetry in motion) we collected him from the farm airstrip where he had landed and brought him back to school for a de-brief and a short lecture to the lads about aerial application of fertilizer and the dangers of army worm and snout beetle... and a well-deserved 'cuppa'. What expressions of complete admiration were on those faces as they listened to this softly spoken and modest man. In particular, when they heard that many of his old buddies were memorialized on the Honours' Board inside their school chapel from the days when he was a Spitfire pilot with 64 Squadron RAF and a Hawker Typhoon pilot with 266 (Rhodesia) Squadron during the Second World War. Dougal Drummond (in the picture below) has his name on that Board - the grandson of Lord Malvern. He is listed as killed in action 15/2/44 in N Brittany.



On that fateful day Ken's log book records a typical high-speed, low-level 'Rodeo' mission. The attack was on an airfield in occupied France... a so called 'tip and run'. The Squadron Leader on this occasion couldn't start his temperamental 2 000hp Napier Sabre engine, so seven Typhoons took-off led by Flying Officer Lucas. But, soon after crossing the French coast at close to 400 mph in poor visibility, they ran into a wall of metal as intense German ack-ack ripped into them. In a flash a large hole appeared in the rudder of the leader's aircraft. Then Wally Mollett was heard shouting on the R/T that he was hit but had climbed high enough to bale out or force-land. Flying Officer Dennis Miller's aircraft caught fire and crashed and Sergeant Dougal Drummond went down in flames. Pilot Officers Scott-Eadie and Ken Rogers took evasive action and, apart from hitting tree tops, escaped any serious damage. The remains of the formation limped back to base on the south coast of England near Plymouth at zero feet. Amazingly, Wally appeared twelve days later. He had belly-landed in a field south of Morlaix and been picked up by the French Resistance.



**Wally Molett's belly landing**

The attrition rate in the Typhoon squadrons was fearful and of the thirteen pilots in this photograph below, six were killed. In the space of four years, twenty one young men of 266 (Rhodesia) Squadron RAF lost their lives. The squadron pilots rotated in 'dead men's shoes'. Fortunately Ken was not one of them.



Photo below - a meeting of old friends and aviators - fellow Spitfire pilots Ken Rogers and Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith with Ken's Piper Pawnee.



Ken Rogers was an Umtali boy, schooled at Prince Edward. He began ground-training at No 26 EFTS (Guinea Fowl) in November 1940 and then No 20 SFTS (Cranborne) until July 1941. His RAF Ground Training Certificate states: *'Above average in all subjects except Navigation, which he passed on the second attempt. Flying ability above average. Capable and resourceful, essentially a fighter pilot. Has sense of discipline and is efficient. Requires steadying down.'* Thanks to Stan Rogers for some wonderful photographs and memories of his late father. Stan suggests, knowing his Dad, he probably flunked Navigation on purpose because that would eliminate him from bomber crew selection... he wanted fighters!

Rest in Peace Ken Rogers. Rhodesians everywhere salute you 'Stabber in the Sky' (*Hlabezulu*).



## **General Walls' Communications to Margaret Thatcher 1<sup>st</sup> March 1980**

The following letters and documents have recently been sent to me from a number of sources and I understand that they are on a website about Margaret Thatcher. Based on what I learned from a conversation that I had with General Walls in April 2003, I believe that his letter below looks genuine, although it does not bear his signature.

The document following General Walls' letter is the response from the Foreign Office. In my view it is disappointing that Margaret Thatcher did not even have the courtesy to respond in person to General Walls. In light of other documents that I have seen released in the media recently, in which Thatcher is gushing approval over the appointment of Robert Mugabe, I do not find it surprising.

What is illustrated here is the murky depths of politics and how it affected all of our lives.

SECRET

cc Mr Powell FCO  
AM has seen

2780

*Reply sent.*

*fn. Hunt - 3/5*

Salisbury  
1 March 1980

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister

I am exercising the right conferred upon me by you personally that I have direct access to you when the situation warrants it. I believe it is my solemn duty and responsibility to now report to you directly and make an appeal on behalf of all freedom-loving and law-abiding Zimbabwe Rhodesians. Many of these have trusted you and your Government because of my colleagues and my own example, assurance and encouragement, and in the case of the security forces, our command. We have now completed three days of voting as part of the electoral process agreed at Lancaster House and await announcement of the results on next Tuesday morning. I therefore judge this to be the right moment for me to take this action. I must first explain the background. Despite your assurance to me that Lord Soames would measure up to the grave responsibility delegated to him, I must confirm reports sent to you, through intermediaries, that he has proved to be inadequate, lacking in moral courage, lacking in ability to listen and learn, and above all incapable of implementing the solemn promise, given by yourself and Lord Carrington, that he would rely on us for advice on military and other situations, and act in accordance with the interests of survival of a moderate, freedom-loving and anti-marxist society. I will not accuse him of being unwilling to do so, although many in their bitterness think this to be the case. He has often treated us as if we had no special status in your eyes and certainly not as people who, at great political sacrifice, had agreed to go to the conference table after militarily forcing the other parties to agree to do so. It is true his task has not

-2-/...

SECRET

been made easier by your Government insisting on unrestricted entry of hundreds of observers and journalists, many of whom are avowedly left wing orientated and definitely anti-Muzorewa. Many of them, and some junior monitors, have been arrogant enough to set themselves up as instant experts on this country, and Africa generally, and have made pronouncements accordingly, contributing greatly to the emotional and hysterical wave of hostile propaganda levelled against us. Had the Governor acted resolutely and effectively in the early days of the pre-election period, his task would have been much easier, and our survival as a democratic nation would not now be so seriously imperilled.

Although it is possible the moderate parties may achieve acceptable results in the election, I must say to you in all sincerity and gravity that it will be a miracle if it happens and in spite of intimidation, breaches of the ceasefire, and sheer terror accepted pathetically by your representatives. Although I have sufficient faith in God to hope that the true wishes of the people in this country will be manifested some day in some way and may be even now, I must take the precaution of making contingency plans for the worst case on this occasion, especially as reports from all around the country indicate that massive intimidation makes a victory by Mugabe the most likely if not inevitable result of the election.

I should add that many of the affidavits about intimidation, in the hundreds being forwarded to us today, have been sworn by your British policemen and other visitors. I wish you could see the sullen hurt and misery in the eyes and faces of our black people, who are normally so cheerful, good-natured, and full of goodwill.

My appeal to you must be on the following basis :

- (a) If Mugabe succeeds in gaining a simple majority by winning 51 seats or more, or if he is able to attract sufficient defectors from other parties, it is vital to our survival as a free nation that you declare the election nul and void on the grounds of official reports of massive intimidation frustrating the free choice of the bulk of the people

-3-/...

- (b) If Mugabe gets less than 50 seats but has more than any other party, our present efforts to form a coalition based on the tripod of Muzorewa, Nkomo and Smith must be given every opportunity and help, however overt or devious as may be necessary, to succeed in governing the country and resisting the efforts to overthrow them of Mugabe, and anybody who supports him
- (c) In the event of the election being declared nul and void, or the moderate parties failing to form a viable coalition with a working majority in the House of Assembly, it is essential from my considered point of view that you maintain a British presence in ZR to run the country with a Council of Ministers, thus allowing us to provide, if necessary, the military conditions for an orderly and safe withdrawal of those people of all races who wish to take refuge in South Africa or elsewhere. This will be preferable to my taking unconstitutional action which would be fraught with snags and dangers, apart from being loathsome to me as a professional soldier, and almost certain to result in much bloodshed and damage to property, and embarrassment to your Government. However, if you are unable to see your way to honouring the bond between us I must reserve the right to take whatever action is necessary in the interests of the majority of people whom I am pledged to serve.

It must be without precedent or at least abnormal, for a person like myself to address such a message as this to no less than the Prime Minister of Britain, but I wish to assure you I do so only in the extremity of our possible emergency, with goodwill, and in the sincere and honest belief that it is my duty in terms of the privileged conversations I had with you and Lord Carrington. I don't know how to sign myself, but I hope to remain your obedient servant,

PETER WALLS

SECRET

2



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 March 1980

*Dear Michael,*

Rhodesia: Message from General Walls

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary discussed with the Prime Minister yesterday evening the message from General Walls. Lord Carrington recommends that instructions should be sent as soon as possible today for the Governor or Sir A Duff to reply to Walls on the Prime Minister's behalf. The purpose will be to calm and reassure Walls, without giving hostages to fortune about the precise composition of the government, or our own role after the election results are known.

The implied threats in Walls' letter are worrying and no doubt reflect the strong pressure which Walls is under from within the armed forces. But he has played a helpful role over the past week or so both in bringing together the forces of the two sides and in establishing the foundation for a coalition between Mr Nkomo, Bishop Muzorewa and the Whites. He will be aware of the grave consequences of any action to overturn the election results; and it is unlikely that he has any firm assurances of South African support. While the risk of hasty action in the event of a Mugabe landslide undoubtedly exists and there is evidence of contingency plans in the Rhodesian forces to deal with the PF in the assembly places, we have no grounds to think that any action is imminent.

Lord Carrington considers that the Prime Minister's reply should so far as possible seek to reassure Walls and to recognise the vital part he has played in recent days. Clearly he cannot be given any specific commitment about the formation of a government. But provided Mugabe gets less than 40 seats (ie short of a majority of the African seats), the sort of coalition between Nkomo, Muzorewa and the Whites which Walls is seeking to promote would be a perfectly legitimate objective, though it might be possible to take some elements of ZANU(PF) into it. Walls should therefore be reassured that we share the goal of a broad, moderate and stable government which contributes to national unity and reconciliation.

/If Mugabe

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street

SECRET

SECRET



If Mugabe gets more than 40 seats, the situation will be much more difficult; and it will be hard to avoid a situation in which he does not have a leading role in the government. Walls and the Whites could probably be brought to accept some form of national government, though their suspicion of Mugabe is such that we should have to approach it carefully, emphasising the need for unity and reconciliation after the elections and for a broadly based government which reflected all viewpoints in the country.

If Mugabe wins an absolute majority, then our aim will again have to be a national government in which all parties are represented, and Mugabe's influence thus diluted. It will be very difficult to bring the Whites to accept such a government in which Mugabe would inevitably have a very prominent role, and the risks of a White reaction would be strongest in these circumstances. But it is probably the best outcome we could hope for. Our role in such a case would be difficult. But to reassure the Whites we would have to indicate that we stood ready to help with the problems involved in the transition to independence (though we would not envisage extending the Governor's stay by more than a matter of days and certainly not beyond independence).

/ I enclose a draft telegram of instructions for the Prime Minister's approval.

*Yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

SECRET

## OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
	↓	SECRET	FLASH
ZCZC	1	ZCZC	
GRS	2	GRS	
CLASS	3	SECRET	
CAVEATS	4		
DESKBY	5		
FM FCO	6	FM FCO 031400Z	
PRE/ADD	7	TO FLASH SALISBURY	
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER	
	9		
	10	MY TELNO : RHODESIA: MESSAGE FROM GENERAL WALLS	
	11	1. The Prime Minister does not intend to reply to Walls'	
	12	message in writing, but would be grateful if you or Sir A Duff	
	13	could speak to Walls on the following lines, making clear that	
	14	you are doing so on her personal instructions. (In the light	
	15	of some of the comments in Walls' message, you may prefer to	
	16	ask Sir A Duff to do so).	
	17	2. The Prime Minister was glad that Walls felt able to get in	
	18	touch with her personally to explain his concerns. She fully	
	19	understands what a difficult time this is and in particular	
	20	the uncertainty and tension which inevitably exists between	
	21	the elections and the declaration of results. She has greatly	
///	22	admired the lead taken by walls in bringing together the forces	
//	23	of the two sides and in encouraging co-operation between Nkomo,	
/	24	Muzorewa and the Whites, and these efforts have her full support.	
	25		
		RRNR ends telegram	BLANK
		File number	Rhodesia Dept
		Drafted by (Block capitals)	C D POWELL
		Telephone number	3466
		Authorised for despatch	
		Comcen reference	Time of despatch
		Catchword	/The prospects
		Distribution	Files PS PS/LPS PS/Mr Luce PS/PUS Mr Day Head, Rhodesia Dept

XY 43

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats <b>SECRET</b>	Page 2
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<<<<

1 <<<<  
 2 The prospects for a peaceful and stable outcome will depend  
 3 upon others being willing to show the same spirit of  
 4 reconciliation. The Prime Minister is very grateful to Walls  
 5 for his outstanding contribution, and hopes that he will  
 6 continue to do his best to keep all the parties calm during  
 7 the difficult period ahead.  
 8 3. It should be made clear to Walls that the Prime Minister  
 9 regards his criticisms of you as entirely unjustified. The  
 10 RSF have been deployed fully throughout the interim period and  
 11 in a way which has enabled them to maintain full control over  
 12 the military situation. No attempt has been made to interfere  
 13 with the NJOC's military judgment. The admission of observers  
 14 to the elections was agreed at Lancaster House. It is also  
 15 vital to securing international acceptance for Rhodesia.  
 16 4. You should leave Walls in no doubt that, in the light of  
 17 the reports from our own supervisors and observers (as well as  
 18 international groups, the Prime Minister does not share his  
 19 view that massive intimidation has frustrated the free choice  
 20 of the people (although she realises that there has been some  
 21 intimidation). There are no grounds, in the Prime Minister's  
 22 view, on which the election could be declared null and void.  
 23 The task now is to make the best of the outcome to ensure a  
 24 stable government.  
 25 5. The composition of the future government must, in the  
 26 Prime Minister's view, reflect the need for unity and  
 27 reconciliation. It remains her objective, as explained to  
 28 Walls during Lancaster House, to see Rhodesia brought to  
 29 independence with as stable and moderate a government as possible  
 30 which fairly reflects the wishes of the people. The Prime  
 31 Minister has heard with interest and approval of the  
 32 discussions which have been taking place between Bishop  
 33 Muzorewa, Mr Nkomo and the Rhodesian Front, with the  
 34

///  
 //  
 /

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword /encouragement
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats <b>SECRET</b>	Page <b>3</b>
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<<<<

1 <<<<  
 2 encouragement of the NJOC, and hopes that these can establish  
 3 the foundations for successful collaboration in the post-  
 4 election period. Depending on the election results, it may  
 5 also be necessary to accommodate other parties who are equally  
 6 prepared to commit themselves to the goals of unity and  
 7 reconciliation. The Prime Minister has asked the Governor to  
 8 keep her closely informed of his discussions with the political  
 9 leaders following the announcement of the election results  
 10 and will be in touch further with Walls to consider how our  
 11 common objective of a stable future for Rhodesia can best be  
 12 achieved. We intend to assist in any way we can with the  
 13 problems involved in the transition to independence. In the  
 14 meantime the Prime Minister urges Walls, in the strongest  
 15 terms, to counsel his colleagues to show calm and restraint;  
 16 it is only on that basis that we can work successfully together  
 17 for a government with broad support under which all the people  
 18 of Rhodesia will continue to feel secure in their future.

*p.m.?*

20 CARRINGTON  
 21 NNNN

/// 31  
 // 32  
 / 33  
 34

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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## What's On In New Zealand

### ANZAC Day Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Services and parades are held throughout the country. Contact your local RSA to see what is happening in your town.

The Rhodesian Services Association gathers at the Hobsonville RSA, Auckland in force. Please be at the Hobsonville RSA by 9.30am. After the parade we hold our own service and then socialise in the RSA. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### AUCKLAND

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

### TAURANGA

The Garrison Club which is run by the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hauraki Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. Email [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) to get on the local mailing list to see what is going on around the area.

### CQ Store

Visit [www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm) to see what is in store for you.

Please give our CQ Store consideration when buying a present for friends or family. 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 [thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:thecqstore@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 [thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:thecqstore@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.

### Berets and Badges

We have an extensive stock of cap badges which we can fit to replica berets for wear at Remembrance Day parades or for display. Our stocks include original badges predominantly, but owing to demand we have made high quality copies of Selous Scout and RLI badges (we do have a big stock of original RLI badges too).

These copies are clearly marked as copies and are made from sterling silver.

In the case of our SAS and Selous Scout regalia by agreement with the respective associations we will only sell to proven former members of those units or to family of deceased members in order to avoid the “wannabee” fraternity attempting to pass themselves off.



New Zealand made Selous Scout cap badge in sterling silver NZ\$55

### Books for Africa

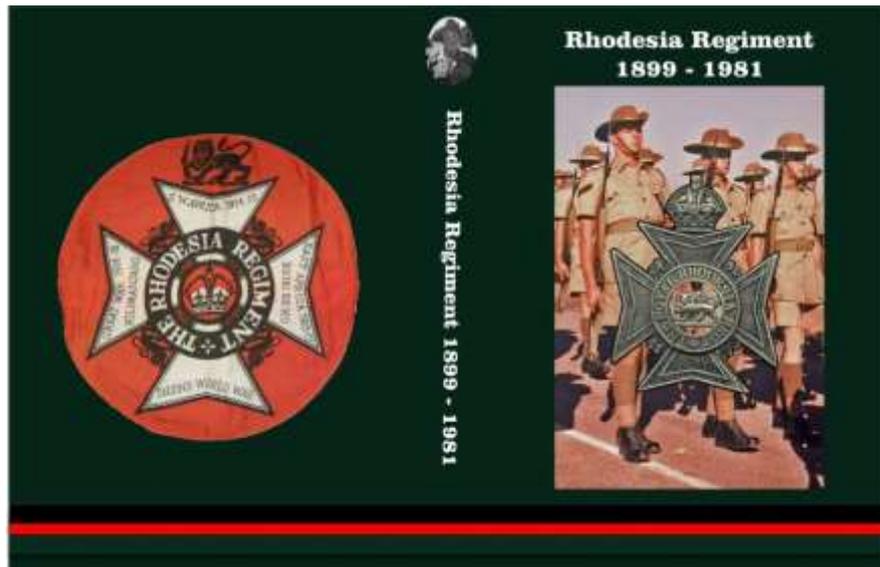
I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at [www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm). These sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, the Association does benefit indirectly from these sales. 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.

There are a number of new titles in stock since the last newsletter and I re-stocked with Viscount Down DVDs. Please visit the page above and have a look around.



Viscount Down – The Survivor’s Story DVD NZ\$55 plus postage

# 'Rhodesia Regiment 1899 – 1981' by Peter Baxter, Hugh Bomford et al



This project is on the path to publication later this year. The Rhodesian Services Association is the publisher of this book.

Keep watch on this newsletter as well as this web page <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/rhodesia-regiment.htm> for updates and pre-publication offers.

The illustration above is a draft of the cover. It has been compiled by Dudley Wall with a panel of eight others who have combined input for the design. The final cover will differ from this to the extent that the font will be changed and the photos will be better quality.

The design of the cover has been something that we have not taken lightly and has been a long process. It is intended to illustrate the following:

- The different eras that the Regiment went through with regard to uniforms and badges
- To show the Battle Honours - this is done using a photo of the last 1st Battalion Rhodesia Regiment flag
- The Regimental colours
- The WWII soldier on the spine illustrates the major part that the men of that era played in the development of the Regiment and of Rhodesia

**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](mailto: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 Offer**

Dear Friends, Rhodies and Countrymen,

At the moment there is a lot of international sport going on - golf, rugby and cricket, this is sporting month at Roan Antelope Music.

As you may know (or not) John Edmond was quite a sportsman in his day. He played rugby for the Roan Antelope Rugby club, marked the great Tom van Vollenhoven (with whom he is still in contact today) and was most improved player of the year in 1958. John also played cricket with Bill Flower (father of the England coach Andy Flower) and attained 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan in Goju Karate as well as playing water polo and hockey for the Roan Club.

Many of John's albums contain a song or two about sport. For instance on the Zimsongs album are 'The Zim Rugby Party' and 'Chia lo six Zimbabwe'. On From the Pen of John Edmond is 'Love ain't Cricket'. On Friends, Rhodies Countrymen is the song 'The Guinness Book of Records' about the rugby posts that John was instrumental in erecting

which were the highest in the world. Also in the Roan catalogue is 'The Cream of Chilapalapa' which contains Wrex Tarrs' classic comedy track 'Yeno lo golf'.

So for the month of April all these sporting CD's are on special i.e.:

Zimsongs, From the Pen of John Edmond, Friends, Rhodies Countrymen and The Cream of Chilapalapa. Buy any one of these four albums for the amazing price of R100 each. This includes postage and packaging in South Africa, but a bit extra for postage overseas:

Price R100 plus P&P which is:

SA Free post; UK R105; USA R100; Australia R140 New Zealand R145

To order go to:

Roan Antelope Music [www.johnedmond.co.za](http://www.johnedmond.co.za)

Email: [info@johnedmond.co.za](mailto:info@johnedmond.co.za)

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

And finally for all you digital dudes and dudettes....How would you like to have a John Edmond song as a ringtone? For instance 'The Whistling Troopie' - or any of his songs for that matter. You can now download these through iTunes.

**Buckles and Tees** [www.bucklesandtees.co.nz](http://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](mailto:mike_jovivier@xtra.co.nz) with your order or query or go to [www.bucklesandtees.co.nz](http://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.

## Rhodesian Tapestry

From Rona Lomas:

"Dear Hugh,

*This is something I turned up in my browsing and although not related to things military, it unfolds a wonderful history, so I thought you might be interested. I well remember my mother being one of the embroiderers for the Bromley/Melfort Women's Institute. On the link below, if you go right to the bottom, the "Map" link gives you access to all the pieces done by all the WIs in the country. I would love to know what has happened to it as, although moved from Parliament to the National Museum of Bulawayo for safe-keeping, the link below is from 2002, so who knows whether it stayed there.*

<http://branchingout.brinkster.net/rhodesiantapestry/index.html>

Cheers,  
Rona"

Anyone with knowledge of this tapestry's current location please email The Editor.

## Rhodesian Army Regiments and Corps collection

If anyone has this book below in their collection please could you contact Steve Worrall-Clare at email [deliver@telkomsa.net](mailto:deliver@telkomsa.net) Steve's copy has been damaged and he wishes to obtain photocopies of the applicable pages



## Lt Col John Hugh Hassard Thompson (originally Knox-Thompson).

From Martyn Hobrough:

*"I have been asked by a friend in Italy to help trace any family or friends of the late Lt Col John Hugh Hassard Thompson (originally Knox-Thompson).*

*Thompson's son, who now lives in Italy, lost contact with his father when his parents divorced and his father moved to Rhodesia. Thompson (senior) was born in the UK and went to Sandhurst in 1937. He served in Europe in WW2 rising to his final rank.*

*In 1961, in Rhodesia, he married his second wife, Jean Beatson-Bell. They had no children, but one daughter of Jean's first marriage is apparently still alive and lives in Zimbabwe. Her name is Catherine (Kate) Jane Picard and she was married twice, first to Trevor Alrick Theodore Range from Rhodesia and then to Peter William Pearce from South Africa. Thompson's last known address was 2 Fenella Drive, Monavale, Salisbury. The house apparently was sold by the executors of Jean Thompson's estate on her death.*

*Thompson's son would like to have any information about his father's life in Rhodesia and to establish contact with any of his father's family and friends.*

*Anyone who can help with information please can you email to Martyn Hobrough at [hobrough@btconnect.com](mailto:hobrough@btconnect.com) who will pass the information on to John Thompson's son."*

## Rhodesian General Service Medals

Will Ransom Secretary for the Rhodesian Army Assn forwarded us the following note from John Wood in which John writes:

*"I served in the Rhodesian Army from April 1975 until December 1980 - 727074 WO2, Corps of Signals.*

*I recently came across the following two Rhodesian Army General Service Medals at a car boot sale at Fontwell:*

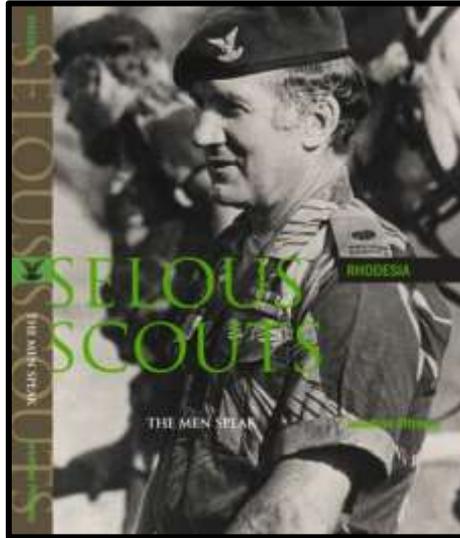
PR22496 Cpl. KMB Sinclair  
99806 Smn. GA Martin

Unfortunately neither medal has a ribbon.

I would be delighted to forward the medals to the rightful owners.”

If you do contact John Wood on email [johnrhodiewood@aol.com](mailto:johnrhodiewood@aol.com) please tell him that you saw his message as published by the Rhodesian Services Association

### Selous Scouts – The Men Speak

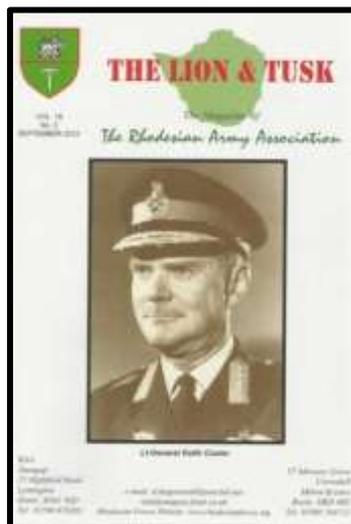


A 'must buy', this is a magnificent book of over 600 pages, richly illustrated and containing a huge amount of new and previously unpublished material.

It can only be purchased through the Selous Scout Association. Please email Tom Thomas [Thomas@selfcopypapers.co.za](mailto:Thomas@selfcopypapers.co.za)

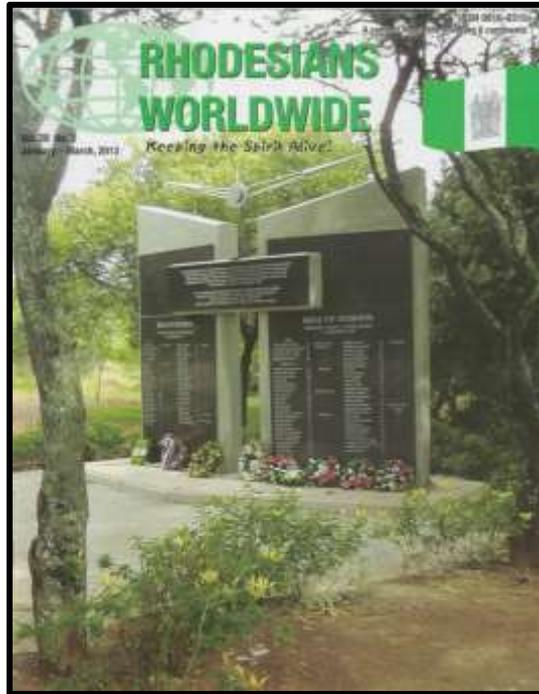
### Rhodesian Army Association Newsletter – Lion & Tusk

Please contact David Heppenstall at [d.heppenstall@uwclub.net](mailto:d.heppenstall@uwclub.net) or Iain Harper at [iain@umgusa.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:iain@umgusa.fsnet.co.uk) to subscribe.



### Rhodesians Worldwide magazine

The latest issue is out now. Best value for money magazine of its type. Please support its continued circulation by subscribing now. International subscriptions are easy to effect – contact Chris Whitehead at [rhodesia@rhodesia.org](mailto:rhodesia@rhodesia.org)



That's all folks, so until next time – go well.  
Cheers  
Hugh



**Celebrate 'Rhodesia Day'\* on the 11<sup>th</sup> 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](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.

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