



Contact! Contact!

August 2011

A monthly sitrep. for the

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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

Greetings,

All my spare time continues to be absorbed by the Rhodesia Regiment book project (as well as compiling newsletters!) I am really looking forward to the day when I do not have to think about cataloguing photos for the Rhodesia Regiment book and helping people through the process of getting suitable quality scans sent through by email. It has been a long haul and the knowledge that the reward of seeing the job through and producing a lasting record of the unit that more Rhodesian soldiers served in than any other over the eighty year history of the unit, keeps me going.

The October RV is rolling around again. There is a section below with all the details. What is not covered is the auction that takes place during the RV. The auction has become one of the highlights of the RV. You have to be there to appreciate some of the humour that goes down. Proceeds from the auction go towards our museum displays and archives. We have a number of authors who have donated copies of their books and also people who have contributed other items to. Please can anyone who wants to contribute contact me hbomford@clear.net.nz or Paul Nes paulnes@xtra.co.nz as soon as possible. If you are in business in New Zealand you may like to contribute a credit note for your product or services; not only will you be helping us but you will get some promotion. Next month we will list our contributors.

There has been concern from rugby fans about attending the RV. Please note that you will not miss out watching any of the RWC rugby games as there is no game on the Saturday, which is the day of the RV. We will be showing the Bronze final on the Friday on the big screen at the Garrison Club at 8.30pm. This means that you can come to Tauranga on the Friday, watch the game drinking the cheapest beer in town, do the RV on Saturday and be home or with friends to watch the final on Sunday, which is played at 9pm.

As mentioned last month you can join our Association group on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/home.php?sk=group_152017521536350 It is a closed group so you will need to be signed in. It has been set up to foster interest and it is also a useful place to store a lot of photos so please have a look through the 'View Photos' section. If you are like me and get fed up with emails of notifications from Facebook, then this is how you stop them:

From your Facebook page go to Account (top right of your screen):

Account Settings Notifications - work through this disabling all the notifications that you do not want to get.

Obituaries

Please Note that the Rhodesian Services Association holds a large Rhodesian flag for use at funerals. Please contact me at hbomford@clear.net.nz if required.



'Mac' McGuinness died on the 6th July 2011.

Winston Hart writes:

"Whilst at home in Pretoria and convalescing following the amputation of a toe as a result of diabetes, Mac was viciously attacked by an axe wielding intruder and subsequently died on the 6th July 2011 in Pretoria Hospital from the injuries he had received.

Michael John Peter 'Mac' McGuinness, whose BSAP Force number was 5197, joined the force in the mid fifties and retired as a Detective Chief Superintendent in 1980.

He will be remembered for his services in the CID and Special Branch and at the end of his career particularly for his running of the SB contingent of the Selous Scouts.

He was a remarkable man, well thought of and loved by the majority of the servicemen and servicewomen with whom he came in contact, or with whom he worked.

He never turned anybody away, and was always available to listen and, with unbelievable intuition, give advice.

He was always called Mr. Mac and often, because of his generous nature in helping the less fortunate, 'Father Christmas'.

He will be sadly missed and heartfelt sympathies go to his family."

Rory Beary died on the 9th July 2011

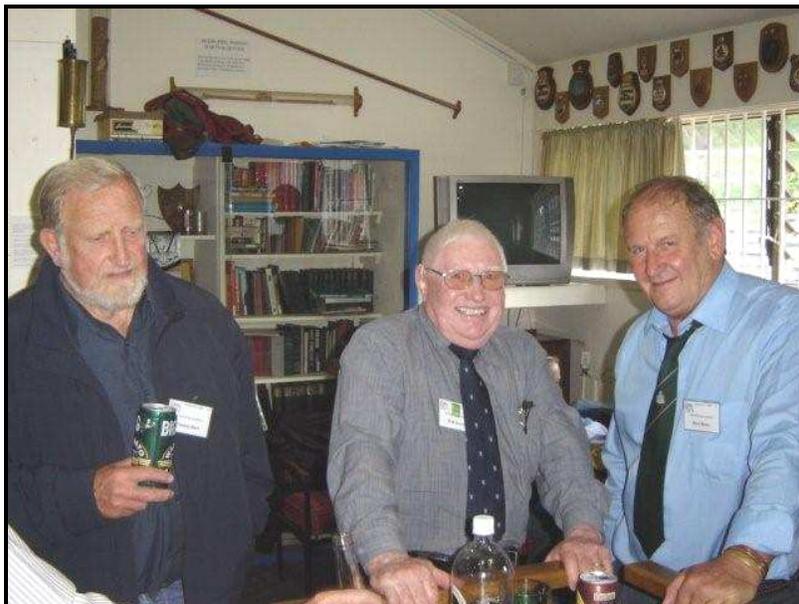
Shane Beary writes:

"Please let it be known to all those who knew him that my elder brother Rory Beary passed away in Kenton on Sea earlier today. Rory served in 2Cdo RLI and the Selous Scouts. He then spent years running his own fishing business out of Kenton, South Africa.

More recently based out of Cork, Ireland, he was visiting South Africa on one of his frequent walkabouts. He had been diagnosed with a heart problem that appeared not to be serious but suffered a heart attack and passed away suddenly whilst out walking along the coast.

Please contact his brother Shane Beary on tiger@loxinfo.co.th for any condolences."

Editor's note – Rory (pictured below) was a member of the Rhodesian Services Association and attended our October RV in 2008 on one of his visits to New Zealand.



L-R Winston Hart looking pensive as it is his turn to pay and wondering if he should join a group of less able drinkers; Wolf Huccke and Rory Beary happy in the belief that they have someone about to buy them a beer.

Clive Boddy (BSAP) died in Harare, Zimbabwe on the 5th July 2011.

Colin Riddell advised that **Jonathan Wigham** ex 5th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment has died in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Cherith Roberts wrote:

"Isabel Mary Belinsky, beloved friend of Cherith and family, passed away Saturday 16th July 2011 at her home on Bell Inn Farm, Nyabira.

Isabel was a brilliant cattle woman of world wide acclaim. She is now at peace with her beloved Derek and Sandra and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Deepest sympathies go to Diana, Storm, Janine, Michael, Irene, Lloyd, Adele & Lauren. Condolences can be sent to Mike and Irene Belinsky bellinn1@yahoo.com "

Off The Radar

A number of recipients find their copy of **Contact! Contact!** either gets completely rejected by their Internet Service Provider or it is consigned to their Spam Bin. It is extremely frustrating for me to have put the time and effort into production of this publication and then find that it is not reaching the intended destinations. If you are able, please check your systems or have your technical people check and ensure that these addresses are cleared as 'friendly':

thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org

theeditor@rhodesianservices.org

hbomford@clear.net.nz

In a lot of cases it is work addresses that are the problem. Please check with your mates and if someone is not getting **Contact! Contact!** help them to sort the problem out. Providing us with a private email address, such as Gmail, may be the solution.

The following address is no longer working. If anyone has comms with him please get him to contact me.

- **Ross Manikum** - New Zealand

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

October RV 21st – 23rd October 2011

Registration cost for the RV - \$37 per adult and \$10 for under 12 year olds. The adult registration fee includes the \$10 annual membership of the Rhodesian Services Association.

Please note: We need your RV subscription before the day. Diana and I personally fund the whole event, it is not subsidised by the Association and we have to make all the purchases and payments prior to the day. Times are tough and we cannot afford to act as a bank. Thank you for your cooperation on this

Programme for the weekend

- Friday 21st October. From 4.30pm the Garrison Club at the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group is open for an evening of socialising. We will show the RWC game being played for 3rd and 4th place on the big screen which starts around 8.30pm. There will be food and drink available at very reasonable rates.
- Saturday 22nd October. There will be a golf tournament in the morning. The RV will kick off with assembly and welcome from 2.30pm. The annual auction is not to be missed (as those of you who have attended in the past well know!)
- Sunday 23rd. From 11am we will have the AGM at the Classic Flyers Museum followed by an excellent meal and free range of the whole museum complex. Wind up is around 2.30pm. Cost is \$12, payable on the day, which includes the meal, admission to the whole museum complex and entry in the draw for a flight for two in the Agcat biplane which can be taken at a date suitable to the winner.
- Rememb that Monday the 24th is a Public Holiday leaving you free to explore the area some more or take your time travelling home and for the organisers - a welcome day's rest!



We want you to attend the 2011 RV!

This event is not to be missed, it is a great opportunity to kick back and have a good time. This is our ninth year and we are hopeful of a few people making the trip from Aussie as well as from all over New Zealand. It is a great weekend and everyone is most welcome.

Email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to place your booking.

Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings All,

On the International radar, Brendon De Jonge continues to impress (tied 4th today in the Greenbrier Classic in West Virginia). Last year he had ten top ten finishes and has another three so far this year. I don't think it will be long before he nails a big one and we wish him all the best.

This month's "Blast from the past" comes with a little difference. While this person is well known to us all, it is probably not in this field that he would be widely known to you.

This article just goes to show how competitive our rugby leagues were and you could just imagine this scenario being played out in every Country Club or City ground every Saturday afternoon. In the districts it was the focal point of the week-end and the whole district came to watch. After the game, a roaring fire in the clubhouse and a delicious meal was enjoyed by all. The Country District teams were renowned for their hospitality, with the singing and the drinking carrying on into the early hours of the morning and many fine friendships were forged that are still very evident to this day.

I have included the newspaper article on the game and will include Hugh's commentary in his own words on the game afterwards.

MARANDELLAS UNLUCKY TO LOSE

A good crowd was treated to some exciting rugby when Marandellas took on New Sarum at the club ground on Saturday August 5th:

At the previous encounter in Salisbury New Sarum had run out easy winners and Marandellas were hoping to reverse the result.

It took both sides a few minutes to settle down, but Marandellas, by virtue of hard tackling, notably by Hugh Bamford gained second phase ball and camped on the visitors try line. Their efforts were rewarded when John Mann grabbed a half chance and charged over. Dave Styal made no mistake with the kick, score 6-0. The cheering had hardly died down when New Sarum struck back. Some loose marking and some inept tackling allowed the visitors winger a clear run down the wing to score near the corner post. The kick was not successful. Ten minutes later Marandellas scored again when Philip Tozer burst through the centre and after being chased half the length of the field touched down. Dave Styal kick went just wide and so the score moved on to 10-4. Once again, before the cheering had ended New Sarum climbed back with an almost identical try to their first, a long clear run up the wind and a touch down near the corner. The kick failed. Score 10-8.

Marandellas were faring badly in the scrum and did not get a clean ball from the scrum all afternoon, nevertheless their second phase play was strong and it was from a loose maul that Dave Styal was able to set up a good crisp passing movement that ended with Philip Tozer going over for his second try. Styal converted and the score rose to 16-8. With the half time whistle imminent New

Sarum won a scrum against the head in front of the Marandellas posts and cleanly throwing the ball about bagged another 4 points. The score at half time was 16-12.

SECOND HALF

Immediately on the resumption New Sarum scored alongside the upright with the Marandellas defence in a tangle. The try was converted and New Sarum were in front by 16-18. Shortly after this Hugh Bamford got sent for an early bath. The infringement seemed slight to warrant such drastic punishment. Bamford charged through the lineout and crashed into an opponent. Unfortunately the poor fellow had sustained an injury in training and Bamford's tackle aggravated it leaving the player stretched out on the ground. Play resumed with 14 players per side. At about this time Marandellas were beginning to get on top once again, getting a better share of the ball from the line-outs where Paul Vandoros at scrum half showed us that he has not altogether lost his touch. In the final 5 minutes Marandellas crossed the visitors line three times but could not score. On the first instance Geoff Clarke took a pass shoulder high and carried it across the line, but before he could touch down he was tackled and dropped the ball. Another forward ploughed his way over after this only to be tackled and brought down on his back with the ball on top of him and finally when John Mann got over again the referee disallowed the try since it seemed that the ball was pushed over the line.

This was a well fought game with the minimum of stoppages, Marandellas were unlucky to lose, but that's the way it is.

Pak-Lo.

Marandellas Country Times

"It was a hell of a game - my grandfather "Maj Mac" (who developed Inyanga) was watching and I was keen to impress him. He had played for England before WWI and would have captained England had WWI not started. The reporting was not quite accurate - I was playing flank and had that scrum half lined up all afternoon - I broke from the scrum and nailed the mongrel and he screamed the house down as he already had a bugged collar bone and my tackle flattened him - the ref was unsighted and so thought that I had done something wrong and sent me off home. It is interesting to note that the teams played on without replacements in those days.

On the Monday morning I got a call at work (I was at the Marandellas Cold Storage Commission then) it was the Rhodesian Rugby Union office "we have a report that you were sent off at the weekend" "well yes - so what?" "Do you accept a three week suspension or do you wish to defend the charge and punishment?" Seeing as there was only one game left in the season and I was completely baffled that my seeming innocuous sending off was being taken so seriously, I took the three weeks.

So ended my rugby career in Rhodesia because I went on to leave the CSC and go back to the farm and from there the war was too hot and I could not leave the farm for practice or anything at night. Also very interesting to see Paul Vandoros mentioned - I was about 19 years old at that stage and Paul would have been at least 20 years older than me. Dup du Plessis was our coach - he was killed by some quack doctor (a yank fraud with no qualifications) in Marondera in the 1980's I believe".

As I write this its only 43 days until the RWC!!

Send us your news or requests to fourstreams@clear.net.nz

Till next month, go well

Regards

Grunter



Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980 by Gerry van Tonder

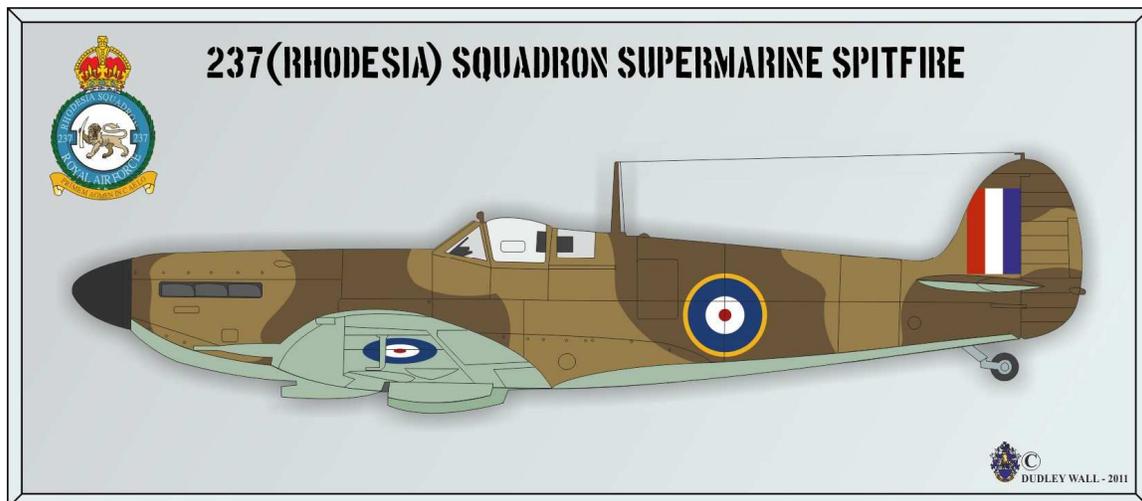


August

Newsflash Headlines +++ 05 August 1914 A proclamation from the Administrator's Office in Salisbury announces that war has broken out with Germany +++ 14 August 1936 First Air Rally is held at Salisbury Aerodrome, which included six Hawker Furies of the SAAF +++ 09 August 1953 A contingent of one hundred members of the BSAP leaves Salisbury by Dakota for Nyasaland to help quell the unrest in the protectorate +++ 27 August 1953 Queen Elizabeth II signs the Order in Council officially bringing the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland into being +++ 14 August 1962 Dr Tichafa Parirenyatwa, Deputy President of ZAPU dies, aged 35, when his car collides with a train on the Gwelo road 18 miles from Bulawayo +++ 12 August 1966 Seven Europeans injured in a blast in Demi's Snack Bar in Speke Avenue, Salisbury +++ 22 August 1970 Rhodesia's first locally-assembled Renault, the R10, goes on sale for \$1700 +++ 10 August 1972 The Rhodesian Olympic team of 44 athletes and 10 officials leaves Salisbury for the Munich Games +++ 10 August 1976 Umtali comes under rocket and mortar attack from Mozambique +++ 06 August 1977 11 killed and 76 injured in a bomb blast in a Woolworths store in Pioneer Street, Salisbury +++

In Brief

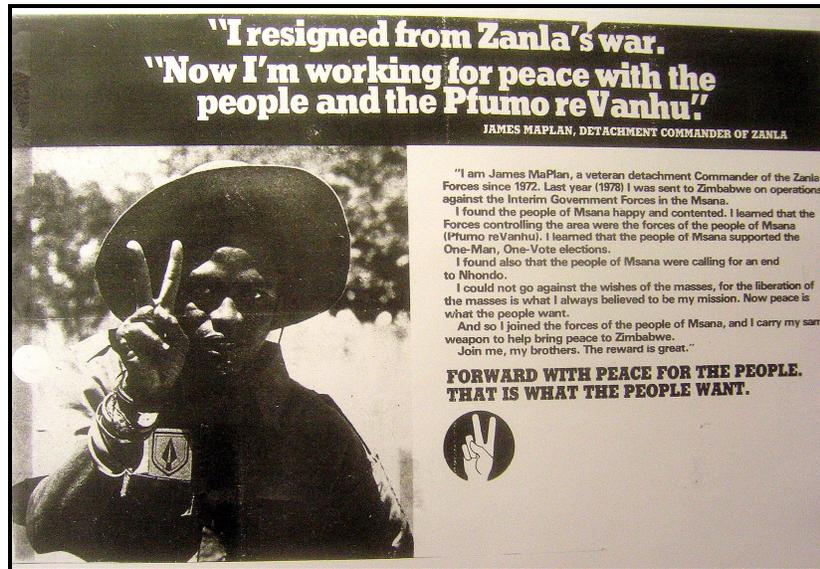
On 15 August 1943, forty members of the Royal Air Force 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron arrived at Salisbury Station. They were met by Mayor Charles Olley, City Councillors and a large crowd of well-wishers. On the previous Saturday, they had been welcomed home in Bulawayo, where a reception was held for them in McMurray Hall. Guests included Air Vice-Marshal CW Meredith and the Mayor, Mr EJ Davies.



On 03 August 1968, in his opening address at the Lomagundi Show in Sinoia, Minister of Finance John Wrathall stated that government might have to come to the aid of the tobacco industry if current trading conditions continue. He defended government's decision to assist the Tobacco Corporation with £12 million, by saying that this was necessitated by the British Government's punitive measures on Rhodesian exports.

On 13 August 1978, leader of the UANC and member of the Executive Council, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, addressed 3000 tribespeople and "pro-government" guerrillas in Msana TTL, 50 kms north-east of Salisbury. Msana had been declared a "free zone" for terrorists who had accepted Government's offer of an amnesty. Speaking to journalists,

Lt General Peter Walls, Commander of Combined Operations, referred to the guerrillas as virtually auxiliary forces of the Government.



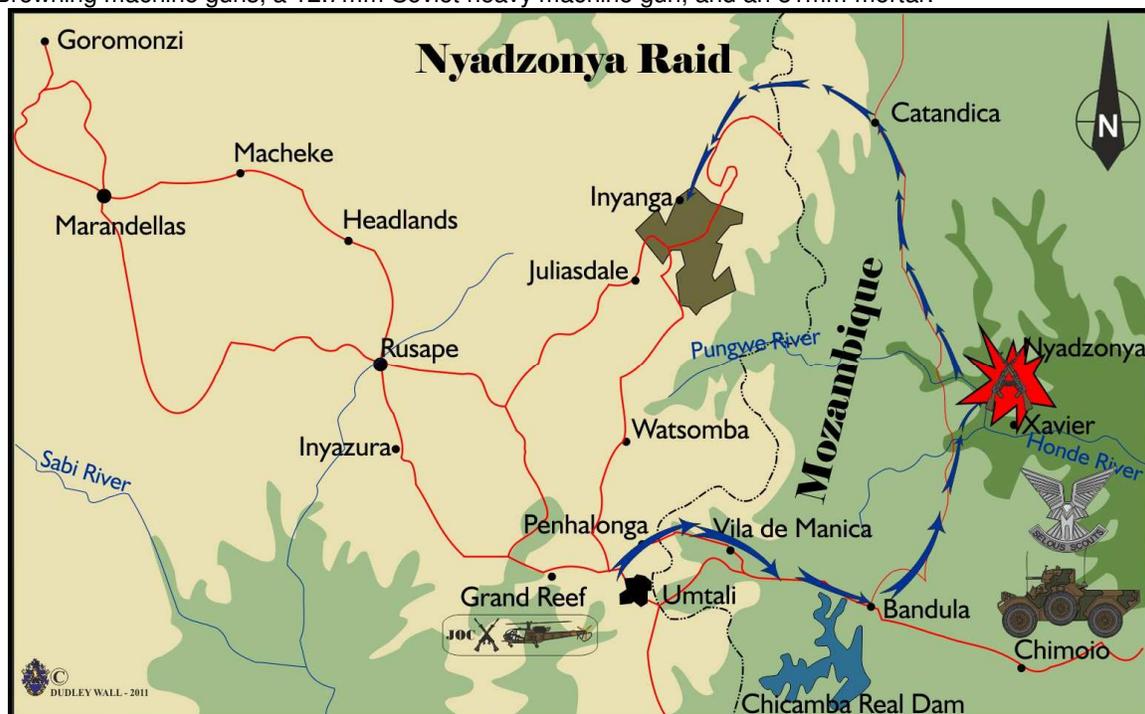
Propaganda poster urging ZANLA to give up and join the SFA

Special Forces Hit ZANLA Base at Nyadzonya: August 1976

At just after midnight on the morning of Monday 09 August 1976, a column of ten Unimogs, four Ferret scout cars, and 84 officers and men of the Selous Scouts, under the command of Capt. Rob Warraker, crossed the border into Mozambique just north of Umtali. Their destination would be the large, recently discovered ZANLA logistics camp on the Nyadzonya River, a tributary of the Pungwe.

Intelligence gleaned from a captured terrorist had led Special Branch to believe that there was a large ZANLA base somewhere on the Pungwe River. However, it was only a chance sighting by a RhAF Canberra, flown by Wing Commander Randy Durandt, that confirmed the existence of a base housing up to 1000 ZANLA cadres. Urgent preparation for *Operation Eland* got underway as the Selous Scouts Commanding Officer, Lt Col. Ron Reid-Daly, was cautiously given the go ahead by General Peter Walls, a decision supported by the latest estimate of 5000 housed in the camp.

The vehicles were armed with 20mm Hispano cannons (a 'gift' from the Air Force), twin 7.62mm MAGs, .30" and .50" Browning machine guns, a 12.7mm Soviet heavy machine gun, and an 81mm mortar.



Flying column route in and out of Mozambique

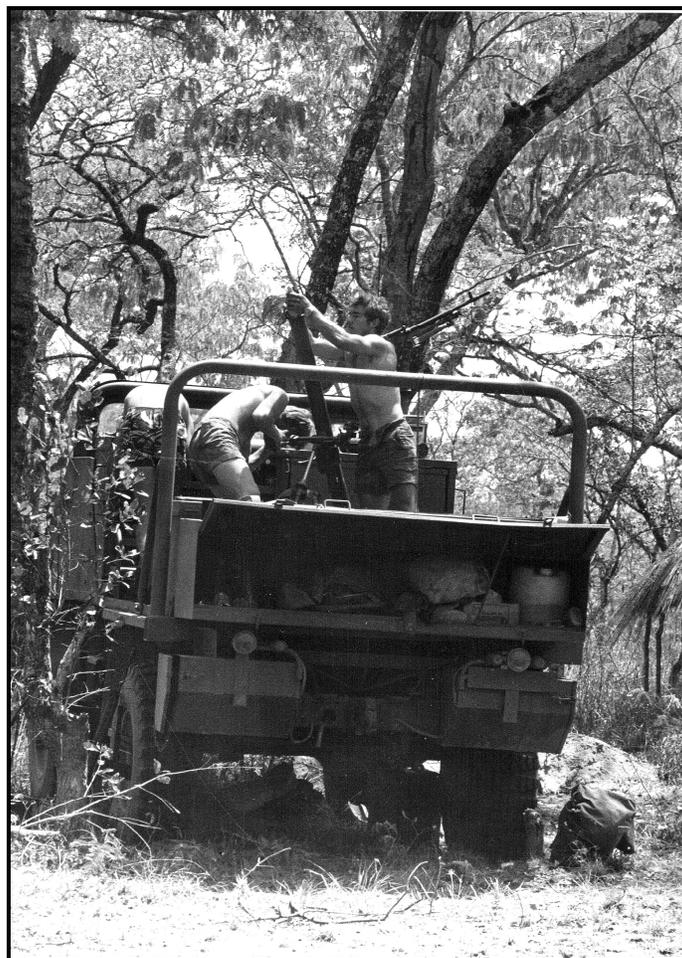
The progress of the column was uneventful, as it passed through a slumbering Vila de Manica at 0200 hours. Telephone lines were cut to prevent any possible news of their presence reaching the main provincial Frelimo garrison at Chimoio.

The Rhodesian vehicles moved north on the tar road to Catandica, and then, heading east on a dirt track that would take them to the Nyadzonya camp, they left part of the column at an ambush site to protect their exit route. Once past the entrance boom to the camp, the Unimog carrying the 81mm mortar team was dropped off to cover an escape route towards the Nyadzonya River.

The remaining column was not prepared for the sight of several thousand ZANLA cadres milling about on the parade ground! The vehicles spread out in a line, and a Portuguese-speaking sergeant addressed the rabble, on the pretence that they were Frelimo and had come with the news that Zimbabwe had been liberated.

However, the unruly and undisciplined mob failed to respond to the efforts by their leaders to restore some sense of order, and swept, screaming and shouting, towards the wide-eyed Scouts. Capt. Warraker, fearing that they would be swamped, immediately gave the command to fire.

In a few minutes it was all over, and the troops conducted pre-arranged sweeps through the camp, accounting for any survivors and setting fire to thatched buildings and shelters found in the camp. Many insurgents also drowned trying to swim across the Nyadzonya River.



Unimog-borne 81mm mortar in action (*Min of Information*)

Their immediate mission complete, Capt. Warraker set off for the high-level bridge spanning the Pungwe, with the objective of blowing up the bridge before heading further north towards Catandica and then back onto Rhodesian soil, somewhere north of Inyanga.

Figures of the final death toll varied, with a final toll recorded by ZANLA of 639 shot and drowned. Rhodesian estimates were closer to 800.

For his bravery and leadership on this operation, 780749 Captain Robert Sidney Stanley Warraker was awarded the Silver Cross of Rhodesia. His citation states that he displayed leadership of a high order. He personally led an attack on the road-block protecting the Pungwe Bridge, and then proceeded to lay explosive charges whilst under fire from the enemy.



Silver Cross of Rhodesia

Capt. Warraker was killed in action twenty nine days after receiving this award, when the Canberra in which he was flying was shot down over Mozambique. He was 32 years old.

The raid on this ZANLA base only forty kilometres north-east of Umtali would have major political repercussions for Rhodesia. South African Premier John Vorster, believing his regional policy of détente with the Front Line States to be under threat from the actions of his neighbour to the north, immediately terminated *Operation Polo* and withdrew remaining South African helicopter pilots, mechanics and liaison officers.

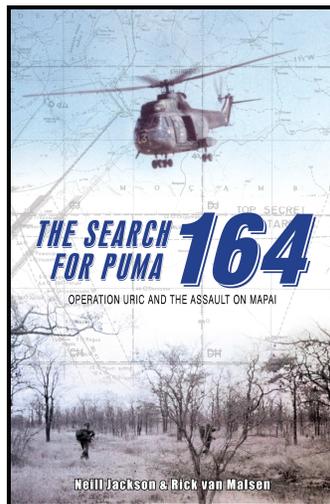
Across the globe

- On 15 August 1915, the 48-mile long Panama Canal is officially opened.
- On 06 August 1945, the USA drops a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.
- On 07 August 1972, Ugandan leader Idi Amin gives Asians 90 days to leave the country.

And...

05 August is International Beer Day.

Book Review - The Search for Puma 164 by Neill Jackson and Rick van Malsen



I do not generally get involved with publishing book reviews because a) I sometimes (as in this case) have a vested interest in selling the book and b) I do not have the time to spare to do an in-depth report.

I was sceptical as to how a book could be written about the search for Puma 164 when so much had already been published on the internet. Would it not all be stale? Stale material is very much on my own mind currently with my involvement with the Rhodesia Regiment book – how to produce a book that will incline someone to buy it with the expectation of reading something fresh and seeing illustrations that are not all over Facebook and blog spots. I can tell you that there is no reason to have any doubts over the quality of content in this book.

My stock of this book was delayed because of inefficient postal services and, as luck would have it, when these finally arrived, so did several other Rhodesian based books. I set aside the book I had begun reading, "Elephant Bill", and skimmed through the books that had all arrived together from different sources. When I started looking

through Puma 164 I could not revert back to any of the other books - I had to keep going. This piece below was sent to me at my request and is the original, unedited 'Author's Note' written by Neill Jackson. In the book it has been edited very slightly but I want you to read what Neill wrote because these first two pages set the tone for the rest of the book and this is why I had to keep reading it:

"We would like to dedicate this book to all the women who were left behind whilst their men went to war; the mothers, the sisters, the wives and the girlfriends. One can only try to imagine what they went through on a daily basis, whilst their men were facing unknown perils, and yet they had to continue with their lives as if nothing was amiss, especially when their men folk returned home, and normality was the most important thing they required. Especially to those women who made the ultimate sacrifice, and gave up their men for the cause. Some of the responses that we have received to our Puma Search report give an indication of what these brave women had to endure:

- *A widowed mother whose adult son still lived with her, who after his death in the Puma crash, literally pined to death over a period of two years.*
- *The girlfriend of the same man who has never married, 30 years after his death.*
- *The mother of one of the South African airmen, who until now had only been told that her son had died in an aircraft crash 'somewhere in the operational area'.*
- *The wife of one of the Engineers who gave birth to her dead husband's son five months after the crash.*
- *The ex-wife of another Engineer, who was divorced from him shortly before Op Uric, after having been childhood sweethearts.*
- *The two brave ladies who ventured into Mozambique on the 30th anniversary of the Puma crash, to pay their respects to their lost brothers, and to the men who died with them.*
- *The mother who lost her husband in a contact in the war, then her eldest son hit a landmine during his National Service and was paralysed, then died of his injuries two years later. She then submitted to her 17 year old son's demands, and signed the indemnity form allowing him to go on active service with the RLI. Operation Uric was his first operation. He was on board Puma 164.*
- *The newly-engaged girl, who received her fiancé's ring, taken from his charred body by one of his best mates, and delivered to her after Op Uric.*
- *The girlfriend of an RLI soldier, left with a fatherless daughter.*
- *The mother with two sons in the same unit, on the same operation; only one came home.*
- *The pacifist mother whose last image of her beloved son was newsreel footage of him standing next to a recently destroyed bridge, camouflage cream streaked across his face, machine gun at the ready, ammunition belts slung across his chest. By the time she saw the footage, he was already dead.*
- *The older sister who, after listening quietly to the facts surrounding the crash, asked in a small, vulnerable voice; "Does this mean he is definitely never coming home?"*
- *The 21 year old mother, left with a four month old baby, who waited almost 30 years for some sign that she should carry on with her life, and who then re-married on the very day that the search team located the grave of her late husband.*
- *The proud mother, attending the passing out parade for her eighteen year old son, as he was accepted into the RLI. One month later he was dead.*
- *The sister of one of the Engineers, who watched the helicopters fly over her home town en route to Mozambique, and had a terrible premonition that her brother would not be coming back. He did not return, and five years after his death she lost her husband to a heart attack on the sports field. Then, three years later her sixteen year old daughter had a fit and drowned in the bath. Six years later her mother died, followed 22 months afterwards by her father.*
- *The young woman whose boyfriend was tragically killed in action whilst serving with the SAS and who then met and fell in love with an RLI soldier. This soldier was destined to die on board Puma 164.*

And there must be so many more.

It is to these wonderful, brave women and the hundreds, no thousands, like them that this book has been dedicated.

*Neill Jackson
Villiersdorp
July 2010"*

This book takes you on a very emotional journey and it is no secret that many tears have been shed in the writing of it and I doubt that any copy of this book will not have tears shed by the readers.

Many people have been involved with the compiling of the book and in my view the whole story has been brought together in a first rate manner. It is an addictive read - you don't want to put it down. The type is well set out and easily deciphered by those of us whose eyesight is not what it was. The cover and inside cover illustrations are excellent and capture the environment and the time thirty years ago when this action took place in Mozambique. It is richly illustrated and my only criticism is that the black and white illustrations could be clearer, however I am very aware, firstly, of the cost of publication of high grade pictures and also the difficulty of getting good quality photos to reproduce from - how many of the people reading this newsletter have been on the end of my (and your) frustrations of trying to get 300DPI photos through the internet for the Rhodesia Regiment project. I bet there have been a few curses offered in my direction!

The downing of Puma 164 and the loss of those lives on the 6th September 1979 has not been forgotten and through the dedication of a handful of men and women this tragic piece of Rhodesian history has been accorded a lasting memorial through this book as well as the on-site monuments and ongoing work to ensure that these men are honoured and left to rest in peace where they gave their lives for Rhodesia.

The book is published by 30 Degrees South Publishers, ISBN 978-1-920143-57-2 and is available from www.30degreessouth.co.za

Leonidas Androuliakos BCR (posthumous)

Last month in our 'Global Forked Stick' column we asked people to assist with the details surrounding the death in action of Leonidas Androuliakos or anything about the man himself. His daughter Sheena Androuliakos, was eighteen months old when he was killed and Adrian Haggett was trying to help her find out about her father.

Since that article was published John Cronin, an American who came and served in Rhodesia, made contact with Adrian. Lt. John Cronin commanded a contact in which four members of C Coy 9RR were killed on 28 March 1978. Leonidas Androuliakos was posthumously awarded the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia for bravery displayed in this action. This is the first hand account from John Cronin which is published in the hope that someone else will come forward with recollections about Sheena's brave father.

"Fire Force, as you may well know, accounted for about 80 per cent of all guerrilla losses inside Rhodesia, and it was based on the simple principle of locating groups of enemy through the use of ground coverage teams or, more often, small teams with binoculars or telescopes sitting in observation posts that were situated on high terrain, who would then call us in over a radio, whereupon we would fly out and surround the guerrillas with heli-borne forces and paratroopers, close in, and then kill them.

The first element of any Fire Force was the lead helo, known as a K-Car, which had three people aboard: the senior pilot, a gunner on a 20mm cannon, and the Army commander, who controlled all ground forces. The second element was the G-Car, which carried four-man sticks (also known as stops) into the contact area; and the third element was the Dakota aircraft that flew in the paratroopers. Most Fire Forces were comprised of one K-Car and three G-Cars, but on the day in question, I had only two G-Cars at my disposal, which meant that I could put only eight men down initially. The Dakota carried only 16 men, so it meant that I had only a total of 24 men on the ground.

My Officer Commanding had broken his leg in paratrooper training in South Africa two weeks earlier, so as the senior lieutenant, I was the acting OC of 3 Commando, and as such, I was the senior Army commander - which put me in the K-Car while he was out. We were working out of Shabani (in south central Rhodesia, as I'm sure you remember) on that deployment and we had several Selous Scouts call signs working to our south that day. Around mid-morning on 28 March, Sergeant Wally Insch's call sign notified us of a sighting of eight ZIPRA being fed in an open area about two Ks south of his position, so we scrambled and got airborne immediately.

Normally, when we had Fire Force callouts, trucks would follow behind us with additional troops and fuel and set up as close to the contact area as possible so that we could refuel the helos and ferry men into the contact quickly, but this sighting was so far south of us (40 minutes flying time) that this follow-up tactic was out of the question, so my immediate problem was having very few men available to me to position around these guerrillas.

The K-Car pilot was a Flight Lieutenant named Potterton, and while we were still about 15 minutes from reaching the contact area, he said that he thought there were elements of 9RR guarding the mine nearby, so if we put a call through to them, then perhaps some would volunteer to help us out. I understand from talking to their OC the next day that your father was among the very first in line to go. In fact, I got four additional sticks from 9RR, which was all I needed to supplement my men, and as Potterton and I briefed the NCOs on their way in, they seemed completely at ease with our strategy and comfortable operating in sweep lines.

If you can imagine a sort of flat oval sitting on its side, this was what the contact area looked like, with the top of the oval pointing north, or at 12 o'clock, towards Shabani. This is the direction we came in from and the G-Cars had brought the 9RR troops in from the right (at 3 o'clock). I put my RLI G-Car stops in to the north and the paratroopers to the west (9 o'clock) and south (6 o'clock), and I had the 9RR chaps cover the east (3 o'clock) area, then had everyone close in so that I had the oval surrounded.

As soon as the K-Car pulled up and got overhead, two ZIPRA broke from some huts at the 3 o'clock edge and the gunner killed them immediately, but then the rest broke into some pretty thick brush to the 6 o'clock and 9 o'clock and we lost them. However, they were still trapped inside the oval so we knew we had them, but it was going to be a question of just getting in there with them and digging them out, so I moved some RLI and 9RR men into the oval to flush these ZIPRA outward.

Then things got rough. Every time my sweep lines advanced, particularly in the 9 o'clock and 8 o'clock area, they would take such heavy fire that they had to pull back and regroup, forcing me to try several different angles of

attack. But nothing worked and the guerrillas were so thoroughly entrenched between boulders that any further frontal assault was out of the question.

I had already lost one man to a wound that blinded him in one eye, and after getting him casevaced, Potterton eventually called for a Lynx air strike to napalm the contact area, but the pilot's two strikes were woefully short of the target and did little more than burn up some of the long grass.

I then spoke to your father and told him that there was a ravine directly in front of him that I wanted him to take two stops of eight men into and sweep. As I said, at the time, I had men inside the oval contact area so that we could push the ZIPRA outward and into the waiting four-man stops on the perimeter, and your father and his men were located at about the 5 o'clock point, also inside the oval, so it meant that he would be moving generally in a southern direction, sort of away from Shabani, if you can envision that. He said he saw the ravine and I asked him to wait a moment and listen for any noise down there and he did so, then called me back a few minutes later to say that it was all quiet, so I told him to get up and start his advance. I was circling only 700 feet above the area so I could see him clearly getting the seven other men on line and start forward, but then I lost sight of him as he entered the thick bush. And then there was a fierce volume of fire going back and forth as he and the others ran right into two ZIPRA who had been hiding only about 30 feet in front of them the whole time. No one saw them because they were so well concealed, but the 9RR men literally walked right into them, and both sides started firing at one another at point blank range.

Your father and the three other men in his stop - two more Europeans and an African soldier - were hit, and the Europeans were killed outright, but your father had crawled forward to pull the wounded African chap out of the line of fire and, sadly, this is when they both were hit again and killed. When my men got to them only minutes later, your father was found shielding the African with his body and all four men in his stop were dead.

To say that we in the RLI were shocked by this terrible, sudden loss is a gross understatement, and I can tell you without question that it was, and remains, one of the worst days of my life. We ended up killing four of the original eight ZIPRA (one of whom was involved in your father's death) and capturing two more, but the fact that two escaped has bothered me still after all these years. The only solace I can take is that the odds are pretty good that we either killed or captured the second man responsible for the loss of those four Security Forces men. I had had two tours in Vietnam with the US Marines before I joined the Rhodesian Army and I joined the Selous Scouts about a year after this contact, and of course, I suffered losses in those units, but in all that time, I never had a day where I felt so helpless as that one.

Your father ran a great sweep line that morning and operated perfectly in that contact and was killed in action trying to save a life and help us out of a very bad situation. I have thought of that sad day quite a bit and wondered if I made any mistakes in judgment that cost someone his life, but can honestly say that I think I took the best course of action under the circumstances. That ravine had not been checked out and I thought eight men were enough for the job, but who could have guessed that two enemy would have just been lying there for three hours not moving and just waiting for us to leave? Had we not gone down in there, they would not have initiated contact because they were so badly outnumbered, but when your father and his men walked right up on them, they probably felt like they didn't have a choice and had to open fire.

I have thought about him and those three other men a great deal over the years and I'm am truly sorry you did not get to know him. I think you and I would have liked him a great deal. By all accounts, he was a very fine soldier, and the fact that he volunteered for a potentially very dangerous mission where sustained contact was an absolute certainty speaks volumes to his character. I am so sorry we lost him."

Adrian is a noted researcher who has helped out in a number of projects as well as running his own research for an all services Rhodesian Roll of Honour. Please email him at adrian@skiphire.co.bw if you can help him to help Sheena. Sheena says that she has always known that her Dad was a hero. She also has three boys who need to know more about their grandfather. I am sure there are people out there from 9RR who knew Leonidas Androuliakos. So come on folks - let's get the network working on this one as well please.

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 these are on the third Saturday of the month either at the Hobsonville RSA or the Massey Archery Club, Redhills Road, Massey. All are most welcome.

Next gathering is at the Hobsonville RSA on Saturday 6th August from 6pm onwards. The kitchen will be open for reasonably priced meals. Please take the opportunity to catch up with friends and past acquaintances.

TAURANGA

The Garrison Club run by the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. 'Graze and Movie Evenings' are held on the 2nd Friday of every month with proceeds

being donated to the Hauraki Museum. Email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to get on that mailing list to see what is on and notification of any changes. As noted elsewhere in this publication, other social meetings take place which are advertised locally via email.

20th and 21st August – Tauranga Arms & Militaria Show at the Greerton Hall. Plenty of interesting stuff on show and the Rhodesian Services Assn will be running a sausage and boerwors stall to raise funds for the Assn. Volunteers for the stall required – please email hbomford@clear.net.nz

October RV 21st – 23rd October 2011 – see earlier article for details.

HAMILTON

Hamiltonians - please contact Tinka Mushett email mushett@slingshot.co.nz or cell +64 21 722 922 for details of socials being planned in your area.

Make a note on the calendar right now!

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. Use the link above to go to the CQ Store page and from there you can navigate to the different sections which are also duplicated below for your convenience.

The CQ Store pages have been updated and altered so that you can easily browse through our extensive range of quality products. 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 with your requirements. We will get it weighed and priced and get back to you with a total.

PayPal: If you elect payment by PayPal, we will bill you from thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org

Please Note: We can only process credit cards via PayPal. We do not accept postal orders or Western Union transfers. For overseas sales we prefer payment by PayPal, personal or bank cheque. We can accept personal cheques from most countries with the exception of South Africa. 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.



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



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

This month's recommendations:

Right now I am never very far from my beanie and polar fleece jacket! They are available in a range of styles and embroidered patterns. Look up our full range under the 'Clothing' link above

Some of our beanies in 2 styles (with or without turn-up) in green or black, embroidered as below all NZ\$22 each.



Time is running out if you want to enter our "Rugby Jersey Competition".....

Three competitions with prizes available:

You can enter all three competitions but only one entry per competition and the photo must be clear enough to identify that it is a Rhodesian Services Assn Rhodesian rugby jersey (we know what our authentic copies look like).

Photos to thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org

1. Send in a photo of yourself wearing one of our rugby jerseys in attendance at any Rugby World Cup game.
2. Send in a photo of yourself wearing one of our rugby jerseys in attendance at any Rugby World Cup gathering – i.e. a pub where a game is being shown.
3. Be able to demonstrate proof that you were seen on TV wearing one of our jerseys at one of the games and if you were waving a Rhodesian flag there will be a bonus. Entry for this is reliant on credible witnesses - video evidence would be perfect.

Prizes for each part of the competition will be a 'Quartermaster's Braai Pack' consisting of a braai apron, cap and polo shirt each with the embroidery of your choice i.e. Lion & Tusk, Rhodesian Coat of Arms or Flame Lily.

So lets have your orders for our authentic Rhodesian Rugby jerseys in short or long sleeve, all at the excellent price of NZ\$125 plus postage.

Books for Africa

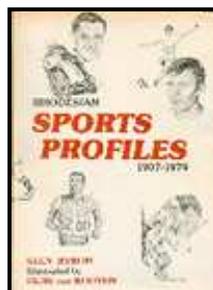
I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm these sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, the Association does benefit indirectly from these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

I have stocks of 'The Search For Puma 164' on hand at \$60, each plus postage.

Another excellent book is 'Winds of Destruction' which is now getting scarce to find as the publisher has no more stock. I have only three copies left at \$60 each, plus postage.

August Specials:

Second hand in good condition – 'Rhodesian Sports Profiles 1907-1979' with a supplementary feature on the Zimbabwe Women's hockey team gold medallists at the Moscow Olympics 1980 by Glen Byrom and illustrated by Henk Van Rooyen normally \$90 – one copy only. First in gets it for \$75 plus postage.



'The Cheetah' - Commemorative issue plus 'The Saints Book Launch' DVD combo for \$37.50 (this is a saving of over \$30) – limited stock available.



Please use the page link www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm to view our stock of excellent books.
When buying for someone else you cannot beat a good book as a gift.



The Rhodesia Regiment – Book Project



Work continues with cataloguing the photos and illustrations for this project.

We are still gathering material for the roll listing the CO, 2I/C and RSM of each battalion and OC, 2I/C and CSM of the Independent Companies, noting that the Indep. Coy records are only up until the end of Rhodesia Regiment administration, which was around November 1977 when they became part of the RAR. We have a document outlining our deficiencies which can be sent to you. If you can help with any names and dates, or know someone who may be able to assist please email me.

We must have the cataloguing and rolls complete by the end of November 2011. In December 2011 we intend to carry out on camera interviews which will be used for promotion of the book. These interviews will be done in Johannesburg by Kerrin Cocks who has a wealth of experience with this sort of thing. We have a number of people who have said that they are available. If you would like to add your name to the list please email me – remember the interviews must all be done in Johannesburg.

We need:

- Photos of 6th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment soldiers wearing the full size silver Rhodesia Regiment badge (shown below) on their berets. It has long been recorded that 6RR wore silver badges (not to be confused with the silver collar badge, smaller than the full size badge) that officers wore. We only have one photo showing one soldier with the silver badge and we want more as well as any background or account as to why 6RR did this.



Please send any material to Hugh Bomford hbomford@clear.net.nz

This book is being compiled to honour our forefathers and our mates. Don't live to regret not being involved.

The Global Forked Stick – Snippets and Requests

Roan Antelope Music special for July 2011

Dear Friends, Rhodies and Countrymen,

With the advent of the internet, e-mails, Facebook etc. the world has become a much smaller place.

At Roan Antelope we have received many requests for music of the past, songs that even we had forgotten. On account of these numerous requests we have dusted off our archive material and busied ourselves, together with the music specialists like Dr. Andre Korkie, to bring alive and revive some wonderful old hits and quality tracks, that, once you hear them will certainly ring a music note of remembrance.

Did you know that John Edmond has been a performing/recording artist for the last 50 years? During this period he has released more than 40 albums containing hundreds of tracks, some of which are still in circulation today. However there are many tracks that were filed away, never released or deleted by record companies. Roan's last release "From the Pen of John Edmond" contained 16 such tracks which were written by John.

Following the enthusiastic response to this album, Roan has released another 21 of these fabulous tracks and has compiled a CD called "The Hidden Tracks of John Edmond". This CD contains tracks produced by Terry Dempsey, Art Healie, Peter Vee, Julian Laxton and John himself. Backing sounds include the trumpet of Eddy Calvert, the voices of the Gunther Kallman choir and other backing vocals by folks like Stevie Lange, Wanda Arletti, Billy Forest, The Stockley Sisters etc., to mention a few.

For a trip down memory lane and a revival of TV theme hits like "Boomers Theme" and "The Littlest Hobo", evergreens like "Forever Young" and "The End of the World", plus the Toy Train follow up "One Day He'll Call me Daddy", this album is a must.

As a new release Roan Music is offering for the month of August the album "The Hidden Tracks of John Edmond"... and it is SO special!

To order: Roan Antelope Music www.johndmond.co.za E-mail: info@johndmond.co.za Tel: +27 (0)14 735 0774 / +27 (0)71 699 0362 Fax: +27 (0)86 273 5492

Tracing Rhodesian POWs of the Japanese

Rob Hilton writes

"I would appreciate any help in finding the names of any Rhodesians who did not come back from the Thai-Burma Railway construction.

Information I would like to obtain is:

- *Names, regiment or service they were in with the Allied forces during the period they were taken into captivity;*
- *And the cemetery they now lie in.*

My aim is to locate the graves of these men and take a photo of the grave and place the photo and the information together."

Editor's note: It is believed that around 13,000 Allied Prisoners of War and in the region of 100,000 Asian slaves died at the hands of the Japanese and their Korean guards during the construction of this railway. I commend Rob for taking on this research and hope that some of you will help him as this is a unique study from a Rhodesian perspective and should be supported. Lest we forget.....



Source of photo <http://www.abc.net.au/changi/history/burma01.htm>

"The Japanese considered these (Australian) men fit for work.

The man on the right can't do his shorts up because his stomach is swollen with beriberi. Ossie Jackson (centre) has wet beriberi in his legs, which are virtually the same diameter from his ankle up to his thighs.

Benjamin Pearce (left) is also suffering malnutrition and beriberi."

Black Country, West Midlands, England

Budding author Aaron Hook is wanting to interview any former Rhodesian SF who live in or near the Black Country area of West Midlands. Aaron is writing a novel based on a group of Rhodesian SF shot down in Mozambique and carrying out E&A (escape and evasion) back to Rhodesia. Aaron wants to speak to Rhodesians in order to get a feel for what was involved with being a Rhodesian soldier.

Please email Aaron at arronjameshook@gmail.com if you can help him.

BBC 4 Documentary – ‘Did Britain warn Mugabe and Nkomo of assassination attempts’

This is the link to listen to the radio documentary that was aired on 1st August 2011 8pm GMT.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b012wf3s/Document_01_08_2011/

I do not know how long they will have it available so suggest that you get in before it is taken down. I do have a recording of it but as it is over 2MB I cannot email it. I am looking at how to make it generally available but this may take some time.

Rhodesian Big Guns Stonk Facebook

Dave McIntosh writes:

The Arty guys (me being one of them) have a Facebook group which may interest. Search Facebook on “Depot RhA” and you will find it.

Rhodesiana publications

Don Munro sent through this interesting link <http://rhodesia.nl/rhodesiana/indexrhosoc.html>

Empire to Commonwealth Project

A world-wide cooperation revolves around this website set up by Father Anthony Hathway-Taylor which is developing a strong Rhodesian section at <http://empiretocommonwealth.webs.com/rhodesianarmyindex.htm> There has been a lot of development on the Rhodesian element involving a number of people around the world. Father Anthony welcomes more input. I recommend that you have a look and if you desire – get involved also.

Stolen Medals

Antoinette Dick nee Fourie (many will remember her as Toni Fourie who was with the RBC) is trying to locate her sister France Fourie’s medals that were stolen around January 1991 from her sister’s flat in the Avenues in Harare. France was held captive and robbed while undergoing chemo for the cancer that eventually killed her eighteen months later.

950080V Woman Inspector France Fourie attested with the BSAP on 1/2/1963 and served until 1/4/1983. She would have received the Rhodesian General Service Medal and Zimbabwe Independence Medal. She was also awarded the Police Long Service Medal on 15/5/1981.

These medals were seen for sale in South Africa by a person who recognised the recipient’s name as he had known her. He recalls they were purchased by a collector but at the time of writing the collectors name has not been recalled. Hopefully the buyer’s name will be remembered in time.

However we hope that by publicising this theft the current owner of these medals will come forward. These medals were taken during violent robbery - I appeal to anyone who can help to contact Antoinette by email Mana7Ellies@yahoo.com Thank you.

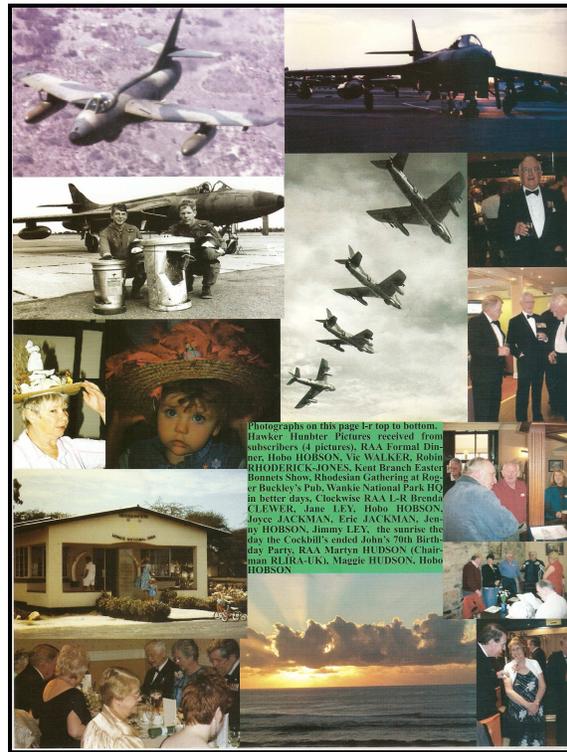
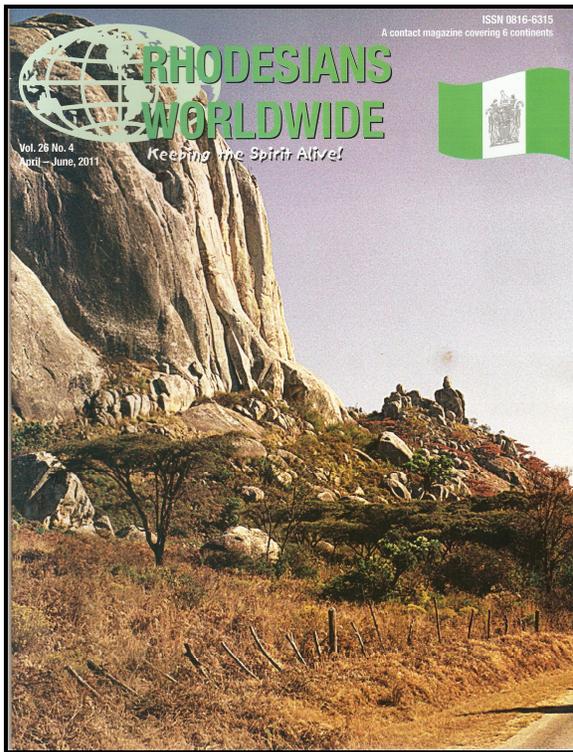
WWI - East Africa

Harry Fecitt has written a number of interesting articles:

- Southern Rhodesia responds to German aggression on the Northern Rhodesia border which addresses the often-neglected activities of the BSAP Special Reserve Companies in the military context of the Great War East Africa campaign <http://www.kaiserscross.com/188001/366822.html>
- The military operations of the Northern Rhodesia Police and its Belgian allies is at: <http://www.kaiserscross.com/188001/363401.html>
- An article on the Northern Rhodesia Rifles Mobile Units is at <http://www.kaiserscross.com/188001/296401.html>
- The tale of the BSAP Special Reserve men in Murray's Column and an account of Northey's operations in German East Africa during October 1916 is at <http://www.kaiserscross.com/188001/372664.html>

Rhodesians World Wide – the magazine

The latest issue of this excellent magazine is now available. It has become a stalwart institution of the printed memories and spirit of Rhodesia in an increasingly electronic world. The editors, Chris and Annette Whitehead, are to be commended for the way they have stuck with compiling and distributing this quarterly magazine despite all the difficulties they have faced; their family life, their jobs and also some very personal attacks from a very small number of individuals who are seemingly bent on interfering with the production of the magazine for some reason.



A subscription to this magazine makes an excellent gift. Payment is very easy and in most cases can be done with a personal cheque or via credit card through PayPal. At around NZ\$35 per annum (approx US\$30) this is one of the best value gifts around – one gift that lasts a whole year – what could be better?

Go on line to www.rhodesia.org or post Rhodesians Worldwide, PO Box 22034 Mesa, Arizona 85277-2034 United States of America or email rhodesia@rhodesia.org

We do hold copies of the RWW magazine in New Zealand for distribution to prospective subscribers, email hbomford@clear.net.nz with your postal address.

Until next time - go well.
Cheers Hugh



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

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

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



This newsletter is compiled by Hugh Bomford, 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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