



Contact! Contact!

October 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,

There is no let up on the treadmill here - always so much to do.

There has been some interesting traffic on our Association Facebook group. It is certainly proving to sceptics like me that it was worthwhile setting it up - all thanks to Grunter Robertson. What the group is providing is a platform for discussion and also an excellent place to post interesting pieces of Rhodesian history and photos. A number of urban myths have been dispelled and an old chestnut of mine - the misspelling of Llewelin Barracks has surfaced yet again.

For the record, the correct spelling is Llewelin. The barracks through which so many Rhodesians passed during their military service were named after the Right Honourable Lord Llewelin, first Governor-General of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. He held this post from 1953 until his death in 1957. His full name and background was Colonel John Jestyn Llewelin, 1st Baron Llewelin GBE, PC, MC, TD. He lived from 6th February 1893 to 24th January 1957. He was a British army officer, Conservative Party politician and minister in Winston Churchill's war government. He was commissioned into the Royal Garrison Artillery in 1914 and reached the rank of Major during WWI and was awarded the Military Cross in 1917. He remained in the Territorial Army after WWI and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the Dorset Heavy Brigade in 1932. He was promoted Colonel in 1936 and retired in 1938.

Some people say to me that "it is a Welsh name - so what of misspelling it". You want to see how my names have been misspelt over the years and it gets my goat so I imagine that those making this statement would not like their names misspelt either. The other problem is that one of the biggest sources of commonly accessed information on the internet, Wikipedia, has many entries that have been made by semi literate individuals who have perpetuated the errors. Wikipedia's problem is that anyone can enter or edit the material that they hold without any accuracy checks. Wikipedia's information is so suspect that I know for a fact that students of the Auckland University of Technology are forbidden to use Wikipedia as a source of reference.

Many of you are not in a position to access or are not interested in Facebook - and that is fine - rest assured this newsletter will continue to bring you an interesting read every month. Facebook is just another platform for our purpose of preserving Rhodesian history. If you want to find us on Facebook, search for Rhodesian Services Association. It is a closed group you will need to ask to join.

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

Guest Book <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/guest-book.htm>
Guest Map <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/guest-map.htm>
Events <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/events.htm>

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.



Alexander Gregory (Greg) McManus - born on 19th February 1936 in Larn, near Belfast, Northern Ireland, died in Auckland NZ on 25th August 2011 aged 75. He passed away suddenly after a short illness.

"Greg was a long time and much respected Hon. Secretary/Treasurer of the British South Africa Police Regimental Ass. NZ Branch, an organisation that in New Zealand combines members of the police services from both Northern and Southern Rhodesia, with the senior service being the British South Africa Police. Greg was also a long term member of the International Police Association, in which he held high office for many years in the New Zealand Section. Greg was a professional Police Officer who served in four police forces throughout his career.

His father was involved with horses as a farrier and Greg, throughout his life, had a love of horses. He served as a young Constable in the Royal Ulster Constabulary when IRA troubles were developing in that Province. He married Mona and before long was accepted as an officer of the Northern Rhodesia Police in October 1957. It was a period of increasing internal troubles in the Central African Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and conflict in the (then) Belgian Congo. Africa was experiencing change. Northern Rhodesia became Zambia in 1964.

Greg and Mona stayed on in the new country, supporting the new administration of the Zambia Police. He was attached to Headquarters and with his administrative experience and knowledge of horses he was OC of the Mounted Unit of that service.

In 1971 Greg and family moved to New Zealand where Greg became a Constable in the New Zealand Police and was stationed at Auckland Central Enquiry Section. In the late 1970's he was appointed to the Photography Section where he was able to enjoy his 'hobby' on a full time basis, attending crime scenes and using his extensive police experience in a wide range of investigations, including numerous serious cases and that famous case involving the 'Rainbow Warrior'. In the last few years of his service he was appointed OC of that specialist section with the rank of Acting Sergeant.

During the NZ Police Centennial Celebrations in 1986, Greg was attached to the reformed Mounted Unit of the NZP which toured throughout the country and he appeared wearing a period uniform of the late Nineteenth Century NZP, which included a shako helmet, on RH Canon. Boy did he look smart (as he always did in uniform).

Greg retired as a full time police officer in the early 1990's and he returned to the service in a Non Sworn role, firstly as a Custody Officer, then as a Police/Immigration Fingerprint Officer at Central and Browns Bay Police Stations, as well as being a Casino Staff Vetting Officer for the NZ Department of Internal Affairs. In addition to his police service Greg assisted several church organisations, utilising his many administrative skills, and was at one time a member of his son's High School Board.

Greg was very good in dealing with the public and fellow police officers throughout his service. He was best described by several other fellow police officers who had known him well as "a person who dedicated his life to the service of others". I agree with this completely. He leaves his wife Mona, sons Jim and Sean and daughter Susan as well as a number of grand children. He was still serving the police and public of New Zealand, when he fell ill and passed away. He will be missed by many."

Peter C. BurrIDGE, (and long time friend of Greg)
Chairman, BSAP Regimental Ass NZ,
S/Sgt (Retired) NZ Police.

Colin Zietsman

Colin Zietsman, a well-known Centenary farmer died instantly and his wife Phillipa "Tinks" is recovering in hospital after being bludgeoned by a blunt object. They were attacked and ruthlessly beaten by two individuals whilst they slept in their upstairs bedroom on their farm at 2 am Friday 2nd September 2011.

Peter Jackson

From Dutch Huiberts:

"Captain Peter Jackson ex Quarter Master SAS, passed away at the Kingsbury Hospital in Cape Town on Monday 12th September 2011. He has been cremated at a private family service. His wife Dorothy pre-deceased him and his son Stuart can be contacted at info@stuartjackson.co.za "

Nigel Nimmo

From the Selous Scout Association:

"Nigel passed away early this morning (12th September 2011). Our deepest sympathies go to Janine, Nigel's family and friends. He was such a genuine, dependable friend and comrade, and was among the longest serving Selous Scouts. He will be sorely missed, may he now rest in peace.

*Pamwe Chete,
Tom"*

Keith Nicolson

From the Selous Scout Association:

"Mazvikadei – Banket – 14th September 2011

A group of four heavily armed people gained entry through the security boom into the Gold Dust Village at the lake under false pretences. They then proceeded to the house of local Garage owner Mr Tim Morgan where they again gained access to the house on the pretence of wanting to visit one of the gardeners employed by the Morgans. They then tied up all the staff and ransacked the house but could not find any money.

When Mr and Mrs Morgan returned in the evening they were ambushed and tied up. They then took Mr Morgan back to his garage in his Toyota twincab. At this stage Mrs Morgan was able to alert neighbours in the village, Messrs. Henry Allam and Keith Nicolson and other unnamed persons, who followed the stolen vehicle in which the kidnapped garage owner was being driven away.

They followed it down the Raffingora Road for some distance, but once the occupants of the vehicle noticed they were being followed they stopped and turned the vehicle around to shine the lights onto the vehicle following them. They then fired many rounds at the vehicle forcing it off the road and for the occupants to take cover. There was an ensuing gun battle as occupants of the other vehicle also fired back. The time was now 9.30pm.

Three of the group then ran into the bush away from the vehicle so Mr Keith Nicolson, thinking that everyone had run from the vehicle, rushed forward to release the hostage, Mr Morgan. However, he was immediately shot dead by a fourth attacker who was still in the vehicle, who subsequently ran away. Mr Morgan managed to flee the vehicle uninjured and the vehicle was abandoned and henceforth recovered.

The armed gang were believed to have subsequently been collected and driven away in another vehicle, the registration details of which are apparently available.

The deceased Mr Keith Nicolson used to farm in Raffingora but subsequently farmed in the DRC and Zambia before recently returning to Mazvikadei to retire."

In Memoriam

Barry Lennox saw the following notice in the Daily Telegraph (England) 3rd September 2011:

"In Memoriam Their Name Liveth Forevermore. Air Rhodesia RH825 – Lake Kariba 1978"

Mitch Sterling, pilot and author, wrote the following letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury (for which he is still awaiting any form of acknowledgement or reply):

*"Dr Rowan Williams
Archbishop of Canterbury
Lambeth Palace
London SE1 7JU*

Dear Sir,

With respect, I would remind you that tomorrow, 3 September 2011, is the 33rd anniversary of the destruction of Air Rhodesia Viscount VP-WAS 'Hunyani'.

Her sister ship VP-YND 'Umnati' was destroyed on 12 February 1979.

The people of Rhodesia would ask that you be mindful of these tragic events and the loss of innocent lives during your proposed visit to Zimbabwe.

In particular we ask that you remember the requiem mass carried out by the Dean of Salisbury, the Very Reverend JR da Costa, in the Anglican Cathedral Salisbury and his poignant tribute which became known, famously, as "The Deafening Silence".

*Yours sincerely,
WGM Stirling
2 September 2011"*

Jack Maddox sent in this poem:

"Lest We Forget Hunyani" by Alf Hutchinson

He lay in hiding like a snake in the grass,
Black mamba, deadly, loathsome and crass,
Waiting in ambush, his expression quite bland;
Russian Sam seven clutched tight in his hand.

Kariba's Air Rhodesia, flight eight-two-five,
Passed overhead, but would never arrive.
Now homeward bound, merely minutes in flight,
Caught in the eyepiece of his missile's rear sight.

One Sam seven missile struck like lightening,
Mayhem on board was horrendously frightening.
Downed in the name of freedom's dark cause,
Cadre, 'freedom fighters'...Satan's fine whores,

'Twas a miracle that eighteen would even survive,
But sadly only eight would arrive home alive,
Eight surviving adults now fell dead to the floor,
Butchered by savages all thirsting for gore.

Followed by two children, aged eleven and four,
Bludgeoned by Blacks "Just to even the score"
"For stealing our land" one Black comrade said,
"We shall not stop killing, until all Whites are dead"

To the memory of passengers, pilot and crew,
To the survivors who battled to start life a new,
Like Rev. John da Costa, let us never forget,
Upon all brave Rhodesians may the sun never set.

Rhodesia... birthplace of my heart and my soul,
Its destruction was ZIPRA's ultimate goal;
So September the third of Seventy Eight,
Remember 'Hunyani'... and its heinous fate.

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.

Addresses for the following people are no longer working. If anyone has comms with them please get them to contact me.

- **Jan Venter** – New Zealand
- **Tim Stephens** – New Zealand
- **Natalie Nolan** – New Zealand
- **Steve Tait** – New Zealand (he was NZ Army)
- **Michael Sadowitz** – South Africa
- **Paul Naish** – South Africa

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

From the desk of the Rhodesian Services Association Secretary



Hello Fellow Rhodies and Associates,

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up on Sunday the 23rd October at the end of the RV over the Labour weekend 21st to 23rd October 2011. In accordance with our Rules paragraph 7.1 states that nominations for the Committee Members shall be called for no less than 14 days before the AGM, hence this notification (which was emailed to all registered addresses of financial members on 22nd September 2011)

Tinka Mushett wishes to stand down from the Treasurer's position due to business pressures, so we are calling for nominations to fill this important position. Details of what is entailed with the position can be supplied by anyone wishing to step forward to fill her shoes. We would like to thank Tinka for all the hard work that she has put in for the smooth financial operation of our Association over the past years.

Also, Committee member Brandon Mitchell has indicated his desire to not be re-nominated as he is now resident in Canada. We have decided to leave this position unfilled for the time being. We also wish to thank him for all of his help and input during his tenure as Committee member.

All other Committee Members are available for re-election. Financial Members with voting rights are eligible to vote for the in-coming Committee. Please also let me know if you have a new nomination for the Treasurer's position, or if you would like to add any items for the agenda. Financial Members unable to attend the AGM may nominate another current member to hold their proxy vote.

Details for payment for the RV (which is inclusive of the \$10 membership) is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. If you are unable to attend the RV then Financial Members subs are now due. Your membership can be renewed (new members are most welcome) by paying NZ\$10 to us in one of the following ways:

Direct deposit to our account - Please only use this option if you have a NZ bank account as transfers from overseas incur a NZ\$30 bank fee.

Rhodesian Services Assn
ASB Bank
12 3015 0497797 01

PayPal or Credit Card – This option is only for overseas members please as we lose commission on transactions. If you are registered with PayPal you can direct your deposit to this registered email address thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org
If you are not registered for PayPal email us at the address above and request that we bill you and you can then pay with your credit card.

Cheque or cash - post (cash at the sender's risk) to Rhodesian Services Assn. PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand.

South African residents – sorry our bank cannot accept your cheques and so if you cannot do PayPal please email us and we will give you directions to deposit to a South African bank account.

Referencing – please ensure that we know who has made any deposits by emailing thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org as well as your surname on any bank deposits.

Last year we had 181 Financial Members and around 1,700 subscribers receiving **Contact! Contact!** directly. As at the 1st October we have 45 Financial Members who have paid their subscriptions. Good work people – lets see if we can improve on that 181 of last year.

Hoping to see you at the RV and AGM.

Cheers,
Chuck Osborne
Rhodesian Services Association Secretary
Email thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org

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. Email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz for banking details

Please note: We need your RV subscription before **14th October 2011**. Please do not leave things to the last minute. 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. In addition we have to get our ordering spot on to avoid waste or shortage. In order that we also have a relaxing time we request your cooperation on this – please get your subscriptions to us in a timely manner – thank you.



It is time you booked your ticket for the 2011 RV!

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. It is the cheapest drink in town by a long way.
- **Saturday 22nd October.** There will be a golf tournament in the morning – contact Paul Nes by email paulnes@xtra.co.nz or cell 0274 417235 for booking and details. Assemble at the 6th Battalion Hauraki Group main hall from 2pm. The official welcome is at 3pm sharp. Following this the Garrison Bar is open. The annual auction will take place during the evening, along with plenty to eat.
- **Sunday 23rd October.** From 10am we have access to the Classic Flyers Museum. This is where the AGM takes place in the Boeing Room, 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.
- Remember 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!

Notes on the RWC games

We will be showing the game on Friday 21st at 8.30pm and the Final game is at 9pm on Sunday 23rd so you have plenty of time to get home or to a bar to watch the game. Don't use the rugby as an excuse to not attend the RV!

Background

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 to attend – it is not a 'when we' or 'army only' event – it is a social gathering which began as a demonstration of respect for brave and loyal Rhodesians and now has developed a few traditions such as wearing of medals for the welcome. Once the welcome is over the socialising begins and is a great opportunity to re-establish friendships and establish new ones among people who 'talk the same language'.

The first RV was held at the 6th Battalion Hauraki Group's HQ in Tauranga in 2002 over the Labour Weekend public holiday in October. It was envisaged as a one off affair in order to show respect to those who had been decorated for their bravery and service to Rhodesia. The (then) Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. John Dick ED, was most complimentary of our efforts and the kind of spirit that we represented. He paid us a great compliment by insisting that as soldiers, we should have the opportunity to be able to keep safe the record of our country. He invited us to form a museum display in the Garrison Club adjacent to the unit's history room. A display was set up with funding and contribution from all over the world. The display was officially opened in April 2003 during a visit to New Zealand by Lt. Gen. Peter Walls GLM DCD MBE.

That first RV was so successful and we were made so very welcome by the Haurakis that it has been held every year since.

The Auction

We have been collecting items for the last few months and the list of supporters and items are shown below. Even if you cannot support the auction please give your support to the donors if you can. There are some people who have pledged items but we are yet to receive them and so cannot list them. If you are in business you may wish to donate

a credit note for your product or service. It is a good way to get some advertising done as well as drawing in potential new custom.

Absentee bids for the auction are very welcome – please contact the coordinator Paul Nes paulnes@xtra.co.nz or cell 0274 417235 for details and to place bids

ITEM	DONOR'S WEBSITE
8 signed copies of Masodja Prints	www.30degreessouth.co.za
Signed copy of 'In the Shadow of the Tokolosh'	www.silverlinginspired.co.uk
2 x Steam Mops	
Signed copy of 'Nancy's Watercolour World'	www.watercolours.co.nz
Signed copy of 'Weapons of Mass Destruction - The Zimbabwe Connection'	www.amazon.com
5 books - African Tears, Beloved African, Kinkaseki, Full Circle, Sacrificed Lives	www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm
2nd hand book - Song of Death, Apocalypse Now DVD	
Kowhai Roof clean in Waikato/Auckland area	www.kowhaiqualitycoatings.co.nz
Weekend in a Mangawhai Heads holiday house	www.bookabatch.co.nz keyword Romelda
Yak flight	
Rhodesia Regiment belt buckle	www.bucklesandtees.co.nz
Enameled tickey cuff links	
4 x Recruitment posters	
Zippo type lighter engraved with Lion & Tusk	
Braai apron - Advice To Terrorists	
Signed copy of 'Reap the Savage Whirlwind'	www.lulu.com/spotlight/Ralpapajan
Signed copy of 'Call of the Litany Bird'	www.loosechippings.org
Signed copy of 'Three Sips of Gin'	www.threesipsofgin.com
Chuppi (Nepalese pointed knife)	www.khukuriimports.co.nz

Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings to you all from NZ where the RWC is in full swing – and what a revelation it has been.

The buzz around the country has been just fantastic and the way the country has got behind the All Blacks as well as all the visiting teams has been just great (and the rugby hasn't been too bad either).

The advent of professionalism has meant that the “minnows” who were the whipping boys in years gone by, have closed the gap and have become so much more competitive. This means that there have been no easy rides for the Tier 1 teams who have had to work hard to get on top of the other teams. As you read this we will be just about at the end of the last round of pool games and heading into quarter-final time with some mouth watering games in store. Take the likely scenario of Southern Hemisphere giants the Springboks playing the Aussies in one of the quarters. The Aussie vs. Ireland game was brilliant and the Irish got the better of the Aussie's scrum, their Achilles heel, and tackled like men possessed. The Wales vs. Springboks game was high drama in the opening week-end, as was USA vs. Russia. Argentina vs. Scotland was another game of jangling nerves for their supporters. It wasn't rugby for the purist but it was played on a knife edge into injury time. The Scots now have to beat the auld enemy England or they will go home before the quarters for the first time in their history.

At the end of the day the tournament is still New Zealand's to lose, they look too slick on their home turf and it will take a monumental eighty minutes from someone to oust them. England are going along nicely on the other side of the draw and who knows how the unpredictable French will go on that side of the draw as well. Buckle your seatbelts – we are set for a bumpy ride!

On a sad note most of you would have already heard about the senseless deaths of two of our fellow countryman in Zimbabwe lately. The brutal murder within a week of each other of Colin Zietsman and Keith Nicolson shocked me badly. Both men, both giants, played rugby for Rhodesia and Zimbabwe and they had an influence on my life. They were as tough as nails on the rugby field and the most kind and helpful people off it. Keith was a strong prop schooled in the red hot cauldron of South African Currie Cup and yet I will never forget playing for Old Boys 3rd team against Villagers in Concession. We had a young very inexperienced prop playing against him and yet instead of screwing him into the ground Keith actually spent the whole game teaching him how to bind at scrum time. Keith was also a Mashonaland Country Districts selector and when I was playing for Umvukwes he came and watched one of our games. The next week the Districts team to play Spain was announced and I was selected. I know that it was Keith who put my name down.

I knew a lot more of Colin Zietsman as he played with us for Umvukwes. He was a young farmer years ahead of his time who with his wife Tinks, built up a beautiful farm out of virgin bush in the North of Umvukwes. Colin was

instrumental in helping me go farming on my own and helped me develop a viable plan to present to the bank. In all the years that he was just down the road from me he was the best neighbour anyone could wish for - highly critical and a hard task master, but he certainly told you how it was and would haul you over the coals if he noticed any slacking. On the rugby field Colin was tough, uncompromising and shirked from nothing. As captain of Umvukwes he never said a lot but led from the front and we would have followed him to hell.

To Keith and Colin, rest peacefully you two great men of our country, we will all miss you.

Till next month

Go well and write to me at fourstreams@clear.net.nz

Regards

Grunter



Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980



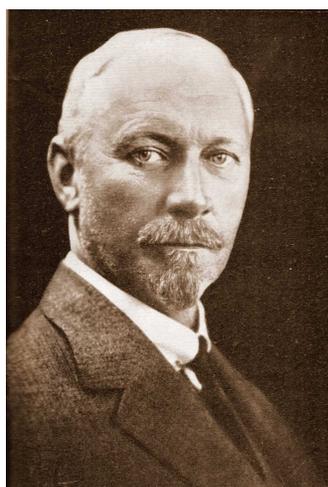
by Gerry van Tonder

October

Newsflash Headlines +++ 9 October 1892 First Edition of The Rhodesia Herald produced +++ 12 October 1894 First Edition of The Chronicle produced in Bulawayo +++ 11 October 1899 The passing of the Kruger ultimatum heralded the start of the Anglo-Boer War +++ 03 October 1958 Department of Social Welfare show that more than 2000 destitute Europeans, Asians and Coloureds are now receiving public assistance +++ 15 October 1962 An African Police Reservist dies after being stoned then set on fire by a mob in Highfields Township +++ 09 October 1964 The 100th million pound of tobacco is auctioned on the Salisbury floors, with one bale fetching 70p/lb. +++ 06 October 1967 The Anglo American Corporation announces a £10 million investment in the exploitation of nickel in the Bindura and Shamva areas +++ 08 October 1968 Premier Ian Smith and 19 members of his cabinet leave Salisbury for Gibraltar for fresh talks with his British counterpart, Harold Wilson +++ 22 October 1972 The IOC votes by 36 to 31 to exclude Rhodesia from participating in the Munich Olympic Games +++

In Brief

On 24 October 1918, as an epidemic of Spanish Influenza ("Vera") spreads throughout the country, treatment instructions are issued by the authorities. The patient's chest should be poulticed freely, and a mixture of 10 grains potassium nitrate, 15 drops of Paregoric and a half-ounce of Mendereria spirits taken in an amount of one tablespoon every four hours. All natives should be made to sleep in the open air.



On 24 October 1922, General Jan Smuts (above right) sends a message to Sir Charles Coghlan (above left) in Salisbury, encouraging Rhodesians to vote, at a forthcoming referendum, in favour of joining a Union of South Africa. Coghlan responds by encouraging the electorate to ignore the approaches from a neighbour, stating that it will draw the country into the racial conflict in South Africa. He strongly advocates Responsible Government for Rhodesia.

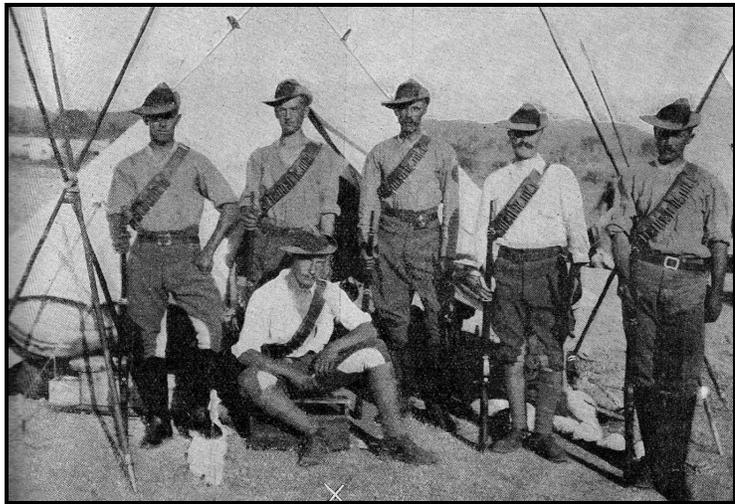
On 28 October 1976, in a brief opening address, in the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Mr Ivor Richard convenes the British-sponsored Rhodesian Settlement Conference. In addition to a large Rhodesian delegation, ZAPU and ZANU are represented by their respective leaders Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe. Bishop Abel Muzorewa leads a UANC team, and the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole a ZANU faction group.



Pipe-toting Ivor Richard chairs the Geneva Conference October 1976

Plumer Defends Rhodesia (Part 1): October 1899

The siege of Mafeking, commencing on 14 October 1899, found Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Plumer with only 500 men to defend the Rhodesian frontier of as many miles in length.



Lt. Col. Herbert Plumer (left) and members of the Rhodesian Horse, Fort Tuli

His command initially consisted of five squadrons of the Rhodesia Regiment, and about one hundred men of the British South Africa Police. The force would be added to later, but in October of that year all they had in support was one 12.5 pounder Maxim Nordenfelt, two 2.5" muzzle-loading screw guns, and two Naval carriage-mounted .45 Martini-Henry Maxim guns.



12.5 pounder Nordenfelt at Crocodile Pools

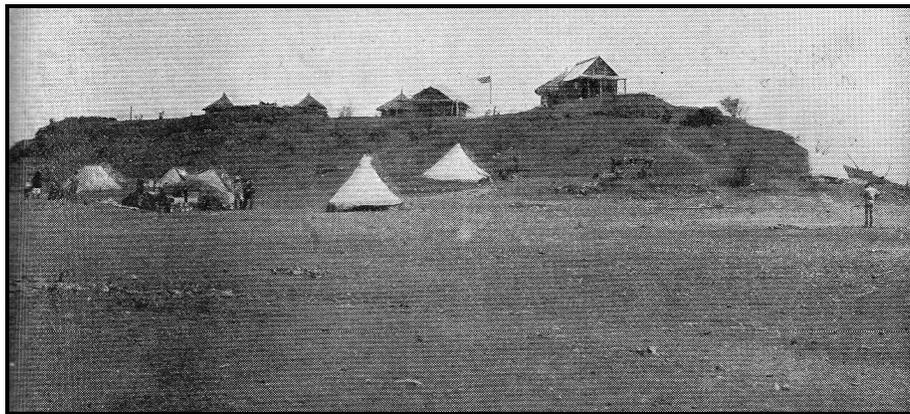
Plumer identified six vulnerable points on the Limpopo River, in the form of drifts, which would allow the Boers easy access into Rhodesia. These included Rhodes Drift, Pont Drift, Masibi Drift, Middle Drift, and the junctions of the Limpopo with the Maklutsi and Shashi Rivers. Conditions along the front from Mafeking to the Portuguese border were potentially as hostile as that of the Boers. The Limpopo, typical of so many African rivers, was very seasonal,

allowing for crossings to be made virtually anywhere during the dry season. Riverine woods and thickets of thorn scrub made reconnaissance dangerous and surprise easy. Craggy kopjes would make attacks on an enemy position extremely difficult.

By 16 October, elements of the 1300-strong Zoutpansberg Kommando, based thirty miles south of Rhodes Drift on the Brak River, were operating in the area. With the arrival of five hundred Boers opposite Pont Drift, Plumer redeployed A Squadron, Rhodesia Regiment, to bolster his forces at this crossing. On 21 October, a reconnaissance patrol from A and D Squadrons encountered a large force of Boers about a mile south of the drift and, in an ensuing skirmish, Sgt Major George Yonge and Trooper George Nethercott of D Squadron were killed. Nethercott was the first Australian to die in the war. Captain L Blackburn also of D Squadron and Trooper Henry Levy of A Squadron both died of their wounds en route back to Fort Tuli. (Editor's Note: In the Global Forked Stick section at the end of this newsletter there is, coincidentally, a request for more information in regard to Nethercott.)

Arising out of this action, and based on reports of significant Boer advances from both the west and the east, Plumer made the decision the following day to consolidate his defensive position at Fort Tuli, ordering the squadrons at Rhodes Drift to fall back on Tuli. However, within days the Boers inexplicably withdrew the bulk of their forces towards Pietersburg, allowing Plumer to despatch a squadron under Captain K MacLaren to Maklutsi Village to monitor the western approaches.

On 27 October, feeling more confident of spreading his limited manpower to cover a wider area, a squadron under Lt Colonel J.A. Spreckley was sent back to Rhodes Drift and another under Major W. Bird to the Limpopo/Maklutsi confluence. Spreckley would be killed in action in August the following year in an action against the Boers at Klip Drift. Scouting patrols across the Limpopo at Pont Drift revealed that the Boers still occupied some of the kopjes, but in reduced numbers. However, this lull was as tenuous as Plumer's thin line of defence. The Boer commander of the whole military district, Assistant General Grobelaar, concerned about a threat from the north, supplemented van Rensburg's commando with a further six hundred men.



Fort Tuli looking South East

On 2 November, a Boer commando of four hundred men and two guns crossed into Rhodesia at Rhodes Drift. They circled around Spreckley's squadron which was based a mile north of the drift, and headed for Ft Tuli. (To be continued next month)

Above and Beyond

A Government Gazette dated 14 October 1977, announced the posthumous award of the Conspicuous Gallantry Decoration (C.G.D.) to Rudolf Kogler, for "*acts of the highest gallantry and brave conduct of an outstanding order in a non-combatant role.*"



The Conspicuous Gallantry Decoration (CGD)

The CGD was Rhodesia's highest civilian award, second only to the Grand Cross of Valour. There were only ever two recipients. Kogler's citation reads:

"Rudolf Josef Kogler, aged 44, of Bulawayo was the first recipient of the country's highest civilian gallantry medal. 'Rudi' Kogler was born in Graz, Austria and came to Rhodesia in 1956. He was working at a building site at the Regina Mundi Mission, Lupane (north west Rhodesia, Matabeleland North Province) on 6 August when five ZIPRA terrorists arrived. They rounded up Kogler with seven missionaries, five of whom were women. They were then robbed of wristwatches, radios and cash. Kogler surrendered a weapon but kept a concealed pistol. The terrorists manhandled Kogler and then led him and a missionary brother away, obviously with the intention of murdering them. Kogler drew his concealed pistol and shot the ZIPRA leader dead, but in his death throes the terrorist fired back killing Kogler instantly. The rest of the gang then fled."

At the Going Down of the Sun

Three members of the SAS and one from the BSAP, on secondment, perished as a result of an accidental explosion on the banks of the Zambezi River, Chirundu. The date was 12 October 1966.

Under the leadership of Major Dudley Coventry, a group of Rhodesian Security Forces prepared to cross the Zambezi River on a clandestine operation into Zambia. However, their plans would be tragically thwarted as an explosive device they were loading into a canoe exploded prematurely, killing four of the five-man team. Major Coventry miraculously survived to seek assistance. The dead included WOII Bob Bouch, Colour Sergeants Mick Cahill, Geordie Wright, all of the SAS, and Superintendent John Wickenden of the BSAP.

In October 1976, ten years after this tragedy, all four were posthumously awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal.

They are remembered.

Across the globe

- On 21 October 1879, Thomas Edison invents a commercially practical incandescent light - the light bulb
- On 04 October 1957, the Soviet Union launches the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik
- On 25 October 1964, Zambia gains its independence from Britain.

And...

On 17 October 1927, the first commercial wireless telegraph is sent over the Atlantic Ocean.

Flash Back

Because the Rugby World Cup is on, here is a blast from the past extracted from 'Rhodesia Rugby' by Jonty Winch.



Three patriotic Rhodesian supporters entertain the crowd at the Police Ground, Salisbury. They are Rob Edwards, Fred Beattie and "Jute" Read — all stalwarts of the Gatooma Rugby Club.

(Photo: The Herald)

Did anyone know these guys or where they are now? It is good to see that Rhodesian hooligans in the 1970's were able to keep their socks pulled up while clowning around - today's youth seem to have great difficulty in keeping the waistband of their pants at a level of decency.

Rhodesians in the air and on the ground during WWII

This material was derived from some recent threads on the Rhodesian Services Association group on Facebook that I thought should get a wider airing.

Gwen Raikes commented that she had been told that there was only one Rhodesian involved in the Battle of Britain. The following reply was posted which indicates that there were a number of Rhodesians in the air and on the ground during the period of the Battle of Britain - 10 July to 31 October 1940:

"Rhodesia's first response to speed to the assistance of 'the mother country' was of course East Africa where our blokes took to the air in bi-planes against the far better equipped Italians - and needless to say performed with valour. It is recorded that Southern Rhodesia was the first country in the world to commit troops to assist Britain at the onset of WWII. The following is extracted from 'A Pride of Eagles' by Beryl Salt page 62:

"The first Empire troops to come to this country (England) from Africa - a contingent of Southern Rhodesian airmen - have arrived. The contingent represents part of the technical and maintenance personnel of a Rhodesian bomber and fighter squadron to be established in Britain, and is the first to come under the British Govt. scheme to form squadrons composed entirely of men from the Empire. It was learned tonight that from Southern Rhodesia already about forty men have joined the RAF at their own expense and five of those have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC), one of them bringing down 6 Messerschmitts (Rhodesian Herald 7th August 1940)"

There is a foot note that states "The man in charge of this first group was JF Finnis, subsequently Squadron Leader who took part in the Battle of Britain, served for a while with the Polish squadron and saw action in the desert."

From this quick research it once again shows what an amazing country we were. We were small in number but our fathers, grandfathers etc. went straight in like terriers to assist Britain in her time of need - and not for the first time either - there was the Anglo-Boer War and the Great War - and nor was it the last time that Rhodesians rolled up their sleeves and took up arms for Britain - and what happened in our time of need when some support would have been welcome? Where was our "mother country" then?"

Mitch Sterling posted this:

"John Browning Holderness was one example of a fine son of Rhodesia. He was an officer and a gentleman of the old school and it was my honour and privilege to have known him and receive some of his hand-written letters.

John was a lawyer by profession, from an old Rhodesian family of lawyers. But in his early days, an interest in all things aviation found him 'messaging about' with aeroplanes at the old Belvedere aerodrome. His first flight as a young boy was with Wynne-Eyton of Bromley who owned VP-YAA, a DH 60. This aeroplane was the first privately owned Cirrus Moth in Rhodesia and earned its owner the sobriquet - 'Moth Eaten' Sandy Wynne-Eyton DSO, AFC (who incidentally, was killed in action in WWII.)

In the 1930's Sir Eric Geddes, chairman of Imperial Airways, came out to Salisbury in a Handley Page HP42 - the 'Helena'. It was the first of this aircraft type to visit Southern Africa. "Sir Cecil Rodwell was governor of Rhodesia at the time", said John Holderness, "and being friendly with his son, Billy, I was privileged to experience a flight over the Mazoe dam with the Government House party. The following day the Herald reported on the wisdom of having the whole cabinet on board the same flight. All One's Eggs In One Basket! was the heading."

John Holderness also remembered the visits of the SAAF and the RAF to Belvedere in those early days and the 'prang' of one of the SAAF Wapitis. He remembered the Judson/Speight accident - the first fatal flying accident in the history of Rhodesia. That accident cost the lives of two of the finest examples of Rhodesian youth. Jock Speight played rugby for Rhodesia against the 1928 All Blacks and he captained the Rhodesian cricketers in 1930 against Percy Chapman's touring MCC team. Pat Judson was a highly respected aviator/instructor. His father was Dan Judson of Mazoe Patrol fame.

By 1935 John Holderness became one of the first six enthusiastic pilots to be enrolled in the new Southern Rhodesia Air Unit when it transferred away from the 1st Battalion Rhodesia Regiment. It was based at Belvedere and 'ab initio' flight training was carried out in Tiger Moths. 'Rumbavu' was one of them, donated by farmer John McAlister-Smith, but many others were presented to help the war effort. Belvedere became 25 EFTS on 24 May 1940, preceding Canada and other older Commonwealth counties, as the first Elementary Flight Training School in the world.

"Fledglings learned to fly" at Belvedere and six other EFTS stations around Rhodesia; "pana mazimana ano bururuka", as they said in Shona. As their confidence and experience grew, pupil pilots were introduced to more advanced aircraft types. Old boys and girls of Norton School (Central Flying School) will recall their hostels were named Cornell, Oxford and Anson.

When war broke out in 1939 John Holderness was posted to 248 Squadron at RAF Hendon, flying Blenheims. This was a Night Fighter Squadron which operated mainly as Coastal Command. Later he moved to Tangmere, a grass field near Portsmouth, and then re-mustered with 229 Squadron at Northolt for the 'Battle of Britain', flying Hurricanes.

Squadron Leader Holderness was demobbed at the end of the war with a German ME 110 partial kill to his credit. Back home in Rhodesia he farmed until the 1970's, then joined the family law firm. He never lost his interest in aviation and he knew all the great aviation characters through the years - Cyril Payne, Mike Pearce, Charles Prince, Claud Style, Percy Newton, Perry St Quinton, Tony Hudson Beck etc - the list goes on and on. They were all part of an amazing family of Rhodesian aviators.

Tragically, John Browning Holderness DFC was knocked down and killed whilst riding his motorised wheelchair in Cape Town in April 2008 at the age of 92."

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. All are most welcome.

The next social will be on the 11th November. It is intended that it will be another "Barn Party" at the Hucke residence. Please contact Alison or Wolf for more details.

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 normally held on the 2nd Friday of every month with proceeds being donated to the Hauraki Museum. Email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to get on that mailing list to see what is on and notification of any changes. As noted elsewhere in this publication, other social meetings take place which are advertised locally via email.

The next Graze and Movie evening will be 21st October to coincide with the beginning of the RV - 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.

Remembrance Day (11th November) venues and contacts around the world

All the information below is carried on our dedicated webpage www.rhodesianservices.org/events.htm Please use it and email me for any additions and corrections.

Canada

- British Columbia - Nanaimo. Contact Dave Ward Davoward@yahoo.com
- Ontario - North Bay. Contact Ron Zagar ronzager@hotmail.com

England

- London, England. The Rhodesian Army Association Remembrance Service will be held in London on Sunday 13th November 2011 at the Memorial Gardens alongside of Westminster Abbey. Assemble at 10:00am and the service will commence at 10:30. This year the Roll of Honour will be the fallen of the Rhodesian Intelligence Corps. After the service we normally go to a local hotel for a hot meal and drinks. All welcome. Contact Geoff Cooke gepeco.rhodesia@talktalk.net

South Africa:

- Cape Peninsula, South Africa. A service in honour of Rhodesians who served and gave their lives in all the conflicts of the past will be held at the Methodist Church, First Avenue, Fish Hoek, at 11:30 for 12:00 on Sunday 6th November 2011. Phone Lewis Walter 021 782 1895 or Skatie Fourie 021 785 5620 for information.
- Durban - *Details required*
- Gauteng - *Details required*

Go on - make a note on your 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.

Visitors to our CQ Store will note that we have highlighted certain items with the use of this logo:



This unique logo was designed by us in cooperation with our friends at A2Z Imaging Ltd in Tauranga, New Zealand. We wanted to have a design that identified goods that we stock that are wholly New Zealand made as well as incorporating a subtle Rhodesian identifier (the Green and White of our flag) into the design. We hope that you like it.

As well as using the design on our website we have also had small sticky labels made which we will be using on the packaging. We have made these labels available to Mike Vivier www.bucklesandtees.co.nz who produces and markets the Rhodesia Regiment belt buckles. If any other manufacturers in New Zealand would like to use this logo and sticker please email thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org

Time is running out if you want to enter our "Rugby Jersey Competition" – if you want to buy one of our jerseys get onto it quick style – they are \$125 each (plus postage) and available in short or long sleeve.



Here is Glen Ashmead at the Boks vs Samoa game with a couple of mates.

Glen says he was the only person there wearing a Rhodesian rugby jersey – was he? We shall see!

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 thecgstore@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.

Books for Africa

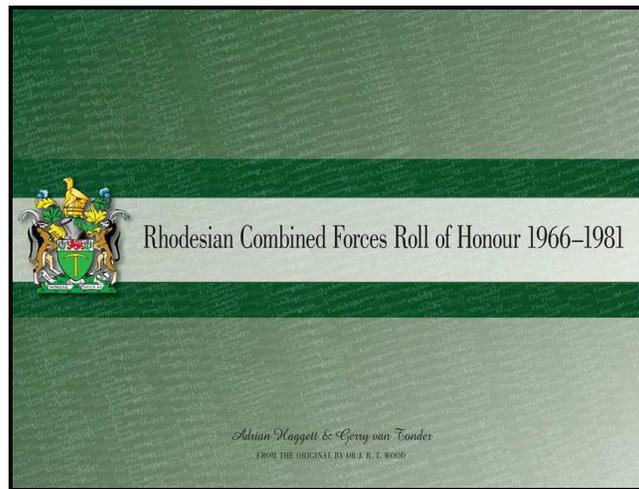
I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm these sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, the Association does benefit indirectly from these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

Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour 1966-1981 by Adrian Hagggett & Gerry van Tonder - From the original by Dr JRT Wood

SPECIAL OFFER - Order and pay before 11 November 2011 for the 30° South Publishers 'Once-off Special Offer' of R395.00. Free delivery to anywhere in South Africa and a massively reduced international postage rate of R250 to any international address. See www.30degreessouth.co.za for more details.

To place your order and secure a copy, email: Aulette Goliath at office@30degreessouth.co.za

The book will be released in South African on the 11th November 2011 in hardback with dust jacket.



Background:

The intention of this publication is to honour all who lost their lives in action, or while on active service, with the Rhodesian Security Forces during the period 1966-1981. This publication represents the single most comprehensive Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour covering the so-called Bush War. Many people have researched the casualties of the Rhodesian Bush War and it is highly unlikely that a single researcher will ever compile a definitive list of all those who perished.

Dr J.R.T. Wood produced the first 'most comprehensive' Roll of Honour of the Rhodesian Combined Forces while many others, including Adrian Haggett and Gerry van Tonder, have used his roll as a base for expansion, correction and addition. Dr Wood's original work has been improved on by Adrian Haggett and Gerry van Tonder through extensive and time consuming research and plain old hard work and dedication to a task that they were motivated to complete out of respect for all those whose names the book is about.

This 'Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour 1966-1981' is a definitive publication that has been accurately and thoroughly revised. Adrian Haggett and Gerry van Tonder have put a lot over the last few years and could not have done it without all the input from friends, family and fellow soldiers.

May all those whose names appear in this book Rest in Peace with honour for We Will Remember Them.

A note from Adrian Haggett:

"All profits are going to the Zim. pensioners, Gerry and I are not interested in making personal money out of other people's input to the project. We have added approx 400 new names to the original roll".

**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



The end is in sight! We are at a point where the main body is being polished up in preparation for editing. We are not actively seeking further input, however if there is some gem of info out there it could be spliced in.

My work continues with cataloguing the photos and illustrations, which I hope I can complete by the end of this year.

We have expanded our research in order to compile a list of details of all National Service intakes which includes all services – Rhodesia Regiment, Intaf and RLI intakes. The Rhodesia Regiment information will be used for the book and the balance will be retained for record and further research if required. Gerry van Tonder is in charge of compiling these rolls, please email him at g.van-tonder@sky.com The details required in part or full are:

- Intake Number
- Unit (Royal Rhodesia Regiment, Rhodesia Regiment, Intaf, RLI etc)
- Course detail (A, B or C Coy, Training Troop, IANS)
- Basic training dates (from – to)
- Training base (Llewellin, Cranborne, Chikarubi etc)
- Full duration of N/S (3, 6, 9, 12, 18 months)

We have had an excellent response to this appeal. Gerry has been on leave and once he gets back we will publish the areas that we require information for.

We are still seeking information 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. Your recollection of any names and dates, or knowledge of someone who may be able to assist would be most welcome - please email me.

We also still 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.



- The question over the date of the Independent Company's transition from Rhodesia Regiment to RAR has still not been resolved with reports from 6 Indep. soldiers that it may have been late 1978 by the time they were aware that they were RAR. The general thinking to date has been that it was after October 1977 that the Indep. Coys. became part of the RAR. Your recollections would be most welcome – when were you issued with an RAR badge for your beret? Anything else of significance? We know that RAR soldiers had been attached to the Indep. Coys. well before the change to RAR, some time in late 1976 as was the case with 4 Indep. from my recollections.

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,

At last the secret is out! We have been keeping John's "secret project" under wraps for the last couple of years. Finally after visits to battlefield sites, writing and months in recording studios, the CD is completed - "The Boer War In Song".

This CD is a must, not only for military enthusiasts but for anyone who enjoys John's special way of capturing the human side of epic happenings in words and music.

The subject of the Boer War is keenly followed by thousands of enthusiasts the world over like battlefield tourists, war graves commission visitors, collectors of militaria, historians, relatives of Boer War participants, museum curators and everyone interested in their heritage and this amazing part of history.

This CD is to our knowledge, the only one of its kind. The eighteen songs cover most aspects of the war - the characters and impressions of the British and Boer soldiers, sieges, battles, the sadness of unknown soldiers' graves, concentration camps, African involvement, Generals de la Rey, Kitchener and Roberts, romance, characters like Breaker Morant, humourand the list goes on.

Beautifully recorded and orchestrated with John at his vocal best, this amazing package comes with a booklet containing all the words and a short synopsis of each song together with illustrations.

Our website www.johnedmond.co.za will also contain a link to more in-depth backgrounds to all the songs. As a launch special we are offering this stunning new production only for the month of October.

To order:

Roan Antelope Music www.johnedmond.co.za

E-mail: info@johnedmond.co.za

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

Price:

R135 plus postage as applicable

The Rhodesian Soldier Bronze Statue



This quality statue stands 470mm high and weights 7.5kgs (that is 18.5 inches and 16.88lbs for the unconverted). That is the statue only, the plinth is of old hardwood and stands 50mm high (2 inches) and weighs approximately 1kg. (2.2lbs). It will be shipped in a wooden carrying case.

This project was put together to coincide with the RLI Celebrations and to celebrate the Rhodesian Soldier, by Graham 'Dusty' Millar (BSAP), Fred Tatos (8th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment) and the artist, Alistair Barnes a South African soldier.

Alastair Barnes is a well known South African artist and sculptor. He has a website at www.alastairbarnessaartist.co.za He did his national service and several call-ups with the 1st Parachute Regiment from 1964-1976. In the '70's he was transferred to the Cassarian Rifles and was deployed with them on call-ups and went to Angola. He is a great hunter and naturalist.

The price is R15,000.00 of which R1,500.00 is donated to the M'dala Trust for Rhodesian Pensioners.

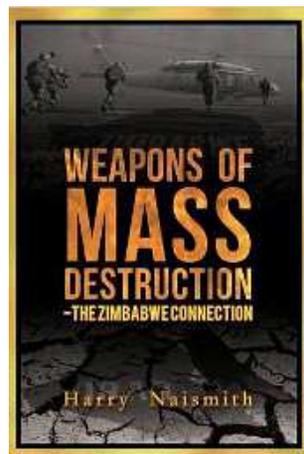
To make orders – (when ordering please mention that you heard of this offer from the Rhodesian Services Association):

Email Graham (Dusty) Millar at gnu@mweb.co.za

Or write to Box 3006, Cape Town, 8000 SOUTH AFRICA

Or Phone +27 21 7940512 Fax +27 86 6840089 Mobile +27 82 82 88812.

Weapons of Mass Destruction - The Zimbabwe Connection by Harry Naismith



Brian Callison, internationally renowned as the author of numerous best-sellers including - "Flock of Ships", "The Bone Collectors" and "Trapp's War", had this to say:

"This debut novel is a cracker written by someone who's been there. Mr Naismith offers a fascinating insight into the gun-oil reeking courage and fear, and sometimes cynical self-contemptuous world, of those who risk their lives as military 'contractors' in the most violent arenas of Africa. From Zimbabwe to Iraq, to its violent dénouement, Weapons of Mass Destruction will keep the eyes of every armchair mercenary firmly glued to the page."

Background

It is a fictional work but drawn from observations along life's way. Harry served in SB (BSAP) on Op. Hurricane duties from 1973 (Centenary/Bindura areas) onwards and in particular JOC Mtoko 1975-'79. Upon returning to the UK he worked with a private security company in Iraq for about a year (2003 - 2004), so accumulated a bit of local knowledge in that neck of the woods.

The book is available in e-book form and is also available in paperback through Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other leading online bookstores.

To buy - go to http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=Harry+Naismith&x=16&y=19 or at any high street bookstore by quoting the title and ISBN number: 978 1 908128 29 4

If anyone still has hassles then please email Harry at hggnaismith@hotmail.com

George Hodgskin Nethercott

This from Anne Skinner:

"Dear Hugh,

I am a sister in law of John Skinner. I live in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia and am the editor of the local paper, the Kalgoorlie Miner. Kalgoorlie is a twin town with Boulder, which features in the story below.

I am trying to track down the Rhodesian side of an historical yarn that I am working on. The story as I know it so far is below. If you are able to help me put together George Nethercott's life in Rhodesia, I will be terribly grateful.

229 Trooper George Hodgskin Nethercott (sometimes spelled Hodgkin) was the first Australian killed in the Boer War, long before Australia sent any soldiers. He was with the Rhodesia Regiment and was killed in action in October 1899.

Nethercott was charged with embezzlement while town clerk of the Boulder Shire Council in Western Australia (now the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder) in September 1898. Here is one of several newspaper articles about him:

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/32195291?searchTerm=georgenethercott&searchLimits=-l-title=Kalgoorlie+Western+Argus...%7Ctitleid%3A73>

The case collapsed for want of evidence and he was found not guilty by a jury, but his wife Bessy offered to repay the money - about 300 pounds - so it seems likely he was actually guilty, or that she thought he was! The case certainly would have disgraced him and may have been the reason for his emigration to Rhodesia soon afterwards.

He was also at one stage Acting Mayor and a JP who heard court cases and clearly of good standing in the town before his court case.

He is recorded as embarking on SS Kalgoorlie going to the "Eastern Colonies" on September 22nd 1898. It is not certain whether he was accompanied by Bessy and their child.

We next hear of him when he was killed at Pont Drift near Fort Tuli on October 21st 1899 as a member of the Rhodesia Regiment. The website below lists a CH Nethercott being killed there on that day, but that has to be George as his death at that place and date is listed elsewhere, including the Australian War Memorial. There is also a photo of some of the regiment, but sadly no names. If the original photo could be found and scanned at a high resolution, I might be able to identify Nethercott as I have a photo of him.

So he lived in Rhodesia for almost a year before he was killed and I would be fascinated to know what he did there, where he lived, whether Bessy and their child were with him - and what happened to her afterwards."

If you can help please email Ann at sannets@gmail.com and copy to me at hbomford@clear.net.nz

Alan Bryant maintains graves in the Athlone Cemetery, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

During the course of research on the Rhodesian Regiment book, as well as the Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour, we got to hear of work being undertaken by Alan Bryant in Bulawayo. Alan is clearing up and doing maintenance work on the graves and headstones in the Athlone Cemetery.

I asked Alan to give me some background and this is what he wrote:

"I was asked by my ex wife to maintain her mother's grave, after that was done, I decided to do the same to my wife's grand father's grave and my grand parent's graves. Having walked through the cemetery I was disappointed at the state of the war graves and decided to clean these up as well.

I am willing to maintain other graves, not just military ones, should there be anyone who would like me to do so. You can send me the details, such as the name of the deceased, date of death etc.

It is pleasing to also report that the Bulawayo City Council have recently employed a couple of people to try and clean up the cemetery in general i.e. slashing the grass, clearing litter etc.

If there are any costs involved, it will be for things like replacing stone chips etc. as these have either been taken away or just been washed away over with time. Please note that I can only do this in Bulawayo, at Athlone Cemetery.

If any one has remains of relatives in the Wall of Remembrance, this has been totally trashed by vandals. Relatives may want the ashes (if any) to be relocated to a place nominated by the family.

Things in Bulawayo are very quiet, even when I am doing the graves there is the odd person around. I have never being asked what I am doing, and always get help from the man who looks after the records."

Alan can be contacted by email alan@stag.co.zw

Norman Robert Lamb

Craig Fourie is seeking information on Norman Lamb. His medal pair of Boy Scout Cross for Gallantry and Rhodesian General Service Medal pictured below were recently sold at auction in South Africa. The only information on Norman was that he had died in June with no known family. His medals were sold by the people who he was staying with and looking after him apparently. If anyone knew him or who can shed light on the Boy Scout award - i.e. what was it for and where was it awarded - Rhodesia or perhaps South Africa or the UK. Please email Craig at rhodesia@telkomsa.net and copy to hbomford@clear.net.nz if you can help.



**L-R Scouting Association Cross for Gallantry in Gilt, named on the reverse "Second Norman Lamb 9-12-42"
RGSM, impressed "PR5719 SGT N.R. LAMB"**

Malaya and Borneo Memorial Service at Kings Park, Perth, Australia

Peter Glynn sent in this information:

"A group of five Rhodesians recently attended the memorial service for the fallen soldiers in the Malaya/Borneo campaigns. It was honoured by the attendance of the Governor, Minister of Defence, the Malaysian Consul and Vice Consul. It was held in Kings Park, high up, overlooking the Swan river and the City CBD. The Malaysian society laid on a BBQ and special Malaysian snacks afterwards.

Merdeka Day is held on the 31st August. It is Malaya's Independence day and not to be confused with Malaysia's Independence day which is on another day.

One of the highlights of the service was mention of Rhodesia's contribution during the Emergency. It was good on our ears!"



L-R Mike Upton BCR, Mike Goldberg, Peter Glynn (who laid the wreath), Noel Davies, Brian Snyman.

Seeking information on the late Dave Bester

“Dave Bester, ex BSAP, then Magistrate, then Judge Advocate to the combined forces attached to the Rhodesian Air Force was killed in a drunken hit and run in around 1987. He was in his little Air Force Peugeot 504 on his way to work at New Serum at about 7.00am, when a Zimbabwe Army Mercedes 45 troop lorry went through a red light in Cranbourne Road and ran right over him, he died of head injuries on the way to hospital, his assistant died on the spot.

I would greatly appreciate any information anyone may have on this.

Thanks in anticipation from Peru.

Trevor MacIlwaine

Email macilwainet@yahoo.co.uk “

The International Rugby Board’s ‘Crown Jewel’

Maj. (Ret.) Mike Graham MLM., former 2 I/C of the Rhodesian SAS, was photographed below during his stint safeguarding the William Webb Ellis Cup on display in New Zealand.



Puma 164 Website

Neill Jackson writes:

“A great friend, Lee Catterson, has designed a Puma 164 website for us, which we are launching to coincide with the 32nd anniversary of the downing of Puma 164.

The link to the website is <http://puma164.net63.net/>

We will continue to update and upgrade this site to keep everyone in touch and up to date with book launches, the return trip to Mapai and any other relevant news.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all today and our grateful thanks go to Lee for his outstanding efforts.”

Rhodesian African Rifles Association

Vince Leonard email leonard.cadmans@btinternet.com writes:

“At a meeting of the RAR Association (UK) last Thursday, a request was made for any national servicemen who served with RAR and who are UK based to join the Association. Membership numbers are beginning to increase but a few more would be nice and, of course, very welcome. With plans for the RAR memorial at the National Arboretum well advanced, it is a good time to join.

Any applications for membership can be made through Malcolm Clewers email clewers2@btinternet.com “

Alexander ‘Sandy’ Tulloch, Pioneer Column

New subscriber Fettes Falconer writes:

“I note with interest that in **Contact! Contact!** you cover Rhodesian history. I am hoping that through your network of contacts you may be able to help me solve a part of Rhodesian history that may have been mythologised by my ancestral extended family.

My great grandfather, Alexander ‘Sandy’ Tulloch was a member of the Rhodes Pioneer Column and took part in the Battle of Masekessi (Spelled Masekese on your map of the Pioneer Column’s route in your latest newsletter September 2011).

The story in my ‘pioneer’ family was that Sandy Tulloch chopped down a tree that was in the line of fire of the Seven Pounder (some say Nine Pounder) they had dragged to the top of a hill overlooking the Portuguese fort. The advancing Portuguese troops shot at him while he was busy chopping. A bullet struck the trunk just above his head. The tree was felled and the Seven Pounder was brought into action.

This story was written up in W.D Gale’s book ‘The Story of Rhodesia’ (1939).

Some members of my extended family now consider this incident to be a myth. A cousin recently wrote: ‘We will never know where this story had its origins, but it will have something to do with a need to establish Sandy as not just a pioneer, but also as a man who did heroic deeds, beyond the call of duty, which was so much part of the Victorian culture of the British Empire and early Rhodesia’.

W.D. Gale could have interviewed one of Sandy Tulloch’s progeny, who embroidered and embellished the story in order to bring honour/glory to the family!

Sandy Tulloch does not mention the tree chopping incident in his memoirs. Maybe he was very modest. He does mention the Battle of Masekessi.

Maybe one of your members out there has confirmation of this story? I have a few historians working on this story and all seem to have come to a dead end.

Regards

Fettes Falconer

Email fettesf@westnet.com.au “

This last item was too good (in my opinion) to leave out of this newsletter and I know our American friends will enjoy this poke at them.....

Email from the Queen - an important announcement regarding the US.



To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

In light of your immediate failure to financially manage yourselves and also in recent years your tendency to elect incompetent Presidents of the USA and therefore not able to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the

revocation of your independence, effective immediately. (You should look up 'revocation' in the Oxford English Dictionary.)

Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except Kansas, which she does not fancy).

Your new Prime Minister, David Cameron, will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections.

Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated sometime next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour,' 'favour,' 'labour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix '-ize' will be replaced by the suffix '-ise.' Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. (Look up 'vocabulary').
2. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like" and 'you know' is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. There is no such thing as U.S. English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take into account the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of '-ize.'
3. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.
4. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers, or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not quite ready to be independent. Guns should only be used for shooting grouse. If you can't sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist, then you're not ready to shoot grouse.
5. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. Although a permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.
6. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left side with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.
7. The former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling gasoline) of roughly \$10/US gallon. Get used to it.
8. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called crisps. Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with catsup but with vinegar.
9. The cold, tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as beer, and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as Lager. New Zealand beer is also acceptable, as New Zealand is pound for pound the greatest sporting nation on earth and it can only be due to the beer. They are also part of the British Commonwealth - see what it did for them. American brands will be referred to as Near-Frozen Gnat's Urine, so that all can be sold without risk of further confusion.
10. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. Watching Andie Macdowell attempt English dialogue in Four Weddings and a Funeral was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.
11. You will cease playing American football. There are only two kinds of proper football; one you call soccer, and rugby (dominated by the New Zealanders). Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full Kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies).
12. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. You will learn cricket, and we will let you face the Australians (world dominators) first to take the sting out of their deliveries.
13. You must tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us mad.
14. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776).
15. Daily Tea Time begins promptly at 4 p.m. with proper cups, with saucers, and never mugs, with high quality biscuits (cookies) and cakes; plus strawberries (with cream) when in season.

God Save the Queen!

PS: Only share this with friends who have a good sense of humour (NOT humor)!

PPS: With a spot of luck, she might also decide to re-colonise Africa!

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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