



Contact! Contact!

November 2010

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,

October was a busy month for those of us involved with the RV. It was good to catch up with many of you and especially our two visitors from overseas.

November is kicking off with Rhodesia Day. I plan to take Thursday 11th November off work (a self elected Public Holiday) and spend time with a few friends and family. I hope that many of you will find the time to do something similar, and in so doing, strengthen the tradition for years to come. Remembering that the date not only commemorates Rhodesia's bid to be independent of Britain, but marks the end of WWI where many of Rhodesia's finest gave their lives - for that same country that ultimately denied us our independence. Go well friends - I will end this editorial by quoting from a recent email received from Denise Taylor (Norris), who was behind the original idea of 'Rhodesia Day'. She wrote:

"I write this as a tribute to Rhodesians - it is my personal thanks and outlook from being a child in Rhodesia and from now being an adult - a poignant look back on how I saw and still see life - for all time....."

It's been said a photograph says a thousand words - but then it should also say that being a Rhodesian is for ever.

Today is the day we celebrate our much loved homeland but it is also the day we celebrate and give thanks to our fallen, our heroes, our kin - today we stand taller due to the sacrifices made and to those families of our heroes, I give thanks. Our fallen soldiers are and shall never be far, we carry them with us always - we miss them. Yet we can honour their memory by always being proud to be a Rhodesian, by living life to the fullest - as this was the beautiful gift they left behind as a legacy - I give thanks to all our servicemen and women - they kept us safe day after day. It made me appreciate family time even more - it made me thankful for being able to attend school safely, to be able to go on holidays, and enjoy all the freedoms of being a child afforded to me by the military and protection services.

I celebrate women - who ran our households often as single parents whilst our dads were away - who learned to improvise and make do when sanctions were on. Was it not, perhaps, these very women who taught us that no matter what, family will always be strong, that home shall never be far away.

The farmers - far flung places and hard toiling work - thank you for those long hours and ensuring we had the best of the best food. Who could forget those giant grapefruit and killer t-bones! Under blue Rhodesian skies you gave

us health. For our beloved teachers - (Mrs. Barton, Mr. Kelly) you taught us the love of our land, the history of the past. You gave us a glance at who we might become. Rhodesian children have a vast general knowledge, are good all-rounders in both academics and sport and it is largely thanks to the efforts of those teachers who possibly gave the best education there is today in the public arena.

For all the engineers who designed our towns, gave them life..... thank you for the memories - you literally put places on the map! One might over look many things but whew - you left behind some accomplishments - the Birchenough Bridge, Kariba Dam - you can be proud.

I also give thanks to the many, many others - you all left indelible marks on us. Each and every Rhodesian helped mould us into being a close knit community. A community today who can do anything with nothing and who are always welcoming; a community that has moved on, but has never forgotten each other or our times spent; a community that laughs a lot and loves fiercely.

For all these things I give you thanks - may today the 11th of November be a celebration of all your time, love and efforts into making me a very proud Rhodesian."

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.



Claude Purcell died on the 9th November 2010 in Wellington, New Zealand after a battle with cancer. Our condolences go to his children and his brother Robert (Percy) Purcell.

Off The Radar

No errant email this month. Please ensure that you update us with address changes.

We have a frustrating time with some spam blockers. Please ensure that these email addresses are clear to receive mail:

thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org

theeditor@rhodesianservices.org

hbomford@clear.net.nz

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

October RV 2010

We started off planning this RV thinking that numbers would be down on account of the recession and instability of many people's incomes. In the final outcome we had about the same numbers as last year with seventy at the RV on Sunday and thirty seven at the AGM on Sunday.

Friday 22nd kicked off with a few of us taking the day off work to get things organised in time for kick off at 4pm. Many more people than last year spent time at the Garrison Club and were well fed, watered and entertained. Kicking off the RV with Colin Logie's samosas (which were consumed by the plateful on some tables) and his roast beef rolls put people in a good mood for the session of DVD material, mostly on the Zambezi and Victoria Falls, that we showed afterwards.

Saturday started early for out of town travellers and golfers. Greg O'Carroll together with Paul Nes arranged the tournament. The twelve golfers made for a bigger turnout than in the past which meant that Grunter Robertson on the refreshment cart was kept busy. The tournament was hard fought with the eventual winner, Barry Morgan, having to be separated by various count backs (which I as a non golfer do not understand) but I think that at the end of the day he was declared the winner over a much younger contestant, Jason Robertson, by seniority of years!



One of the 4's L-R Greg O'Carroll, Peter Glynn, Steve Kennedy, Lynda, John Glynn

The RV began at 3pm with a welcome from the Commanding Officer of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group, Lt. Col. Julian Sewell. Lt. Col. Sewell showered praise on our Association as well as us as former Rhodesians. Those attending were very warmed by the recognition that he gave us stating that we should regard the Haurakis as friends and that as fellow soldiers we should view the unit as a place of sanctuary for ourselves and our historic relics. This is not the first such speech made to us by a CO of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group, but it was one that will live with me forever as it was done with genuine feeling.

Rhodesians reading this newsletter will all remember the years of anguish that we suffered when the politics of the world was turned against us. We lived in the hope that our various governments would be 'recognised' by the world and that sanctions would be lifted and our war would come to an end and then the prosperity for all Rhodesians could begin. It never happened, even when a black majority government was elected with a 65% voter turnout. We were rejected until the world got its wish - and we all know the result of that. We lived in the hope that we would be recognised. A few countries did help us unofficially, but no one stepped forward and openly recognised us. That was over thirty years ago. Today, we may have lost the country that we fought for, but we can hold our heads up in the knowledge that we do have friends, friends who have supported many of us to new lives and continue to recognise us for the standards that we aspire to.

Our relationship with the Haurakis is unique and not something that I take lightly. The motto of the Haurakis is *Whakatangata kia kaha* which translates to Be Men, Be Strong. Most certainly our association with the Haurakis has helped many of us to be stronger people, no more so than during the welcoming speech by Lt. Col. Sewell because as Rhodesians – "to be recognised" is a hell of a strong phrase.

Our Association President, Paul Nes, replied and presented a copy of the book recording the history of the Rhodesian African Rifles, 'Masodja', to the CO. Paul also presented caps to the two members who had travelled from Australia to be with us – Mike Botha and Peter Glynn.



L-R Mrs Maria Sewell, Lt.Col. Julian Sewell, Paul Nes L-R Mike Botha, Des Anderson, Peter Glynn, Paul Nes



John Hilligan then shared his recollections of the part that he played in the Southern Rhodesia contingent that attended the 1953 Coronation in London. His notes are included further on in this publication.

With the formalities over we began the social part of the RV. Again we were well fed and 'watered' - with the cheapest beers in town provided by the Hauraki Regimental Association there was no cause for complaint.

The Annual Auction was presided over by Steve Geach who managed to entice the opening of many wallets as well as providing memorable entertainment once again. In total the auction raised \$2082. In addition, a system of fines seems to have been instituted with anyone misbehaving or criticising the RLI receiving swift sentence. This kangaroo court system (yes, I was fined for a remark in relation to the RLI) raised \$60. The raffle raised a further \$376. The generosity of our members is overwhelming – thanks to all of you who contributed by supplying goods, services and the buyers.



During the auction Steve Geach endeavours to get Butch Mawdsley to make a bid



General view of part the audience

On Sunday we had the AGM at the Classic Flyers Museum in the Boeing Room. We are very grateful to the Classic Flyers for providing us with this facility and also sponsoring one of our lucky draw prizes – a flight for two in the AG-Cat. The other prize was a flight in the Russian Yak, donated by Mike O'Rourke.

There was a good turnout at 11am and by around 3pm most people had drifted off.



The secret to a good AGM is providing good food! L-R Rob Tucker, Iain James, Sue Osborne, Steve Rich, William Anderson.



L-R Brandon Mitchell, Diana Bomford, Kim Webster, Tony Fraser, Steve Kennedy (seated) Greg O'Carroll.



The view from the deck outside the Boeing Room. In the centre is a Russian Yak piloted by Mike O'Rourke with Mike Botha the passenger taxiing to the runway for a scenic flight.

Finally – a BIG thanks to all who helped with this event. Every year it gets better and better. 2011 will be our tenth RV and it coincides with the final section of the Rugby World Cup. Plans are already under way here to make this a good weekend. Please make sure that you mark your calendars for **21st – 23rd October 2011**. I would recommend that you book accommodation very early.

Rhodesian Services Association News

Contact details

We have a new Secretary, Chuck Osborne. His email address is thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org The postal and other details remain the same – please refer to the header of this newsletter for details.

For newsletter matters email Hugh Bomford at theeditor@rhodesianservices.org

For CQ Store matters email Hugh Bomford at thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org

2010 AGM

This was held on the 24th October 2010 at the Classic Flyers Museum with thirty seven financial members present. In addition there were apologies from around the world and proxy votes held by various members attending on behalf of others.

Membership subscriptions

The subs for 2010 - 2011 were set at NZ\$10 and will be the same for our 2011 – 2012 financial year. For anyone who is not already financial, your annual subscriptions are now due. For overseas members, we can bill you on PayPal or you can pay your subs to our PayPal registered address which is thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org or you can send a personal cheque (except for South African residents, as our bank will not accept SA cheques, in which case we can make a plan – email me for details). NZ residents email our Secretary Chuck Osborne at thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org for other details.

Current financial membership stands at 119 with a number of last years members still due to pay their subs. The number of newsletter subscribers is around 1,500. I would like to see a bigger conversion from subscribers to financial members.

New Committee

A new committee was elected at the AGM as follows:

President – John Glynn.

Vice President – Wolf Hucke.

Secretary – Chuck Osborne.

Treasurer – Tinka Mushett.

CQ Store Manager, Editor and Webmaster positions – Hugh Bomford.

Curator – Tony Fraser.

General Committee Members – Tony Griffits, Lila Griffits, Brandon Mitchell, Mike O'Rourke, Grant 'Grunter' Robertson.

Rhodesian Services Association Museum News

Our latest project is to raise NZ\$2000 with which to purchase a Rhodesian made Cobra. There were only around 2,500 of these 9mm pistol-carbines ever made, which makes them rare. The Cobra was designed by Tommy Steele and Bruce Whyte and manufactured by Stellyte Co. Ltd. in Bulawayo. Production was beset with bureaucratic delays and eventually began in 1977. These delays contributed to Stellyte going into liquidation one month after production began. Production of various components had been subcontracted to other businesses such as Livingston Mint, Mathews Manufacturing and Bulawayo Manufacturing. Bulawayo Manufacturing continued with production after the liquidation and when production ceased sometime in 1979, Slektarev Engineering (later Crusader Engineering) in Salisbury purchased all the remaining parts, but production was never restarted.

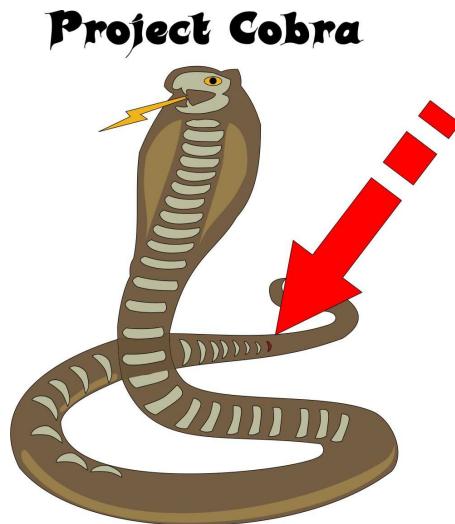
The Cobra was sold to the civilian market for use by farmers, rural workers and the like. It was designed to be easily controlled when fired using one hand, such as in a vehicle ambush situation. It is a solid weapon and so it absorbs the recoil well and reports from those who have fired it confirm this. It fires from a hesitation lock or delayed blowback system and at the time of manufacture it was believed to be one of only two of its type in the world to use this system. The closed bolt firing system led to claims of comparative safety from accidental firing (Fighting Vehicles & Weapons of Rhodesia 1965 – 80 by Peter G. Locke and Peter D.F. Cooke).



Cobra 9mm pistol-carbine

How this particular weapon came to New Zealand is not known. It has a proofing stamp on it indicating that it has been in England. We are fortunate that a generous anonymous benefactor has purchased this weapon and has said that when we have raised the money he will hand it over to us. Our current intention is to use it as part of a display in tribute to the Rhodesian civilians who displayed such guts and tenacity during the Bush War by refusing to concede to acts of terror.

To assist us with this project, our friend Dudley Wall made this drawing below for us to use as a visual measure of funds raised. It is inserted on our website at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Museum%20Displays.htm>



The picture of the cobra will have each segment coloured red to indicate the amount of money raised to date. Each segment represents \$50. The project was initiated at the AGM and contributions were instant with a number of people taking home photos of themselves with the Cobra.

New Zealand residents can email hbomford@clear.net.nz to get our bank details or, if you live outside New Zealand you can make a donation using our PayPal registered address thecastore@rhodesianservices.org. Cheques from most countries (with the exception of South Africa) are also accepted by our bank. Thank you in advance - every bit helps.

Business Directory

Our website has a Links page and in addition we have tried to give recognition and space to various people and businesses who have supported us elsewhere on the website. It has become rather untidy and clumsy, so when one of our members, Brandon Mitchell, suggested something more formal I was personally in support of his ideas.

Brandon plans to compile a list, much like a 'Yellow Pages', which can be loaded onto our website and give the site visitor a better reference to find what they are looking for.

By way of explanation Brandon writes:

"Hello Everyone

My name is Brandon Mitchell, I have come up with an idea for a 'Yellow Pages' type directory. I was inspired when an email went out about a month ago. It was to promote a discount offered by a Rhodesian owned exhaust repair shop. Being a new immigrant to New Zealand of less than two years, I am more than happy to give him my business.

I am not Rhodesian and I have never been to Africa. Rhodesians are people I admire and support, they have helped me here in New Zealand. That's what the Rhodesian Services Association means to me!

At this year's RV I met people whose services I need or may need in the future, such as mechanics, accountants, different trades people, some talented artists - all walks of life really. What followed was the idea of gathering the details of our members nationwide and beyond into a list that can be published for reference by other members.

Chuck Osborne suggested the inclusion of collectors and people with other hobbies and interests who are willing to share with others, such as hunters and fishers.

My objective is to compile a list of all those interested, here in New Zealand and worldwide, to participate in our 'Yellow Pages'. This is not only for business networking, but social networking is equally important! This is a personal project of mine as a service to all of you. Once I compile more contact details, I can best decide how to categorize the directory.

I encourage everyone to participate as it only takes a few minutes of your time, and when completed it will be something special.

To get started I will need:

- Your name;
- Location e.g.: Auckland, New Zealand;
- Business/Profession/Interests;
- Contact details;
- Any other details you may think relevant.

We all have a common interest - Rhodesia! Now let's see how we can make this work.

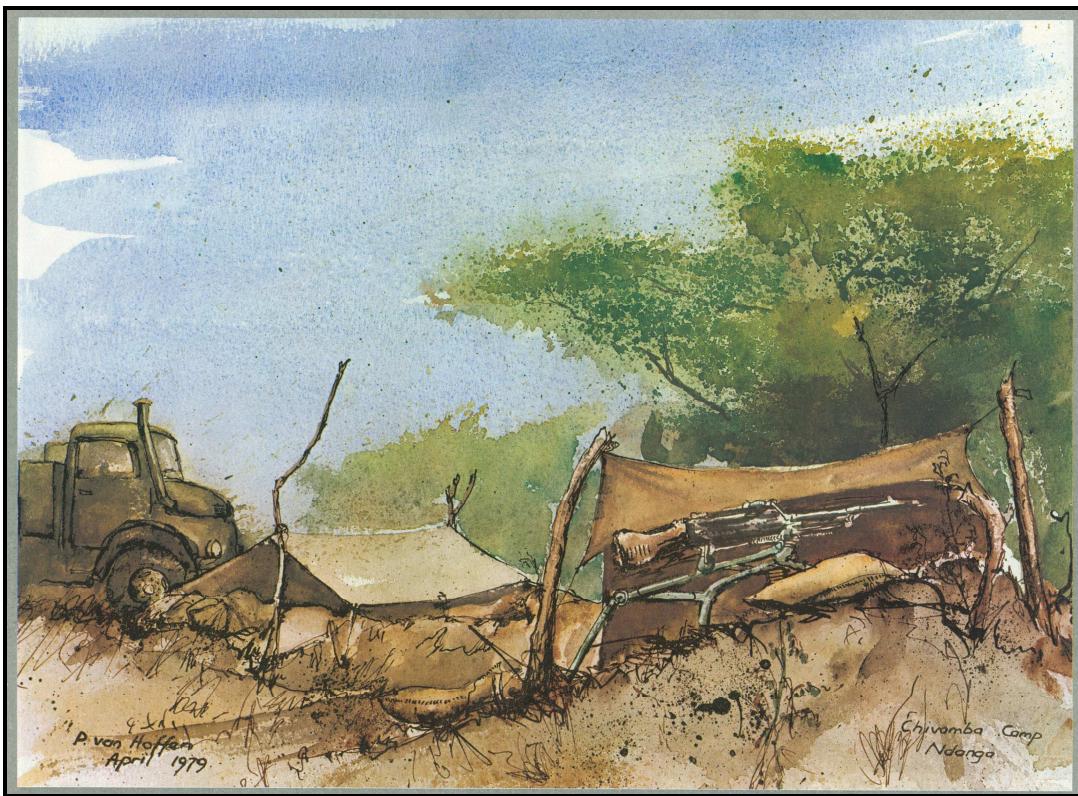
Thank you,

*Brandon Mitchell
Mount Maunganui, New Zealand
Email brandon_mitchell@hotmail.co.uk*

Peter van Hoffen Calendar

One of our Auckland members, Ted Preston, lent me a calendar that his good friend Peter van Hoffen published in 1980. Peter died many years ago and his widow Myfanwy (who was in the BSAP A Reserve) lives in Auckland, New Zealand. Peter was an engineer by profession and also a very talented water-colour artist, specialising in landscapes. During his spare time whilst on call-ups with the Police Reserve, Peter painted a number of scenes which he incorporated in a calendar. Published in 1980 and coinciding with Independence, the timing was obviously inopportune and sales were not good.

Over the next few months we will include Peter's illustrations in **Contact! Contact!** Our thanks to Ted and Myfanwy.



Chwamba Camp, Ndanga

Coronation Contingent 1953 by JN Hilligan

When Hugh asked me to recall my memories of the time I spent in the Southern Rhodesia Coronation Contingent I realised that he was asking me to think back 57 years. I shall do my best!

Selection, Training and Preparation:

Those of us who were from the civilian world were mostly territorials doing call ups, which were compulsory at the time. Little did we know that once a territorial always a territorial because the call up procedure, as far as I was concerned, went on until 1980 when Rhodesia was transformed into Zimbabwe. I was serving with the Southern Rhodesia Engineers and when the order went out to the various units calling for names to be put forward for the Coronation Contingent , we all hoped to be selected. Four of us Sappers were chosen, two from Salisbury and two from Bulawayo. Curly Grant and I from Salisbury and Du Preez and Knighton from Bulawayo. We were raring to go and were all very fit and able to absorb the drilling that we would encounter at King George VI Barracks. We sought leave from our work places and entered the barracks in March or April 1953.

Our uniforms were tailor made and we all had to go for fittings to be kitted out. We had two pairs of boots and two slouch hats, one pair for everyday use and one pair for the day itself. We were up at six in the morning and on the parade ground drilling until 8am when we had breakfast and then back to the square at 9am. Sgt. Major Ted Cutter was brilliant. He never shouted at us like most Sgt. Majors but gave us clear orders. He concentrated on marching skills and rifle drills. We were told that no one could hold a .303 rifle for longer than twenty minutes without the arm becoming stiff, so we had to learn to change arms from shoulder to shoulder, a drill that takes time to master. It was made more difficult because of the slouch hat which had one side raised and the other brim would catch on the rifle. On the day itself we had arranged that the flag bearer would raise the flag as a warning that the command was about to come so that we could hear it above the noise of the estimated three million people who watched the procession as well as the various bands which made it difficult to hear the commands. Ted Cutter also had to contend with the presence of commissioned officers marching in the ranks. Frequently we heard him say "you need to swing your bloody arms Sir" sometimes not too discreetly!

Passing Out Parade and Departure:

This procedure went on for two months when finally we formed up for our marching out parade, which the Prime Minister, Sir Godfrey Huggins, attended accompanied by the Commander of the Army and the Commissioner of Police. This was the first time the BSAP members joined us as a mounted group to form, as it were, an escort behind us. They looked impressive with their lances and gleaming saddlery. A couple of days later we flew out from New Sarum airport in the first of the four engine Hermes aircraft chartered for the purpose. The rest of the contingent followed a day or so later. First stop was Nairobi where we had to spend two days resting the pilots. We were met by Major Putteril who eventually became the Commander of the Rhodesian Army. He was at that time monitoring the British Army who were tracking down and dealing with Mau Mau terrorists, who were causing havoc in Kenya, especially among the farming community.

Arrival and Further Training:

After a stop at one of the Wadis in the desert, we flew via Malta into Blackbushe airfield in Surrey. The first thing we noticed was the cold air. We were driven to the Grenadier Guards Barracks at Pirbright not far from Woking, where the nearest railhead was situated. Pirbright was to be our home for the duration of the training period. Our barracks had laundry facilities but necessitated a walk to an ablution block for baths and showers. Someone always had to stoke the fires at the ablution block to get warm water. I was in a barrack room with a number of BSAP and a mixed group of Staff Corps and territorials from various units. We were woken at 6am every morning by a couple of Gurkhas with bagpipes and I can still visualise Lorrie Gearing of the BSAP standing at the window saying "I could kill that little bastard" Lorrie stood well over six foot tall - although how he would have fared against a Gurkha is any ones guess.

After we had been there for a couple of days the South African contingent arrived. I went across the parade ground at mid-night to greet them and look for a friend of mine who was supposed to be with them. I met a South African policeman and offered to show him how to operate the ablution block water system but all he could say was "to hell with that, how do we get to this blerry London?" It was the greatest adventure of his life!

We had to parade for a couple of hours before going to breakfast and then for the rest of the morning until lunch time. It involved much distance marching and practicing splitting twelve abreast for the various middle islands and arches we would encounter on the route through London.

The afternoons were ours to do what we liked with. We had to dress smartly in blazers, collar and tie before leaving barracks. The drill was to phone for a taxi to take us to the station in Woking and then travel by train to London. You had to wait at the bus stop for the taxi. One morning we were second in line waiting for a taxi. The South Africans were first and when the taxi arrived a group of Australians tried to grab it before all of us. The South Africans simply got into the taxi and pulled them out. We enjoyed the funny sight of the taxi driver tearing his hair out and shouting as his vehicle rocked to and fro. Friendly rivalry to say the least!

Most afternoons and evenings we were invited to shows and sight seeing trips. I had a friend at Rhodesia House in the Strand, John Derry, with whom I would do the rounds of pubs or places he had visited since he took up his post the previous year. One late afternoon he took me to the Prospect of Whitby, which he believed to be the oldest pub along the river Thames. They always had a small band playing. I noticed the Sgt. Major of the South African Contingent having a drink on his own. We invited him to join us and I could not pass up the opportunity of pulling his leg. I asked him why he gave his commands in Afrikaans when he was in England. He said it was the language of his country. I reminded him however, that English was equally the official language of South Africa. He was a bit peeved for a while but soon thawed out after a few beers. He and I caught the last train from Waterloo and the next day his commands were in English!

The train always stopped at Woking before going on to South Hampden and we were amused to note that the train was always full and that those who fell asleep were usually left in peace. The only trouble for them was waking up 90 miles away and having to get a taxi back to Pirbright to be on parade at six the next morning. If one missed a taxi one had to walk and we usually bought fish and chips to eat on the way. To watch the little man at the end of the tunnel trying to take railway tickets off 200 or so soldiers coming off the train was very funny. He did not have a hope of catching those without tickets.

A reception for us was held at Rhodesia House in London where we had to wear our number ones and be introduced at the door as we went in. We were amused at the butler type person at the door who had to introduce the RAR representatives with names like Sgt Major Takaruza, RSM Elijah followed by WOII Hassani. He had great difficulty with the pronunciations.

The routine went on and one morning we witnessed Sgt. Major Britten of the Guards drilling some guardsmen. He made them mark time at a fast pace and one of them lost his head gear which fell at his feet and he proceeded to pound it into the ground. Ted Cutter said "anybody who laughs is on a charge" for fear of having to deal with Britten. He was a formidable character. We also had a visit from the Duke of Edinburgh who inspected us and other units on parade one morning.

As June the 2nd got nearer Sgt. Major Britten assembled all units on the parade ground to practice marching with a band and to negotiate mock arches and islands. Marching twelve abreast made this very necessary. We were waiting for our turn standing some distance from Sgt. Major Britten when a guardsman walked past. Sgt. Major Britten noticed him, stopped the parade and yelled out "Guardsman go back and salute that officer". He was referring to Ted Cutter who was in front and wore a Sam Brown, but was a non-commissioned officer. When the Guardsman marched past at the salute Ted Cutter had to return it not wanting to correct Sgt. Major Britton!

Coronation Day:

On the day before June the 22nd we were moved by train and truck from Pirbright to Kensington Gardens opposite the Albert Hall where they had erected a canvas city to welcome us. It was our first encounter with the British public. They were present in their hundreds at the station in London to welcome our train. We felt like fish in a bowl. At the Gardens we settled into our tents and prepared for the great day. That night we went for a drink in the pub set up for us and when I fought my way to the bar I noticed a British Army soldier who spoke with a strong South African

accent. I asked him what a Dutchman was doing in the British Army. He said he had visited England on holiday and after a long time ran out of money. He saw Kitchener's sign saying "We want you" and tried to join the British Army. They refused to accept him at first but when he offered to demonstrate his shooting ability they agreed to give him a try. He could shoot the eye out of a needle, from his days on the farm. He was used as a sniper and became a Queen's Corporal. Five years later I met him in Kensington Gardens. He had been all over the world and had many tales to tell. He said he had made a lot of money - legal or otherwise and was due for discharge.

The next morning we dressed in our best uniforms and were given capes to protect us from the rain. We were marched to Bird Cage Walk just next to Buckingham Palace and stood at ease for an hour or so whilst the Queen was crowned. When she emerged from Westminster Abbey we were told to discard our capes and were marched into our position in the long line of Commonwealth and British escorts. They had bands at various intervals providing marching music. Some were traditional bands and others were bagpipes. The crowds were very vocal to say the least. When we entered White Hall there was a stand set aside for a lot of Rhodesians and notwithstanding the noise we heard someone shout at John Lewis, who was marching next to me, "swing your bloody arms Lewis". The two female Sgt. Majors marching in front of me had turned up hats and I was amused at the rain water sea-sawing along the rear brim of their hats.

It was a long route and we were near the front of the parade where I could see the leading man on a horse bobbing along. Being the fittest in our lives we could out walk or out march any one for miles. It was a great feeling. That night we returned to Kensington Gardens for a well earned beer or two. It was around this time that Ted Cutter told us that Edmund Hilary and Tensing had reached the top of Mt. Everest, much to the joy of the New Zealanders, and especially for the newly crowned Queen.

Medal Parade:

The next day June the 3rd we had to dress up in our number ones and March to Buckingham Palace where the Queen came out onto the lawn and presented us with our Coronation Medals. The Duke of Edinburgh asked Sgt Major Takarusa, who was standing next to me, if he was married and he replied "yes Sir", he was then asked how many children he had. He replied "twelve Sir", the Duke responded "by God you have a problem!"

Return to Pirbright:

On our return to Pirbright I walked into the barracks and noticed two civilians seated at the table. I ignored them and went to my bed in the corner and saw a big foot print on the sheet. We had to leave watches and surplus clothing in our lockers above the bed and I noticed that my locker had been broken into. It was empty. The two civilians were police officers who approached me and said "don't worry we have already caught the thief and your possessions are at the Police station". The thief was a National Serviceman - he was tried on the following Saturday and when I went to the Police station to collect my belongings I made friends with Policemen who wanted to talk rugby and swap stories about South Africa and Rhodesia. The Springbok tour in 1952 was not forgotten by the UK because the Boks won every match except one, which was London Counties. They were great team.

Other Duties:

We had to attend various functions. Bognor Regis gave the Rhodesians a civic lunch which we all enjoyed. The three RAR Sgt. Majors were a bit out of their depth, but we managed. One of the Staff Corp members wanted them to sit together in case they wanted special food. He used the mining language to make himself clear." Wena funa challa lapa-henso fana ca lo square one one one." This rather intrigued our hosts who looked puzzled on hearing this dialogue.

Another duty was to take part in the Military Tattoo at Earl's Court. This involved staying in special barracks within the Court and marching into the arena twice a day to form up as a crown using torches of different colours. In between we spent our time at the pub. On one occasion we were talking to a couple of Wrens who wanted to know our names. I said that my name was Noel which is true. She then asked "Noel who?" at this point I could feel Sgt. Major Noel Hausberger's moustache tickling my ear from behind and I replied "Noel Hausberger". He then said "don't you believe this bugger". I believe poor old Hausberger has passed on.

Home Journey:

After many visits to London and other places in the UK it was time to fly home. We had the usual stops to rest the crew. Our first stop was in Tripoli which was extremely hot. We spent the time in a swimming pool to cool off. When we took off again it was my 23rd birthday and the only booze I could get was a half-jack of brandy. This was passed around the plane for everyone to have a sip. We also stopped at Nairobi for a night and had a party which the Black Watch attended. John Lewis was asked to swap his uniform for a kilt with Black Watch Colours. Needless to say he looked odd at New Sarum when the Prime Minister came to welcome us home!

A memorable time was had by all. It was good to get home and to see all our friends again. In later life I continuously met up with members of the contingent, especially in circumstances where we had to do call ups for many years after 1953, even into our fifties. Sandy Mclean who played rugby with me and was a Sergeant in the Coronation contingent, ended up as Commander of the Army. On call ups we met several times and notwithstanding who was present he would politely push a General aside to greet me. Such were the lifelong friendships we made. He knew my position in the civil service and the work I did for the Air Force during the sanction period imposed on Rhodesia in the sixties. These were good Rhodesians. I have a photograph of the

contingent, which with the help of Billy Conn we have managed to assemble the names into the various units. The Coronation contingent was made up as follows:

Staff Corp,
BSAP,
Air Force,
SR Womens Military and Air Service,
Rhodesian African Rifles,
Armoured Cars,
Artillery,
Engineers,
Signals,
1 Rhodesia Regiment (Salisbury),
2 Rhodesia Regiment (Bulawayo),
Military Police,
Medical Corp,
Transport Corp.

Regimental Rumours by 'Stompie'

Howzit,

This month I have another chapter in the life of Tugger and Tosser for you. For those of you who are new to **Contact! Contact!** – these are genuine documents inherited by your correspondent on the death of his very dear and loved auntie. This wonderful woman with a big heart and an eye for business, whose personal effects contained these packets of documents which she had inherited from her mother, brought much happiness into the lives of a great number of the RLI troopies over the years. This then was how it was in the early days, you will have to keep tuned to see what happens next.

Hut 14
Kaguvu's Kraal
Buhera District
Mashonaland Territory

Viscount Etherled of Slouch, Lt. Jasper Sidebottom
c/o C.J. Rhodes' Offices
B.S.A. Co. Post
Fort Belingwe

1st June, 1893

Tuggadoo of the 5th!

O woe is me. O woe. Alack, alack, the day. Poor Freddy, poor, poor boy - taken in his prime, and oh! oh, how so cruelly - to be devoured by a brutish hyena. Pray, what shall I tell his Mama and Papa? That a once-bright young warrior - the very flower of Empire - met his untimely end under insalubrious circumstances and is today's hyena excreta? Oh woe! What to do? What to do?

Notwithstanding this most unfortunate episode, I must now relate how I came to be ensconced at the lodgings indicated in the address: namely, Hut 14 of Sabuku Kaguvu's Kraal. It has taken me some doing to piece together the regretful chain of events that led to my incarceration in such a primitive - and, quite frankly, odious - abode. It transpires that the day prior to Freddy's precipitate and mysterious departure - while I was hacking out a polo field from virgin bush with several BSAC troopers and a gang of savages (onerous work I tell you: the heat was overpowering, even under a parasol with a punkah wallah in the form of a picannin fanning me with a banana leaf) - the coolie Roger infiltrated the Gena Wena Hostelry and persuaded young Freddy to part with my recently acquired loan of 100 sovereigns from Baboo Naidoo in exchange for what he convinced Freddy was an irresistible bargain. The young sop was of course gaily ignorant of the fact that the coolie is in the employ of the usurer Naidoo, and was simply acting as his emissary.

The following morning, I was awoken by the sounds of cattle lowing outside the Hostelry and, curiosity bettering me, I wandered outside to inquire as to the cause of this rather manqué herd of Mashona cattle milling about outside my door. The drover, a woebegone black wretch, thrust a scrap of paper into my hands, before scuttling away into the bush behind the Hostelry. The note, written with the finesse of an imbecile, reads:

To: The Onrable C. Willow B. Scone & Bart too

Reseeved 100 sovrins in fare exchanj for my 12 finest Mashona pedigree cows, which is a big bargain. This is a big loss for me, but it is to help my white cousin.

Signed

B. Naidoo VC, Esq.

Purveyor of Fine Chattels & Financial Broker to the Queen Victoria the 1st one

P.S. This sale it is Footh Toots. No exchange and no money back. Is final klaar.

Perusing the missive with some puzzlement, I heard a dreadful groan and noticed one down-at-heel beast keel over and, emitting unsightly spume from its mouth, die. Too ghastly, old boy. Put me right off my breakfast. Trooper Dépôt of the local constabulary, to hand as always, studied the beast and uttered in horror: "C'est le reenderpest! Zut alors, monsieur, ees better you shoot toutes zese vaches immediateent."

"Rinderpest! Good God, man! I've been duped. I'm ruined!" I exclaimed in despair, finally appreciating the wider implication of the transaction. "Monsieur, you 'ave une heure to deespose of zese vaches as zey are une 'ealth 'azard. I wheel return in une heure exactement, after I 'ave 'ad mon croissant et mon café and eef zey are steel 'ere I wheel be forced to shoot zem monself and arrêter vous encore. Vous comprenez, monsieur? I nodded dejectedly. I did indeed comprener.

However, all was not lost as a solution availed itself to me in a flash. Dashing upstairs, I sought out the black wench called Beauty and found her in Freddy's room engaged in what appeared to be personal ablutions. Gagging, but undaunted, I grabbed her by her flabby arms, shook her vigorously to impress upon her the severity of the situation and loudly instructed her in fluent Shona to make haste to her father's kraal to impart to the Sabuku the good news that I had now secured her lobola of ten cows. "Hamba kruma lo baba kawena mena kona lo mombes. Wena izwa?" She nodded furiously, draped herself in her goatskin loincloth and bounded into the street and away into the bush with all the grace of an agitated hippopotamus.

Fidgeting with my timepiece, the minutes ticked by. Another beast heaved a monstrous bellow and it too keeled over and expired. Any more and I would not have the requisite ten beasts' lobola price. I wiped the light sheen of perspiration beading my furrowed brow. Fifty-eight minutes gone. I noticed Trooper Dépôt striding down the street toward me and my cattle - my salvation-chambering a bullet into the breech of his Martini-Henry. It was high noon. Fifty-nine minutes gone. I was done for.

However, a ruckus behind the constable diverted his attention, and he whirled around only to be enveloped by a veritable impi of ululating natives hot-footing it in my direction. It was the Sabuku and his warriors arrived to collect the lobola. Whooping and dancing the delirious natives herded the bewildered beasts together and drove them off in the direction of the Sabuku's kraal, unaware in their unbridled joy of the beasts' fast-ailing condition. It was close-run thing indeed.

This is the essence of this woeful narrative. The following day, the game was up. The impi returned, led by a glowering Sabuku blacker and more menacing than Hades itself. Screaming in my face, "Zonke lo mombes kawena yena ifile" - which I understood correctly to mean all the cattle were dead - I was seized at the point of an assegai - several assegai points in fact - and dragged unceremoniously down the street, clearly their prisoner. My entreaties to Trooper Dépôt - idly standing by with the curious trace of a smile on his face - went unheeded. He simply shrugged his shoulders and said: "C'est une affaire domestique entre les noirs. Et aussi, mon petit Anglais ... reememburr Waterloo."

So, I now find myself in this appalling predicament, in this malodorous hut, a hostage to all intents and purposes until such time I can make restitution to the Sabuku. His honour has been violated and I have none to blame but Freddy de la Douche and the Asian scoundrels. To compound the matter, I have been forced - at the point of an assegai pressed none too gently against my Old Charlie - to cohabit with the wench Beauty. I am after all, according to native custom, her betrothed. That it be by default is of little consequence to the Sabuku.

I shall not demean myself further in clarifying the nature of this cohabitation, other than to mention en passant, that I have become something of a slave to the primal passions of a primitive beast. With the few coppers I had left in my pocket I managed to purchase a writing implement and a sheaf of paper from Coolie Roger who regularly visits the kraal dispensing embrocations and liniments to the Great Unwashed at exorbitant cost.

A runner with a forked stick departs shortly for Enkeldoorn, so I must make haste to sign off or I shall miss this rare opportunity of communication with the civilized world. I also hear the padded pounding of Beauty's feet outside. Duty calls.

Your glum chum,
Tosser



Copyright © Rhodesian Services Association

Tosser in the clutches of Beauty appeals to Chief Sabuku – sketch unsigned artist unknown

Until next time be good, or if you can't – don't get caught,



Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings Everyone,

Those who attended the October RV would agree that it was again a great weekend of catching up with mates, talking about old times and most of all, remembering those that are no longer with us. As usual it was a superbly organised event and thanks must go to all involved for making it happen. As Mike O'Rourke said, "it is good therapy indeed".

Whilst chatting over the weekend, a topic came that gave the idea for this month's newsletter. We were talking about Dave Westerhout and his Rhodesian team winning the World Combat Pistol Shooting competition. It was a big scoop for us at the time and gave the country a huge morale boost at a time when we all needed it. Even though shooting may not be one of the more well known sports we all knew about this event and followed it with a huge interest. I remember it clearly, despite only being twelve at the time. This was long before things like live TV coverage and there were only about 200 spectators down at the Cleveland range. Rhodesia did an admirable job in defending their title that they won the year before in Austria against the powerful American and German teams. To crown it all, Dave won the World Individual Championship which was ample reward for someone as dedicated as he was to his sport. For his effort he was crowned Rhodesian Sportsman of the year in 1977.

Next month I am going to carry on with shooting as my theme and would urge anyone who may have some stories or results to send, please do so. Send them to my email address at the bottom of this piece please.

At the RV we were welcomed to the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group by Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Julian Sewell. Amongst his welcome address he told us this little story that appealed to me and I would like to share this with you: When General Walls passed away earlier this year, Lt. Col. Sewell sent Mrs. Walls a letter of condolence on behalf of 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group. Mrs. Walls replied with a letter of thanks and at the bottom of her letter she wrote "I would like to thank you very much and wish all the best to you, your Battalion, your army and your countrymen, all except those All Blacks!!!" Don't you just love it?*

Till next month, go well and please send me all you have on our shottists to fourstreams@clear.net.nz

Regards,
Grunter.

* Editor's Note:

Ahh! The old topic of sporting allegiance is always an interesting one to follow. Personally - I came to New Zealand when the 1981 Springbok tour was about to arrive. I found it easy to align myself with the All Blacks then and to me the final outcome was probably befitting of a series carried out under ridiculous conditions. For me there was no Rhodesia to support and I had come here to be a New Zealander. So it is for a large number of people who I know. For some of those who went to South Africa first before coming to New Zealand I see a different approach but I think we all have common ground in supporting anyone who plays against England!

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 in 2010. 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.

In November we have two meetings of note:

1. We have arranged with the Hobsonville RSA for them to be open at 11:00 hours on the 11th of the 11th November for Remembrance Day and Rhodesia Day. The restaurant will be open for lunch at 12:00
2. On the 13th November we are having a Barn Party at the Hucke residence at 875 Waitakere Road. It will start at 6pm. Bring your own drinks, meat for the braai and a salad or dessert to share with everyone else. This is open to all families and friends and will be held in the barn behind the house. Directions - Take the 3rd driveway, over the cattle stop, past the 'Country Lane' sign heading West. RSVP by the 7th November please. Alison will have her Art Studio open for those who may wish to purchase any of her arts and crafts – paintings, prints, cards, kitchen fresheners, homemade jams etc.

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 hbfomford@clear.net.nz to get on that mailing list to see what is on and notification of any changes. The chef and projectionist will be taking a break over December and January.

HAMILTON

Hamiltonians - please contact Tinka Mushett mushett@slingshot.co.nz for details of socials being held in your area.

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. Above is the web page link and below is a list of our stock.

With Christmas almost upon us again please consider the CQ Store for gifts. It is advisable to get your orders in early so that we can get them to you without delay

Sample of CQ Store Inventory

ITEMS EXCLUDING POSTAGE	PRICE in NZ\$
4RR Hackles	\$17.50
Bumper Stickers, Rhodesia/NZ or Australia flags; Rhodesian flag; Rhodesian Services Assn Lion & Tusk	\$3 each or 2 for \$5
Bumper Stickers – Unit	\$5ea
Business Card Holder – stainless steel with Lion & Tusk engraved	\$20
Berets	\$50
Cuff link & tie pin boxed set	\$55
Lapel pin - Para Wings – gold plate or Enamel	\$15
Lapel Pin – Rhodesian Flag	\$10
Lion & Tusk Aprons	\$30
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Baseball Caps	\$25

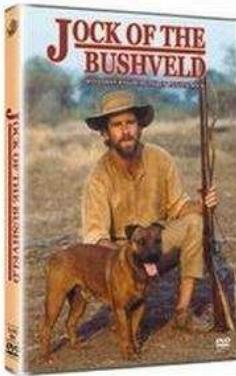
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Beanies green or black	\$22
Lion & Tusk Dog Tags	\$30
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Polar Fleece jackets – long sleeved in green, black, navy	\$65
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Polo shirts - black or green	\$38
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms T-shirts - black or green	\$30
Lion & Tusk Women's v-neck stretch shirts - black	\$30
Medal Ribbon Devices – MFC, Commissioner's Commendation, bars etc.	\$30
Name badge – resin coated	\$15
Number plate surrounds – 4 styles to choose from	\$12
Pocket Insert Medal Holder	\$15
Poster "Be a man among men"	\$25
Poster "Rhodesian Bush War"	\$30
Poster – Rhodesian Map accurate as at Oct. 1977	\$60
Poster "Terrorism Stops Here!" 2 in series	\$50 ea
Regimental Cap Badges – RLI, Intaf, RAR, RDR, BSAP, Grey's Scouts, RRR, RR, Service Corps, Staff Corps, RWS, DRR and more	Priced from \$20 – inquire for details
Regimental ties – Rhodesian Light Infantry	\$40
Regimental ties – Rhodesia Regiment	\$45
Regimental ties – Rhodesian African Rifles	\$40
Regimental ties – SAS (badged SAS only)	\$55
Rhodesian General Service Medal copy (silver plate bronze) full size medal with ribbon	\$100
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$125
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon – full size	\$10/length
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature (solid silver) with ribbon	\$40
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon - miniature	\$10/length
Rhodesian Medal for Territorial or Reserve Service full size copy (solid silver & gold) with ribbon	\$150
Rhodesian Police Long Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$160
Southern Rhodesia War Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$150
Rhodesian Flag 3' x 5' (900mm x 1500mm) ready to fly	\$40
Rhodesian Flag, embroidered 110mm x 50mm	\$20
Rhodesian replica rugby jerseys – short or long sleeve	\$125
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge full size	\$22.50
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge miniature	\$15
Various medal ribbons – please inquire	POA
Various full size & miniature medals – please inquire	POA
Various small embroidered badges (RLI & BSAP)	\$5
Zimbabwe Independence Medal copy - full size with ribbon	\$50
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size ribbon	\$10/length
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature with ribbon	\$35
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature ribbon	\$10/length
'Zippo' type lighter – "Rhodesia 1890 – 1980" with Lion & Tusk	\$25

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.

The books mentioned last month – 'Tale Gunner' and 'Recce' are both in stock now.

We sold out of Jock of the Bushveld DVDs but new stock is on the way. These make an excellent Christmas gift along with any of our wide selection of good books



PAL format, Region 2. Price NZ\$45 plus postage

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

Thank you for all the responses from the October edition of **Contact! Contact!** New material continues to pour in.

It is very important to those of us involved with this project that we get an accurate record of this unit's history. What records there are, are spread all over the world in archives, books, journals and people's heads. We want to bring as much of this information together as possible so that it is available now and for the future. We owe it to our forefathers, our mates and ourselves to do this job. I have been involved with this project going back ten years or more now. The end is in sight. Please come on board – your contribution is essential – don't put it off any longer – write it down before you forget it, if not for your sake but for your children and grandchildren's.

Regimental Roll of Honour 1898 - 1981

Our team compiling this history has been joined by Adrian Haggett and Gerry van Tonder who are assigned to assembling the first ever Rhodesia Regiment Roll of Honour covering the years 1898 – 1981. This is a huge task but one which already is achieving some wonderful results. The period 1966 – 1981 is already part of a project mentioned earlier in this publication. The period 1898 – 1966 is a lot harder to find records of so your input is most welcome. We require legible photos of memorials, headstones, Rolls of Honour, family records etc. In particular we are looking for:

- Any Boer War era records pertaining to any mention of Rhodesians.
- WWI era records pertaining to the 1st Battalion Rhodesia Regiment who served in South West Africa
- Any WWII era records where the deceased is recorded as Rhodesia Regiment
- Any records from between the wars where soldiers may have been killed or died during training.

List of information required

As we find out about information that we still require we will publish it in this newsletter, highlighting what is new as well as our existing older requests that are still outstanding. We would like help with the following:

- What can anyone recall of the sports facilities at Llewellyn and any sports teams based there?
- We believe that 1 Indep. Coy were involved in Op Cauldron 1968/69 – we need your input.
- Any RR involvement in any of the signature operations of the war, in particular cross border raids.
- Rhodesia Regiment soldiers who served as attachments to the SAS (they were not badged as SAS). We would like to get information from you regarding your uniform, in particular regarding what berets and badges you wore.
- As many individual contact records and recollections can be assembled
- Humorous anecdotes.
- History and training of the 4 RR Tracker Unit and reflections of any persons involved.
- Any post Independence stories that bear reporting on the ongoing life of the Regiment.
- The Battle of the Honde...any memories at all and technical data
- Any personal thoughts, reflections and ideas regarding:

Leadership;

The general role of the Regiment during the war;

How the Regiment was regarded by the regular units;

How the Regiment regarded the regular units;

Disparities in kit allocations;

Fireforce deployments;

How military commitments impacted private lives, business etc;

Any views on the stresses imposed on individual members of the Regiment during the war;

Post war stress issues and any reflections on life after the war;

- Intelligence Section of the Rhodesia Regiment during WWII. We have some interesting information that we want to follow up. We are looking for any family who had a member in the Regiment at this time who would have served in Rhodesia.
- In 1947 the Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment was deployed to Northern Rhodesia in reaction to civil unrest on the Copperbelt mines - we need more information.
- Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953. We would like more and in particular are looking for anecdotes pertaining to members of the Rhodesia Regiment who were there.
- Nyasaland Emergency in 1959. In particular if anyone has information on Colonel Ken Harvey ICD, DSO, MBE, ED who was a Major in command of the Royal Rhodesia Regiment and on Operation 'Wet Dawn'
- Northern Rhodesia during the 1960 Congo Crisis.
- Technical unit structure etc. from the period 1950 – 1960
- 1964 Riots – we need anecdotes and information from those deployed in support of the BSAP during this period.
- Information on deployments during the early stages when infiltrators came across the Zambezi resulting in Operations Pagoda I and Pagoda II
- Individual recollections relating to the following operations in 1968/69 - Nickel, Breeze, Cauldron, Cosmic, Griffin, Mansion and Gravel
- Individual recollections of the beginning of Operation Hurricane in 1972.
- Individual recollections of deployments in Mozambique prior to that country's independence.
- Depot Rhodesia Regiment - information on the technical background to the training, the organisation and the structure of the DRR.
- Were any elements of the Regiment involved with Operation Mardon which was a series of co-ordinated attacks on bases inside Mozambique between 20th October and 2nd November 1976?
- Comments and reflections on the Indefinite Call Up period.
- Comments, reflections and strategies on general patrolling, OP, ambush and garrison duties
- Were any Rhodesia Regiment personnel part of the first response to the Viscount Disasters?
- The occupation of Mapai took place during Op Aztec in May/June 1977. I believe that elements of 2RR were involved. Please contact us if you were involved.
- We believe that elements of 10RR were involved in 'Operation Favour' post the elections that saw Muzorewa come to power in 1979. A number of Sithole's 'Auxiliaries' were contacted and killed near Gokwe.
- Were any elements of the Rhodesia Regiment used in support of Operation Bastille in 1979 (the raid on Nkomo's house by the SAS) back in Rhodesia.
- Were any elements of the Regiment used in support of Operation Uric September 1979 when Mapai was occupied
- Recollection from deployments during the cease fire and 1980 election and the period after that.
- Rhodesia Regiment Dress Regulations.

You do not have to present your information in a well written format - we will sort that out. I can do recorded verbal interviews over Skype if necessary.

Photos in 300DPI please. If you do not understand scanning – we can help, alternatively you can send the photos to us and they will be returned. All input will be acknowledged.

Material can be sent to:

- Hugh Bomford hbomford@clear.net.nz
- Chris Cocks info@30degreessouth.co.za

Don't live to regret not doing something now!

The Global Forked Stick – Snippets and Requests

Remembrance Day Service - Pretoria

Date: Sunday 14th November 2010

Time: 14:45 for 15:00

Place: Voortrekker Monument Chapel, off Eeufees Road (M17), Pretoria (coordinates 25°46'35.61"S, 28°10'29.23"E).

The Rhodesian Forces Mobile Memorial will be in place and Rhodesians who lost their lives while serving with the SADF will also be honoured at the SADF Wall of Remembrance. Wreaths will be laid on behalf of the various Rhodesian Forces, and the people of Rhodesia. Private wreaths or flowers can be placed in memory of loved ones and friends who paid the supreme sacrifice for their country.

Tea and refreshments will be served after the service.

Please join with us to honour our Fallen, and to enjoy fellowship with old friends in a lovely setting.

John Redfern will conduct a tour of the Voortrekker Monument from 11:00 to 12:00. Those wishing to participate please assemble by the replica of a Trek Wagon in the parking area by 10:55. There will be no charge for the tour.

A three-course buffet lunch, followed by tea, coffee, cheese and biscuits, is available for R120.00 (pensioners) or R130.00 (others).

Please contact Pierre or Chris at the Monument Function and Conference Centre to book. You need to say that you are attending the Rhodesian Remembrance Service when booking, for seating. Tel: 012321 6230/70/71 /73 Fax: 012 323 0772 E-mail: monumentrestaurant@mweb.co.za Booking essential - by Thursday 11th November latest.

"At the going down of the sun ... we will remember them."

Open Invitation to all Rhodesians and friends

You are hereby invited to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Rhodesian Light Infantry with the RLI Regimental Association (Africa) over the period 4th and 5th of February, 2011

Events Programme

Friday 4th February 2011 – Informal gathering at the Dickie Fritz Shell Hole, Dickie Fritz Road, Edenvale, Gauteng. 18:00hrs. until late. Refreshments, light snacks, wors rolls etc available with a cash bar (MOTH prices).

Saturday 5th February 2011 - Swartkops Airforce Base Hanger 5 (Old Johannesburg Road) Pretoria

Timings:

12:00 Air Force Museum Flying Training.

13:00 Registration opens (Boerewors rolls available 13:00 -14:00).

14:50 VIP's Arrival (Gen. J. Hickman, Col. C. Aust, Lt. Col. I Bate and ex RSM's R Tarr, H Springer, and K. Reid).

15:00 Regimental Colours marched in. Colour Party Remembrance Service Padre Bill Dodgen, reading of the Roll of Honour by Robin Tarr, Laying of wreaths.

16:00 Refreshment break – the bar will close at 16:45.

17:00 Reunion Commences with opening address by Chairman, SA Branch followed by the RLI song "The Tartan Green" sung by Celia Goncalves followed by Patron's address by Lt. Col. Charlie Aust; followed by 1RLIRA Chairman Lt Col. Ian Buttenshaw; followed by "Requiem for a Soldier" sung by Celia Goncalves; finishing with thanksgiving by Padre Bill Dodgen.

18:00 Dinner and music (SAAF bar prices).

20:30 Raffle and auctions to take place.

Pre-booking is essential due to the size of the venue, (we can only accommodate 320 persons). Booking can be done online from the 1RLIRA Website at: www.therli.com

Research Requests

Craig Fourie is carrying out research and asks if anyone served with or has knowledge of a **P.J. Cloete** who was born around 1950, and who may have served as a TF and/or as a reservist in the BSAP and may have been killed in action.

Craig is also trying to get information on **Rfn. GE Becking PR76852** who was KIA while serving in 4RR.

Please email Craig at rhodesia@telkomsa.net and copy to hbomford@clear.net.nz

LM Radio rocks again

LM Radio is back on the air at <http://lmradio.net>

H Ward ex Bulawayo

If anyone knows of this man who is aged about 90 please contact Vic Walker vic.walker@sky.com direct.

Mr H. Ward is believed to have served in the Bulawayo area. He is currently trying to get veteran's accommodation in South Africa via a MOTH but is having difficulty remembering specific details.

Details of what the 'H' stands for were not supplied with this request.

Rhodesian Classic Cars

Wayne Kennerly has started this interesting website <http://www.classiccarsinrhodesia.co.za>

F Coy 4RR

Peter Davey writes:

"Good day Hugh,

Do you know of anyone who has the roll call for those who spent time in F Coy 4RR. I am writing up my memories of the two attacks on the Base camps (Marange and Buhera) and need to remember people's names."

Please email Peter at kiwidavey@xtra.co.nz and copy to hbomford@clear.net.nz

RLI Association Australia 50th Anniversary Celebrations

The RLI Association of Australia is arranging to celebrate the 50th Anniversary over the ANZAC Day period (April 25th 2011) in Sydney. Please contact Michael Davies at michael.davies3@bigpond.com.au or Vince Zoricic at vince_zoricic@hotmail.com to get full details.

Rhodesian Air Force Assn. of New Zealand

John Pringle writes:

"A reminder that our get-together is planned for Sunday 21st November and the venue will again be the Command Post at JF Kennedy Memorial Park, 147 Beach Road, Castor Bay. Kick-off any time after 11.00am.

Once again, bring your own drinks and meat to braai. We will provide the salad, tea, coffee, milk etc., and the gas braai.

As an extra bonus this year, I will have the keys for the tunnel network that links the gun emplacements. If you are interested in exploring a WWII defensive installation, this is a particularly fine example. The tunnels have now been cleaned up and are well worth a fifteen minute tour. Bring a torch and gum boots or a change of shoes that you don't mind getting damp.

Those out of Auckland who may wish to night-stop, please get back to me and we can organise accommodation, meat packs and even a loan torch!

Children are more than welcome - the park playground has recently been upgraded and is full of fun, if we can keep them out of the tunnels.

John Pringle PO Box 102-101, North Shore, Auckland 0745 Phone: (09) 410 5700 Fax: (09) 410 5712 Mob: 021 047 0557 Email pringle.jp@xtra.co.nz"

Arnold Wooley ex BSAP MIC at Marandellas and Karoi

If anyone has contact details for Arnold Wooley please contact Keith Nell at keithnell@hotmail.com in connection with his book Viscount Down.

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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