

The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Rhodesian Services Association



This is the inaugural edition of *The Sentinel*, the newsletter of the Rhodesian Services Association, and it comes with New Year greetings from all of us, along with hopes for restored health, happiness, and some normality in the coming year. The format and content of this publication are very much a work in progress, so if you have any comments, or suggestions for future issues, please let us know.

For the benefit of our new members, it is worth restating our aim, which is to preserve the military history of Rhodesia, covering the period 1890, when the country was established, to the end of 1980, by which time it had become Zimbabwe. The public can visit our museum located at Unit 10, 14 Portside Drive, Mount Maunganui. Internet access to our searchable Nominal and Roll of Honour records is available through our website, along with images and details of the artefacts in the museum collection.

The Rhodesian Services Association was formed in New Zealand in 2002 and, almost 20 years later, we are continuing to develop and strengthen our aim of preserving our history for future generations. In more recent years, this has been a direct result of the increase in volunteers prepared to take on the responsibility of various administrative and committee positions, as well as those helping to run The Lion and Tusk Museum.

Membership is not restricted to ex-services personnel: we welcome anyone who has a Rhodesian connection, or interest. We are seeking to increase our financial memberships and our target this year is 1,000 members. This will allow us to generate sufficient income to cover the annual rent, rates, and insurance for The Lion and Tusk Museum. As long as we have a building to house our artefacts, together with committed volunteers, we will be able to protect and preserve our military heritage and make it accessible to the world.

If you don't have the time to volunteer, please pay your membership fees and encourage your family, friends, and acquaintances to become members - subs are just NZ\$25 a year. We're also aiming to add more young people as members, so that one day we can pass the torch to them and keep the flame alive.

The payment link is: <http://thelionandtusk.org/home/membership/>

You can also make a donation via our *Give a Little* page:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/rhodesian-services-association-incorporated>

WAR AND REMEMBRANCE

Many of you will be familiar with the RLI regimental statue, 'The Trooper' (or the 'Troopie'), which was sculpted and cast in bronze, by Fiorelli Fiorini of Salisbury, working from a photograph of Trooper Wayne Hanekom. It was unveiled at Cranborne Barracks on 1st February, 1979 and left Zimbabwe on 28th July 1980, on a South African Air Force C-130 Hercules, together with the regiment's documents, records, trophies, and memorabilia. These were put into storage at the South African National Museum of Military History in Johannesburg and thereafter moved to the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum in Bristol, England. The statue now stands on the banks of the River Lee, in the grounds of Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, the country seat of the Marquess of Salisbury. Lord Salisbury is the older brother of Richard Cecil, who was killed in Rhodesia, while covering the Bush War as a freelance journalist. The statue was re-dedicated at Hatfield House on 28th September 2008 and in a ceremony in the estate chapel prior to the unveiling of the statue, the regimental colours were laid up, to be stored in sealed frames and hung in the chapel. In attendance were the battalion's last Commanding officer, Charlie Aust, and the former Commanding Officer of the Selous Scouts, Ron Reid-Daly.

Source: Wikipedia; *The Rhodesian Soldier*

The following background on Wayne Hanekom is from the website of the 1st Battalion, Rhodesian Light Infantry Regimental Association:

Wayne was born on 11th January, 1960 at the Lady Chancellor Hospital in Salisbury, Rhodesia

He attended Marandellas High School and from high school joined the Rhodesian Army (RLI-2 Cdo) in 1977 where he remained until the disbanding of the RLI in 1980. During his service Wayne was called upon to pose for the commissioned memorial of the RLI known as the 'Troopie' statue. The statue is now set and maintained on Lord Salisbury's property at Hatfield House in England in all its splendour. Below is a report segment from the rededication of the Troopie:

"The Marquis of Salisbury then unveiled the Trooper Statue with NIMROD played by the buglers of the Rifles Band. Wreaths of Flame Lilies were laid at the base of the statue by the Marquis of Salisbury, Colonel Charlie Aust and the Chairmen of the United Kingdom branch (Martyn Hudson assisted by Mark Pilbeam), the South African branch (George Dempster) and Australian members (Shaun Ryan). This was followed by the playing and marching of the Rifles Band and Buglers who gave a stirring performance including a rendition of 'The Saints'."

When Wayne left the army, he immigrated to Durban, KwaZulu-Natal and worked for his uncle for a while before he left to travel the world. He worked his way around and finally settled in England where he qualified as a chef, he lived there for about 11 years and returned to South Africa about 14 years ago and, for the most part, lived in Pretoria, Gauteng since returning. He never really settled to one career but cooking was his passion and in addition to working as a chef he dabbled in graphic design and loved nothing more than dreaming up designs and writing some hilarious if irreverent poetry to keep the family entertained and as with most poets and artists was a true free spirit. He never married and has no children.

Wayne passed away in Pretoria on the 20 December 2010



ROLL OF HONOUR

Trooper William Abbott

Salisbury Horse, Salisbury Column

Killed in action: 4th December, 1893

On 3rd December, Major Forbes' column, in pursuit of Lobengula and his army, reached the Shangani River, where it was discovered that Lobengula had set up a temporary kraal, just across the river. Major Allan Wilson and twenty officers and men crossed the river, where Wilson sent Captain Napier back to Forbes to request reinforcements and a Maxim. At midnight, Forbes despatched Captain Henry Borrow and twenty men to reinforce Wilson. The patrol's dawn stand-to heralded sporadic rifle-fire between themselves and amaNdebele warriors, concealed in the thick mopane bush. Wilson was forced to withdraw further, where the remaining mounted men formed a

hollow square around those who had lost their mounts, as the crippled patrol limped in the direction of the river. Wilson ordered scouts Burnham, Ingram and Trooper Gooding to demand help from Forbes, at any cost. They only just managed to cross the Shangani, which was rapidly swelling from incessant rain. Eventually, using the remaining horses as a protective laager, Wilson prepared his men to face an impossibly large enemy force surrounding their position. As the day dragged on, the Ndebele gradually decimated the patrol.

[This unit of the British South Africa Company, which consisted of 34 men, was annihilated by more than 3,000 Matabele warriors; the amaNdebele suffered an estimated 500 casualties]

Trooper Abbott is buried at World's View, Matobo National Park, near Bulawayo.

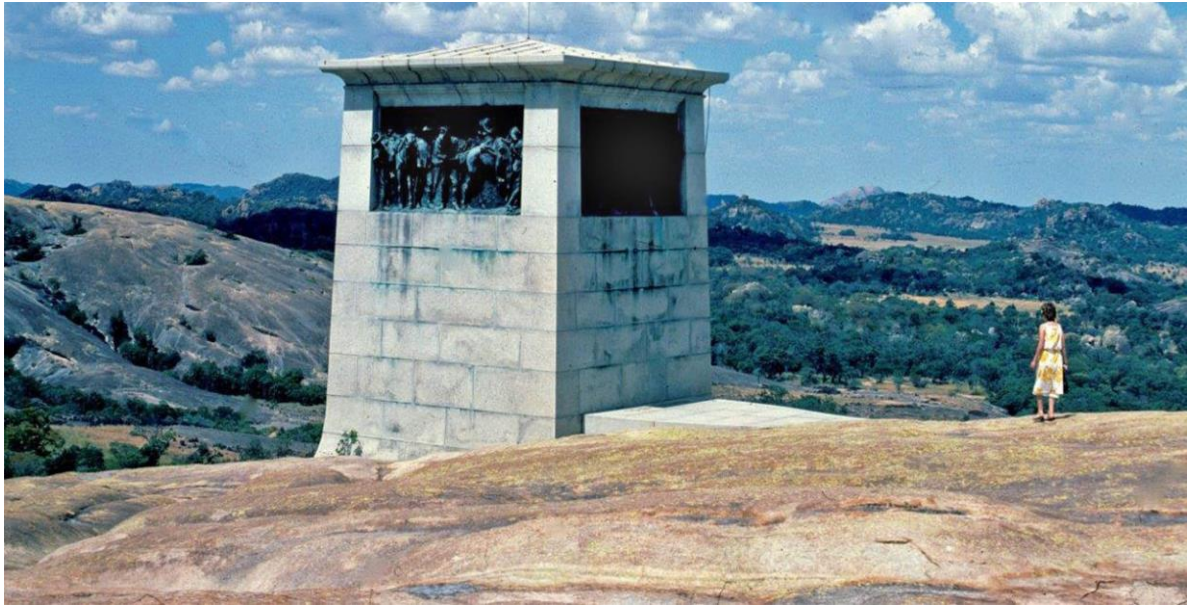
~ Gerry van Tonder

A detailed account of the Shangani Patrol and the ensuing battle can be found in three oral statements which were taken in 1937 by Foster Windram, a journalist at the *Bulawayo Chronicle*, with help from Peter Kumalo. The people interviewed had personal knowledge of the events.

<https://zimfieldguide.com/matabeleland-north/three-oral-history-statements-made-1937-amandebele-warriors-present-killing-allan>



The monument that stands at the site where Major Allan Wilson and his men made their last stand in the Dark Forest, Lupane. Photo credit: Lewis Walter



The tomb containing the remains of Major Wilson and the 33 members of his patrol, at World's View, Matobo National Park, near Bulawayo. Photo taken in the 1960s, by Darrel Plowes



THE LION & TUSK MUSEUM NEWS

As with tourism-based businesses globally, Covid 19 has impacted on The Lion and Tusk Museum. We were closed for around six weeks in the earlier part of the year, meaning that we did not benefit from overseas summer visitors, nor could we hold our ANZAC Day parade. The last cruise ship visitors we had in March 2020 were off the ill-fated Ruby Princess, which became something of a pariah ship following the outbreak of coronavirus on board and when, shortly after it left our port, no country was willing to let it dock. However, despite Covid 19, our visitor numbers over the 2020 year were equal to 2019. This demonstrates our increasing profile and popularity, not just amongst the Rhodesian diaspora, but right across the population.

For this issue of the newsletter, we are going to showcase the mezzanine floor area of the Museum, that houses the Library and Memorial Garden. Along with her responsibility as Association Treasurer, Diana Bomford is cataloguing the books in the **Library**. To date over 1200 books and journals have been recorded. People can loan books or come in and do research. As the books are catalogued, they are entered onto a library application. This application is Cloud-based

and in due course we will make the inventory publicly accessible, allowing people to search and see what books we have.

The **Memorial Garden** is an extremely important part of the museum. The Rolls of Honour are priceless records of Rhodesians' sacrifice. Some of these Rolls of Honour were desecrated or threatened with destruction when they were in Zimbabwe. That they are now safe and on public display, where people can see and feel their presence, is a huge achievement for those involved with their rescue.

~Hugh Bomford



Entrance to the Library and Memorial Garden



Looking from the Library into the Memorial Garden area. To the right is a TV screen on which visitors can view historic Rhodesian film footage



Memorial Garden Rolls of Honour, from left to right:

4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment, Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess

5th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment

4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment

8th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment



The Bunker

THE CQ STORE

New CQ Store product release:

This Remembrance bumper sticker measures 250 mm x 50 mm



Price in NZ\$: \$5, plus postage

Postage for 1-15 stickers is: within New Zealand \$5; by airmail to Australia \$6.50; rest of the world \$7.50

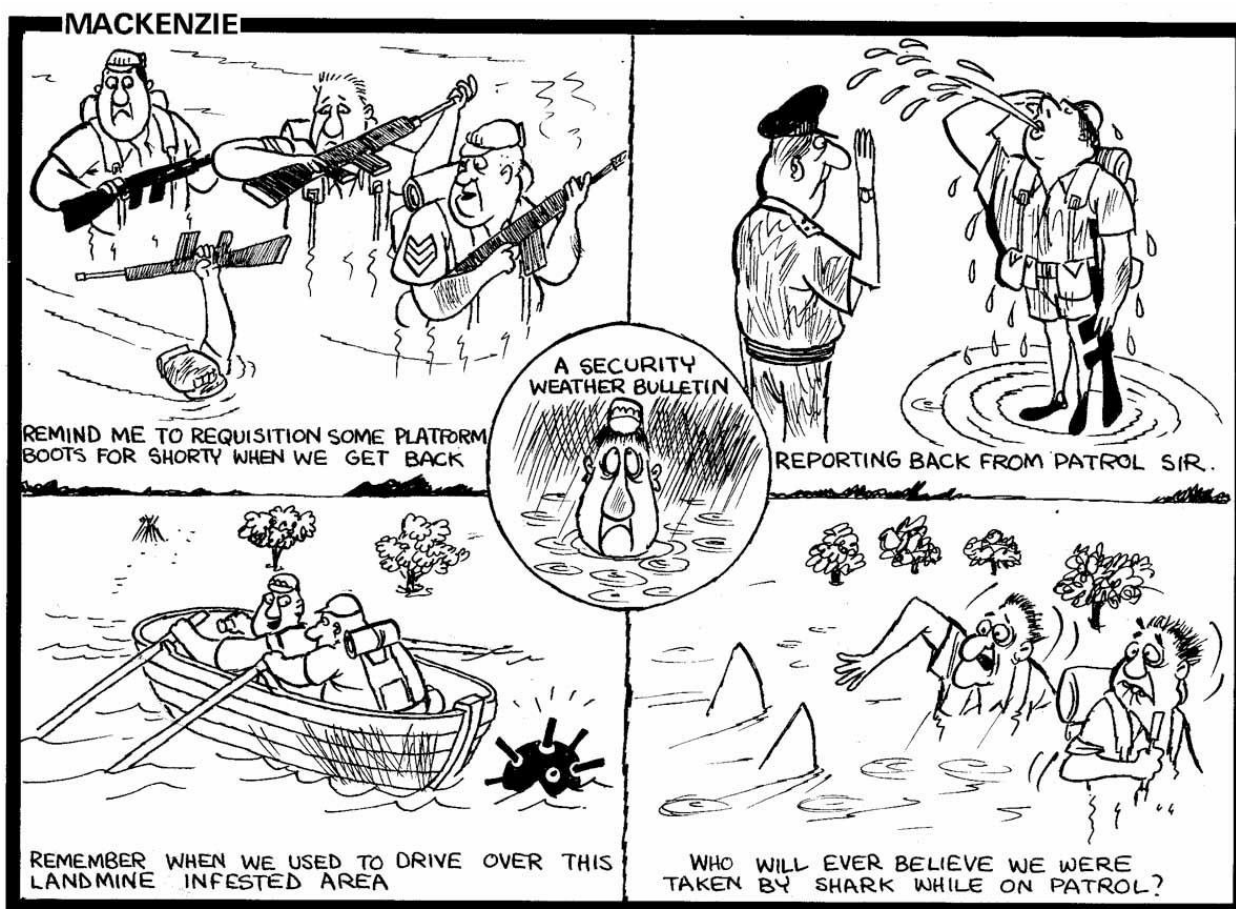
We also have a limited quantity of these navy colour Rhodesian Air Force caps (with thanks to Rob Hilton). They are \$28 each, plus postage.



To order: send an email to thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org

Please don't forget to write your delivery address and we will reply with price and payment options.

All profits from the Rhodesian Services Association CQ Store go towards the running costs of The Lion and Tusk Museum - preserving Rhodesian history now, and for future generations. To see our extensive range of goods, visit: <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm>



This newsletter is compiled by Jackie Jackson for the Rhodesian Services Association, jackie@rhodesianservices.org

The views and comments expressed may not reflect those of the Association or its Committee

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