
October 2024



The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Rhodesian Services Association

Africa is where I want to be,
The only place I ever felt free.
Those quiet moments just before dawn,
The noise of the day about to spawn.
Mourning doves and guinea fowls,
That haunting sound of eagle owls.
Drums beating - hypnotic and raw,
Endless rhythm listened in awe.
The rumble of thunder, flashes of lightning,
Fascinatingly destructive, at the same time frightening.
Bullfrogs and nightjars,
A sky filled with a million stars,
That earthy smell of the first rain,
One last wish to be there again.
Africa is where I want to die,
Shrouded in a golden red sky.

~ Glen Ashmead

FROM OUR INBOX:

Thank you to those readers who have written in recently to express their appreciation for this newsletter. Comments and feedback are always welcome and it's good to hear that many of you find *The Sentinel* interesting and informative.

Due to time constraints over the festive season, there won't be a January 2025 issue of this newsletter (unless there is someone out there who would like to volunteer as guest editor for the first quarter), but we will be back in April next year.

~ Jackie

WAR AND REMEMBRANCE

Richard 'Bundu' Thompson 266 Rhodesia Squadron RAF

Richard 'Bundu' Thompson was shot down over Gouesnou, Brittany on 3 August, 1943. The Thompson family was originally from Yorkshire and none of the three brothers came home from the war - Roy was killed in action in February 1942 and John was killed on active service in Burma a year later, in 1945.

Readers will remember our June 2023 Special Issue tribute to three other fallen Rhodesian WWII airmen: Sandy MacIntyre, Johnnie Small, and Brian Biddulph.

Helping to keep their memory alive is RhSA member, John Duncan, of the *Brittany Remembers* Facebook group. John does sterling work to commemorate the Allies' contribution in the cause of freedom in two World Wars. For many years, he has worked with the local Breton community to ensure that British and colonial-era pilots, downed over northwest France, are remembered and honoured. Our sincere thanks go to John for all he does.

John writes to us as follows:

In June last year [2023], a special exhibition was organised in the village of Gouesnou by the local French Veterans (UNC) and Souvenir Français (the French equivalent of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission). Led by local historian, Daniel Crouan, the commune has done a terrific job of researching the background to the five airmen buried in

the town and preserving their memory. They have contacted many of the relatives. The exhibition was small but very informative. Both the exhibition and a plaque at the graveside feature QR codes so that passing visitors can find out more. They have also posted the stories on local history websites.



The 80th anniversary of Bundu Thompson's downing was on 3 August, 2023. He is buried at Gouesnou, alongside a B25 crew. In fact, their bodies were left boxed up in the field where they crashed, until Bundu's plane came down. It was not until then that the local German unit was ordered to give the men a proper military funeral. It is unprovable, but no coincidence to me [writes John] that Colonel Otto Jaeger took command in mid-July, shortly after the 898 Grenadier Regiment arrived in the area. Even in the darkest moments there are people who will do the right thing.

There are seven known 266 Rhodesia Squadron crash sites in our county, including Bundu's. A number of planes fell into the sea off the coast of Brittany, including, in a cruel irony of fate, Sandy MacIntyre's successor, Peter Lefevre DFC, who was shot down six months later, just a few miles from where his predecessor's plane had crashed.

Coincidentally, there is a connection between Bundu Thompson and the Bomford family.

Hugh tells us:

Bundu Thompson was a friend of my mum and dad and my grandparents. My mum's parents' farm, Larkhill, was a 'retreat' during WWII for passing soldiers. Mum was just a teenager, trying to avoid school, be with the horses and cattle, and work on the farm, meeting the visiting soldiers and airmen. Many foreigners – Kiwis, Aussies and Brits, as well as Rhodesians, passed through, including my dad and the Thompson brothers.

From our Roll of Honour:

Richard 'Bundu' Thompson

Service numbers: 160052 and 778636

Aged 20. Son of John Furnivall Thompson and Helen Marian Thompson of Brough, Yorkshire, England.

Civilian Occupation: farmer in the Marandellas area of Southern Rhodesia. Unit: 266 (Rhodesia) Sqn. Crew Position: Pilot. Aircraft type: Typhoon Ib JP399.

Operational Theatre: France. He was killed on air operations. He was on bomber escort to Brest, France when he was engaged by Focke-Wulf Fw 190 near Guipavas and shot down. It has been recorded that previously, on the 26/2/1943 the OC of 266

(Rhodesia) Squadron, Charles Green damaged a Focke-Wulf Fw 190 which was finished off by Sgt Thompson. Thompson also served on 53 Operational Training Unit. He was commissioned: ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE. GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH. To be Plt. Offs. on prob. (emergency): — Sgts. 20th Apr. 1943. 778636 Richard Keith

THOMPSON (160052). (Supplement to The London

Gazette, 29/06/1943 p2931). He is recorded as sailing from London aboard SS

Llanstephan Castle on 03/05/1940 bound for Cape Town, South Africa. He is buried at Gouesnou just north of Brest, France. He was born on 26/1/1923 in Rowley, Hull,

Yorkshire, England. His brother, Roy Furnivall Thompson, is also recorded on the

Rhodesian Roll of Honour section of this project. Bryony Bomford, daughter of Col Herbert MacIlwaine DSO, MC C de G and Mrs Joan MacIlwaine of Larkhill Farm, Marandellas, Southern Rhodesia recalls that Larkhill Farm was an 'open home' to many servicemen,

among whom were the Thompson brothers whose father John was a personal friend of Col MacIlwaine who was also originally from Hull, England. Bryony recalls that Richard (known as Dick to her) was somewhat accident prone and had a couple of crashes in Tiger Moths during his training. Her recollection of one event matches the story related in 'Pride of Eagles' by Beryl Salt, that during training Thompson made a forced landing in a remote uninhabited area of the Zambezi Valley. Thompson survived for 12 days living on birds' eggs, roots and insects, until he was found by African children and taken back to their village from where he was rescued [hence his nickname]. 'Pride of Eagles' also records that he was forced to bail out of his Typhoon on 19 June 1943, when its engine failed over England whilst on anti-intruder patrol. There was a third brother, Lt John Andrew Furnivall



Bundu' Thompson

ROLL OF HONOUR

Lieutenant Dale Collett, SCR MFC-Op

Silver Cross of Rhodesia awarded 13/09/1974

Military Forces' Commendation - Operational, (MFC-Op), awarded 29/10/1976

Service number: 780886

Selous Scouts

Died: 10 September, 2024

Obituary published by Kingswood College,
Makhanda, South Africa:

Born and bred in Middelburg in the Karoo, on a farm named Greyville in the Eastern Cape, Dale was sent to school in Kingswood in 1965 and was a pupil until 1969.

After matriculating at Kingswood, Dale served in the Rhodesian War where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant and was one of the first members of the newly formed Selous Scouts. In 1974, he was awarded the Silver Cross of Rhodesia for *Conspicuous Gallantry and Leadership in Action*. During a raid into Mozambique in 1976, Dale was tragically shot in the spine and, as a result, was paralysed from the chest down.



Despite this dreadful injury, Dale's determination and positivity overcame all odds and he continued to live a fairly normal life. Although confined to life in a wheelchair, Dale went on to build up his own business, employing many local citizens of Botswana who were themselves disabled.

Years later, whilst Dale was renovating his own home, he was once again involved in an awful accident, when a roof collapsed on him and he lost one of his legs in an amputation. He also damaged his shoulder, which never fully recovered despite various surgeries.

Dale continued to remain positive and determined, running his business, farm and even giving motivational talks. Perhaps this determination was truly realised when Dale decided to adapt his motorbike with a flat-bed, which allowed him to ride it. He rode his motorbike across country, from Gaborone all the way to Cape Town (a total of 1548 kilometres), in an attempt to raise funds for the Ray of Hope Foundation in Gaborone, an organisation

that takes care of terminally ill children. He went on to raise over R100,000, which went towards this worthy cause.

Dale will be remembered as an individual of incredible determination, remaining positive in the face of great adversity. In an interview with the press after his famous bike ride from Gaborone to Cape Town, Dale said:

"The big problem in life is that very few of us take the bull by the horns. Get on the bike and ride! Stop dreaming about it, just do it."

<https://www.dispatchlive.co.za/news/2014-04-19-disabled-biker-advises-grab-life-by-the-horns/>

Extract from *Pamwe Chete*, by Lt Col R.F. Reid-Daly:

Lieutenant [Colin] Dale Collett: Silver Cross of Rhodesia Citation

During January 1974, Lieutenant Collett was deployed on operations in the border area of north-eastern Rhodesia and, at the time, was in command of a troop of men.

Whilst deployed, Lieutenant Collett gleaned information to the effect that a group of terrorists, estimated to be 12 in number, was based in the vicinity. During the night he led his men to the proximity of the base and, realising that the base was very close, decided to attack. Due to the difficulties of the terrain, Lieutenant Collett found that on his immediate approach to the base, only himself and two others were in any position to assault. Not daunted and with complete disregard to his own safety, he assaulted the base. Although outnumbered and under heavy fire from close range, he pressed home the attack and caused the terrorists to abandon the position, leaving three terrorists dead and quantities of weapons, ammunition and documents behind. The documents, once translated, proved of immense value to security forces.

In February 1974, Lieutenant Collett and his men were again deployed into the operational area. By utilizing his tactical skill, together with a high degree of courage and initiative, he was able to locate an occupied terrorist base. Although unable to assault the terrorists himself, he was able to direct aircraft and helicopter-borne troops onto the

target. The ensuing contact accounted for six terrorists dead and quantities of weapons, equipment and documents captured.

During these contacts Lieutenant Collett displayed a high degree of personal gallantry, determination, leadership and tactical skill.

R.F. REID-DALY CLM, DMM, MBE Major

Officer Commanding, Selous Scouts

Note: Lieutenant Dale Collett was one of the pioneers of pseudo operations. As these men had no previous experience to guide them, they had, by trial and error, to produce their own techniques and procedures to meet up with and eliminate terrorists. In the course of acquiring this expertise, they took incredible risks. It was the bravery of these early Selous Scout pioneers that laid the firm foundations of a unique unit, which proved to be the most potent factor in the war against Rhodesia's terrorists.

This citation for the Silver Cross of Rhodesia was rewritten by the Brigade Major of 2 Brigade so that there was no indication of pseudo ops. Later on in the war, Selous Scout citations were not published – only the name of recipient and the qualification of the medal were made public. The true numbers of Lieutenant Collett's successes, up to 17th May, 1974 and as a result of his own attacks (in addition to bringing in Fireforces) was 29 terrorists killed and nine captured. In those early days of the war, with the pseudo concept in its infancy, this represented the major portion of security force successes at this particular stage.



A display at the National Trust, Stowe Gardens, Buckinghamshire, UK, that consists of 1,475 silhouettes of servicemen, made from upcycled signage. These figures represent soldiers who died serving under British Command, on D-Day, 6th June, 1944.



THE LION & TUSK MUSEUM

~ Hugh Bomford

The garment on the right is a Russian parachutist's jumpsuit that has been donated to the Museum. It was allegedly used by a Rhodesian. Buttons that have been replaced on it would support this theory, as they are the type of buttons used in Rhodesia at that time.



The markings on the neck area of the garment appear to be:

**G. INT
A HQ**

Does anyone have any knowledge of this garment or the markings, in particular what G. INT is?

Please email Hugh Bomford at theeditor@rhodesianservices.org, if you have any pertinent information.

The Lion and Tusk Museum is now the only publicly accessible museum in the world covering the history of Rhodesia from 1890 to 1980.

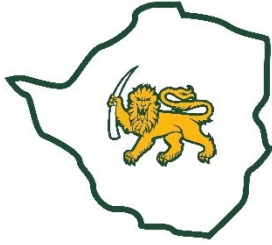
It would make a huge difference to our financial situation if we were able to operate the museum in a building that is owned (as opposed to rented) by the Association. At present, our artefacts are housed in small premises on a light industrial estate and the annual rent is a considerable drain on our resources. Maintaining and expanding The Lion and Tusk Museum is in everyone's interests, if our history is to be preserved and protected.

Our principal source of funding for the Museum is through Financial Memberships, at NZ\$25 per person per year. We have just begun our new financial year, so how about becoming a Financial Member? In our last financial year, we had over 1,000 paid up members. Think of what we could do if we doubled that number

You can join immediately by paying with credit/debit card through this link: <https://thelionandtusk.org/home/membership/>, or email theeditor@rhodesianservices.org

Hugh can discuss other payment options, as we have bank accounts in New Zealand, Australia, UK, Euro applicable, and Singapore; we can also manually process credit/debit cards.

If you are considering making a donation or a bequest, please keep us in mind.



THE CQ STORE

Trading through our CQ Store is another way we fund The Lion and Tusk Museum. We predominantly sell goods that are made and sourced in New Zealand, Australia, and the USA and we supply quality goods that are unique.

We're constantly developing new products and recently found a source of unused field caps that are the same as those issued to the BSAP and Rhodesian Guard Force. Stock is limited to certain sizes - see this page of our website for more details:

<https://www.rhodesianservices.org/caps-berets-badges.htm>



This BSAP cap is complete with original buttons and an NZ-made copy badge in gold plated sterling silver. NZ\$ 230, plus P+P

Don't be a mug and leave your Christmas shopping until the last minute – we have a huge range of goods to suit all budgets.



Please browse our website at <https://www.rhodesianservices.org/cq-store.htm>

To order, email thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org or, if you can, call in to The Lion and Tusk Museum and see what we have on offer.

When you buy from the Rhodesian Services Association CQ Store and you are supporting the preservation of Rhodesian history through The Lion and Tusk Museum.

Rhodesian Footwear.

ARMY BOOTS WERE FREE FROM THE RHODESIAN GOVT

Army Boots



VELSKOENS WERE THE SHOE OF CHOICE, MOSTLY WORN WITHOUT SOCKS. IF WORN WITH SOCKS THE FOOT PART OF THE SOCKS WAS CUTOFF. COMB WAS KEPT IN THE SOCK. VELSKOENS HAD A DISTINCTIVE SMELL AS THEY GOT OLDER.



Velskoens

RHODESIAN FOOTWEAR WAS UNIQUE YOUR BESTIES WERE SPECIAL OCCASION SHOES FOR SCHOOL, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS ETC. THEY WERE THE ONLY SHOES YOU POLISHED. YOU ALWAYS WORE SOCKS WITH YOUR BESTIES



Bata Besties



Bata Takkies

RECYCLED SLOPS WERE CUSTOM MADE SHOES BOUGHT FROM THE SIDE OF THE ROAD I NEVER KNEW OF A TYRE SLOP EVER WEARING OUT!!

Recycled TYRE SLOPS

TAKKIES ESPECIALLY THE BLACK HOCKEY BOOT WAS WORN BY RLI 'SKATES' AND USED FOR CHASING 'TERS' WHITE TAKKIES WERE THE CHEAPEST SHOES FROM BATA.

McNarenzie
2001

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

To view previous newsletters, go to our [Archives](#)

Views, language, and information expressed in *The Sentinel* may not reflect current understanding, they are provided in a historical context.

The Lion and Tusk Museum is a collection of historical, cultural, artistic, and scientific information displays, videos, photos, and writings. These depict Rhodesia and Rhodesians of all races, from the late 19th century until the country's transition to Zimbabwe in 1980. Neither the museum management, nor its team of volunteers, have political, racial, or gender-specific agendas, and they unreservedly condemn any scandal-mongering misconceptions to the contrary.



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