Southern Rhodesia's commitment to the First World War

The publications below were used as sources in order to compile for the first time a definitive record of the number of Southern Rhodesians who served during WWI.

Prior to this there has been no single definitive list, as these various sources are generally regiment or race specific.

Total blacks during WWI	**2700**
Total whites during WWI	**6115**
Grand Total:	**8815**

A rounded figure of 9,000 would be reasonable to quote.

Over 800 Rhodesians of all races lost their lives on operational service.

These figures were compiled from the following sources:

McLaughlin, P. *Ragtime Soldiers*, (Books of Zimbabwe, 1980):

1st Rhodesia Regiment:	500
2nd Rhodesia Regiment:	1038
African Scouts, Drivers att. 2RR:	30
1st & 2nd Rhodesia Native Regiment:	2360
A&B British South Africa Police Service Companies (known as Southern Rhodesia or Murray's Column)	100 [this is too low]
Total blacks during WWI	2700
Total whites during WWI	5716
Grand Total:	8416

Capell, Lt-Col. A.E. The 2nd Rhodesia Regiment in East Africa (Naval and Military Press, 2008):

2nd Rhodesia Regiment:	1038	(36 officers and 1002 rank and file)

Gibbs, P., & Phillips, H: The History of the British South Africa Police 1889-1980 (Something of Value, 2000):

A & B Service Companies, BSAP:	500
(Southern Rhodesia or Murray's Column)	

Binda, A. Masodja (30 Degrees South, 2007):

1st Rhodesia Native Regiment:	450	(24 white and 426 black)
2nd Rhodesia Native Regiment:	660	(75 white and 585 black)

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Salt, B. *A Pride of Eagles* (Covos Day, 2001)
Total all forces during WWI 6000
[No mention is made of numbers in the Royal Flying Corps]

Wikipedia
Though it was one of the few combatant territories not to raise fighting men through conscription, proportional to white population, Southern Rhodesia contributed more manpower to the British war effort than any other dominion or colony, and more than Britain itself*.
White troops: 5716 (about 40% of white men in the colony)
(including 1,720 commissioned officers)
The Rhodesia Native Regiment: 2,507 black soldiers
Blacks scouts, Rhodesia Regiment: 30
British and South African units: 350 [this is too low]

* **The National Archives, at Kew, London**, records show that in 1914 Southern Rhodesia had a population of approximately 750,000 blacks and in 1916 records approximately 30,000 whites.

The 1916 official Rhodesian publication, ***Roll of Persons who left Southern Rhodesia for Active Service in WWI***, by virtue of its date, will not include the numbers of white Rhodesian who left the country to serve after this date. It also does not list black soldiers who served. What it does contain, however, are the 1st and 2nd Rhodesia Regiment numbers – by this time, 1st Rhodesia Regiment had been disbanded. Of great interest in this publication, is the enormous diversity of regiments in which Rhodesians served, including those in Britain, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Canada. Members of the British South Africa Police also served with the Southern Rhodesia Column, more commonly referred to as Murray's Column.

Roll of Persons who left Southern Rhodesia for Active Service in WWI 1916: Breakdown	
Regiment	**Number**
Rhodesia Regiment, 2nd	721
Rhodesia Regiment, 1st	424
BSAP Service Company	261
King's Royal Rifle Corps	226
Unknown	155
Southern Rhodesia Column (BSAP)	83
King Edward's Horse	49
South African Forces	36
Army Service Corps	28

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Royal Field Artillery	26
Royal Engineers	24
British East Africa Transport Corps	20
Royal Fusiliers	17
Royal Sussex Regiment	15
King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry	14
Rifle Brigade	12
Royal Flying Corps	12
British East Africa Mechanical Transport	11
British East Africa Medical Service	10
Canadian Cyclists	9
Dragoon Guards	9
Royal Army Medical Corps	9
British East Africa Veterinary Corps	8
Hussars	8
Inns of Court Officer Training Corps	8
South African Heavy Artillery	8
British East Africa Supply Corps	6
Norfolk Regiment	6
South African Infantry	5
Durham County Light Infantry	4
Hampshire Regiment	4
Honourable Artillery Company	4
Middlesex Regiment	4
Royal Dragoons	4
Royal Navy	4
Southern Rhodesia Mechanical Transport	4
Warwickshire Regiment	4
Anglo-Russian Red Cross	3
Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	3
Lincolnshire Regiment	3
Manchester Regiment	3
New Zealand Contingent	3
Northumberland Fusiliers	3
Reserve Cavalry Regiment	3
Royal Artillery	3
Royal Munster Fusiliers	3
Royal Navy Air Service	3
Staffordshire Yeomanry	3
Welsh Regiment	3
(Queen Mary's Own)Hussars	2
Army Ordnance Corps	2
Army Veterinary Corps	2
Australian Contingent	2

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Bedfordshire Regiment	2
British East Africa Volunteer Corps	2
Canadian Division	2
City of London Regiment	2
City of London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers	2
Coldstream Guards	2
Connaught Rangers	2
Devonshire Regiment	2
East Surrey Regiment	2
Grenadier Guards	2
Highland Light Infantry	2
King's Liverpool Regiment	2
King's Own Scottish Borderers	2
Lancers	2
Lovat's Scouts	2
Monmouthshire Regiment	2
Munitions Worker	2
North Staffordshire Regiment	2
Prince of Wales Own Civil Service Rifles	2
Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars	2
Royal Horse Guards	2
Royal Naval Division (63rd)	2
Royal Scots Fusiliers	2
Royal Welsh Fusiliers	2
South African Brigade	2
South African Expeditionary Force	2
South African Field Artillery	2
South African Horse	2
South Staffordshire Regiment	2
South Wales Borderers	2
Staffordshire Regiment	2
Suffolk Regiment	2
Welsh Guards	2
Worcestershire Regiment	2
(King's Own)Hussars	1
Anglo-Russian Red Cross	1
Artists' Rifles Officer Training Corps	1
Bedford Yeomanry	1
Border Regiment	1
British East Africa Corps	1
British East Africa Forces	1
British East Africa Intelligence Department	1
British Expeditionary Force	1
Cameron Highlanders, Lovat's Scouts	1

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City of London Regiment (Artists)	1
City of London Volunteers	1
Dorset Regiment	1
Durham Light Infantry	1
East Kent Regiment, The Buffs	1
East Lancashire Regiment	1
East Yorkshire Regiment	1
Essex Yeomanry	1
Fife and Forfar Yeomanry	1
Gloucestershire Regiment	1
Gordon Highlanders	1
H.M. Hospital Ship *Ebani*	1
Hampshire Yeomanry	1
Hertfordshire Regiment	1
Highland Brigade	1
Highland Howitzer Brigade	1
Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion	1
I/C Records, Alexandria	1
Inniskilling Fusiliers	1
Irish Fusiliers	1
Irish Guards	1
King's Shropshire Light Infantry	1
Kolar Gold Fields Volunteers	1
Lancashire Fusiliers	1
Leicester Yeomanry	1
Leicestershire Yeomanry	1
London Brigade (Royal Fusiliers)	1
London Irish Rifles	1
London Scottish Regiment	1
Lothian Border Horse	1
Mashonaland Mounted Police	1
Motor Machine Gun Corps	1
Natal Light Horse	1
Naval Engineers	1
North Midland Mounted	1
Northampton Regiment	1
Northern Command	1
Northern Rhodesia Forces	1
Rhodesia Native Regiment	1
Royal Devon Yeomanry	1
Royal Dublin Fusiliers	1
Royal Garrison Artillery	1
Royal Horse Artillery	1
Royal Irish Regiment	1

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Royal Marine Artillery	1
Royal Naval Reserve	1
Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve	1
Royal Scots	1
Royal Scots Greys	1
Royal Scots, Lothian Regiment	1
Royal West Sussex Regiment	1
Scots Guards	1
Scottish Rifles	1
Sherwood Foresters	1
Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry	1
Shropshire Light Infantry	1
South African Mounted Rifles	1
Surrey Regiment	1
Surrey Yeomanry	1
Uganda Rifles	1
Union Overseas Forces	1
Welsh Fusiliers	1
West Kent Yeomanry	1
West Riding Regiment	1
Wiltshire Regiment	1
Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment	1
Yorkshire Dragoons	1
Total	**2441**

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