



Contact! Contact!

October 2012

A monthly publication for the

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

Registered under the 2005 Charities Act in New Zealand number CC25203

Registered as an Incorporated Society in New Zealand number 2055431

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To view all previous publications go to our [Archives](#)

Greetings,

The October RV and AGM are next month over the weekend 19th–21st October. Please see details further on in this newsletter. It is essential for the smooth running of the event that you book and pay for your tickets before the 12th October. Everyone is welcome – come along and have a good time.

Anyone connected to Umtali and the 4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment should make a special effort to attend this year's RV as we will be holding a re-dedication ceremony for the two 4th (Manicaland) Battalion Rhodesia Regiment Rolls of Honour that are to be given sanctuary in our display area at the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group in Tauranga, New Zealand. This is to be a momentous occasion where we will be able to commit these icons of 4RR and Rhodesian history into an environment where these thirty seven men can be remembered and honoured freely.

The next issue of **Contact! Contact!** will be published in November and will be the last for the year owing to the Editor's commitments to completing the assembly of photographs and illustrations for the History of the Rhodesia Regiment by Peter Baxter.

Rhodesian Services Association Purpose & Web Links

The Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated is an Incorporated Society as well as a Registered Charity under the New Zealand Charities Act 2005. The purpose of the Association is to provide benefit and education to the community. For detail and disclosure please refer to the opening page of our website www.rhodesianservices.org

We also have a Facebook group which you are welcome to join. We have loaded up a lot of photographs from various events, as well as others from our museum displays. We have found that Facebook is another platform assisting our purpose of preserving Rhodesian history. If you want to find us, search for Rhodesian Services Association on Facebook.

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

Guest Book <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/guest-book.htm>

Guest Map <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/guest-map.htm>

Events <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/events.htm>

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

Obituaries

The Rhodesian Services Association holds a large Rhodesian flag for use at funerals. Please contact me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to arrange delivery if required.



Viv Wilson

I am grateful to Geoff Cooke who sent this piece in that was extracted from the Bulawayo Morning Mirror 11th September 2012:

"It is with great sadness that we must say farewell to Viv Wilson the Founder of Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage in Bulawayo.

Chipangali is a wildlife sanctuary for animals which stand little chance of survival in the wild; animals, which have either been orphaned, abandoned, injured, born in captivity or brought up unsuccessfully as pets. It is often the last refuge for those brought in sick or injured, and increasingly it is a sanctuary for confiscated animals. Vivian Wilson and his late wife Paddy established the wildlife Orphanage in 1973.

Chipangali is not a zoo; it offers a home to orphaned, abandoned and sick wild animals. When possible, rescued animals and birds are rehabilitated and returned to the wild. If safe release into their natural habitat is not possible, animals are cared for and kept for educational purposes and study. Endangered species may undergo captive breeding programs.

Viv and Paddy were also very involved in establishing breeding groups of endangered African wildlife, research into wildlife and ecology, and education of the public, particularly children, in all fields of conservation. In addition, Viv carried out surveys on the distribution of cheetah in Zimbabwe and on protection of the Chirinda forest.

Mr Wilson, a biologist, won the Rolex Enterprise Award in 1987 for his research on the duiker. He was a former chairman of Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Board. Viv wrote his wonderful book "Orphans of the Wild" followed by an informative compendium on "Duikers of Africa" and in turn a book was written about Viv entitled "A Man For All Species".

Chipangali has been featured in countless documentaries and is now world renowned for its pioneering work and is famed as one of Africa's largest and most successful wildlife rehabilitation/release centres.

The Orphanage runs a volunteer programme, the Wildlife Experience Programme, which encourages young people from anywhere in the world to come and gain hands-on experience with caring for wild animals. The word Chipangali comes from the Chinyanja language in eastern Zambia where Viv Wilson originally began his career with the Zambian Government as a tsetse-fly control operator. It is here that the whole concept of Chipangali was born and derived. The word means 'open friendly country'.

Chipangali founder Viv Wilson and his wife Paddy retired from the active side of running the Orphanage over ten years ago, in order to devote more time to urgent wildlife research projects. Viv has been the leading instigator of several unique projects, such as a ten-year survey of the duikers of Africa, which culminated in the 800-page masterpiece named Duikers of Africa, Masters of the African Forest Floor.

Recently Viv expanded his research activities to include a survey of the leopard and cheetah of Zimbabwe, the biodiversity of the Matobo National Park and the formation of the CRI (Carnivore Research Institute)

Her Royal Highness, Diana, Princess of Wales was Chipangali's patron from 1983 until her sad death, when the Princess Diana Trust took over the role. In addition, the conservation activist and ex-actress, Stephanie Powers is a patron and Ambassador for Chipangali in the USA.

Viv was one of Bulawayo's very special people, a true gentleman, always with a giant friendly smile, always one to remember a name and a face.

Viv made an impact on almost every man, woman and child in Zimbabwe. His love for animals and his dedication to their welfare made him truly remarkable. Indeed we can safely call Vivian J. Wilson a legend, his absence will leave an immense gap in the Bulawayo Community.

*Please note that the memorial service for Viv will be held at Chipangali on Saturday 15 September at 11.00 am
Chipangali Website:- <http://www.chipangali.com>*

From Cherith Roberts:

“John Stanley Redmile, known by all as "Jack", formerly of Trelawney, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on the 1st August 2012. He is survived by his wife Heather, son Guy, daughter Elaine and their families.”

October RV 19th - 21st October 2012

This is our 10th Anniversary – be part of it! Book your ticket now by emailing
hbomford@clear.net.nz



We want You at the 2012 RV!

Registration cost for the RV - \$30 per adult and \$10 for under 12 year olds. The adult registration fee includes \$10 for annual membership of the Rhodesian Services Association. Should an under 12 wish to be a financial member then an additional \$10 will apply.

Please note: We need your RV subscription before the day. Diana and I personally fund the whole event and we have to make purchases and payments prior to the day. Times are tough and we cannot afford to act as a bank. Thank you for your cooperation on this.

Programme for the weekend:

Friday 19th October. From 4.30pm the Garrison Club at the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group is open for an evening of socialising. We will have Rhodesian related multimedia playing during the evening. At 7pm we will show the DVD *Rhodesianaland*. There will be food and drink available at very reasonable rates.

Saturday 20th October. There will be a golf tournament in the morning. Golfers contact Paul Nes 027 4417 235 or email to book. The RV will kick off with assembly and welcome from 2.30pm. The annual auction is not to be missed (as those of you who have attended in the past well know!)

Sunday 21st October. From 11am we will have the AGM at the Classic Flyers Museum followed by an excellent meal and free range of the whole museum complex. Wind up is around 2.30pm. Cost is \$12, payable on the day, which includes the meal, admission to the whole museum complex and entry in the draw for a flight for two in the Agcat biplane which can be taken at a date suitable to the winner.

Remember that Monday the 22nd is a Public Holiday leaving you free to explore the area some more or take your time travelling home and for the organisers - a welcome day's rest!

Our annual auction is run during the RV on Saturday. Not only is it excellent entertainment but it raises money for our Association. We welcome more items for auction which can be in the form of goods or services. Please contact Hugh Bomford or Paul Nes paulnes@xtra.co.nz if you have something to donate or services you can offer from your business. The list below is of goods already donated. Full details of our supporters can be found at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/our-supporters.htm> Please show your support for them in turn.

Absentee bids for the auction are very welcome. Please contact the coordinator Paul Nes paulnes@xtra.co.nz for the auction list.

- 30 Degrees South Publishing www.30degreessouth.co.za – various books donated
- Timothy Bax and Charlee Griffiths 'Three Sips Of Gin' www.threesipsofgin.com – signed copy of Tim's book
- Bryony Bomford – Amarula Liquor
- Buckles and Tees www.bucklesandtees.co.nz – various goods
- Paul Cavendish 'Lost City' www.amazon.com – signed copy of his book
- Mel & Sue Clements www.bookabach.co.nz/baches-and-holiday-homes/view/7199 – a weekend in their Mangawhai Heads holiday home
- John Edmond and Roan Antelope Music www.johnedmond.co.za - CDs
- Wolf & Alison Huckle – Moonshine and Rawleighs Gift Pack www.alisonsart.org
- Ian Johnston 'Thru Thick 'n' Thin' valj@mindsail.co.za - signed copy of his book
- John Kelley 'The Way We Were' treaclemine@zol.co.zw – signed copy of his book
- Khukuri Imports Ltd www.khukuriimports.co.nz
- Tinka Mushett – a watercolour print and 2nd hand books
- Mike O'Rourke – flight in his gyrocopter
- Daryl Sahli 'A Skirmish In Africa' www.mystorypublishing.com.au - signed copy of his book
- Beaver Shaw 'Choppertech' canic@mweb.co.za – signed copy of his book
- Bryan and Nancy Tichborne www.watercolours.co.nz – wonderful watercolour print
- Chris Walmsley 'Mugabe – My Part in His Victory' www.amazon.com – signed copy of his book
- Tony Gibbs and Squashed Grape www.squashedgrape.co.nz – case of Le Voyageur Cabernet Franc Malbec Merlot
- Hennie Schoeman – 2 Yard Glasses.

This event is not to be missed, it is a great opportunity to kick back and have a good time. This is our Tenth Anniversary and we are hopeful of a few people making the trip from Aussie, as well as from all over New Zealand. It is a great weekend and everyone is most welcome.

Email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to place your booking.

Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings everyone

It seems like yesterday that we did the September edition, next week turns to October (at the time of writing) and another year comes towards its end.

Since last month we saw the start of the new four nation "Rugby Championship". I think the talking point so far is how well the new boys, Argentina, have stacked up against the three best teams in the world whilst away from home. They have had a fairy tale start. To think that only last year they had, at best, a home series against France or one of the Home Union teams (more often than not Scotland) followed by an end of year tour to Europe for the odd game. Now they play the best three in the world home and away. Their rugby can only improve with the benefit of continuous competition with the world's best.



Los Pumas

Talking of the world's best, aren't all three of them looking poor? Out of the three teams the All Blacks have shown the best form but are far off the slick, well-oiled machine that we have come to expect. I have said for a while that they are ripe for the picking right now but sadly SA and Aussie are not in a position to carry that out. I don't know what Australia's problem is but it is certainly not Robbie Deans that is at fault. There has been the call for his head amongst ex-players and the Aussie rugby public, but I think they are barking up the wrong tree (not that I mind). In my opinion it is Deans who keeps the Wallaby's competitive as a unit because they don't have a lot of individual talent. Sure they have the odd game breaker, but if you look at the team man for man against the opposition they remain fairly ordinary.

From a personnel point of view the shape of the Boks has been the biggest disappointment. After the World Cup last year they promised so much and this season they were going to have a "coach" on top of everything else. Heyneke

Meyer has been a disappointment in his selections and his style of play so far this season. I know he has had a lot of injuries within the team that don't help, especially after losing the core from last year's side, but he is certainly under pressure. So much so, that the game at Loftus Versfeld against the Wallabies is being dubbed the "Last Chance Saloon". It's a funny old game this, South Africa has been crying out for Heyneke Meyer for the last four years and now that he is in charge he is fighting for his life. Who would want to be Springbok coach, not me that's for sure! It must be one of the hardest jobs in world rugby. To start with, you have the very unforgiving SA public and then you have to have a fine balance of having a competitive team as well as making sure the colour quota in the team is taken care of. Not easy that's for sure.

I am looking forward to four more competitive games that should be a better indication of where teams stand at the end. I hope you are enjoying it.

Send me your thoughts to fourstreams@xtra.co.nz

Till next month, go well

Regards,

Grunter.



Dateline Rhodesia 1890 – 1980 by Gerry van Tonder



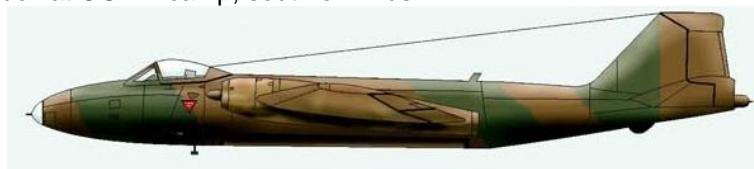
October

Newsflash Headlines +++ On 1 October 1890, the Pioneer Corps is disbanded in Ft Salisbury +++ On 10 October 1892, the Dominican Sisters open the first school in Salisbury for European children +++ On 27 October 1897, the Mashona Rebellion is finally quelled +++ On 6 October 1902, the Bulawayo-Salisbury railway line is completed +++ On 27 October 1922, a referendum is held as to whether Southern Rhodesia should join South Africa or opt for responsible government +++ On 31 October 1956, Lord Malvern retires as Prime Minister of the Federation, and is succeeded by Sir Roy Welensky +++ On 20 October 1965, Prime Minister Ian Smith proposes Independence based on the 1961 Constitution +++ On 25 October 1965, a British Government delegation led by Premier Harold Wilson arrives in Salisbury in an effort to resolve the political stalemate +++ On 10 October 1968, top Rhodesian Government officials begin talks on HMS Fearless with their British counterparts +++ On 9 October 1976, the Rhodesian Nationalist parties ZANU and ZAPU form an alliance known as the Patriotic Front +++

In Brief

On 19 October 1978, Rhodesian Security Forces launched Op Gatling, an attack on ZIPRA's main camps in Zambia, Freedom Camp at Westlands Farm, Mkushi and a third known as CGT-2. The strike force comprised a Green Section of No 5 Squadron Canberra bombers; Red, White and Blue Sections of No 1 Squadron Hawker Hunter ground attack jets; and K-Cars from No 7 Squadron Alouette helicopters. The air attack was a great success, immortalised by the release into the public domain of the Green Leader tape recordings made in the cockpit of a Canberra of the conversations the pilot had during the raid with other aircraft, his navigator, and the control tower at Lusaka Airport. The tower was informed by Green Leader that the Rhodesian Air Force momentarily controlled Zambia's air space, a communication that the operator very readily understood and accepted.

SAS paratroops and heli-borne RLI troops would continue the attack on the ground, joined by a Vampire and a Lynx as the infantrymen also struck at CGT-2 camp, south of Mkushi.



No 5 Sqn British Aerospace BAC Canberra (Drawing thanks to Dudley Wall)

On 31 October 1980, the 1st Battalion the Rhodesian Light Infantry was officially disbanded, having held a final parade two weeks earlier. At that parade, Lt Colonel Charlie Aust, who had assumed command of the Battalion in December 1979, said in his address:

"The Rhodesian Light Infantry will march off the square and into history. To mark this dramatic, and for many of us, heart-rending occasion we will shortly pay a last tribute and say farewell to our colours which we have carried aloft with such pride and honour for more than 14 years of war. There is so much that one can say at a time like this, yet it is a sacred moment. A moment for personal meditation and reflection. There is little I can say to alleviate our sorrow.

If the world neither knows or mourns our passing, let us rest assured that the great captains of history and those who study military affairs will know that a fine regiment is lost to the honourable profession of arms this day.

*There are our colours. They are unstained, undefeated, triumphant. They are covered in glory."**

(*Acknowledgement: The Saints by Alexandre Binda, published by 30 Degrees South in 2007)

The Saints Go Marching In.....



Republican Colours of the Rhodesian Light Infantry (Author's photo)

What's in a Name

September 1889 saw the explorer, hunter and soldier, Frederick Courteney Selous, on his way back from the Zambezi River, travelling through Portuguese-controlled Tete and into Chief Rusambo's area. Passing along the quartz-rich course of the little Umkaradzi River, Selous encountered local natives washing for alluvial gold, but according to an itinerant prospector, Mr Thomas, not payable for white men. The area contained many traces of ancient gold diggings.

Towards the head of the Umkaradzi valley stood a range of high hills, dominated by a landmark peak known to the locals as Pfura. In an area in dispute between the Portuguese and Britain, and ascertaining that no national from Portugal had ever travelled in this district, Selous writes in his book *Travel and Adventure in South East Africa*, "...*I had what some people will call the impertinence to name it Mount Darwin*, after that illustrious Englishman whose far-reaching theories - logical conclusions based upon an enormous mass of incontrovertible facts - have revolutionised modern thought..." Small quantities of alluvial gold were also obtained from washing the sands of the Ruya and Bemberi Rivers, but the expansive quartz reefs failed to yield the Eldorado that large numbers of prospectors who overran the district after discoveries in Shamva in 1909 were after.

The small bush hamlet, however, would become well-known for totally different reasons, as every Rhodesian in the 1970s would get to hear of Mount Darwin, but not for its history.



Rail Security

Upon leaving the BSAP in 1972, Boet du Plessis joined the Rhodesian Railways Security Branch in Bulawayo. From then until 1975 when he was exempted, in addition to his Railways job, Boet was called-up with the RHU, Intaf and finally 2RR, when it was felt that his responsibilities on line security was vital to the war effort.

Boet, who now lives in South Africa, has very kindly allowed me to use parts of his very interesting memoirs to tell the story of just how profoundly important the smooth operating of the railways was to the country's prosecution of the Bush War. This is Boet's very matter-of-fact no frills story of the how he and his team struggled with on-going determined efforts by the terrorists to blow up the rail tracks so essential for the transport of fuel and war materiel:

"At a derailment incident which was on flat ground, Old Mr "G" with 80 workers would normally lay a rough diversion track within 24 hours of non-stop working. Taking one incident as an example, the old man had the track repaired within 24 hours, including bringing in all the new stone, cutting rails out and relaying the track. He was unbelievable. He would jump on the bull dozer and pull all the derailed wagons away from the scene.

He would then get his welders to cut out the damaged rail. In the meantime his maintenance train crew would stop at the site where they would off load the concrete sleepers, replace them, replace the rail, and then open the track. Once the trains had moved through, he then threw the ballast in between the concrete blocks and reset everything.

Under normal circumstances, the Engineers would have first thrown down a large mat (Cortex) which covered the track and ballast either side - a couple of meters wide and about 25 metres in length. Setting it off would trigger any 'funnies' in the area where mines might have been placed. We were having so many of these derailments and acts of sabotage to the line that we started taking short cuts because any delays meant trains were not moving the vital goods.



Diesel Electric Locomotive

After re-opening the line to normal traffic, the clearing up would commence. The cargo contained in the derailed wagons would be dumped from the bogies so that the bogies could be ready for work again. At this stage any wheels and springs would be replaced on site very quickly. On many occasions, especially with loads from Triangle, tons of sugar would be set alight, or the old man would dig a hole with the 'dozer and push the sugar into the ground. I can assure you, within hours of the Sugar Train being stomped the 'weevils' came out of the woodwork and carried tons away to the villages. On many occasions we took the necessary action.

In the beginning the Terrs tried to blow the rail bridges, but their actions were very amateurish - we then built bunkers at the rail and road bridges. But you can now imagine the Terrs were also sharp as they knew that if they could cut the CTC (Centralised Traffic Control) cables or interfere with the cables in a section, it would mean the red lights appeared on the central control console, and the train would be halted until the track was cleared. More delays.

This is when you are called in. During the day, to save time you would travel by vehicle on the dirt road or fire path and check for the problem. If it is a very hilly area and with information received that the roads are mined and not cleared, you would shoot off on the rail line in your Security Trolley. There are times when they blast the tracks in two separate spots a hundred metres apart, in which case you may end up falling into one of the craters with your trolley or you could get a squirt or two. The trolley had a spot light protruding out the top, so when I patrolled I turned my head lights off and only left the spot light on. In their ambushes the bullets normally went over the top as they aimed at that light.

When information was received that big groups were in the area and we were moving fuel tankers, we placed a number of wagons in front of the engines and we would sit in the open sandbagged bogie at the back of the train with either a 12,7mm or 20mm cannon. When we went through areas which appeared to be ideal ambush places, you could give it a squirt with this weaponry, and those tracers and explosive heads were unbelievable. What a noise! You can also imagine every time you let off a few rounds what that did to the poor old engine driver, not knowing what was going on. Being out in the open bogie there were no comms, so on many occasions we would have to use a flash light to indicate everything was OK.



Pat O'Connor and his crew at Khami Station (Photo Boet du Plessis)

For me personally, the most nerve racking times were when I sat in front at night with the driver in the cab of his diesel engine, more as a morale booster for both of us. You observed that track come flying towards you, as you went across cuttings, culverts and bridges and as you shot around the corners. You know if you hit something you have no chance as all those loaded trucks are right behind you and will keep following you. You know they cannot be stopped. That part I did not like, and there was very little protection, come to think about it. A number of the engines were hit in the centre by rockets and the driver who sat in the nose part was generally not affected. It was very different however when he hit a land mine, and in every case that I attended, the driver had burst ear drums with blood running down from his ears. As a result of the explosion most of them were in total shock, shaking and talking incoherently - not nice.

The collapse of the Portuguese Government in Mozambique and Frelimo taking over, assisted the terrorist incursions into the South East corner of Rhodesia. These intensified and large groups of terrorists, anything from 20 to 80, kept entering the country, and with this most of our security roads along the rail tracks were being mined. I recall a section of road just north of Rutenga which had five mines within two kilometres.

One particular morning we received a call from Rutenga ComOps informing us that an Army stick, which had been patrolling between Garare and Ngungubane, had located an explosive device near a small bridge in a deep cutting between two large mountains. The Army informed me that they had arranged for a Sapper to be recalled from the border mine field, and that this chap would have to be escorted to the scene and could we supply motorised transport. I then informed JOC Headquarters that I would arrange for a security trolley to take the soldier to the scene.

At 09h00 I called for my security trolley driver to do the pre-shift checks on the armoured trolley before departure. On the arrival of the black Engineer Sapper we set off from Rutenga to Ngungubane where the explosive device had been found. While we were travelling, I looked at the Engineer Sapper and noted that he was perspiring profusely; the sweat just ran from his body. I asked him if he was nervous and he said he was indeed. I then asked him why and he stated that he was not familiar with electrically detonated mines. Working in the mine fields was apparently much easier. Well, I then decided to keep an eye on him for the whole trip to see what he would do.



Rhino Security Trolley with portable turntable (Photo Boet du Plessis)

We travelled at 50 kph on the rail tracks, arriving about an hour and half later at the scene which had been clearly marked by the Army patrol. The trolley driver parked the armoured security trolley about 30 metres away from the scene. I then took up a covering position from within the trolley while we watched the young Army Engineer walk along the top of the rail line to where the device had been located. After 15 minutes, with this man just lying on top of the railway line staring at the electrical wires protruding from the ballast, I called out and asked him what the problem was. He got up and walked back to the armoured trolley where he informed me that he did not know how to defuse the electrical device. At this stage all the trains which were north and south bound were standing idle in sidings waiting for us to clear the line.

I informed the Engineer that I had never been trained to lift land mines or to remove electrically detonated mines; however I would go back to the scene just to have a look. We then tiptoed like cats along the top of the railway line until we got to the scene. On our arrival, I noticed that the ballast between four railway sleepers had been disturbed and I also noticed two wires protruding from the ballast with one wire attached to the railway line with beeswax and the other wire on the inside of the track. This meant, when the train's wheel flange touched the second wire, the electrical circuit would be complete and the mine would explode.

It was now midday and extremely hot, with the temperature in the mid-forties and the railway line was burning through our clothing where we lay on it. While we were lying there I informed the Engineer firstly to remove any wire touching metal and then to bind it up so that it could not make a circuit. The bare wire, which was protruding from the ballast and folded towards the inside of the track was the first one that we taped up. Then we removed the second wire which was attached by beeswax and taped it too. We started to remove the ballast, piece by piece, following the electrical wires.



20th Class Steam Locomotive

As we had taken such a long time to clear the tracks, a military aircraft circled the area above us to see what was causing the delay. We were immediately instructed by radio from the aircraft to lie low and not to make any hasty movements, as the hill on our west had about 60 CT (communist terrorists) and locals watching to see how the blast would go off and how we would be killed. The pilot said that he would turn and attack this group, which he promptly did, strafing the hill. Terrorists and locals scattered with some firing back at the plane taking place. The pilot then circled and strafed the area a second time, reporting that he had hit a number of this group. Boy, did we feel exposed. Here we were lying on top of the rail tracks in the open, with sixty pairs of eyes staring down on us hoping we would make a mistake and kill ourselves.

We removed all the ballast until we came to the mine, successfully removing the detonator. We traced the cable through to the next section, where we found explosives with detonators which we removed, and then followed the cable further to a nine volt Kariba Battery. We continued with this process to the next area where, between two sleepers, we found half a bag of ammonia fertilizer with diesel and explosives. As we removed the detonators we cut the electrical cords and taped them. We were concerned that an AP mine might have been placed under the fertilizer bag, so we used a grappling hook with a long line and gently pulled it up and away from where it had been lying. Having removed all the explosive devices from the scene we quickly scraped the ballast back with our bare hands.

With our trophies in the back of our trolley, we set off back to Rutenga. It was a job well done and my first induction and education to lifting land mines. I would also like to say we wore no protective equipment as there just was none available.

As for the security trolley drivers, many were elderly men who, with the train drivers/guards and their Security Branch crews, faced enormous dangers. Can you imagine, travelling every night, up and down the same route, with nowhere to hide, on the rail tracks with lights on at night (cannon fodder) just waiting to be taken out; challenging the insurgents to shoot at you in the open areas. You felt naked, and every minute of the hour you waited for the RPG-7 rocket to hit the side of the trolley. You sacrificed yourself and crew just to ensure safe passage for the trains carrying valuable fuel and goods inland. On many occasions when we travelled as escort for the fuel trains, we travelled on the same CTC section, normally only a kilometre or two ahead of the train. Bearing in mind, if you detonated a landmine, the

weight of the train following you, which had metal wheels on metal tracks, could not stop immediately. It could take a kilometre or two depending on the gradient, weight and speed of the train - by that time the train would be upon you and you would be crushed.

Until today these brave men have not even been thanked or mentioned in dispatches. There were no individual heroes. They were all HEROES. It was through their bravery that the Rhodesia Armed Forces and Government could continue to operate successfully and ensure their success."

I can only fully endorse what Boet has written in this minute exposé of the work of the forgotten warriors, the men of the Rhodesian Railways. They placed their lives at great risk to ensure that vital supplies, and fuel and ammunition for the war kept coming in.

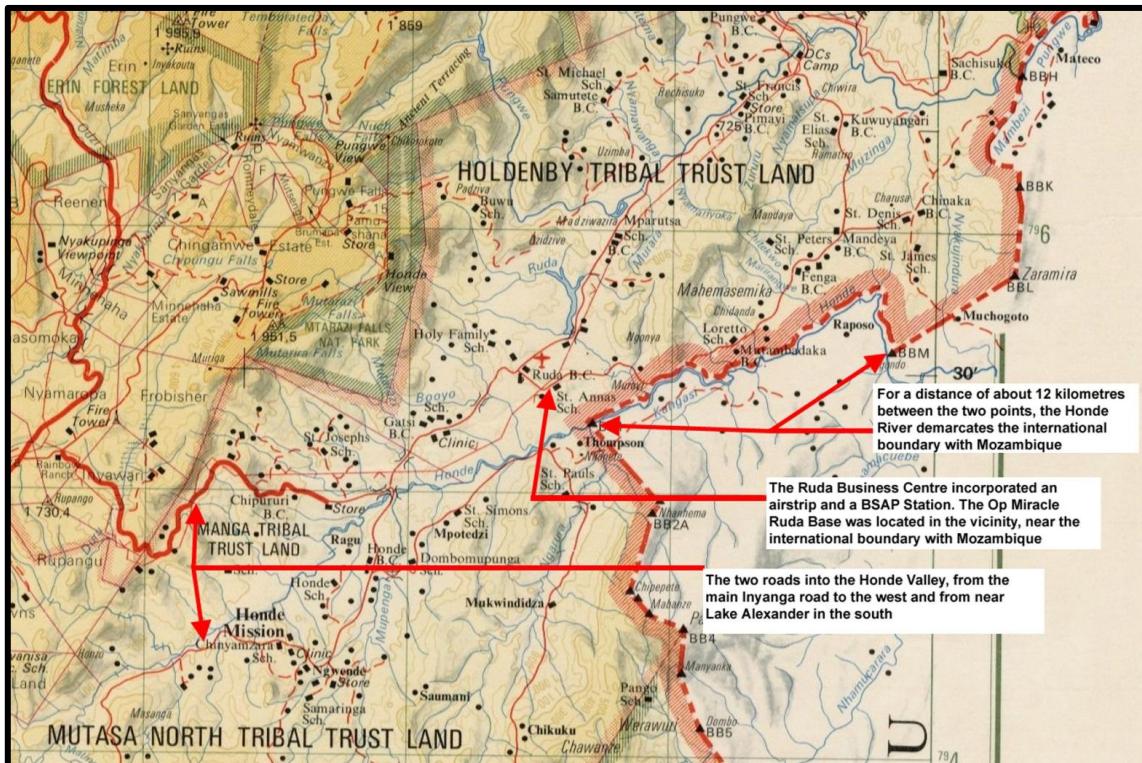
Op Miracle Post Script

Nick Baalbergen wrote:

"Re your story on Op Miracle in the September newsletter and the question raised about the river crossed in the Honde Valley being either the Gairezi or the Honde, I have attached an image of a map of the area.

The source of the Gairezi is on the eastern side of Mount Inyangani, from where it flows north east for about 20 kilometres. At this point it flows due north, demarcating the international boundary with Mozambique. It enters Mozambique about 30 kilometres south east of the Nyamapanda border crossing (the road from Salisbury/Mrewa/Mtoko to Tete). The Gairezi river is north of the Honde Valley."

This clarifies the point of uncertainty. Thanks also to Colin in Oxford for added input. There can be little question now that it was definitely not the Gairezi, but most likely the Honde River.



Thanks to Nick Baalbergen for supplying this map of the Honde which he also annotated

There was also considerable interest in the activities of the artillery during the assault with these comments:

Johnny Kendrick – "We had three guns on Op Miracle, yes placement was at Madison, had to turn guns about 180 degrees for tanks, however big guns at rear of store crested one gun so it was only two guns that turned the tanks. Had to have more ammo choppered in at first light, think we only had a couple of rounds left on site. Can't remember distances but we did have a massive area to cover."

John Boulter – "The planning range is 10,000yds., so it would be around the 8,000 mark. When they took on the tanks it was on charge S. Over 11,500yds."

Know the Medal

A 36mm silver medal, awarded to those completing nine years voluntary service in the BSAP 'A' Reserve, or fifteen years in the Field Reserve. Clasps were awarded for every subsequent ten years of service.



Police Reserve Long Service Medal (Author's photos)

This recognition of many years dedicated and loyal service was issued to hundreds of volunteers. They were men who freely gave of their own time for the common cause, in many cases fulfilling essential roles that would free active members of the force for frontline duty. In the rural areas, however, they served local farming communities by providing a protective presence, often requiring open engagement with terrorists. Consequently, many paid with their lives. 39% of BSAP deaths during the Bush War were reservists; this represented almost 10% of all deaths during this period.

Above and Beyond

I recently received an appeal from a Mrs Shirley Vorster, seeking documentary evidence of her Rhodesian husband's WWII service, which would entitle her to war-widow's accommodation benefits. All I had was his name and the fact that he won the Military Medal. Not only was I successful, but I was able to find an account of this man's bravery on the original medal recommendation and approval record. This is the citation, dated 21 November 1942, for:

"1095735 Unpaid Acting Lance Bombardier Peter Vorster, 289 (Rhodesian) Anti-tank Battery, 102nd (Northumberland Hussars) Anti-tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.

This NCO displayed fine courage and leadership during the four days action (near Tel el Eissa) in support of 9 Australian Div from 31 October 42 onwards, particularly on 1 Nov 42 when his No.1 was severely wounded and evacuated. L/Bdr Vorster, in an isolated and exposed position, took command of the gun, and, under particularly heavy fire from tanks, MGs and HE, personally played a striking part in breaking up the enemy attack that developed in the afternoon. Acting himself as layer, and with only two other gun- numbers, he engaged a 6-pdr with which the enemy had opened fire on him and which secured two direct hits on his gun shield. With four shots Vorster destroyed first the gun and then its Portee, which was burnt out.

He then engaged an 88mm gun which had been inflicting severe damage on our troops; he set the gun-tractor on fire with his second shot and destroyed the gun itself with his third. His cool and steady behaviour, which made such feats of marksmanship possible, were on this and all occasions an example, not only to his own gun-team, but also to other troops around him in the severe fire which swept this area continuously for four days."



Military Medal (WWII)

The challenge of research can be so rewarding, with this particular one being such an honour for me to be able to find another brave Rhodesian in the annals of our military history. The medal award record reveals that the recommendation was approved and personally signed by a Major, a Lt Colonel, a Brigadier, and no fewer than four Generals, the latter including Alexander and Montgomery. Peter died in Durban in 1988.



Peter Vorster (Photo from his wife Shirley)

Editor's Notes:

One of the most disturbingly ignorant letters that I have observed recently was the letter that was the catalyst for this part of Gerry's column above. Shirley Vorster's official response from Christina Forrester, Administrative Officer with the Disclosures Department dated 11 July 2012 stated that she (Forrester) and her staff had been unable to find any records for Peter Vorster, adding..."I suspect that your husband was, in fact, not with the British Army." She went on to state that "The Rhodesian Anti-Tank Regiment was not part of the Commonwealth."

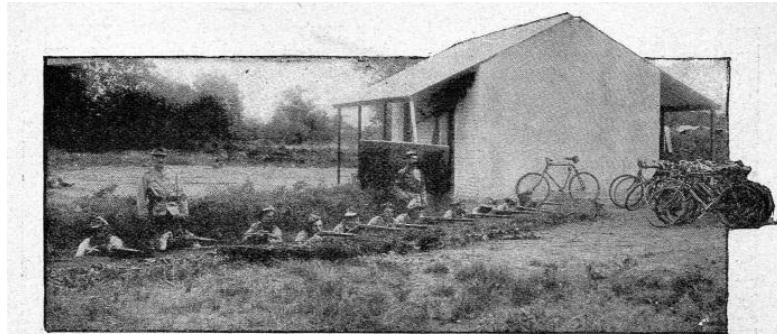
Within minutes of Gerry van Tonder receiving a letter from Shirley Vorster asking for his help, he had unearthed all the evidence required to prove Peter Vorster's war record. The main source of the information was the British War Office on line files!

In my view Christina Forrester, who is drawing a British tax payer funded salary, should be replaced with someone of better value. Christina Forrester demonstrated disgraceful ignorance and idleness in her response to Shirley Vorster.

A letter of complaint has been filed with the Disclosures Department.

A Snapshot In Time

Many thanks indeed to Chris Higginson for his excellent caption to last month's Snapshot which I have included below.

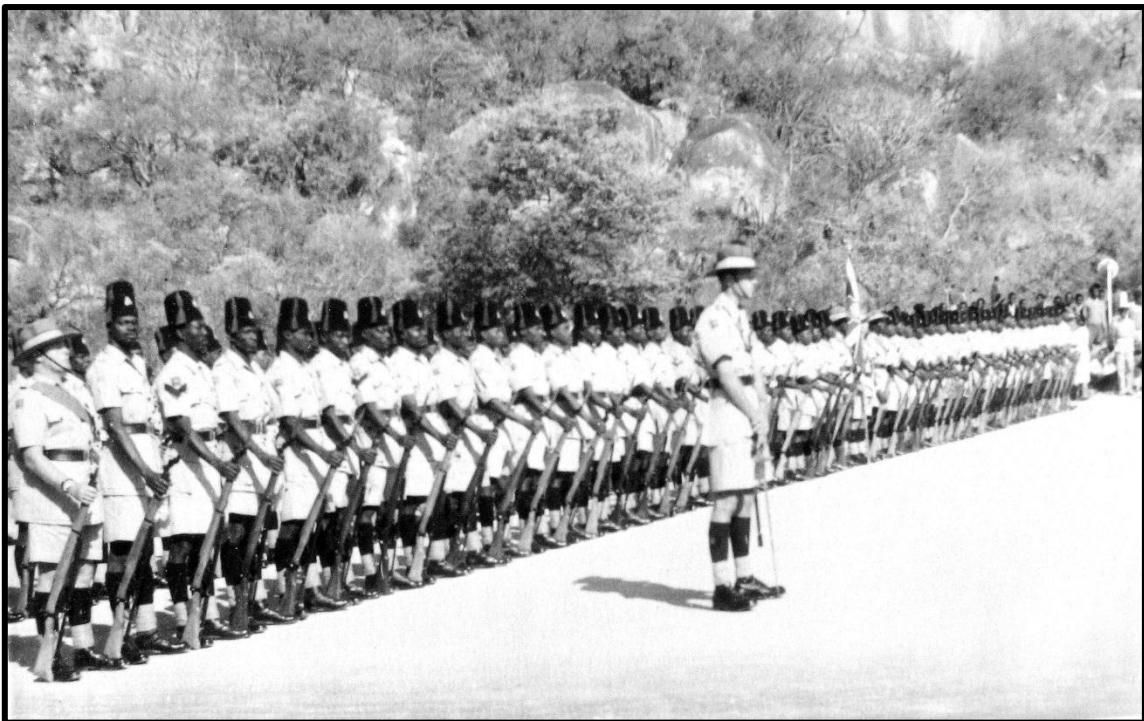


"At the introduction of Bicycle Taxes, members of the Forces thought they would resist the Licence Inspector. Here they are shown doing a practice 'stand-to' to prevent their cycles being clamped."

Janine Walls sent in her interpretation: "OK, when we run out of ammo, grab your bicycles and ride for your life!"

The photo dates to the early stages of the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, appearing in a British contemporary photo publication, *Black and White Budget*. The caption in the book is "A useful body of Colonials: some of the Rhodesian Volunteer Cycle Corps practising in trenches." Unfortunately there is no other information as to where it was taken.

This month's Snapshot is of an interesting parade. Comments and views may be sent to me on g.van-tonder@sky.com or to the Editor, Hugh.



(Photo thanks to Lewis Walter)

Arms at War

In mid-1978, Tommy Steele and Bruce Whyte designed the latest in a string of locally-manufactured weapons. Their Bulawayo-based company, Stellyte (Pvt) Ltd, were anticipating a production rate of 700-1000 per month, with the end product retailing at R\$200.



This Cobra above is part of the Rhodesian Services Association Museum Collection. It carries Rhodesian and English proof marks. The was assisted with donations from around the world, principally from the late Phaedon Constan-Tatos aka Fred Tatos.

This 9mm semi-automatic carbine with a 25-round magazine weighed 2.27kg and measured 76 cm. Finished in NATO green, the weapon had a distinctive heat dissipater over the barrel, and came with adjustable front and rear sights. It operated a closed-breech system with a floating firing pin. The development of this weapon took eight months at a cost of R\$240,000. The company was also developing a magazine that would fit the Uzi.

As with all locally-produced weapons, the Cobra had to be proofed before being sold, with the Standards Association of Central Africa test-firing weapons using high pressure and normal rounds. Mr Mansfield-Scadden of the SACA said that Rhodesia was the only country in the world where sub-machine-type guns were proofed.

At the Going Down of the Sun

In last month's Dateline Feature on Op Miracle, I mentioned the fact that two Rhodesian Air Force aircraft were shot down over Mozambique in the final stages of this external operation against ZANLA camps in the so- called Chimoio Circle.

On 3 October 1979, in a reverse bombing run over an enemy convoy, Canberra R5203 lost both its engines to heavy ground fire, resulting in the aircraft crashing just before it was able to cross the border back into Rhodesia. Both crew members perished. Later that day, Hawker Hunter R1821 met the same fate while attacking targets in the area. The pilot was killed.

Sadly, the bodies of these airmen were never found and recovered home, the actual location of the crash sites unknown in the hostile environment. Then, in the latter half of 2007, Bob Manser, now resident in Chimoio, embarked on a mission to find the two crash sites.

The crash site of pilot Brian Gordon's Hunter was found at the hamlet of Cruzamento, and that of the Canberra, crewed by Kevin Peinke and JJ Strydom, seven nautical miles north west of the Hunter.

The excellent book The Search for Puma 164 by Neill Jackson and Rick van Malsen, published by 30 Degrees South in 2011, also touches on the search for these crash sites in addition to the outstanding work done by Bob Manser to assist with various expeditions into Mozambique.



4299 Flt Lt Kevin Leslie Peinke of No. 5 Sqn the Rhodesian Air Force

4514 Flt Lt Johannes Jacobus Strydom of No. 5 Sqn the Rhodesian Air Force

4397 Air Lt Brian Kevin Gordon of No.1 Sqn the Rhodesian Air Force



(Thanks Dudley Wall for this image)

Across the Globe

- On 10 October 1913, the Panama Canal officially links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
- On 4 October 1957, the USSR launches Sputnik
- On 22 October 1962, President Kennedy announces the Cuban Missile Crisis

And.....

.....not sure what to get your son for summer?



Rhodesian Air Force Display at the Tauranga Arms and Militaria Fair August 2012 by Mark Naudé

Editor's notes:

Mark has assisted the Rhodesian Services Association with the loan of uniforms for our Rhodesia Regiment display and for reference for the History of the Rhodesia Regiment book project.

Mark was born in South Africa and migrated to New Zealand nine years ago. His father served in the South African Air Force and his grandfather served with the Royal Rhodesian Air Force in the 1950's. Mark has had an interest in military history from a young age. It started when his Dad showed him his uniform and badges from his National Service days. Mark's passion for collecting militaria started about twenty years ago and the hobby really took off when he was working in Natal and became involved in a militaria club in Durban which included a number of Rhodesians among its membership.

Mark's Kiwi born wife, Ingrid, shares his interests and helps him with his annual displays at the Tauranga Arms and Militaria Fair which was on the Rhodesian Air Force this year and I asked them to compile this article below about their display.

Mark would welcome contact from anyone else sharing his interest. Please email him on milhistry@yahoo.co.nz

Pictured below is Mark's display including Southern Rhodesia Air Force badges and a uniform representing a Rhodesian pilot serving in the RAF.



The uniform pictured below representing a Flying Officer in "Heavy Duty Dress" displaying the distinctive Rhodesian pilot wing was inspired by a picture of Ian Smith wearing similar kit while serving with 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron.



A Southern Rhodesian Air Force cap badge and army collar badge in a frame (pictured below), as well as an explanation of how they were worn were also on display.



For political reasons the South African and Rhodesian contributions to the two World Wars was often downplayed or overlooked by the rest of the world. "I like to include Rhodesian and South African items in my displays where possible to raise awareness of the contribution made by personnel from these countries", Mark says. The Rhodesian Air Training Group is especially relevant to the air force histories of Australia and New Zealand as aircrew from those countries were initially sent to Rhodesia for advanced training.

Notes on Rhodesian Air Force Badges in the Second World War

The Southern Rhodesia Air Force (SRAF) was established in September 1939 from the Air Unit of the army. The SRAF wore army uniform with a cap badge similar in design to that of the neighbouring South African Air Force (SAAF) but with a lion and tusk emblem on top (instead of a crown) and the word RHODESIA on the scroll below the eagle.

1 Squadron, SRAF saw action in East Africa before being absorbed into the Royal Air Force as 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron, RAF in April 1940. Photographs suggest the old SRAF cap badge continued to be worn by other ranks (Flight Sergeants and below) while officers wore Rhodesian army lion and tusk collar badges on their RAF uniforms with standard RAF officer cap badges.

Southern Rhodesia was the first Commonwealth country authorised to wear nationality titles on the shoulders of their RAF uniforms (in October 1940). Two more RAF squadrons (44 and 266) were later designated as "Rhodesian".

Photographs suggest the army collar badges were not worn in the later squadrons, presumably because the Rhodesia shoulder title was then in use.

The Rhodesian pattern pilot wings, with the shield of the Southern Rhodesian coat-of-arms in the centre continued to be worn with RAF uniform.

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 generally based around the Hobsonville RSA. All are most welcome.

TAURANGA

The Garrison Club which is run by the 6th Battalion Hauraki Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. 'Graze and Movie Evenings' run by members of the Rhodesian Services Assn. are normally held on the 2nd Friday of every month with proceeds being donated to the Hauraki Museum. Email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to get on that mailing list, to see what is on and notification of any changes. Other local events are also advertised via email. The next Movie and Graze evening is 19th October 2012 which is the beginning of the RV.

OCTOBER RV – Labour Weekend 19th – 21st October 2012

See full details near the beginning of this newsletter. Email hbomford@clear.net.nz for tickets.

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. Profits from the sale of these items go towards the Museum Fund.

All prices are in NZ\$ and do not include postage.

To order:

Email thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org with your requirements. We will get it weighed and priced and get back to you with a total.

Payment

NZ customers can pay by direct deposit with bank details being supplied on request

Overseas customers - we prefer payment by PayPal, personal or bank cheque. We can accept personal cheques from most countries with the exception of South Africa. If you elect payment by PayPal, we will bill you from thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org Please note that we can only process credit cards via PayPal. We do not accept postal orders or Western Union transfers. Rest assured, if you want to make a purchase we will make a plan to enable you to pay!



[Clothing](#) - shirts, jackets, caps, beanies, aprons, and regimental ties.



[Berets & Badges](#) – most Rhodesian units available.



[Medals & Ribbons](#) – an extensive range available.



[Posters & Maps](#) – high quality reproductions.



[DVDs & Phone tones](#) – historical footage, unique cell phone tones.



[Other goods](#) - flags, bumper stickers, lighters, and more, as well as quality products direct from our contributing supporters.

New products:

Green and White Floppy Hats NZ\$25 plus postage



Rhodesian Coat of Arms and RHODESIA



Flame Lily – no writing

Lapel Pin – Rhodesia Regiment NZ\$15 plus postage



These badges are custom made for us in New Zealand. They are gold plated to jewellery grade and measure approximately 20mm x 20mm.

Medal Ribbon Bars NZ\$15 plus postage



Ribbon bars as worn on serving soldier's uniform. These should not be worn in place of your medals on parade day. They are generally used for display and also find favour with veteran motor cycle group members for display on their riding jackets. Fixture is butterfly clips on the back.

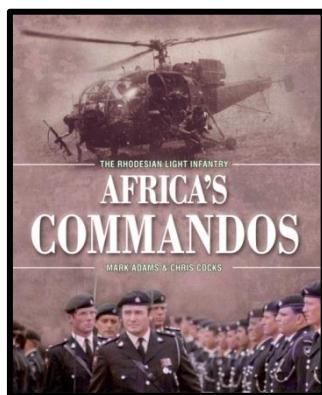
Books for Africa

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. All prices are in NZ\$ and do not include postage.

Stock expected to arrive any day:

'Africa's Commandos - The Rhodesian Light Infantry' edited and compiled by Mark Adams and Chris Cocks.

Prices: Limited Edition \$361; Hard Cover \$86.00; Soft Cover \$76.00 all + P&P



300mm x 220mm, 336 pages. It comprises 127 articles from 108 different authors. There are 500+ photos in the book from small head and shoulders photos of each author to quarter page, half page and full page and colour photos.

The RLI ... killing machine extraordinaire - few, if any, regiments have left their mark on the history of modern warfare as did the Rhodesian Light Infantry. Raised on 1 February 1961 the RLI first evolved into a commando unit, then became involved in mundane border-control duties in the Zambezi Valley. Later, as the bush war intensified, the RLI was to evolve into a ruthlessly efficient 'killing machine'. This book chronicles the military evolution of the RLI from the peacetime soldiering days through to the constant high-intensity combat of the final years. Initially comprising

volunteers from South Africa and Britain, the RLI was always under strength until 1976 when the percentage of national servicemen serving in the RLI was dramatically increased to meet ever-increasing operational demands.

The historical record will show how these young men, led and commanded by an outstanding combination of tough and battle-hardened non-commissioned officers and a skilled and aggressive officer corps, inflicted massive damage on the ZANLA and ZIPRA insurgent forces. The ruthless efficiency of the joint Air Force and RLI Fireforce operations where the RLI was deployed by helicopter, and later also by parachute, was to account for the deaths of in excess of 12,000 insurgents during the course of the war, at a rate of 160 enemy killed for every one of their own lost: a truly remarkable record. Throughout the war the RLI never ceased to learn, adapt and evolve militarily and, as such, provides many important lessons for students of modern warfare in how a small military structure making the maximum and creative use of the limited resources available can achieve so much with so little. Disbanded after the political settlement on 31 October 1980 the RLI marched into history. Gone but never to be forgotten, this is the story of "the incredible RLI".

Mark Adams was born in Cape Town in 1953. Through an agreement between the Rhodesian and South African governments Mark, along with a number of others, was recruited into the Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI).

He joined 2 Commando, before being commissioned as a subaltern into 3 Commando as OC 12 Troop in 1974. In 1978 he was awarded the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia (BCR) for valour and later that year was posted to the School of Infantry to train officer cadets. As GSO3 (Ops) HQ 3 Brigade he saw out the Zimbabwean transition before returning to South Africa in 1980. He served three years with the South African paras, involved in training at 1 Parachute Battalion and 44 Parachute Brigade, before finally leaving the military.

Chris Cocks was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia in 1957 and served three years and 28 days as a combat NCO with 3 Commando, the Rhodesian Light Infantry from 1976 to 1979. He has written four books: the bestselling Fireforce: One Man's War in the Rhodesian Light Infantry, its sequel Out of Action, a steamy novel Cyclone Blues, and co-wrote The Saints, the RLI's history. He is the historian for The Rhodesian Light Infantry Regimental Association and edited its magazine, The Cheetah, until recently.



The Rhodesia Regiment Book Project

This project is on the path to publication in June 2013. We require information on the following:

- ❖ National Service Intake numbers, dates and details – please email Gerry van Tonder at g.van-tonder@sky.com with details. See the list below of intakes that we have no information on.
- ❖ We have some conflicting information relating to Intakes 120 to 125. Please can anyone from those intakes, who has not already contacted Gerry van Tonder do so urgently on email g.van-tonder@sky.com
- ❖ Leadership details – CO, 2I/C and RSM of all Battalions; OC, 2I/C and CSM of all Independent Companies up to 1978 - please email Gerry van Tonder at g.van-tonder@sky.com with details.

Details required for the following intakes:

18	38	61	86
20	40	62	90
21	44	63	100
23	45	67	101
25	46	68	103
26	47	72	104
28	50	74	110
29	51	75	117
31	52	76	118
32	53	78	127
35	54	80	135
36	57	83	148
37	58	85	166

Our Supporters – please also view our webpage <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/our-supporters.htm>

This section is for individuals and businesses who support this Association either by giving us something for auction at the RV in October; by donations from sales generated from our listings of their product or service; by offering discount to buyers who mention the Rhodesian Services Association when making a purchase; contributing material to our Museum and Archives.

Email me at theeditor@rhodesianservices.org for details of how you get a mention here.

The Association is very grateful to all our contributors; please reciprocate this support by supporting them in turn. Please don't forget to mention where you saw their advert.

Roan Antelope Music special for October 2012

Dear Friends, Rhodies and Countrymen!

Rhodies have been busy in SA lately - R50,000.00 was raised to go towards the erection of a memorial to the victims of the Viscount Disasters. The memorial was unveiled at the Voortrekker Monument on the 1st September in a poignant ceremony. More funds are needed to complete the project and hats off to all those who have contributed. If anyone out there would like to get involved, contact John Redfern at rasha@iafrica.com

The fifth Rhodie weekend at Kunkuru was a hoot that will echo on forever! What a blast! Rhodies watching rugby in the pub, sitting round campfires, swooping yams, meeting folks they haven't seen since primary school and finally 100 of them in an aircraft hangar eating a gourmet venison menu and listening to Troopie songs, Valour, Viscounts and Vengence new release.

What an historic occasion. Three generations of Edmonds playing Rhodie music on stage. They were John, Grant, John Ross and granddaughter Kelly (who wowed the audience afterwards with her rock performance).

All the Rhodie traditions took place, – sing-a-longs, the Konga, drinking out of Vellies and dancing on tables. Awards were given out. The "Penduka Futi" awards went to thirty or more who were at previous shows and "Kachana Sterek" awards went to folks that came all the way from UK, Botswana, Bloemfontein, Piet Retief and Cape Town. Prizes were given out to the most authentic "uniforms" and two girls, dressed up as ZIPRA Gooks complete with toy AK's, won the prize. (They sneaked up on Peter Boot's camp and nearly scared the occupants out of their wits.)

John and his family band, dubbed "The Rhodie front Rank"(look on the website and you'll see why!), crouched, touched, paused and engaged and dedicated their show to the 122nd Birthday of Rhodesia and honoured the victims of the Viscount disasters performing John's new song "The Deafening Silence" and "Green Leader" in salute to the Rhodesian forces.

This month's special is the "Troopie songs" DVD. We are privileged to have had the opportunity of making this DVD using authentic films from the era of the Rhodesian bush War. This unique footage portrays and strengthens the meanings of John's Troopie songs. We are deeply indebted to the photographers and cameramen who often risked their lives in the process of capturing these poignant and often dramatic moments. This DVD is embellished with not only war footage but with scenes from post war concerts in all corners of the globe. The camera work, production and editing was done by John's friend Paul Greeff who, as his pedal steel guitar player, often risked his own life travelling to Rhodesia with John without a convoy escort. Together with re-enacted scenes using young actors we are sure the blend of the old and the new will bring home the messages in John's songs and some nostalgia to the viewer about an era lost to history.

Price R120 plus P&P:

SA Free post; UK R85; USA R85; Australia R95 New Zealand R95

To order go to:

Roan Antelope Music www.johnedmond.co.za

Email: info@johnedmond.co.za

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

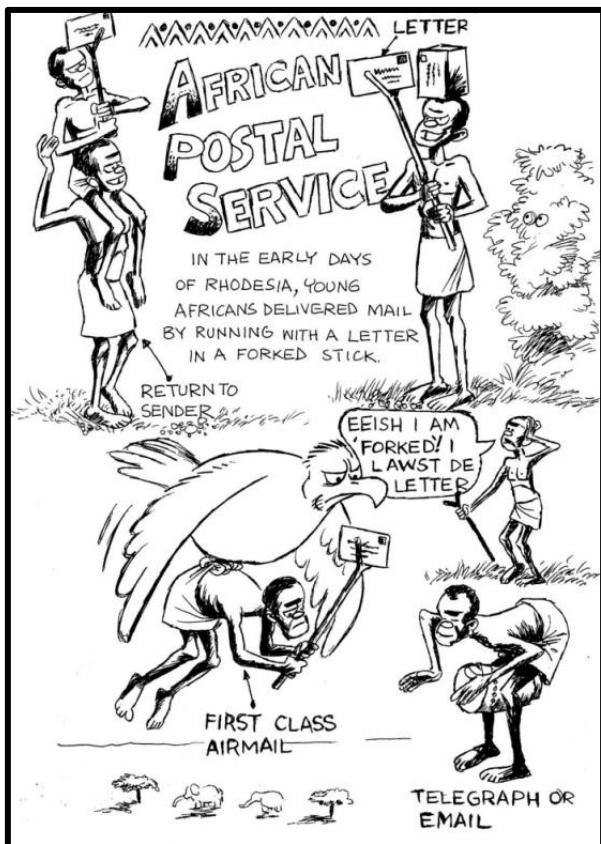
Buckles and Tees www.bucklesandtees.co.nz

Mike Vivier has a number of Rhodesian related lines which include the 'Advice to Terrorists' image on t-shirts and aprons as well this stunning Rhodesia Regiment belt buckle which sells for NZ\$24.95 excluding postage. 100% New Zealand made.



Mike donates a portion of his income from all Rhodesian related items sold to the Rhodesian Services Association. Please email Mike at mike_jovivier@xtra.co.nz with your order or query or go to www.bucklesandtees.co.nz and do it on-line.

The Global Forked Stick - Snippets and Requests



With grateful thanks to Vic MacKenzie for use of this illustration to better explain the 'forked stick' connection for those who were not raised in Africa.

Viscount Memorial Services 2nd September 2012

In South Africa at the Memorial Grounds of the Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria over 450 people attended the unveiling of the magnificent memorial during a memorable service.



From the service in Auckland, New Zealand John Glynn filed this report:

In respect for the memory of those 107 good people who lost their lives in the two Viscount aircraft disasters which occurred in 1978 and 1979 after taking off from Kariba Airport, the Rhodesian Services Association decided to hold a gathering to remember these events.

This gathering was attended by some twenty nine persons and was held in the Birkenhead RSA in Auckland as our home RSA of Hobsonville could not provide a suitable venue for the event. The programme for the day was organised by Jack Maddox, to whom goes our grateful thanks, and also to our other helpers who made this a memorable and moving experience. The audience was welcomed by the Association President and was followed by the showing of a DVD entitled "Viscount Down" which gave the overview, the actual downing of the two aircraft and the follow-up by the security forces.

Amongst our audience was a man who lost six family members in the "Umniati" crash and a lady who was bridesmaid to a young woman on honeymoon who died in the "Hunyani" crash. Promptly at noon the memorial bell was rung twice and two poems by Alf Hutchinson were read out. After lunch another DVD of the interview with Keith Nell was shown. The mood was then lightened a little with music, slides and media of a Rhodesian nature. The gathering then closed with a rendition of the Evening Guard and Retreat.

Lest We Forget.

The South Africa War Graves Project.

The goal of the South Africa War Graves Project is to archive photographs of every single South African and Rhodesian war grave, from the 2nd Anglo-Boer War to the present day. These photos will either be in the format of a picture of a headstone or a name on a memorial. These photos will eventually be made available freely to the family or friends of the deceased serviceperson, school groups, veterans groups and MOTH shell-holes through this website - www.southafricawargraves.org

Most of the families and friends of South Africa's and Rhodesia's war dead will never get a chance to visit the graves of these fallen service people due to the distances and expenses involved with such a journey.

Hopefully, by archiving these photos we will be able to close a missing chapter in many people's lives by supplying them a photo of the last resting place of a loved one. By archiving these photos we will have created an online South African national war cemetery. The future generations, in turn, will hopefully be able to learn from this archive, remember and never forget.

Please contact Ralph McLean if you wish to assist with this project by identifying in which cemetery you know of any of Rhodesia's soldiers who have been buried. This is a very important project. Please assist if you can

Contact details:

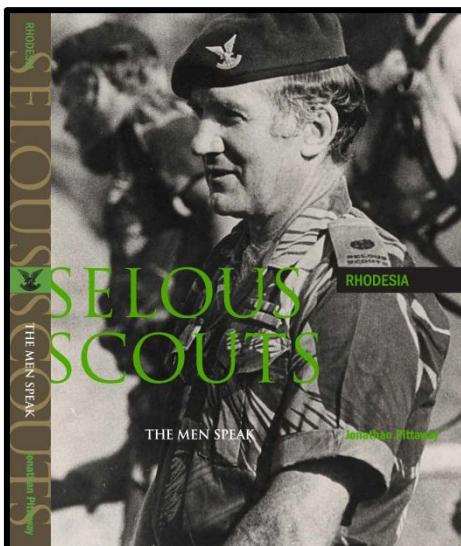
Ralph McLean

Project Director South Africa War Graves Project

www.southafricawargraves.org

2350 - 27th Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T6T 0A6 Canada Tel: 780-642-9805

Selous Scouts – The Men Speak by Jonathan Pittaway



Tom Thomas advises:

"Our long awaited book has just gone into print. This means it will be published within a couple of months (exact timing not known at this stage).

*Those who wish to reserve a copy (or copies), R450 per book can be deposited into the following account:
Selous Scouts Association 60941030780 Bracken City Branch 252242 Alberton Gauteng RSA*

Please can confirmation of any deposits (or any queries) be sent to thomas@selfcopypapers.co.za so a book/s can be reserved accordingly.

Postage costs for those who cannot collect in Johannesburg will be assessed once this is in process, and will be charged to the relevant book recipients."

Seeking people from Intake 162

Andrew Dorking writes:

"About a year ago, I started looking into the death of L/Cpl Tim Murdock who was KIA just after he had deployed at 3 Indep Coy, Inyanga.

In a short space of time, and with the help of some great people, we were able to piece together the details of the ambush in which he was killed, but at the same time I was also looking for anyone that knew Tim during basic training especially if they had any photos. On this I have drawn a blank.

It was previously thought that Tim was with Intake 163, but between Dave Stedman and Chris Duncombe, they worked out and confirmed, that Tim was actually with Intake 162. After six weeks at Llewellyn Barracks the bulk of intake 162 went to Troop Training 1 RLI, but for some reason, Tim didn't go to the RLI. If anybody reading this was with Intake 162 and knew Tim during his time at Llewellyn, please get in contact."

Email Andrew at andrew_dorking@hotmail.com

Seeking Royal Air Force Pilot Benedict

Ren'ee Barton writes:

"I would be grateful if you could help me please; I am trying to find information on behalf of a good friend who does not have a computer.

She is trying to find out more about her biological father who was a Royal Air Force Pilot based in Thornhill, Gwelo in 1943. The only details that she has is that he came out from England and his surname was Benedict. He returned to England."

Email Ren'ee Barton at flamelily@slingshot.co.nz if you can help.

Seeking Robert William Laurence van Rensburg 9th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment

Mark Van Rensburg writes:

"I am hoping you will be able to help me with some information regarding my late father. He was a sergeant in 9th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment. His name was Robert William Laurence van Rensburg and date of birth 12/04/44.

I am desperate to find out more about his time in the army, but most of the people who served with him that I knew have passed on or I cannot locate them.

Many thanks,
Mark van Rensburg email mark.vanrensburg@sungard.com "

Seeking information about William Eustace Poles 2nd Battalion Rhodesia Regiment during WWII

Paul Beecroft writes:

"I am currently working on a biography of William Eustace Poles who joined the 2nd Battalion Rhodesia Regiment Corp of Instructors at Salisbury, Rhodesia in 1941. Prior to that he was with 2/2 King's African Rifles as a Platoon Sergeant but transferred to the Rhodesia Regiment after receiving a commission. He was with the Rhodesia Regiment until 1943 and then became part of Force 136 (a British-led underground resistance unit that operated in Asia during WWII).

I am wondering if any relatives exist who would be willing to exchange information.

Kind regards
Paul Beecroft
Twyford, Berkshire, England
Email Raptorlife@aol.com "

Who was the Chief Superintendent BSAP in Fort Vic?

This email from Olivier de Beaucaudrey:

"Please could you ask to your friends from the BSAP if someone remembers the name of the Chief Superintendent in Fort Vic' (1970-1975). He was in the 1944 landing in Normandy and he came to Rhodesia around 1954."

Email Olivier at gozonia@gmail.com

Seeking information about Walter Victor Krienke 8th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment

Philip Krienke writes:

"My name is Philip Krienke, aged thirty three.

My father, Walter Victor Krienke served in the 8th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment up to 1977 (I think). I would like to find some pictures of his unit and perhaps contact people he was with."

Please email Philip Krienke at krienkej@gmail.com if you can help

Seeking photos of Tim Murdock Intake 162

Andrew Dorking writes:

"I am trying to locate a photo of Tim when he passed out from Llewellyn and/or his LTU course, and it's proving very difficult. He was intake 162"

Please email Andrew at andrew_dorking@hotmail.com

Additional information below extracted from *Rhodesian Combined Forces Roll of Honour 1966-1981* by Adrian Haggett and Gerry van Tonder:

"L/Cpl Timothy Joseph "Tim" Murdock 118553, 1 Platoon 3 (Indep) Coy RAR 28 November 1978.

He was killed in an ambush in the Nyamaropa area, Inyanga, Op Thrasher. He was part of a group escorting sticks from one location to another when the convoy was ambushed from about 200 yards away. Tim was the MAG gunner in the front vehicle, but he did not have a chance to use his weapon as he was fatally wounded by one of the first shots fired by the CTs. It was Tim's first engagement. Sources: Andrew Dorking, fiancé of Tim's sister, Julia, Chris Duncombe who was there at the time of the ambush, and Gary Thomson. He was an Allan Wilson High School old boy."

Seeking information on mortar and rocket attacks on Umtali.

Graham Bould writes:

"I am trying to find info on the mortar and rocket attacks on Umtali in August and November 1976. Would you happen to know of any articles on these?"

I am trying to pin down dates - I could have sworn the second attack was on a Friday night, but other sources say Wednesday. I was in 4RR and involved in the border skirmish following the second attack.

Cheers

Graham Bould email graham@grahambould.net "

Footnote:

Graham was originally 11th Intake, New Zealand National Service, 19 Air Supply. He was one of the many Kiwis who served in Rhodesia during the Bush War.

Seeking Mike Weaver

Mike Weaver was living in Harare in 2005. If anyone knows how to contact him please email Aidan Bomford at aidanbom@gmail.com

Calling all Rhodesians in Canada

From Bill Kmott, Intake 55:

"Greetings to all Rhodesians and Northerners. Anyone who wants to email a hello is very welcome to do so. I live in Manitoba."

All the best,

Bill

Email mufulira@mts.net "

Rhodesian Air Force Association (UK)

Clive Bloor writes:

"I run the Rhodesian Air Force Association (UK) and look after the Air Force room at the Combined Rhodesian Forces Collection (museum) Bedford, and write the free monthly newsletter 'Alpha 1' that is distributed world-wide in .pdf format."

Anyone wanting to receive 'Alpha 1' please email Clive at rhodiejb@googlemail.com

7 Sqn. Rhodesian Air Force Colours

If anyone has a photo of the 7 Sqn. colours please email Pat King at patandros@hotmail.com

Remembrance Day Service, Westminster Abbey, London.

Any Rhodesian or their friends who would like to attend a Remembrance Service for the Rhodesian Fallen are welcome to attend at Plot 83 in the gardens at the side of Westminster Abbey, London on the 11th November.

The Service will be conducted by Rev. Mesley-Spong, and will commence at 10:30am. For further details please contact Geoff Cooke at gepeco.rhodesia@talktalk.net

Remembrance Week Invitation and Timetable, Edinburgh.

All Rhodesians, families and Friends of Rhodesia are most welcome.

For the first time ever we will be participating actively and in our own right in the Edinburgh Remembrance Parade and other activities to Honour Our Fallen. We extend a grateful "thank you" to Kevin Pope, Grunter Robertson, Hugh Bomford and many others that helped so much and without whom this would not be accomplished.

5th November

Placement of Remembrance Crosses at the Remembrance Garden - 11 am - Assembly at 10 am - Princess St. next to Scott Memorial

10th November

Concert of Remembrance at 7.30 pm at the Usher Hall on Lothian Road. On line booking at <https://www.tickets.usherhall.co.uk/public/hall.asp>

The Phoenix Band will provide the musical background to spots from the RAF Leuchars Pipe Band, the Edinburgh section of the National Youth Choir of Scotland and the Highland Ceilidh Dancers. The event will raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund and the RAF Benevolent Fund. Tickets £16, £14 and £12 - concessions available.

11th November

Veterans Parade to take place at 11 am with Standards and accompanied by our Rhodesian Ridgeback Mascot, Shumba. Assembly at 10 am - High St. (Mile Walk, leading to the Castle entrance) opp. Deacons - Dress code - generally dark suits or regimental blazers, berets, medals etc. It doesn't matter if you don't have a beret, just show up wearing something appropriate for a memorial.

Wreath Laying - We have been invited to participate, alongside the VIPs, in the Invited Guests Ceremony by the City Hall. Rhodesian Wreaths will be laid by Rev. Capt. Louie Kinsey, Capt. Kevin Pope and José de Sacadura, to honour the fallen throughout Rhodesia's history and including recent conflicts in which at least two soldiers with Rhodesian roots have died serving in the British Armed Forces in Afghanistan.

Buffet Lunch - After the parade is finished we all (with families) move to the Ex- Servicemen Club in Smiths Road - Leith - off Leith Road - for a buffet lunch (free of charge) and drinks (to be paid). This will also serve to toast our UDI Day!

At 3 pm, at Murrayfield, the All Blacks will be playing Scotland where we expect many of our number to adjourn.

Any further queries please contact José de Sacadura at tel. 07424378480 or jmsacadura@hotmail.com

Please let José know if you plan to attend in order to facilitate good planning.

Greetings from Billy Conn

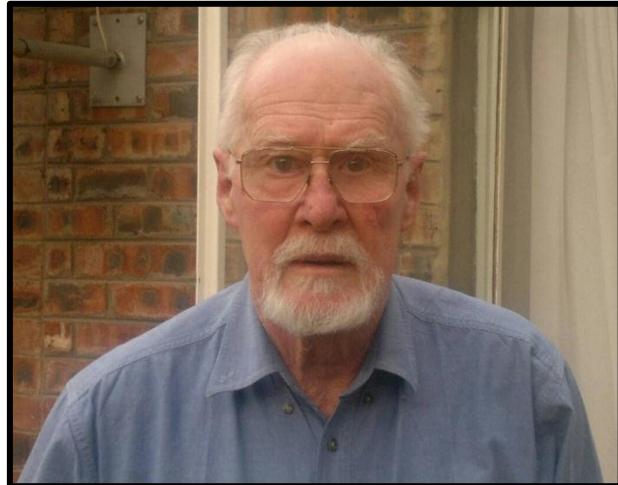
Ken Dickinson recently went to visit Billy Conn and sent me this email:

"Hi Hugh,

I went to see Billy Conn yesterday at the old age home here in Howick (South Africa). What a nice old man he is. He was surprised and a bit confused at first but soon warmed up and became very talkative. Unfortunately, due to an illness his memory is rather bad, he battled to remember dates and places. But apart from that he did laugh and smile a lot. He has a lovely frame on his wall filled with photographs of his military past. He proudly pointed himself out in each one. He was very proud of the one of the Coronation Contingent dated 1952.

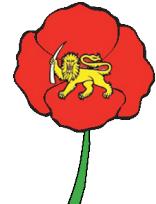
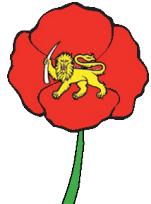
*He had a printout of your last **Contact! Contact!** with him. He said that his daughter in Cape Town prints it out and sends them to him to read.*

Billy sends his regards to anyone out there who remembers him. I have attached a photo of him, which he was only too willing to pose for."



Lt Col Peter Alexander 'Billy' Conn MLM, PDG was a long serving member of the Rhodesian Security Forces. He was awarded the Police Decoration for Gallantry (the BSAP equivalent of the Bronze Cross) as a Field Reservist with the BSAP in 1974. His service included his return to the Army and appointment as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion Rhodesia Regiment from 1977 to 1980.

That's all folks, so until next time – go well
Cheers
Hugh



Celebrate 'Rhodesia Day'* on the 11th November each year

*The concept of 'Rhodesia Day' originates from Eddy Norris and family. During the 90 year life span 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 as well as remembering those who are no longer with us.

Rhodesian Services Association donations.

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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