



Chairman's Chat

This edition sees the return of this section to our Outpost. It has been missing because we have not had anyone filling the Chairman's role since I relinquished the position due to work commitments three years ago. In that time various committee members rotated the chairmanship of meetings amongst themselves.

Last year I retired from my last career but then, due to the Global Financial Crisis the value of my superannuation nosedived, and I found myself bottling wine and pruning grapes in the Swan and Chittering Valleys for a few months. Then life changed again as in September I found myself running a community based registered training organisation which decided to remove the indecisive hands on the tiller of its CEO. Thus my recent life is just a small example of the flexibility and adaptability those people who served in the BSAP.

I never cease to be amazed by the versatility and capability of the people I served with. Their talents are spread far and wide and through virtually every field of human endeavour.

My above comment is the lead in to what I hope will become a regular feature of our Outpost. I really want to see in our columns stories about what you have done in your life and where it has been done since your BSAP service. It is very noticeable just how well former Rhodesians integrate into Australian society and become contributors to it. That in itself is a story well worth telling as it can also benefit other people wanting to join us in Australia. So please put your fingers to the keyboard and send your story or observations to Kerry Hoadley for inclusion in the next Outpost. If you would like someone to put together some notes about you then I will be pleased to do that on your behalf – all you have to

do is contact me or maybe I may contact you and ask for your contribution to our magazine.

Since I was last chairman we have had both ex regulars and reservists join our ranks along with various people who are Associate members because of a former connection with the BSAP. Welcome to you all. Please note that our committee meetings are open to all and are held every second month at the Belmont RSL Club premises.

At the AGM in March, Howard Martin was elected onto your committee. The existing committee members, who have held their positions for a long time, are particularly pleased

to have Howard join us. At our first post AGM meeting Howard quickly made his mark by asking well thought out and penetrating questions. Welcome Howard.

One area of concern this year is that some members have been slow to renew their membership.

We feel that may be due to the fact that the reminders go out with the AGM notice and if people do not attend the AGM they may have forgotten.

I am pleased to advise you that our annual Regimental Association formal luncheon will be held on **Saturday 25 September** at the Belmont RSL. I am also very pleased to announce that **Professor Hilton Kobus**, Professor of Forensic Science at Flinders University in Adelaide has kindly accepted my invitation to be guest of honour and guest speaker. Hilton started his distinguished career in the BSAP Forensic Science laboratory in Salisbury with Dr John Thompson. He subsequently worked for the Australian Federal Police in Canberra and then for the South Australian Police in Adelaide before taking up his position at Flinders University. Our membership has indicated over

Annual Luncheon
This will be held on 25
September 2010– please
mark it on your calendar



the years its preference for speakers with Rhodesian backgrounds who have knowledge of and affinity with the BSAP. With Hilton that is certainly true as he is truly one of our own. Please spread the word about this year's luncheon and encourage others to attend. I was pleased that a show of hands at the AGM indicated that at least 90% of those attending that function intend to attend on 25th September. Please put the date in your diaries now. Let us set ourselves a target of having a record attendance this year.

I am also pleased that we have added to our small store of BSAP memorabilia through the donation of a BSAP Flag by one of our newest arrivals and members, Margot Morgan. Thank you very much, Margot. I intend to have the flag on display on 25 September.

New memberships will be the lifeblood of your Association. Your committee is aware of quite a number of new arrivals in WA are in contact with the Association through its website www.bsap.org but are not members of our branch or any other branch. It would appear that these new arrivals do have contacts here but your committee does not know who they are. Should you meet or have any contacts with these new arrivals please encourage them to join the Regimental Association so that we can welcome them to Australia.

Those of you who know me are aware that I am a passionate rugby follower. A lot of that passion derives from having played for Police in Salisbury alongside several people who played for Rhodesia in the mid to late 1960s. One of my earliest recollections was going to Hartley and being played off the park by Piet Greyling, of subsequent Rhodesian and Springbok fame. It was very gratifying to see a boy from Gwelo, David Pocock playing Richie Mc Caw, the All Blacks captain, off the park in the recent Western Force match versus the Canterbury Crusaders.

In conclusion thank you for electing me once again as your branch chairman.

Please note the comments in this column are my own and should not be interpreted as reflecting

the views of any of my fellow committee members. I would be pleased to see correspondence from members in these pages.

Rob (Bob) GATES 7045

Station Notes

Annual General Meeting 2010

This took place on Saturday the 6th of March 2010 at the City of Belmont RSL attended by 37 members and guests amongst who was 9469 Mike Terry from the UK visiting his daughter Shanna who also attended the meeting with her husband Mick Wellstead a member of the Western Australia Police Service.

It was an interesting meeting in the fact that when our Secretary John Seward went to collect the ordered Braai packs at a local butchery run by ex Zimbabweans they had given them to the wrong person so they had then to quickly prepare new packs.

Then, despite the RSL having been given a written request to use their premises, they forgot to open the premises. After phone calls galore their President managed to open the club so we could proceed with the business on hand.

Dave Cushworth in the USA kindly donated DVDs and CDs to raffle but unfortunately they did not arrive in time (we will raffle them at the Annual Luncheon in September) so we managed to locate a good bottle of Argentine Malbec wine which, with the help of Alan McGrath, managed to bring in a good sum of money. Well done Alan.

The meeting elected the past committee again except for 7682 Ian Calderwood who has departed to pastures new in Toodyay. In his place, 6929 **Howard Martin** was elected – so welcome Howard and we are sure you will have a lot to contribute.

4649 John Seward requested that he stood down as Secretary and it was agreed that this matter be discussed at the next Committee meeting. (However no luck John so he agreed to carry on



as Secretary and arrange to delegate some of his duties to other members of the Committee).

We now have a Chairman and once again welcome as such to **7045 Rob Gates** and other members elected apart from John and Howard mentioned above **5316 Kerry Hoadley** (Treasurer) **7694 Steve Martin, F/R Charles Scott**, and **7049 Lew Whitmore**.

The Chairman Rob Gates informed the meeting that he has been in touch with **Hilton Kobus** in Adelaide and has arranged for him to be our Guest of Honour at our Annual Luncheon in September.

At the conclusion of the meeting Steve and Linda Martin performed in their usual high and efficient standard the BBQ which we all enjoyed. Our sincere thanks to both of them.

Annual Christmas Barbecue with RAWA

This took place on Sunday the 6th of December at Kings Park and although not well attended those who did enjoyed it

Travelling Members

7049 Lew Whitmore has spent some time in Melbourne visiting his sister and brother in law both of whom are not well.

Associate member ex DC **Bill Johnstone** and his wife Liz spent Christmas and New Year with family members in Brisbane and came back stating that they did not enjoy the humid weather there but had a great time with their family members.

Welfare

To associate member **Bill Johnstone** and his wife Liz our deepest sympathy on the passing of their grandson Alex on the 11th of May 2010 in Brisbane.

Margaret Seward (in her own right an ex WFR) wife of 4649 John Seward is nearly her old self again but still has to go to physio.

7340 Chris Morten suffered a mild stroke and was in hospital at Bunbury for some time where he was visited by our members **Alan McGrath**

and **Dick Scallan**. He is now back at home but has to take things easy

4071 Doug Wright in Hobart and his wife Ursula have not been at all well and both spent time in Hospital with Ursula now full time with a neck brace. Doug broke his right arm and has difficulty in writing.

Associate member **Val Davies** (widow of the late Roy Davies) suffered a mild heart attack whilst been attended at a clinic but is now well on the way to recovery.

F/R **Bob Osborne** is now his old self after a heart bypass operation in December.

Visitors

Alf Taylor and his wife Jean from Scotland spent a couple of months in Perth visiting their son and family and made contact with John Seward.

9469 Mike Terry ex UK visited Australia for the first time staying with his daughter and her husband in Perth and attended the AGM.

If you are aware of any ex members visiting our shores please let our Secretary know.

Committee Meetings

These are now held every second Wednesday of every even month i.e. February, April, June, August, October and December at the RSL Belmont on the corner of the Great Eastern Highway and Leake Street from 5.15pm till 7pm. You are more than welcome to attend. Please note that you can become a social member of the RSL Belmont at a cost of \$15 a year

New Members

We welcome six new members to our ranks namely:

6259 Peter Frederick Davis of New South Wales

WPO 429 Amanda Payne of Perth. Welcome back

Associate **Margot Morgan** of Perth widow of the late 6387 "Taffy" Morgan

5832 David Ian Pullar from New South Wales



9849 David Van Zuydam of Western Australia and

16865F Rodney William Bater ex PRAW of Perth

It is a great pity that several ex members resident in Australia are not members of the Branch as we need new blood and even if they do not attend functions they would be helping in our welfare efforts mainly to help our widows and others in need.

We know of at least six former members who have registered on the BSAP website run by Andrew Field in Harare. He kindly lets us know but, despite in several cases contacting them and sending them application forms at their request, they have not had the courtesy to reply. I thought that members of the BSAP were made of better stuff.

ANZAC Day

Several members including our Chairman Rob Gates paraded with the Rhodesian contingent in Perth and later attended a BBQ at Kings Park organised by RAWA.

Secretary John Seward represented the Branch at a Memorial Service held by the City of Belmont RSL, Unfortunately, due to back trouble, he could not represent the Branch at the Dawn Service at the premises of the City of Belmont RSL

Help to make Station Notes interesting

Please help me in this regard with any snippets of interest that you may have and look forward to your contributions whether they are news or articles.

Walk Tall

John Seward (4649)

-ooOoo-

BSAP Website (www.bsap.org)

Webmaster Andrew Field would like to encourage former members who have photographs to sign up on the BSA Police Gallery, which may be accessed through the website, and upload their images to that site to share them with other members.

From time to time he has been looking for certain images...the last call was for police horses, to supplement the page on police animals under the history section of the website.

Please visit the "new look" website – you'll find it most interesting. Ed

Mail Bag

From Moira Lawrence

To the committee: Thank you very much indeed for your kind thoughts in sending me a most welcome Gift Card with good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I in turn wish that the Association has a very successful year with many new members.

I do enjoy reading the *Aussie Outpost* - this is how I hear of our friends. I enclose \$20 towards the postage.

My late husband Doug ("A" Reservist – Ed) passed away eight years ago on Australia Day.

My grateful thanks once again.

Moira Lawrence

...and thank you Moira for your donation - Ed

From Andrew and Pam Northcott

(Pam and Andrew's house and all their property were destroyed in the Victorian bush bushfires.

Building in Maldon - Hard to even get started.

Well our plans went to King's [The Builders] before Christmas and we were told we would have the drawn plans as soon as they returned from holiday Mid January. We are still waiting. It was suggested that we get the Planning Permit done.

No-one told us we had to do it as we thought it was part of their process. It seemed a fairly simple thing to do and we planned to lodge it up in Maldon. Got onto the Council at Mount Alexander Shire yesterday for a final brief on what we had to take up with us on our visit to Maldon, thinking it would be a quick and straight forward as was the rebuild permit for Humevale. How wrong can one be?



Told the process takes 60+ days from lodgement to get one and no guarantees it will be granted - though we will comply with anything they ask just to get things moving. This seemed such a long time to wait for one, as we got one over the counter in Whittlesea earlier last year when we were planning to rebuild in Humevale. It seems before we can lodge it we need King's drawn plans, brick colour, elevations etc etc...which were supposed to be in hand by now but are not!

So we are meeting King's on site and hope something comes out of their Office really soon. Fingers crossed. The pace of life in Bendigo and Maldon seems slower than anywhere else I have been. I guess you could say more relaxed - but everything is done meticulously well, methodically approached and very kindly pointed out to you why it has to take so long.

How can one complain? The truth is it is fast tracked only if you are rebuilding on the spot you once had a house. If it is new work, it has to go through all the procedures...and they are numerous. So more blah! That makes it into April before we can even get a machine onto the property to create a drive and carve out where the house is to be built. After this there is the building permit to get and finally building will start in earnest [we hope] - but how long all this will take is anyone's guess. Next year/????

Anyway that's the latest news.

Love Pam & Andrew

(Letter written February 2010 – Ed)

UNION CASTLE – Can you help?

From Tom Doherty

(email: peejay26@tpg.com.au)

My interest lies in acquiring details of the following *Union Castle* Ships or Liners, namely:

Stirling Castle; Edinburg Castle; Carnarvon Castle and the Pretoria Castle.

If possible I would like to get hold of either:

- (i) General arrangement drawings of the lines of the ship, or
- (ii) Cabin or Deck plans usually from Union Castle brochures of individual ships which would help in making up a small model of the vessel.

Any information no matter how brief would be gratefully accepted.

Many thanks and regards

Tom

From Peter Bellingham

Hi Everybody,

Since I sent out an E-Mail seeking to identify 25 ex members whose 10 year Service Medals are held at PGHQ, I have been receiving enquiries from individual members asking for assistance to obtain their service medals.

The medals held at PGHQ are held in a four drawer filing cabinet. There is now no list of what medals they do hold, and the medals are just laying in the cabinet drawers all higgledy piggledy. To search for just one medal is a mission, and the staff in the Honours & Awards Office do not like searching through their medals holdings for just one medal, for it is time consuming. They did agree though to produce 25 medals to see if it was possible for me to locate the 25 ex members.

They called out the numbers and the names which I recorded, prepared the list of medal recipients which I sent out to all Branches which a view to locating them.

If this exercise is successful, then I am certain that I will be able to obtain a further list of medal recipients. Provided I receive the same level of cooperation from PGHQ, then I am certain that I will be able to check ALL medals held at PGHQ, so that arrangements can be made to forward these to each of the recipients via his/her local Branch Secretary.

Please discourage your members for contacting me to locate individual medals. In due course, I



should have a list of ALL medals held at PGHQ for ex BSAP Members.

There are two Zimbabwe Service Medals, the 10 year medal and the 15 year medal. These medals were minted after Independence and replace the old 18 year Police Long Service Medal, and are awarded to any ex BSAP member who also served in the ZRP. I hold the Police Long Service Medal and Bar, plus the two Zimbabwe Service Medals.

I was told on one of my visits to PGHQ that they no longer held any RGSMs, but I find this very hard to believe because they held a large quantity of them a few years ago.

Best wishes,

Peter Bellingham

Hon Sec Central Advisory Committee

From John Hunter-Hardy 7127

Hello there Kerry - just read your last edition with interest and some sadness - lads we were in depot with - stationed together.....we always remember them as so fit and young.....

Please convey my best wishes to all over there in Oz. I am still in Francistown Botswana involved in anaerobic sanitation systems for mines and remote waterless areas.

Have met a lot of Australians in the process. Give Bill Singleton my best - tell him Wooty says Hi...he will tell you the rest....I saw Derek 'Congo' Foster was over there some time back - where is he now? And regards to Hilton Kobus if possible.

Very sincerely,

John Hunter-Hardy7127

And from Association member Bill Singleton:

Thanks Kerry - a great contact to have received. I have already replied. Jock was the "cook" in my PATU stick - so he was code named Wooty when we sent radio messages for supplies. It was a bit obvious, and silly, but great for the team spirit at the time.

I meet with Jock Knoetze in a fortnight - he was in the same PATU stick. What a coincidence.

Bill (Singleton)

Dear John (Seward),

Thank you so much for the Gift Voucher that you sent recently on behalf of the BSAP Association it really is most generous and is very much appreciated. Please pass on my thanks to all concerned.

I received a very long and interesting letter from Don Scarff a few weeks ago, detailing his life after Zim and also an update on most of the guys that worked with my husband Eddie at Cranborne. It brought back so many happy memories of those great years in Zim. He also mentioned that he first met you in 1961 in Bindura, that is really going back some!

Again many thanks for the Voucher and every good wish for a Happy Christmas to you and yours.

Kind regards,

Margaret O'Neill

From John Heycock

Hi John

Thank you for the latest issue of "Aussie Outpost" - very professional presentation. The clear, colour photos are a great addition - good to be able to actually see who the people are now, quite unlike the grainy black & white printed photos. Still, they were good in their day.

It is always sad to note those who have been promoted to the "Roll Of Honour", every issue brings memories, but it is an important part of our Association, to remember those who have now gone on.

I have attached a photo of a wall hanging quilt, made by my wife Merle. It honours the BSAP and has pride of place in my office. I have to acknowledge using Dick Hamley's painting of the BSAP Mounted Patrol Officer as a centre piece. I took a digital picture of the print, then printed it onto cloth before she mounted it in the



wall hanging. The rank badges were as good as we could get them using digital embroidery, not quite authentic, but a reasonable likeness. In fact I got the idea from the old Quartermasters Stores in Depot - they had a wall hanging with the ranks on it in the tailor's shop.



If the illustration is of any interest to you or your readers, please feel free to use it.

Regards

John Heycock

From Barbara McGuffog (Tasmania)

To: Chairman, committee and members of the BSAP Regimental Association Australia Branch,

Thank you so very much for the 'WISH GIFT CARD' and wishes for a merry Christmas and Happy New Year.....a lovely gesture at what has been a traumatic six months.

I am beginning to accept my abiding loss, am grateful to have shared a full and happy twenty-two years with my dear Neil (5552 Neil McGuffog - Ed).

Neil enjoyed receiving and reading your newsletters dating back to around 2001-2 when he first made contact with your branch.

Through you all, he renewed friendships with many old friends by e-mail in NZ, Australia,

Rhodesia (as it was always to him), Wales and Britain.

Only because of ill health did he not make it to one of your Annual Luncheons. Neil would have been in his element among you, he relished good company and robust conversation.

Yours sincerely

Barbara McGuffog

(Many thanks for your letter, Barbara – Ed)

From Peter Bellingham, Harare

Hi Everybody,

You are all fully aware of the dedication and hard work that Andrew has put into the establishment of the BSAP Website, to the maintenance of that site, and to the magnificent support that he gives to all branches of the Regimental Association.

In recognition of Andrew's dedication and support to the Association as a whole, it is the intention of the Central Advisory Committee to appoint him to the office of Honorary Vice President of the Regimental Association in terms of section 12(i) of the Constitution.

We do not anticipate that there will be any dissenting voice from any of the branches of the Association worldwide to this appointment, but if there are any, please put them forward now, or as they say with marriage bans, "forever hold your peace".

Best wishes, Peter Bellingham

Hon Sec Central Advisory Committee

Hullo Kerry,

My name is Mick Kelly and I am a Medal Collector.

I recently acquired a Long Service Medal named to No.432 FARRIER-SGT-MAJ. HENRY.W.ASHWIN. B.S.A. POL.

This particular medal, PERMANENT FORCES OF THE EMPIRE BEYOND THE SEAS, with effigy of King George Fifth, was superseded in



1930 and was awarded for eighteen years exemplary service.

Would you know how I could get some information on this gentleman, please?

I live in Tweed Heads, NSW.

Thanking you, M.K.

Editor's note: I replied to MK as follows:
 "Thanks for your interesting email concerning 432 Henry William ASHWIN, former member of the British South Africa Police. From records that I have, I can confirm that he served in the BSAP from 18 December 1902 until his retirement on 28 April, 1932. His rank on retirement was Staff Chief Inspector."

(Any member interested in following up this lead with the past should contact me. I did ask for a photo of the medal but it was not forthcoming - Kerry Hoadley)

Dear Andy (Field),

For your regimental records, my uncle Anthony Brown, died in Torbay Hospital, Devon following a presumed stroke on 29th December, 2009.

He was aged 90.

He was an active Police Reservist (Attesting on 7 Oct 1954) and Auxiliary (19 Aug 1974) with the BSAP, he became an Inspector and trainer in Salisbury PATU, specialising in map reading, until 1980.

He had been Director General of The Legion in Zimbabwe and looked after the War Graves until he suffered his first stroke in 2001 and relocated to Officer's accommodation at Huntley near Teignmouth in Devon. He was a Dunkirk Veteran and headed that Association here.

Thanks for letting me know about 'Blue & Old Gold'.

All the very best for 2010.

Tim Broderick

British South Africa Police Memorial

National Memorial Arboretum

Grateful thanks to 5248 Alan Lane (UK Branch)

A Memorial to the BSA Police at the National Memorial Arboretum with an **official opening on 25th July this year**, 30 years after our Force ceased to exist. The Memorial will be a replica of the Blatherwick Memorial in Morris Depot, with suitable bronze panels embellishing it.

Recently on a trip to the Derbyshire Dales, Pauline and I made a short detour to visit the Arboretum to find out more about it and to see what had been achieved in the relatively short time since its inception. On our arrival we found a visitor centre, chapel, small charity shop and a welcome coffee/tea room which provides light refreshments.

The literature in the visitor centre stated that the National Memorial Arboretum is the United Kingdom's living and lasting Memorial to commemorate and celebrate:-

- Those who have given their lives in the service of their country.
- All whom have served and those who have suffered as a result of conflict.
- Others who for specific or appropriate reasons are commemorated on the site.

Created in 1997 on reclaimed sand and gravel pits, the Arboretum is located in the heart of the country within the National Forest at Alrewas, near Lichfield, Staffordshire. It covers an area of 150 acres of well-kept grassland bordering the River Tame with some 50,000 trees already planted and 150 dedicated memorials established.

It is the home of the Armed Forces Memorial, dedicated in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen on 12th October 2007. The Memorial was constructed to provide recognition of the men and women of the Armed and Merchant Services who have lost their lives in the service of their country since the end of the Second World War. Unlike the World War Memorials in towns and villages across the nation, there is nowhere that records



the names of those who have been killed on duty since 1945.

One may forget that since the Second World War, the men and women of the Armed and Merchant Services have taken part in more than 50 operations and conflicts across the world.

These actions have ranged from war to peacekeeping, from humanitarian assistance to fighting terrorism, from the jungles of Malaysia to the storms of the South Atlantic, from the streets of Aden to the streets of Northern Ireland.

The Memorial itself is an imposing structure, consisting of a large 6 metre high earth mound, reducing from 100 metres wide at the base to just 50 metres wide at the top and based on early British barrows or tumuli. On top of the mound stands a 43-metre diameter stone structure with two curved walls and two straight walls, constructed of bricks faced with Portland stone panels.

At present there are 16,000 names inscribed on these panels. In the centre of this structure is bronze wreath, flanked by two evocative bronze sculptures. The alignment and axis of the Memorial is such that on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the sun's rays stream through the wall of the memorial, illuminating the wreath.

The BSA Police Memorial will be sited in a very pleasant position near the corner of Yeomanry Avenue and Far East Walk. Other Police Forces with Memorials already established in the Arboretum are the Kenya Police, Malaysian Police and Royal Hong Kong Police.

We found the Arboretum to be a very worthwhile and special place to visit, so much so that I immediately sent off my long overdue donation towards the Memorial Fund. I would recommend any member who may be in the area to pay it a visit – I am sure they will be impressed.

-ooOoo-

BSAP Shields

These are available from Tom Doherty who may be contacted at the following email address or by phone:

peejay26@tpg.com.au
(08) 9341 5228

The price of each shield is \$80 plus postage (\$7.45 for WA and \$9.40 inter-state)



Blazer Badges

BSAP blazer badges are now available from the following for \$40:

Ken Palmer
Phone: (08) 9459 8864 (H)
(08) 9365 1111 (W)

House Painting

As mentioned in our previous *Outpost*, Association Member Rob Cowell is back in Perth having retired after several years with the Prison Service in Broome.

Rob is looking for house painting jobs in and around Perth and mentions that his rates are more than reasonable. If you are looking for good painter, please phone Rob on (08) 9406 8970.

-ooOoo-



The Benefactor's Monkey

By Chris Morten

This book is available directly from its Western Australian distributors at a cost of A\$29.95 plus postage and handling costs. Full details are available on:

www.thebenefactorsmonkey.com/

Contact people are Phil and Michelle on 61-8-93099444.

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ZIMBABWE PENSIONS

Extract from *the Overseas Pensioner*. April 2010 edition. Journal of the Overseas Service Pensioners' Association (OSPA) based at Tonbridge Wells, Kent, England.

Internal Situation

There has been some small improvement in the general internal situation in Zimbabwe, but the so-called power sharing Government is not working effectively. While some problems may seem to be getting better, others remain as bad as ever or even worse. One change is that the US dollar and the SA rand have replaced the former Zimbabwe dollar, which virtually has disappeared. There is no run-away price inflation as there was before, but with almost total unemployment and little economic activity most people remain desperately short of money of any kind.

Hopes of a pension allowance payment outside Zimbabwe

As far as Public Service pensioners are concerned, most of them will now have heard that the Director of the Government Pensions Office had said in September last year that he was seriously hoping that he would be authorised and enabled to pay pension allowances of some amount in US\$ to pensioners now living outside Zimbabwe, whether or not they had formally emigrated. This follows news that some mining companies and other corporations had managed to make small US\$ interim payments to pensioners outside Zimbabwe

On the basis of that information, which was confirmed by the British Consul in Harare, the news was spread among all Public Services pensioners by the OSPA (through the notice in the last journal) and by other pensioners' associations in Britain, South Africa, Australia and elsewhere, that they should provide certain documents which would be sent to the Pensions Office so that payments could be made if the Zimbabwe Governments decided.

In South Africa Mr John Redfern, the honorary National Secretary of the Flame Lily Foundation (FLF), mounted a vigorous information campaign that led to his receiving over 785 completed responses from pensioners in that region, and these were transmitted to the Director of Pensions in Harare. The Director is still engaged in processing all those applications. The OSPA office in Tonbridge has received 336 responses from pensioners in Britain and many other countries including Australia, New Zealand, Canada and elsewhere in Europe. The Pensions Office Director continues to say that he is not ready to receive these applications, but he will tell us as soon as he wants them to be sent to him. They are therefore still being held safely in the OSPA office until we are asked to transmit them to Harare.

Despite all the effort and trouble that pensioners have gone to, to obtain and send in their applications in the form required, there is still no news of a decision by the Zimbabwe Government about actually making payments.

Lobbying in Britain

Disappointingly, our (OSPA) approaches to the Liberal Democratic Party, by letters from the Chairman to their Foreign Affairs Spokesman, Mr Ed Davey, MP, have received no response. We had asked that the party should recognize that in principle there is a moral obligation on the British government to give some practical recognition in the form positive financial support for the Zimbabwe Public Service pensioners, and that the party should take the opportunity to press the Government to act accordingly.



My Four Month Sabbatical

by Sylvia Holborn

I left Perth on 27th March very excited at the prospect of spending three months in London with my daughter and her family, but first I spent a couple of weeks with Arthur's relatives in Durban. They took me to the Hluehlu and Umfulosi game reserves outside Durban. Imagine how thrilled we were to see a couple of lionesses ambling down the road in front of us. Suddenly they leapt into the air and down onto a poor unsuspecting warthog who was taking her babies for a walk. I felt quite sad when I saw the babies looking back for their mother but she had already left this world. The kill was dragged behind a bush and the only way one could have told there'd been a kill was the sound of crunching bones and growls from the lioness.

I flew to Port Alfred in the Eastern Cape to spend three weeks with an ex Bulawayo friend. She took me to spend a few days in Plettenberg Bay. I thought I had died and gone to heaven when I saw our accommodation, which was the holiday flat belonging to her daughter. What a marvellous view from the patio – oh what luxury! The flight to London was marred a bit by the fact that our flight was cancelled at the last moment so we only left Johannesburg 12 hours later, but in the true African fashion no one announced anything so one was left very much to one's own devices. However they did provide hotel rooms for the night. It was great to spend the next 3 months in the heart of the family.

The grandchildren found me very old fashioned, I am so unfamiliar with modern technology. I did try to play a game of tennis on Wii on the television - that was amazing.

On the first weekend my son-in-law Stephen took me to find the place where my father had lived as a boy. It was in Southborne. Unfortunately the home had gone but we managed to find the street where it had been. The next morning Chantry & Stephen took me to Isabella's Plantation which is a magnificent Rhododendron & Azalea Park, it was in full bloom and quite spectacular. Late in

the visit Stephen, Chantry & I drove up to the Morecombe & Lancashire and we found the actual house where my mother was born. We met a lady in a place called Lonsdale and she had written out the census by hand so she found further information about my Mother's grandparents and we found the actual house they had lived in about 1843. Of course we got all excited when we saw a beautiful manor house with roses creeping around the front door but that was not the right house, the one our predecessors lived in was a lodging house across the road. So we had to bring ourselves down a peg or two!

I absolutely love Scotland and Chantry and I went up to Helensborough outside Glasgow. What a picturesque area. We were taken to a village called Luss. I wonder if any of you readers ever watched a Scottish soapie called "Take the High Road", well it was filmed there and I went into the local village shop owned by Isabel in the film. I also spent time with a friend who had lived next door to me 56 years ago. She lives in Perth, Scotland and I was taken to see some lovely country and one of the places where we stopped for tea was called Aberfeldy. I also visited friends in Maidstone who showed me the Pilgrim's way which of course took me to Canterbury and I saw the wonderful cathedral and the spot where Thomas A Becket was murdered. Other friends who lived in Hadamere showed me round the famous Wisley Gardens and then took me on to Arundel Castle. There were so many beautiful treasures to see in there and we watched some jousting.

I spent a delightful day in London with a girl I was bridesmaid to in 1952. Her son-in-law is the manager of the Dorchester Hotel, so had a very sumptuous meal there and then went on to see the latest stage hit called "The War Horse". It was unforgettable. When I mentioned it to the manager of His Majesty's Theatre here in Perth, he said he was looking to perhaps having it produced in Perth sometime.

The highlight of my London visit was my grandson's 21st birthday party. Chantry & Stephen had hired a Moroccan tent which was



erected in their garden. It was very beautiful with its many exotic coloured cushions and we were served a Moroccan meal.



At 7.30am there was a knock at the door and when Stephen answered it there was a young man there who said he'd come to guard the party from gate crashers, of course Stephen said to him "What party is at 7.30am?" so the poor guy had to go all the way back to Essex where he lived and return that evening. The other funny thing that happened was when Chantry opened the door to take delivery of the cake, she was shocked. The cake had Koala Bears and Australian flags on it! When the delivery man saw her face he said, is there something wrong, so she said it is supposed to be African. He apologized and went back to the delivery van and found the right cake. It was so lovely, made in the shape of Africa with all the wild animals on it.

I left London just after that and returned to my little home in the West. As you can imagine I found it hard to settle down after being so spoiled for so long by my dear family.

Sylvia Holborn

-ooOoo-

Outpost May 1977

Ex-NSPO Charles Galloway (Perth), lent me a copy of the above Outpost which he felt may contain articles of interest to our readers.

Well, surprise surprise, I came across a photo of our own Lew Whitmore receiving a Silver Baton Commendation for bravery for Deputy Commissioner Len Jouning. Belated congratulations Lew – Ed

Bravo for Bulawayo

OUR MARCH ISSUE featured the gallantry awards awarded to policemen for their bravery on operational duties. Before continuing this month's tour of stations, we'll stay with our previous correspondent's expression of pride with coverage of the award of Commissioner's Commendations to eight Matabeleland policemen recently.

Insp Lew Whitmore after receiving his Silver Baton Commendation from Deputy Commissioner L. J. Jouning on 1 April.



4



SWEET BANANA

Mike Laing (brother of 6253 Ian Laing)

As I passed the pulsating lights of a music shop in a crowded shopping mall I recognized the melody spilling out of its speakers.

The music entered my head and reached into my soul.

“Sweet Banana”

The roar of the human mass around me faded as I recalled another time, some twenty years ago, different in every way to my present life.

The sun had just set and as the warm gold faded, clouds merged into the darkening sky above. The evening haze of dust and pollen thickened and a sense of peace pervaded. Considering the day we had just experienced, this was saying something.

Easing myself onto my haunches, I laid my rifle down on the ground beside me and gazed down the runway. I could still hear the strains of “Sweet Banana” as the last members of the platoon jogged out of sight where the warm tarmac dipped away down the hill. The airfield itself was on a slope that, if followed northward for another 100 kilometres would take one to the banks of the Zambezi River. The essence of that moment has stayed with me over the passing years. They were young men, barely out of their village schools some of them, now stripped down to their camouflage longs and boots. They were physically strong and their black torsos were dark against the horizon. Mustered at the highest point of the tarmac runway, they had grasped their rifles in the carry position, joking quietly amongst themselves. Then one of them started their regimental song and gradually the rest joined in. Their officers swivelled them into columns and they set off, jogging away from me, singing clearly, the rich harmonies of their base and baritone voices seeming to resonate off the surrounding dusty thorn scrub.

“A B C D E Headquarters I will buy you a sweet banana,

A B C D E Headquarters I will buy you a sweet banana.”

The words referred to the name of each company and had its beginning in 1942 when they were known as the Rhodesian African Rifles. Then they had been en route to Durban, to collect Italian prisoners-of-war to be interned in Rhodesia, as it was called. On the train down to the coast the troops discovered bananas in quantities they had never seen in their own rural villages. At every little stop they jumped off the train to buy more of the succulent fruit from the small stores that lined the tracks. From that time on, “Sweet Banana” accompanied them into all their military campaigns.

Now it was some 35 years later and C Company had landed at this forward airbase from where they would deploy on a dangerous operation in the early hours of the following morning. This was now however and, for the young, tomorrow is a lifetime away. Their youth and vigour was vibrant in their singing and their future poignant as they disappeared from sight and the sounds of their voices became hushed.

As I moved into the position where I would stand guard for the next six hours I was conscious of the frailty of the existence of every young man in the military at that time. I was older than most and could no longer share their careless attitude to their own lives. What had started as a normal day, in military terms, had, at around noon, developed with frightening inevitability into disaster. An aircraft appeared on the horizon and it became apparent that something was terribly wrong. As it flew slowly overhead at low altitude the full impact of its plight became clear. One of the bombs had failed to release and now dangled from the wing, the armed nose cone aligned with the lowered wheels. When the aircraft landed it seemed inevitable that the bomb must strike the ground and explode. There seemed little hope of survival for the pilot. As it flew away from us it desperately waggled its wings but still the bomb would not release.



The doomed craft flew around again and the experts gazed upward, then shook their heads and orders were given to clear the airbase of all but essential personnel. The aged fire tender was parked at the end of the runway and a sense of nervous apprehension pervaded the camp. The plane, a twin boomed Lynx, had been adapted to carry an armament of two small bombs and two stacks of rockets. The camp commander decided that, in order to reduce the damage to the airfield, the pilot should seek a deserted area and jettison the remaining rockets and fuel, before attempting to land. There was the faint hope that the cone of the dangling bomb would not strike the ground when the plane touched down and bounced its way to a standstill. There was no way that anyone on the ground could help the pilot and planes were too valuable to abandon in mid-air.

The minutes ticked by and he re-appeared for another low pass. We could see that the wing racks were now empty except for the bomb that still hung there, a direct challenge to the skill and ingenuity of the lonely pilot. He banked away and started what had to be his final attempt to land the plane. There was no sound in the camp as we watched the wide circuit he followed, dipping out of sight into the shallow valley on the northern side of the airfield. Abruptly he came into view again and we were shocked to see him so low that he seemed to touch the tops of the stubby thorn trees.

At first we could hear nothing. Even the insect world was stilled in the tense silence. Then came the drone of the two engines, steady in their beat but awesome in the finality of their approach. The wheels were down for landing, as was the bomb. Closer and closer it came and I think most of us instinctively crouched lower behind our chosen places of cover. I held my breath, horrified by what must inevitable occur but too fascinated to close my eyes on the unfolding drama.

As the plane crossed the runway threshold it seemed to touch down, but no, the pilot held it clear, a mere meter above the ground. As it passed in front of our positions we realized it must have touched but, so gently did those wheels

kiss the earth, we couldn't be sure. It was only when the plane had stopped at the far end of the tarmac that there was a universal gasp of relief. The cockpit slid open and the pilot jumped down and raced for shelter. A shocked silence took the place of the anticipated explosion and then the tenseness of the moment was past. We returned to our work places, chattering loudly and making our way to congratulate the lucky pilot.

Early next morning though, I heard the rumble as the transports took off, carrying the young soldiers to their next engagement and uncertain future. In the evening I again found myself doing guard duty alongside the deserted runway. It was silent now but in my head, and ever after, I can hear them singing,

"Banana, Banana, Banana, I will buy you a sweet banana."

They were gone from view and I would see them no more but the companionship in their singing will continue forever, in that brutish war and in the others still to come.

"Shield, spear and knobkerrie, soldiers in war and peace

In war he fights with bravery, I will buy you a sweet banana"

Mike Laing

-ooOoo-

"Blue & Old Gold - The History of the British South Africa Police"

"Blue & Old Gold - The History of the British South Africa Police" has been published in South Africa by 30 Degrees Publishing and will be available for delivery in Australia from early January. It is a late Christmas present because, due to the massive editing process by Rhodesian historian, professor Richard Woods, it was more important to confirm the tens of thousands of photograph, chronologic and editorial events than release it prematurely for commercial reasons. The publisher apologises for the short delay.



The pictorial contains Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the 2000 publication with Gibbs' and Phillips' history, which I published, plus scores of personal stories from former members, more than 900 unpublished photographs, a full nominal roll, the BSAP Roll of Honour and dozens of Dick Hamley's colour plates, including many previously unseen. It can fairly be described as the final and definitive record of the force.



The UK and SA regimental association branches have negotiated a discount from the retail price for orders they gather from their members and, as Australian distributor, I'm very happy to pass on similar savings to both of our branch's members.

The cost to Association members is the retail rate (Aud\$95.00) less 20% = \$76.00 + \$14.50 p&p = \$90.50.

The leather bound editions have all been sold.

Please contact the co-author Nick Russell at natsai9596@bigpond.com

With very best wishes.

Nick Russell (ex-C881/9596)

(Editor's comment: I have purchased a copy and think it is really excellent. A true record of what the BSAP was all about. Anyone who served in the Force should have a copy on their bookshelf - Kerry Hoadley)

-ooOoo-

BOOKS of the BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA POLICE



'Books of the British South Africa Police' is a series designed with the threefold object of: recording previously unpublished stories by members of the B.S.A.P. written over half a century ago, before they are lost forever: republishing stories and memoirs which appeared in old magazines, which are now not readily accessible to the ordinary reader: enabling former members, who may not be familiar with the distinguished history of their Regiment, to learn how earlier generations of their colleagues lived and worked.

The Series comprises:

- Volume One: *Origins and Early History (Bussy)*
 - Volume Two: *Zambesi Patrol*
 - Volume Three: *Sunrise Patrols*
 - Volume Four: *Down the Decades with the B.S.A.P.*
 - Volume Five: *Not Without Incident*
 - Volume Six: *Life and Complete Works, Tpr. Eben Mocke*
 - Volume Seven: *Military Operations in World Wars One & Two*
 - Volume Eight: *Troopers' Tales of the B.S.A.P.*
- (dedicated to the memory of Mike Leach)*
- Volume Nine: *Commanding the Regiment*

Volumes One to Seven have already been published in first edition as Outpost Memorables.



A description of each book is mentioned hereunder.

The books are available from UK Branch QRep, Bertie Cubitt, orders by email to: bsapuk2@aol.com or by post to:

“Fritton”, 55 Church Road, Elmstead, Colchester, Essex, CO7 7AW.

Postage and packing are additional costs which can only be determined once an order has been placed.

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Obituary

It is with regret that we learned of the death of **Timothy James ‘Jimmy’ Collins** who died on 26 April 2010 at Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Jimmy served in the force between July 1948 and September 1978.

Prior to joining the force he had seen active service in the Royal Air Force, No. 75 (New Zealand) Bomber Squadron, during the Second World War. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal. His initial postings in the force were to Bulawayo. He was commissioned in 1966 and transferred to the Salisbury South District.

Jimmy also served at PGHQ as Staff Officer (Police Reserve) and in May 1976, then with the rank of Assistant Commissioner, took command of the BSA Police Support Unit, where he remained until his retirement. He was awarded the PMM in November 1975.

Jimmy was a keen sportsman, playing cricket and soccer, the latter for which he was a first grade referee. He was a member of the Natal Midlands Branch of the Regimental Association. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his wife, Joan, family and friends, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Andrew Field

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Fay Marshall on Saturday the 6th of March 2010 in Pietermaritzburg. Fay had been battling cancer for many years, and made a valiant effort to attend our annual lunch in November last year at the Hilton Hotel.

Fay was the widow of **4805 Oliver Dennis** Marshall who could certainly be counted as one of the real characters of the Force. To Fay's daughter Debbie, son in law Dean, grand daughter Chelsea and grandson James, the Natal Midlands Branch of the British South Africa Police Regimental Association extend our heartfelt condolences.

Special mention needs to be made of the devotion and care Stan Ferguson (Ex "A" Reservist Que Que Central) gave to Fay since the passing of Dennis, you certainly went well beyond the call of duty, thank you Stan.

(From Natal Midlands Branch)

-ooOoo-



Roll of Honour

Force No.	Forename	Name	Place	Date
3531	Cave	James	UK	15/05/2010
0445	Roy	Robinson	Durban	14/2/2010
4642	David	Hounsfield	Eastern Cape	7/5/2010
7530	Norman	Nimmo	Nelspruit, SA	3/5/2010
3921	Bill	Earle	UK	1/5/2010
F/R	Mike	Leask	Que Que	April 2010
F/R 13399	Gerald	Spanton	OFS	12/4/2010
4307	Jimmy	Collins	Natal	26/4/2010
P/R Air wing	Phil	Palmer	Natal	27/03/2010
4250	Andrew	Dixon	Natal	28/3/2010
4332	Peter	Short	UK	29/11/2009
4037	Bernard	Cavey	UK	30/1/2010
5879	Dave	Stow	Port Elizabeth	1/2/2010
8581	Jim	Van Dyk	Natal	23/1/2010
6147	Tony	Anderson	Cape Town	17/1/2010
4797	John	Hardie	Natal	13/11/2009
3657	Anthony	Godwin	Johannesburg	7/9/2009
3976	Taffy	Morgan	Harare	7/1/2010
A220	Tony	Brown	UK	29/12/2009
F/R	Aubrey	Ingham	SA	12/12/2010
3657	Alan	Godwin	SA	7/12/2009
110856	Keith	Williams	Johannesburg	9/12/2009
4822	James	Beale	France	5/11/2009
WP223	Suzanne	Groenewald (nee Law)	Cape Town	30/10/2009
5850	Robert	Vincent	Durban	2/12/2009
5520	John	Lathe	Natal	30/11/2009



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Views expressed in this Outpost are not necessarily those of the Australian Regimental Association