Chairman’s Chat

My last Chairman’s Chat was written onboard ship en-route from Sydney to Dover. In it I mentioned that Laurie and I would be visiting the BSAP Memorial in the National Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire. Visit we did and we were most impressed by the memorial and many of the other service memorials and campaign memorials which are located there. If you visit the UK I recommend you put a visit on your must do list.

Our visit to the memorial coincided with the UK branch annual braai. This year it was held at the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall in Shropshire. Lilleshall is only about a half hour drive from Alrewas. About 60 people, consisting of members and partners, attended the braai and that included a number of visitors from overseas. I was expecting there to be more attendees. Several of the people I talked to have former colleagues resident in Australia, whom they have lost contact with. I was asked to try to make contact with them but that is proving to be a difficult task as none of them are members of our branch.

I was pleased to note that the UK branch does take the welfare provisions of the Regimental Association’s constitution seriously. A number of local networks are in existence and these ensure that contacts are made with members who are unwell, are experiencing transport difficulties and generally in need of some assistance. The UK does, like Australia, have established social security services in place and these are the first port of call to people needing financial and other forms of assistance. BSAP welfare services will always be supplementary to those provided by Government because of the extent of financial and human resources they have available to provide assistance. It must be difficult for our branches in Zimbabwe and South Africa to meet their obligations because of the lack of government assistance available.

Australia is a country synonymous with natural disasters and some of our members have lost their homes and possessions as a result of fires and floods from cyclones. Some of may remember roaring bush fires sweeping through the Chimanimani region and the pine forests in the Vumba. Those areas have similar characteristics to the bush around Perth and down south as there are many steep gullies, heavy fuel loads and poor road access. The Margaret River region in our South West has recently had a major fire in which some 40 properties were destroyed. The fire is being attributed to a controlled burn going out of control. What a lot of new Australians are unfamiliar with is that fire can spread underground through the roots of various species of eucalypts for up to 3 months after a fire has been put out. Hence there is a very likely possibility that in times of high winds and high temperatures a flare up will occur.

We again had a successful annual luncheon in September with the attendance being over 70 –
more than at the UK braai. We have been blessed over the years with having excellent speakers and this year was no exception with John Redgment. In a moment of reflection what comes to my mind is what first class professional people we had in Rhodesia. We have seen this in the form of our guest speakers and Australia has been the beneficiary of their knowledge, skills and ability to get things done.

I am also repeating a previous request which has generally drawn a nil response. The Australian Outpost is your magazine and that means we do have a magazine unless you contribute to it. For the next and subsequent editions we need your input in the form of stories from depot, from driving school, from stations you served at, interesting and maybe unusual and memorable cases (real Police is often stranger than fiction). Member profiles make interesting reading whether they were regulars or reservists so please commit some words to paper about yourself and what you have done in your life.

Rob Gates.

STATION NOTES

Doug Wright A photo and short article on Doug Wright appeared in the January 2012 news section on the www.bsap.org website. Rob Gates spoke to Doug and was pleased to learn that he is quite well and is clearly very mentally sharp as he approaches his 90th birthday. Rob was also pleased that his wife Ursula has made quite a remarkable recovery following her broken neck. An indicator of this is that she has progressed to the stage that she no longer has to wear a neck brace. Doug attributes this to her determination and to the sound medical treatment of her injury. Ursula is also rapidly approaching her 90th and we wish both Doug and Ursula very happy birthdays in the next couple of months.

Chris Morten In the January 2012 edition of the Natal Outpost there is well written article by Chris Morten on V.I.P.s i.e. visually impaired people. The article provides an excellent insight into the contrasting societal and agency attitudes towards VIPs and the totally blind. Chris wrote the article in response to the Natal Outpost feature on Garth Long who became totally blind when his optical nerve was severed in a terrorist attack. Chris, who knew Garth in Rhodesia, visited him in Northern Ireland in 2011 and they were able to compare notes. The article is recommended reading. Chris has been legally blind for many years but that has not stopped him writing a thought provoking and very readable novel "The Benefactor's Monkey", developing a mine site north of Meekatharra, running a community newspaper in Nannup and making a house liveable for himself and Dorothy in Nanup. In addition he has bounced back from having several strokes, the most recent over the Christmas period. In March he and Dorothy are taking on a new challenge when they set off for Halls Creek to resuscitate an ageing caravan park. They would welcome visits from BSAP grey nomads and prospectors as well as those wishing to visit the Bungle Bungles and Wolf Crater.

New Members

We are very pleased to welcome:

19330A Noel & Patricia Davies of Carine, Perth.
22835V Mike and Rosemarie Goldberg of Duncraig, Perth.
6061 Roger and Ailsa Chapman of Kingston Beach, Tasmania.
5977 Roger and Judith Lebish of Wandiligong, Victoria.
10005 John and Kathryn Storey of North Turramurra, New South Wales

Obituaries

Brenda Foster

It is with great regret and sadness that we advise members of the death of Brenda, wife of Derek Foster (7133), a member of this Branch. Brenda passed away in September 2011 after major surgery.

Thoughts and sympathies from the Chairman and Committee of the Australia Branch were passed to Derek and the family on this very sad occasion.
4064 Alan Charles Norman “Steve” Stephens
(from Dick Hamley)

It is with great sadness that we advise 'Steve' Stephens passed away peacefully and without pain at the Peninsular Hospital, Frankston, Victoria at 8.20pm on Friday 25th November as a result of a severe heart attack suffered at his home in Berwick. His wife Mary and daughter, Jane, were with him at the time. Steve was cremated and fittingly scattered at sea. A memorial service was held at the Berwick Anglican Church on Thursday 1 December 2011.

A great gentleman and honourable member has departed; always to be remembered by members of the Regiment in which he proudly served.

Stand to your horses Gentlemen.

(See eulogy to Steve from Rob Riedy (son-in-law) on page 7.

John Hickman (former Commander of the Army)

It is with deep regret that I have to advise you of the death of John Hickman, ex Commander of the Army, and the son of 2622 former Commissioner of Police Arthur Selwyn Hickman, and the brother of the late 7078 Inspector Jeremy Alexander Varcoe Hickman. John died early on the 28th October 2011, but the cause of death is not known at present.

I saw and spoke to John at Church last Sunday morning, and he seemed to be fine then.

Regards, 

Peter Bellingham
29 October 2011

Mail Box
(from Andrew Field)

Greetings,

Each year, most of us will receive a deluge of Christmas greetings and messages from around the globe. It is a time of coming together, no matter how far apart you may be. Modern day communications and networks have allowed us to enjoy a stronger sense of belonging. Each year, yours truly has strived to send out a message to all those who have made contact during the years, be this a liaison through personal messages, or merely a visit to the regimental web site.

It never ceased to amaze me how a previous career association has brought so many people together, people too who have never actually met! This is all achieved through this sense of belonging, being part of a fine regiment of men and women. The esprit de corp never died. What is perhaps most awesome about this fellowship is that it seems to extend from the junior troop through to the highest ranking former officers of the force. Rank has been set aside in this family of ‘old cops’. Everyone seems to accept they are each and all a part of our heritage and they all enjoy belonging.

One hundred years ago, when Major Gordon Drury was Commissioner of the BSA Police, the principal method of communication between stations will have been, I guess, the telegraph. Seventy five years ago, the radio and teleprinter would have become well established alongside telephone and, dare I say, bush telegraph, as the communications network evolved in Southern Rhodesia. Things did not change much thereafter, although radio became more sophisticated and a medium of choice. With the lowering of the Blue and Old Gold in July 1980, the technology of today’s internet had not been invented, yet today it is a principal means of communication amongst us, a real bush telegraph if you like.

During the year there have been few new initiatives utilising the power of the internet to bring us all together. The web site, I hope, will continue to provide a source of information and remain as a reminder to bygone days... It is always refreshing to go back a little in time and remember things that were and remain precious to you. The site will continue to bring you news of old comrades and shall remain a centre point of contact and, hopefully, continue to draw former members together; and into the fold of the ‘physical’ association network.

There has been considerable activity outside the regimental branch network, a cyber-based global companionship, if you wish. The e-mail groups,
which have been operational in one form or another for 15 years now, have been nurtured along and remain reasonably well subscribed, but it has been the social media platform that has ‘exploded’ during the current year. One such network, Facebook, has been sprouting new BSAP related groups and membership is not just for the younger ones amongst us. The principal BSA Police site has some 900 subscribers. A couple of former branches of the force, such as Support Unit, have utilised this media well. There is a clear yearning for this sense of belonging.

Sadly, many former members remain outside these circles, due mostly to distance, incapability or perhaps inability with modern means of communication. This is no fault of their own, it is how and where they ended up, whether they can afford to network and indeed if they know how. There is obviously some resistance to change, but we respect that, with the rapid pace of cyber-technology. One does feel tempted, however, to reach out to them and lend them a hand, bringing them into the fold. They are still one of our ilk, they too share a sense of belonging.

I mentioned ‘rank’ melting away in these associations we have, yet there are still some with misperceptions about the Regimental Associations being old officers’ clubs, an extension of the ‘cavalry club’ perhaps. It is troublesome to see the number of cyber-active former police officers, who have listed themselves on the website, who have joined one or other groups or networks, yet do not subscribe to their local branch of the association. I was one of them. Your regimental branch needs you!

How pleasantly surprised I was to discover my perceptions were so far from reality! If I have just one message for you this year, it will be to consider joining your local branch of the Regimental Association. This is important, since it is one way that we can enjoy feelings of comfort being amongst cherished, respected and honourable people.

It remains, therefore, for me to wish you well this period of feast and festivity. Journey well and safely if you are travelling to loved ones or friends afar, and take it easy where you can. This year my wife, Marguerite, and I are spending the festive season “home alone”... family have travelled away for the holiday and we are not up to travelling to join others this time around. I am sure many of you are in a similar predicament. As always, we shall raise our glasses to you all and I hope you will join me in toasting the Regiment too. Blessings and in the words of the comedian, Dave Allen, ‘may your God go with you’. Remember those of us who are not so fortunate.

With best wishes, Andrew Field - 8646
Honorary Life Vice President - The Regimental Association

From Dick Glanville, Transvaal Branch

If anyone receives an e-mail purporting to originate from Glenn Macaskill - Transvaal Outpost Editor - saying that he is stranded and requires financial assistance, IGNORE THE e-mail. It is a scam and a fraud.

Mike Edden in Australia had a similar occurrence on his e-mail address several months ago.

I repeat IGNORE (in fact delete) any e-mail you receive purporting from Glenn seeking assistance.

Thanks
Dick Glanville - Hon Secretary, Transvaal

From Rod and Brenda Blevin

Re Lt Col Alfred Tomlinson

For the record I am passing this on to you all, as requested by Rory Tomlinson (now resident in Mandurah), great-grandson of Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred James Tomlinson, after whom Tomlinson Depot, Harare, was named. The message is self-explanatory, and Rory would like it to be passed on to members of the B.S.A.P. in Perth:

Hi Brenda
Good to see you, Rod and Suzie yesterday.

I mentioned my great grandfather's memoirs. I wondered if you could pass a message on to the ex BSAP association. It can be found under "Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred James Tomlinson" on www.amazon.com and costs $20 plus postage from the US. The link is given below.

Rory

http://www.amazon.com/Lieutenant-Colonel-Alfred-James-Tomlinson-Officer/dp/1456500724/ref=pd_rhf_p_t_1

From Duncan “Porky” Paul, S. Africa

A couple of us thought of arranging the 40th Reunion in 2013 for squads 3 and 4 / 73. At this stage we are just trying to create a Mailing List. Depending on numbers, the place & date will be decided later. I’ve picked up a few names off the website database. If there are any interested members from squads 3 and 4 / 73, please drop me a note with all details, address, email and contact numbers. It would be great to hear from you.

Best regards

Duncan “Porky” Paul 8980

Email: dunadventures@tiscali.co.za

Cell: +27-82-443-7138
Office: +27-33-394-3311
Home: +27-33-345-1804

Money Matters (Essential Reading!)

(A note from the Treasurer)

In our last issue, I mentioned that members would no longer be asked to pay subs. Our finances were in a good state and it was agreed that the Association no longer needed to continue increasing its reserves.

In reaching this decision, the Committee took into account the fact that our major annual event, the Annual Luncheon was self-funding and that, living in a country where most of the welfare was provided by the Government, there was likely to be little demand for welfare from our members.

At the beginning of 2011 our bank balances stood at $9,292 and we finished the year with $8,128, a decrease of $1,164. The major items of expenditure on benevolence were $500 to one of our members who was a victim of the Queensland Floods, and $550 on “Wish Vouchers” which were sent mainly to those widows who were believed to be in need of some support at Christmas.

Several of our members have made donations during the past and previous years and we acknowledge the generosity of the following (my sincere apologies if I have left anyone out – the books are being audited at present so I cannot check details of donations):

John Heycock, Ernie Mason, Richard Edge, Tony Drynan, David Stockley, Alan Hadfield, Alan Prince, Chris Morten, Don Bulloch, Fleur Blick, Ian Pullar, David van Zuydam, Jim Steele, Peter Beach, Will Singleton, Pat Cane & Steve Martin.

In addition to the above, our Committee members may be regarded as making “indirect” donations by absorbing the cost of some postage, printing and stationery, phone calls etc. It all helps keep our running costs to a minimum.

So, if you can spare a donation of any size, please send it me (address on back page) of transfer it direct to our NEW bank account with Westpac:

Name: BSAP Regimental Association
BSB: 036001
A/C No. 459125

Pension News

The following email has been received from John Redfern regarding pension payments:

Friday, February 10, 2012 10:03 AM

Resumption of pension payments

Dear Colleagues,

Good news at last! Three pensioners who bank with Standard Bank have let me know that they have received what appears to be arrears pension
payments into their bank accounts. One received R12, 000 and another R7,000. The third person did not mention a figure.

I have asked the Director of Pensions in Harare to let me know the date from which arrears payments are calculated, if these are indeed arrears payments. I know I'm going to get a lot of queries from government pensioners as to what their monthly entitlement is as they have no idea of this, or the frequency of payments to their accounts.

I have also asked Mr Mnkandla to keep me informed on progress with remittances to other South Africa banks as I anticipate queries. I also expect a flood of new requests for application forms once word gets out that payments have resumed, even if only as a test at this stage.

This information can be passed on to your members. It will also be published on the FLF’s website News and Views.

Kind regards,
John Redfern
Honorary National Secretary
Flame Lily Foundation
PO Box 95474, 0145 Waterkloof, RSA

Stop Press: see latest email on page 13

BSAP REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 2013
By Rob Gates
In 2010 the UK branch made a significant contribution to the ongoing memory of our Regiment through the establishment of the BSAP memorial sculpture at the National Arboretum at Alrewas, in Staffordshire, England. I was fortunate to visit the memorial in July 2011 and it is well worth a visit. It takes pride of place adjacent to far more modest memorials to the Northern Rhodesian Police and the Nyasaland Police. The UK branch has produced a DVD of the dedication of the memorial and our branch holds some copies.

The UK branch also threw down a challenge to other branches to hold events to mark the 100 year anniversary of the foundation of our regimental association. In response our branch proposed a joint 50 year reunion for the more than two hundred regulars who attested in 1963. An article on this idea was published in the Australian Outpost and copies of the article about the idea were sent to all other branches with a request that they publish the article in their local Outposts. The suggestion was made that such a reunion should be in South Africa as that seemed to be the best way of maximising attendance. Only a very small number of branches published the article and hence the response to the idea has been minimal. Our branch is very interested to learn whether any other branches are planning events.

Our committee has further discussed the idea and feels that the occasion of the 100 year anniversary should not pass without recognition in our country. We propose that we should hold several events in Australia in 2013 with the main gathering being in Perth in September. This will coincide with our normal annual formal luncheon. It is hoped that many of our interstate members can attend and that members of the Queensland branch also attend. It is hoped that each of the other states can arrange functions during the course of the year and invite their interstate colleagues to attend.

We want your ideas on what sort of functions could be held. These could be squad or year reunions; it could be groups with common interests or backgrounds eg Dogs, Support Unit, CID, Radio Comms, Traffic, etc. How about people getting together whose main service was in Mashonaland, Matabeleland, Manicaland or Midlands. What do you think of holding events to coincide with other events taking place in WA eg Perth International Festival, Wallabies versus Springboks Rugby Test in Perth, Wildflower season?

It is now only just over a year to 2013 so there needs to be expressions of interests from members both in Australia and overseas. This means you need to let us know what type of event you are interested in.

-ooOoo-
Eulogy: 4064 Chief Superintendent Alan Charles Norman Stephens

Born 29 October 1922 - died 25 November 2011 (aged 89 years)

By Rob Riedy 8282 (son-in-law)

The British South Africa Police evolved from the British South Africa Company which was established in 1889 by Cecil John Rhodes after whom Rhodesia now Zimbabwe, was named. Not long after Steve’s Second World War service in the British navy, the 23 year old adventurous Steve was attracted to the BSAP in Rhodesia through a recruitment advert in a British newspaper. It came to pass that he was appointed in the BSAP on the 11th June 1946. 4064 Trooper Stephens did his basic depot training in Morris depot Salisbury now Harare.

He excelled in equitation. Equitation was an essential part of a police recruits training as all police patrols in most areas in those days was done either on foot or horseback. Steve first posting was to the Vumba district near Umtali - a beautiful area on Rhodesia’s eastern border adjacent to Mozambique. He was clearly very fond of the area wishing his ashes one day there be distributed if not at sea.

He wasn’t there for very long and because of his horse riding ability he was recalled to Morris depot to commence training and preparations for the mounted royal escort for the pending royal visit of King George 6th and the late queen mother accompanied by princesses Elizabeth now queen, and Margaret in April 1947. Steve was appointed Princess Margaret’s personal official groom for the duration of their visit and I understand they frequently rode together on the Morris depot commons. Steve had a bit of a crush on Princess Margaret I think and has always since had a soft spot for Princess Margaret.

Steve’s riding skills and ability demanded he remain in depot as a re-mount rider training horses and as an equitation instructor. in 1951 he was appointed chief riding instructor. over the following years Steve represented the police at all riding disciplines and prevailed as the country’s ‘tent-pegging’ champion.

For many years Steve’s day started at 5am on horseback with his horse ‘Kentucky’, they commanded the police mounted escorts on many official occasions such as openings of parliament and escorts to visiting dignitaries. These included personally presenting the BSA police mounted escort for inspection by Prince Charles who represented Queen Elizabeth as part of the Zimbabwe independence formalities in April 1980.

Steve remained at the training depot for probably most of his service. His responsibilities and promotions over the years lead to him being commissioned in 1970 and appointed deputy commander of the training depot in early 1980 as chief superintendent. Steve also managed and presented the police displays that toured the country annually usually as part of the regional agricultural shows. He frequently opened the police display on his horse Kentucky by jumping his horse through a large paper panel. Consider trying to ride a horse through a wall!

Steve was a large man and when in uniform his appearance, deportment and presence naturally commanded respect. Steve received police long service medal and bars and was awarded the Police Meritorious Service Medal in 1977 and was honoured as life vice president of the horse society of Zimbabwe. Steve retired from the BSA police in September 1980 after 34 years and 112 days - an officer and gentleman. His numerous medals also bare testament to his honourable service and conduct.
After retiring from the BSAP Steve and Mary migrated to South Africa in 1981. Steve took up the position of major in charge of the equestrian wing in South African Defence Force equestrian centre based at Potchefstroom. After several years Steve and Mary then retired to Howick in Natal. In September 1999 they decided to pack up and follow the family to Melbourne Australia where they lived happily ever after.

Steve was very much a naval man as well. He had an incredible historical knowledge of the navy particularly during the war. A fine model boat/ship builder who made numerous scale model boats and ships in his retirement. Steve was an avid reader throughout his life with astounding memory and general knowledge until the time of his death from general organ failure in hospital.

Always a gentleman and an inspiration who will be sorely missed.

Ex inspector Rob Riedy 8282
1st December 2011

2011 Annual Luncheon

This was a most successful event attended by 70 members and guests. We were most fortunate to have as our Guest Speaker Mr. John Redgment, a former Senior Magistrate in Salisbury. He was accompanied by his wife Di.
Annual BBQ with RAWA

The attendance at this year’s joint RAWA-BSAP barbecue in December was rather disappointing. However, those who attended had a great time.

We were joined by Gordon Geddes (6068) and his wife who were visiting family members in Perth. Gordon transferred from the BSAP to the Dept. of Justice in 1968 where he became a (Provincial?) magistrate. Gordon and his wife currently live in Bulawayo.

A Link with the Past

Association member 5762 David Bruce, who lives in Tea Garden, NSW, sent me a newspaper cutting which appeared in The Western Suburbs Weekly. David visited Perth last August to address a meeting at the Nedlands Library on his connection with the founder of Nedlands, Perth. He later presented a sword, which belonged to his great-great-grandfather John Bruce, to the Perth Lord Mayor. The cutting read:

“NEDLANDS revisited its origins when David Bruce visited to share his family history at the Nedlands Library last Thursday.

During his presentation, Mr Bruce said he was the great-great grandson of John Bruce, who arrived at Fremantle on the convict transport ship Hashemy as the staff officer of pensioner guards, on October 25, 1850, with his wife, five daughters and three month-old son Edward.

Later, John bought Edward 320 acres of land for 200 pounds. The land became known as Ned’s Lands and later Nedlands.

The estate was bought by Sir George Shenton in 1893 and transferred to the Crown in 1910.

A City of Nedlands spokeswoman said the Bruce family estate was subdivided into
residential blocks in about 1913 and the streets were named after members of the family.

John Bruce held many roles in the Swan River colony, including acting governor on two occasions.”

David said that the sword was supposed to go to his father but his sister in Switzerland kept it. His father died first then his aunt some years later. She bequeathed it to me and he collected it from his cousin in Bath in about 2007 and it has hung in his house ever since.

Seven generations of Bruces have lived in Australia at some time in their lives. Two generations are buried here and one possibly two born here. Three generations are alive and well.

David left the Police in August 1965 and went into sales as a medical rep in Rhodesia, South Africa and then back in Rhodesia which he left in June 1978 for Australia. He was a member of the Police Reserve in PATU and then Special Branch.

His great-great-grandfather was the first actual superintendent of police in Hong Kong from 1847-1848 as a military officer before being relieved by an officer from the Met. He was the Commandant of the Pension Forces in W.A. from 1850 to 1870 and is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery just above the WACA Grounds in Perth.

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-

BSAP Shields

These are available from Tom Doherty who may be contacted at the following email address or by phone: peejay26@tpg.com.au  Tel. (08) 9341 5228

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

-ooOoo-

The Benefactor’s Monkey

By Chris Morten

This book is available directly from Chris Morten at a cost of A$29.95 plus postage and handling costs.

Contact Chris at cmorton@wn.com.au or phone him on 08 9756 0264.

-ooOoo-
Blazer Badges
BSAP blazer badges are now available from the following for $40:

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

-ooOoo-

So Far & So Good
By Denis Petmezaki

A book crammed with humour & heartache, adventure & industry, combat & love.’

Born on the flat roof of a house in Omdurman, Sudan in 1931, Denis Petmezaki has battled the odds throughout his varied and inspiring life.

From London during the Blitz, to the Rhodesian Bush War and the terrors of the Mugabe regime and finally on to Britain and Australia, he has overcome every obstacle.

Available by E-mail: nkosi22@bigpond.com or ring 61 89572 1621 (Western Australia) to order, or write to C. Petmezaki, 250 Alison Street, Mount Helena 6082 Western Australia

Denis will kindly donate a copy of his book which will be raffled at a future function.

-ooOoo-

Mugabe - My Part in His Victory
By Chris Walmsley

Crunching out the National Debts for Rhodesia in 1974 was not quite as exciting as it sounds. Chris Walmsley thought anything had to be better than this - even national service. Just as well. His brown envelope instructing him to report for duty was waiting for him at home. Some bright spark at Police General Headquarters had decided a good use of the country’s scarce manpower would be to train recruits to be a competent military force, and also to man rural police stations in their spare time.

As he surveyed the motley horde assembled in front of him at the fabled British South Africa Police Morris Training Depot, DCI Thompson knew this was easier said than done. The sight of Fats Walkden, Hyena Wilde, Fred Youngman and school leavers barely past shaving age appalled him. Things were looking up for Mugabe and in this war, as in any other, there could be only one winner...

The author, Christopher Neil Walmsley, was born and raised in Rhodesia prior to it being renamed Zimbabwe. After attending Rhodes University in South Africa and Trinity College Dublin he completed his national service in the British South Africa Police. He fought in both the military war against the guerrilla forces of Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo and also played his part in the economic war under United Nations sanctions. He left the country shortly before Robert Mugabe’s succession to power in 1980 and now works in financial education in the UK (Watch out for his sequel: Financial Education - My part in the global financial crisis). His first book “How to choose the losing side” never made it into print. He lives in total obscurity in Surrey.

(Please excuse the typos which occurred during the printing process)

This is a light-hearted account of Chris Walmsley’s service in the BSAP as an NSPO in the 1970’s. Although he has changed the names of the various officers with whom he came in to contact, many will be clearly recognisable to those who went through Morris Depot.

The book is available from www.amazon.co.uk (ISBN 978-1-908447-64-7 or search for “Chris Walmsley”). The price is £9.99. It is also
available on Kindle in ebook form which is cheaper.

Aussie feedback (so far):

“It is so well written with such fantastic humour”
– Mrs. I. Bellingeri, Perth

“A great read… It brought back many memories especially of Tubs and as you say it is great to give it to our kids.” Frank Youngleson, (ex Rhodesia rugby player), Brisbane

“I was one of the school leavers who had barely started shaving and who was “shunned” by the “adults” who had just returned from uni - thanks for the memories and the record.” Alan Schafer, Brisbane

Note: Chris has kindly donated a copy of his book which will be raffled at a future function.

-ooOoo-

**The Last Parade DVD**

We have several DVDs available for sale of the unveiling of the BSAP Memorial at Alrewas, Staffordshire, in July 2010. These were obtained from the UK Branch to whom we made a donation. Members may purchase a copy at the forthcoming AGM or they may contact Rob Gates direct (address on back page). The cost is only $10 which includes postage within Australia. The DVD runs for about 1 hour.

**STOP PRESS**

**Pensions**

The following email was received on 15 February from Peter Bellingham in Harare:

**Subject:** Payment of external pensions

Hi Everyone,

Some of you may have heard already, but the Pensions Office have started to pay external pensions at last, commencing with South Africa. They are currently only paying pensions to pensioners with Standard Chartered Bank Accounts as a pilot project, for that is the only bank that has confirmed the pensioners’ bank account numbers. We believe that once the remaining South African Banks have confirmed their pensioners bank account numbers, that payments will be made to those banks as well. The South African and the Zimbabwean banking systems are similar, which is why South Africa was chosen for the pilot project. We do not know at this stage when payments will be made to countries other than South Africa, but will advise as soon as this has been clarified.

We understand that payments will date back to March 2009 which is when Government started paying pensions in US dollars. We do not know at this stage whether the payments currently being made represent full payment of pension arrears dating back to March 2009, or whether this is just the first tranche with further tranches of arrears pension payments to follow.

It is unlikely that pensioners will receive pension advice slips from the pensions office indicating just what their monthly pension payments will be. We Zimbabwe residents have not received monthly pension advice slips since March 1998!

We are continuing to seek further clarification from the Pensions Office, and will provide you all with further details once these become known.

Best wishes,

Peter
Roll of Honour

18-Mar-2011 Heslip, Norman(PR2606E) - Johannesburg, South Africa
05-Jun-2011 Boddy, Clive Richard (9463/NS900604) - Harare, Zimbabwe
05-Jun-2011 Boothway(was Hay), Angela Elizabeth 'Angie' (WP314) - Triangle, Zimbabwe
04-Jul-2011 McGuinness, Michael John Peter (5197) - Pretoria, South Africa
10-Jul-2011 Palmer, Peter Hercules (10472) - Harare, Zimbabwe
31-Jul-2011 Mingard, Philip Gordon 'Phil' (4521) - Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
02-Aug-2011 Adams, Christopher Alan Bunbury (4552) – Perth, W. Australia
06-Aug-2011 Mackinnon, John Angus Hamilton 'John' (5877) - Harare, Zimbabwe
04-Sep-2011 Champion, David Thomas (5436) - Alicante, Spain
09-Sep-2011 Cavanagh, Stephen George (110627) - Durban, South Africa
11-Sep-2011 Holmes(was Cive Errington), (12134) - Freemantle, Australia
20-Sep-2011 McKinley, Harold (Harry) 2222B – Johannesburg, South Africa
21-Sep-2011 Russell, Donald Hugh (4808) - Portimao, Portugal
28-Sep-2011 Woodhead, Margaret E (200987) - Romford; Essex, United Kingdom
01-Oct-2011 Tunney, David John 'Dave' (7120) - Pretoria, South Africa
10-Oct-2011 Wilhelm, Harvey Francois Otto (6271) - Cape Town, South Africa
13-Oct-2011 Irwin, Ralph (4491) - Oxford, United Kingdom
28-Oct-2011 Crossan, William John Maxwell (4988) - Johannesburg, South Africa
28-Oct-2011 Maskell, Aubrey Peter 'Carl' (4328) - Harare, Zimbabwe
04-Nov-2011 Tilley, John (8007) - East London, South Africa
20-Nov-2011 Sutherland, Sinclair Henry Mackay ‘Seamus’ (5494) - Edinburgh, Scotland
23-Nov-2011 Atkins, Ronald Peter (7874) - Cape Town, South Africa
25-Nov-2011 Stephens, Alan Charles Norman 'Steve' (4064) - Frankston; Victoria, Australia
20-Dec-2011 Earwood, Alexandra Joy 'Alex' (WP517) - Johannesburg, South Africa
06-Feb-2012 Millar, Alexander George (9455) – Canada
16-Jan-2012 Lumholtz-Smith, Lionel Ludwig (3385) – UK(?)
6-Feb-2012 van Rensburg, Pieter Janse (6133) – Margate, RSA
# Committee of the Australia Branch

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