



## Chairman's Chat

The Australia branch was established in Perth. When we established the branch we were keen to see the branch evolve over time so that each state would have sufficient numbers to establish its own branch and then we could create a network of Australian branches. So far only Queensland has had the numbers and the will to establish its own branch. We retain the name of the Australia branch because our membership covers the whole country. We are pleased that our branch has for a long time had local liaison officers in NSW, Victoria, ACT and Tasmania and, in earlier times before it established its own branch, in Queensland as well.

The numbers of members in South Australia has always been very few and at present we do not have any members living in that State. Whilst I'm only aware of one former BSAP serving officer living in South Australia it is the home and workplace of the leading forensic scientist in Australia in the form of Professor Hilton Kobus. Hilton previously worked for the Australian Federal Police and the South Australian Police. At one stage the chief forensic scientists in the NSW, Victoria and South Australia Police Forces were all former BSAP employees. That is quite a testimony to the standards of work produced in our laboratories and from the excellence, at the time, of the scenes of crime work undertaken.

Since our branch was established a number of us have met up with some former colleagues and friends when visiting other states. In addition it's also pleasing that Alan Hadfield from Sydney and Alan Prince, our former liaison officer in NSW, Derek Hardey from Melbourne and Will

Singleton from Canberra have all visited Perth and met up with members in Perth. I'm pleased to be able to compliment Alan Hadfield and Will Singleton on their initiatives to promote branch activities in their areas. Alan organised a successful BSAP lunch in Berrima on Sunday 26 November. I recommend you read his report on this on **page 6**.

It is hopefully the forerunner of other functions. Will, with local support, is really taking the bull by the horns and has set up a significant branch

event to be held in late September 2013 in Canberra. It is up to the membership to support this and especially our members who live in the eastern states of Australia. Please put the date in your diaries and contact Will and let him know NOW you're interested in attending. That way Will can establish a database of people interested in

attending and allow him to progress the event. It will also allow you the opportunity to indicate any items of interest you would like to see included and places you would be interested in visiting in Canberra and its surrounding area. I can assure you that there is a lot more than hot air in Canberra. This could be the opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues who you haven't seen in a long time. This is very welcome initiative and one which will be a means of celebrating the 100year anniversary of the founding of the BSAP Regimental Association. Please read and act on the article written by Will on **page 5**.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you Ian Calderwood for his initiative in proposing a branch visit to Toodyay in November and offering to host a braai at his house. This

## FOR YOUR DIARY

The 2013 Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on 9 March.

A flyer will be sent to all members nearer the day.



didn't happen because there weren't enough takers to make it viable. The branch was going to pay for the cost of a bus to transport us around Toodyay and you would also be able to enjoy a train ride through the scenic Avon Valley. However, a number of you did say you were interested but would not be able to attend on the proposed date. Ian and Breda are offering to organise a similar event after the AGM.

The year 2012 has been a sad year for our branch in that we have lost our two most senior ranking officers in the BSAP in the form of Bert Fremantle in Perth and more recently Doug Wright in Hobart. Both had reached their 90s and had a wealth of experience and stories from both their BSAP and World War 2 service. Now our only member in his 90s is Arthur Hutson and he is strong supporter and regular attendee at branch functions.

John Heycock is feeling rather lonely in Tasmania as we now have only two members living in that State (6061 Roger Chapman is the other one). If any of you know of any former BSAP regulars or reservists living in Tasmania please contact John or myself so that we can link them up.

Our formal branch luncheon in Perth in September was a big success as we had a record number of attendees. A big contributor to the success was our guest speaker, Don Bulloch, who provided a great insight from firsthand knowledge and involvement in how Rhodesia was able to continue selling tobacco in the presence of sanctions. The committee would welcome suggestions on who you think would be a good guest speaker for our 2013 lunch. The branch has always subsidised the cost of the luncheon. The costs have been partly defrayed through raffles and the donation of raffle prizes for those raffles. Our thanks go to the members who contributed prizes.

This year we were fortunate to have a very special raffle prize in the form of a model of a BSAP Mounted Trooper donated by Richard Pike from the UK and brought to life by the skills of Tom Doherty. We decided that our interstate

members should have the opportunity to participate in the raffle by purchasing tickets before the luncheon. Many did so and very generously. Combined with local purchases it meant that we made for the first time in memory a profit on the luncheon. The winner of the raffle was Richard Watters from Sydney and he is now the proud owner of the trooper.



In our last edition I asked if any of you subscribe to Facebook and if you do could you please contact me with regard to monitoring the BSAP Facebook Group on behalf of the branch. Facebook is an ever growing social media phenomenon. I'm sure some of you are active participants and if not so then you have family members who do. I repeat my request so that as a branch we do not miss out on the ability to receive and be involved in communicating both with our members and also prospective members. My understanding is that many of the subscribers to BSAP Facebook are not members of any BSAP branch. It's my wish that we be brought together.

Kerry welcomes any contributions of news and views for our Outposts.

Rob Gates.

## STATION NOTES

### Obituaries

#### (6428/7942) Chris Martin

Our condolences go to committee member (7694) Steve Martin on the sad passing of his brother Chris in London on 3 December 2012. Chris did two stints in the force and left as Chief Clerk of Support Unit.

#### (4071) Doug Wright

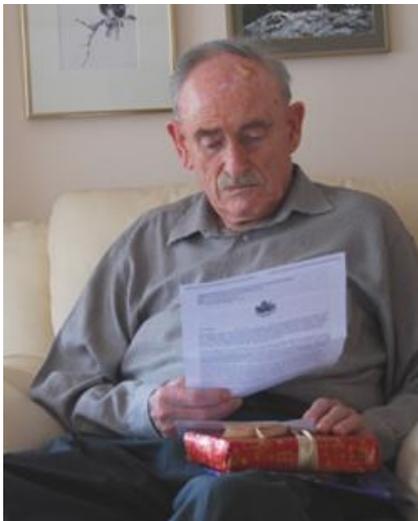
It is with regret that we report the death of Doug Wright on 10 September 2012 in Tasmania.



Doug joined the BSA Police in June 1946 after having served as a navigator in Bomber Command of the RAF during World War II. He had been an accountant before his profession was interrupted by the war. During his earlier career Douglas served in the District Branch in the Mashonaland and Manicaland provinces. He was a member of the Royal Escort in 1947.

He was commissioned in October 1960 and promoted to Senior Assistant Commissioner in June 1970. He served in District commands in Matabeleland and he did a stint also as Assistant Commandant Depot. Douglas was Officer Commanding Midlands Province before retiring in November 1975.

During his distinguished service Doug was the recipient of the CPM and PCD. He returned to the United Kingdom to live in Somerset, but later emigrated to Australia and settled in Hobart, Tasmania. Douglas celebrated his 90th birthday in June 2012. Our condolences go out to his wife, Ursula, family and friends.



This photo of Doug appeared on the BSAP Website in January 2012

### Tasmanian Bushfires

Australia never seems short of catastrophes and the latest devastating bushfires in Tasmania are yet another example of this.

We have two members currently living in Tassie: (6373) John Heycock who has a poultry farm in Port Arthur and (6061) Roger Chapman in Kingston Beach, south of Hobart. I received this

email from John which was in reply to one sent to him by Will Singleton (Canberra).

“Thank you Will, for your concern. We are OK; the fires skirted Nubeena and Port Arthur. However we are experiencing some of the inconvenience, like the Arthur Highway being closed, so no one goes in or out. Also there is no power, they say that it may take up to a month to restore it. I am lucky, we have two huge generators at the poultry farm and one is hooked up to the house, so we do have power. The cost of diesel, though, is a bit horrible.

There are over 1000 stranded interstate tourists in Nubeena and a further 700 plus at Port Arthur historic site – they are living in their cars and will have to do so for quite a while yet. We are not short of supplies, always have a lot on hand. Bit unsure how I will get chook feed next week, just hope that they have reopened the highway by then.

This whole thing reminds me of the emergency days back in Rhodesia!!

Thanks again, it has been very gratifying how many people have contacted us.”

John (Heycock)

### Visit of 7033 Derek Kerr

Derek Kerr and his wife Megan from Durban made their first visit to Perth in November. They stayed with Megan’s brother and his wife. Derek and Megan met up with his squad mates 7049 Lew Whitmore and 7045 Bob Gates. They also made their way to Melbourne and met up 7028 Alan Prince and Dave Massey 7047 two more of Derek’s 10/63 squad mates. Derek retired as a Superintendent after spending most of his service in Matabeleland and Midlands Provinces. He then had a long career in the white goods industry in Durban.

### Sick Parade

Our keen Association member **Rod Bater** is up and about, and recovering well at home from recent major surgery which, he says was a great success.



### Andy Northcott

5363 Andy Northcott is in the news again but for all the wrong reasons. He late September, he suffered a stroke which, hopefully, was not too severe. He received initial treatment in Bendigo Base Hospital (Victoria) but then decided he would rather be at home where he is being cared for by his wife Pam

-ooOoo-

### The Regimental Association Luncheon Saturday 08 September 2012 at RSL Belmont

By Jane van der Westhuizen

Spring arrived in Perth full of promise of warm days to come and on the 8 September a day dawned that promised sunny skies and a gathering of proud, loyal members of the BSAP Regimental association. Husbands, wives, widows, children and grandchildren all interconnected through an illustrious regiment met to honour the time and memories of men and women who served in the BSAP.



Annual Luncheon – RSL Belmont

The RSL Club in Belmont soon filled with the warm greetings and chatting of the Perth contingent of the BSAP Regimental Association. People travelled from Bunbury and numerous suburbs around Perth, even Neil Cave from UK.

Order was called and the master of ceremonies, Mr Peter Scott commenced proceedings. Best wishes from other regimental Branches were expressed and the Senior Troop Mr John Seward was honoured.

Mr. Rob Gates, Chairman, welcomed everyone and then sadly led the minute silence for those

members who have passed away during the year, Alan Stevens, Brenda Foster, Colin John and Bert Freemantle followed by the toast to absent friends.



Top Table

The formalities of toasts were interspersed with fine food, drinks and the buzz of chatter as people renewed friendships and discovered new connections with others. Memories were shared and laughter warmed the room.

With the meal finished the guest speaker Don Bulloch was introduced. He enthralled us with his fascinating recount of his early days in Rhodesia as a boy and then a tobacco farmer and his intriguing tales of the clandestine dealing of the Rhodesian and later Zimbabwean Tobacco Association.

He informed us of high profile, secretive meetings, agreements and journeys around the world to meet with leaders including Kim il Sung, that enabled a country at war to survive and then find peace due to economics supported by the sales of tobacco. He gave us a glimpse into historical archives closed to most that lived through those times, always with a touch of humour.

A book should be written but a non spoken code of ethics to protect people, who risked much, prevents that, so we realised how privileged we were to have been given the opportunity to listen to Don's personal memoirs of a unique time in our country's history.

It was not just a formal luncheon to honour a regiment but rather a time to connect a community with personal memories of their commitment to serve others, their God and their



country. Thank you to all who selflessly gave of their time to make this another day to remember.



Chairman Rob Gates presents Don Bulloch with a Certificate of Appreciation

Those attending were:

Howard and Jan MARTIN, Lew and Joanne WHITMORE, Rob and Laurie GATES, Margot MORGAN, Linda and Steve MARTIN, Don and Joyce Bulloch, Alan and Yvonne RICHARDSON (RSL President), Sylvia FREEMANTLE, Ged, Jane and Nick VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, Kerry HOADLEY, David VAN ZUYDAM and Elaine, Barbara and Bob OSBORNE, Arthur HUTSON, Alan and Joyce McGRATH, Peter and Cecelia SCOTT, Bob and Mo NILSON, John and Margaret SEWARD, David and Margaret STOWELL, David and Gail AMM, Rod and Brenda BLEVIN, Graham and Fleur BLICK, John and Joyce DE SALIS, John SAVAGE, Merle HOWDEN, Sylvia HOLBORN, Ian CALDERWOOD, Liz and Butch WALKER, Mike and Neil CAVE, David WILTON, Carol and Mike SEWARD, Ian WILSON, George GAULT, Margaret O'NEILL, and Vivienne CORDY-HEDGE.

(Jane is the daughter of Sylvia and the late Bert Freemantle. Thank you Jane for this very excellent write-up – Ed)

### **Regimental Association Centenary Parade (Australia)**

8083 Will Singleton (Canberra) is organising an event at **Eagle Hawk Resort** in Canberra which will provide our Eastern States members the opportunity to celebrate the centenary of the BSAP Regimental Association in 2013. Of course, members from WA will also be most welcome to attend. Will writes:

The Muster for the Parade commences on **Thursday 24 September 2013** for those that would like to arrive early.

**Friday 25 September at 16:30** onwards there will be an informal gathering in the outdoor Pizza bar (which is adjacent to the real bar).

**Saturday 26 September** - various activities in and around Canberra for those that wish to 'look around the city'. These include Parliament House, Floriade (a fantastic flower show on the edge of Lake Burley Griffin), the War Memorial (one of the best in the world), and for the science minded - Questacon (look it up!)

**Saturday evening is the Parade - a semi-formal dinner at which we will salute the finest years with a few memories *et al.***

Sunday the Parade is over, and those that wish to leave may fall out.

The dates have been selected to enable those that are able to come early to do so, those that are restricted by work will hopefully be able to make the Friday night or arrive Saturday morning.

There are 151 rooms at the resort - mostly semi-detached, all very nice and I believe affordable.

We are being offered a fairly good discount rate. More detail to follow.

If contacting the resort on the number below, please clearly state that you are attending this event.

For those arriving or departing by Air/Bus/Rail we will need notice to ensure you are collected and deposited on time.

**CRITICAL INFORMATION:** Floriade is a huge event in Canberra. Accommodation gets very tight, so it is better to book early if you hope to come - it is easier to cancel than it is to try and find something at the last minute. Any time after May is last minute.

**I need a BSAP Flag** (which I am happy to buy).

The team at this stage is Alan Hadfield, Marcia Else, Colin Blair, John Lynch and Will Singleton and families.



All queries to me at [william@singletonfamily.id.au](mailto:william@singletonfamily.id.au) or telephone 02 6238 0168 (evenings)

### Berrima Get Together

8755 Alan Hadfield writes to say that a luncheon was held in the historical village of Berrima NSW on Sunday 25th November 2012. A great time was had by all with many and story being told of the 'old' days in the BSAP. It was a fantastic lunch and we all meandered through the village checking out all the stores.



Back row (L-R) Ian Pullar 5832, Alan Hadfield 8755, Bill Singleton, 8083, Brian Jeffreys 6128.  
Front row: Sheila Singleton, Lesley Hadfield, Anna-Marie Pullar and Margaret Jeffreys.

### Travelling Members

It seems that no one is travelling unless they aren't telling me! However, Olivia and I will be taking a slow boat to Cape Town in March to visit family and friends.

Kerry Hoadley

### Money Matters

We had an overwhelming response to my appeal for donations and support for our trooper raffle so I won't nag again for the foreseeable future.

We are now sitting quite comfortably and our bank balance is a little under \$10,000.

The Trooper Raffle, which alone raised \$1,700, was won by Richard Watters in Victoria. (Richard is one of our most generous supporters.)

For the record, our **Westpac** Bank account details appear on the last page of this Outpost.

-ooOoo-

### Mail Box

I received the following note from **4714 Tony Drynan**:

Here is a little remembrance of a bloke who died earlier this year and with whom I shared quarters with, and was a good mate.....

#### 4716 Larry King

We came out from the U.K. together in 1951 and after training were both stationed at Gwanda, LARRY KING was ex-Met and someone I respected. Like many of his comrades and policemen everywhere, he courted a young nurse at our local Hospital and eventually she agreed to marry him. He invited me to be his best man and I was delighted to do so, I think this might have been the first time I was honoured to perform this duty.

The date was set and the reception planned to be held in the grounds of the hospital. It so happened however, on the night before the wedding I was called out to investigate a murder down at Colleen Bawn. As with all these matters, there was a lot of to-ing and fro-ing and the taking of statements, time slid by and then there was news that the man who had done the dreadful deed was to be found at another compound. So off we go to find him and the night was now morning. We didn't find him, he had kept on running and now the possibility of making that important appointment was getting more remote. As luck would have it I got back with half an hour to go but was met by the Groom who let off a tirade that would beat any sergeant major you might have known! Despite whatever he thought about my parenthood I managed to perform my duties and at the reception made a passable speech and read all those disparaging telegrams.

It was here at the reception I witnessed something that will always bring the memory of this occasion to mind. It so happened that the same evening the residents of the Gwanda Location were to enjoy a concert by no less than



the Bulawayo Cold Storage Commission Band, later to become world famous. A request had been made to them to come and play at the Hospital and in due course an International 1 ton utility, with a partly covered back, pitched up in the side road alongside the grounds. It contained the band but when they saw the assembly became very shy and refused to get out of the truck. After many entreaties they agreed to play but staying where they were. A choice of tunes was chosen by the bride and groom and the band played one of their own, y'know it "Skokiaan"! It was played with such vigour and skill that the whole truck rose up and down with the rhythm" to the fullest extent of its rear springs! It looked as though it was going to take off.

### News of our Members

I spoke recently with 5977 Roger Lebish who now lives near the delightful town of Bright in Victoria. Roger mentioned that he and his wife Judith made a 'snow change' when they moved from Northern Queensland to the Victorian Alps. They are now both keen cross-country skiers.

Roger mentioned that they have a bed available for anyone passing through the area. - Ed

### 48 Years and 353 Days Later

By **7047 Dave Massey**

I was first informed of the visit of one of my former squad mates **7033 Derek Kerr** and his wife Megan by our Aust. Branch Chairman **7045 Rob Gates** who told me that Derek and Megan were staying with Megan's brother in Perth and gave me a contact number.

Needless to say they were invited to Rob's for a B.B.Q. (yes we are Aussies Rob) and to be joined by the fourth member of our squad in Australia, **7049 Lew Whitmore** and family.

Great if you live in Perth, but I am in Melbourne approx, 2000 kms away and our other Australian Squad mate **7028 Alan Prince** is in Ulladulla approx 3000 kms from Perth so of course we missed out.

I contacted Derek in Perth to say 'Hi', and he informed me they were going to Queensland for

two weeks to see his sister (still 1800kms approx) from us, but on the last leg of their holiday they would be calling in to Melbourne for 48 hours before their return to Durban.

Fantastic news but now what to do in the few hours we will have, as luck would have it Alan Prince rang me to see if all is well with me (cardiomyopathy) and when I told him that Derek would be coming down, he said " I WILL BE THERE ".

This is harder than it sounds as trains, boats and planes do not fly in and out of Ulladulla every five mins, but any Trooper worth his salt was not fazed by this.

After leaving Ulladulla at 1400hrs on Thursday Alan took the bus, old steam train and finally the SYD-MELB express he arrived in Melbourne at Southern Cross Station at 0755hrs Friday. He let me know of his arrival and said he was going to visit his daughter and would see me early afternoon.

I then did the wrong thing and informed my wife Shirley of the upcoming events, who without any hesitation stripped the three loving hearts from her sleeve and replaced them with her three STRIPES, eat your heart out L/Sgt Maylen. I was dispatched post haste to stables, (wash and polish the car, mow the lawns, if it moves salute it and if it doesn't whitewash it).



left to right (7047) P/O Dave Massey (7033) Supt. Derek Kerr (7028) P/O Alan Prince

Shirl and I at the ready picked up Alan, who informed us that he had to be back at Southern



Cross Station in time to catch the 1955hrs train that evening, back to Sydney so that meant we had 3hrs 55mins from reuniting with Derek, going out for a meal and getting Alan back on the train.

This is how it is done B.S.A.P. style:

1600hrs Arrive Derek's accommodation right on the button with the front door being opened to the sound of Derek counting down 4, 3, and 2 and me barking GET ON PARADE. We meet his friends and enjoyed a cold Crown Larger and gossip before a quick fond farewell for now as time was our enemy.

1645hrs Into the car and off to the restaurant for a quick snack and not the long and enjoyable meal and evening we were hoping for. The conversation was fast and furious and we covered most of Rhodesia with all the postings and stations, trying to catch up on the last 49 years x 3 that's almost 150 years of events

1850hrs Must leave now as we are 32klms from the city and must allow for traffic and the city trams, this of course did not faze me as the driver having spent my service in Bulawayo Traffic, but I must admit a couple of times I wished I still had my blue light and siren.

1942hrs Arrive Southern Cross Station (13 mins to spare) where to park? "just double park came" the cry from the rear passengers, among the chaos of the city's main interstate station. O.K. all out big farewells to Alan and then the four of us head off for a city tour and some of the sights of Melb, heading down to Port Philip Bay.

Time is ticking by so we must return to Derek and Megan's friends as they fly out tomorrow and must be fully booted and spurred ready for the return leg of the holiday.

We are at the front door, and this is goodbye, we shake hands we hug, smile, laugh and hug again, but words cannot be found, we know this will be the last time, there is a lump in my throat and I am sure had I have blinked then a tear would have fallen. What a great 3hrs 55mins.

P/O D. Massey 7047

## Sen. Asst. Comm. Graham Cecil "Aussie" Rogers (2537) - Part 1

Julia Rogers, the granddaughter of 2537 Graham 'Aussie' Rogers, has kindly allowed for us to publish her grandfather's story which will be of great interest to our readers, particular our older members who may remember him. Thanks also go to **Rod Bater** who made all the necessary arrangements. I will spread this truly fascinating account of his life over two issues of the *Aussie Outpost*. - Ed

-ooOoo-

(The following notes about my life are largely from memory hence dates and sequences of events may not be strictly accurate.)

I was born in April 1903 at Bedford England where my parents were living. My mother, Edith Mary was the 3rd daughter of John Bayly of Margate Kent and Clara Ann Webber, born in July 1874 at Margate, Kent. She died May 1960 in Salisbury, now Harare Zimbabwe.

My mother grew up in England, then lived in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), back to England for a short while then off to:

Australia from 1912 - 1921,  
South Africa 1922 - 1923,  
Canada from 1924 - 1956  
Zimbabwe 1959 - 1960.

A true Commonwealth citizen, in the process having three husbands, (Gnapp, Rogers, Widdicombe) the second husband - Rogers - was like a father to me.

My father, George Cecil **Gnapp** (GCR), was the mechanical engineer for the firm of Walkers in Colombo Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, and had the Rolls Royce franchise for India. He married my mother in January 1899 at Colombo. My earliest recollection (1906) was climbing on a toy cupboard at age 3 which then toppled over on me, and cut my head open from the crown to the left eye. Apparently the recovery was a medical miracle for those days, as my parents later told me. I had a silver tube for many months to save my eyesight and spent 9 months recuperating at Kandy Mission hospital in Ceylon. Fortunately I



survived despite warnings of headaches and possible loss of sight, to date it has not happened!

My parents returned to England with my elder brother **Eric Gnapp** (born 1901) and younger sister **Eileen** (born 1905). Eric became a mechanical engineer later in life becoming an antique dealer with his own shop at 7 - 8 Meetinghouse Lane, Brighton, where he died in October 1975. My sister Eileen trained as a nurse, married Dennis L Hartley (Boots), living in Bulawayo (Old Hillside Road just after Cecil Ave left hand side of road leaving town) for several years before going to Harare then retiring to live at Chinoyi in Zimbabwe where she died in November 1997.

As a young boy I went to boarding school at Beccles College in Suffolk where my brother kept an eye on me. Just prior to the outbreak of the First World War the school scoutmaster in Suffolk arranged for the boys to guard bridges at 1/- per day. During this time apparently my parents divorced and my mother arranged for me to leave school in 1913 and go to Australia to join her and **my stepfather Ernest A Rogers**, whose name I took in Melbourne in 1914. My mother married Ernest A Rogers in 1912 becoming a widow when he died several years later.

My stepfather had been a stockbroker in London and for several years had remitted funds to his business friend to establish a ranch in Victoria Australia. On my parents arrival in Australia it was found that the 'friend' had embezzled most of the money. After court action, GBP 100 per month was ordered to be paid, this lasted about two years before the 'friend' went insolvent. Our family then had no money so my stepfather went to work running a sheep station called 'Murgha' in New South Wales whilst my mother helped with the catering and housekeeping when the owners visited. That is where the aborigines taught me to horse ride and use a stock whip.

[ GCR was a great horse-man in his early years, and was often written up in prize lists for Gymkhanas as "Aussie" Rogers. I remember him with pleasure as a very charming man. - Paddy Vickery Secretary of the Pioneer Society]

My stepfather was very good to me and my mother and we all got on well but the war years were hard and caused lots of problems. With finances at a low ebb my mother in 1916 took me from school - Malvern - aged 13 and I worked on a Government Farm 'Panna Bamawin?' near Rochester Victoria as my stepfather had died. I had to stand on my own feet as the 1914 drought had ruined many farms including ourselves. I received full board and lodging on my first farm, a fruit farm plus 4/- per week. I still remember going with the employer (Val Sheath - his father was head of Kodak in India who occasionally visited his wife and son at the farm) to the town of Rochester in Victoria and buying a pair of leather leggings for 12/6 - a proud farmer to be! I worked on a sheep stud farm near Wanganella, visited Deniliquin and remember the barges coming up the Murray River to collect sheep.

My mother took employment as a housekeeper and I admired her determination as she had previously enjoyed a sheltered life in Ceylon and England - a life of reasonable luxury and leisure. The house was in Hawthorn, a suburb of Melbourne. On one occasion when visiting her there was a strike and I was able to secure work delivering coal using a large dray horse. Those that assisted in breaking the strike were not popular but for me it was a way of earning money. Farm work was hard and heavy and there were no trade unions protecting the farm workers like today. Wages and employment was governed by seasonal factors and price of crops.

Being dissatisfied with my wage of 4/- per week, I sought other jobs and obtained various employment's ranging from clerical, chaff cutting crew - which included sleeping in the field next to the cart at nights, ploughing, sheep station understudying managers, but although fortunate being in excellent health and had learnt to drive teams of horses, ride, mend sheep fences etc., decided to try and improve my finances by doing contract work. At Junee I was totally without money and luckily was 'grub staked' by the local hotel owner for GBP 30 - a lot in those days. I got work building the Junee rifle range at 15/- per day. Work consisted of using a pick and



shovel to build the range. Became pals with a German boy, around about 1921 and we took on contracts stooking @ 4/- per acre, wood cutting for firewood managing a cord per day (184 square feet) for the Melbourne market. Later, went stack building earning good money and by early 1923 had saved GBP 600 - a lot of money for a young 20 year old. Contract work necessitated very long hours (10 - 12 per day) and camping often on site in tents, preparing your own meals. Often managed to get the odd bird or rabbit to help out with the food expenses. I worked also at Epworth, half way between Hobart and Launceston in Tasmania for a while. One period consisted of getting up at 0430 every day to milk the cows on a farm in the Gippsland area in Victoria; farmer's children also came to help!

My mother was fortunate in getting a long lease on a large house in Hawthorne, Melbourne. She managed to let most of the house to retired people thus she also managed to cope and periodically between employments I would visit and assist her hence life was not too bad.

My mother decided, as living seemed to be easier, to go to Durban South Africa in 1922 with my sister Eileen who had since joined her in Melbourne - I was up country in New South Wales - I agreed to join them later which I did in early 1923.

I initially sought farming employment in South Africa but as the offers were for only GBP 10 per month with board and lodging decided not to accept as I had earned this amount, at times, in days whilst in Australia. In a conversation with a head constable of the Durban Borough Police at a private hotel in Durban, where we were staying, learnt it was not advisable to join the Durban police, whose reputation was incidentally like the Canadian Mounted Police, as they were about to be taken over by the South African Government - a terrible thing in his mind. He advised me to join the BSAP (British South Africa Police) where his nephew had gone. They had a fine reputation. The British South Africa Company had been running the country of Southern Rhodesia until about that time. Obtained the necessary information re

enlisting and was provisionally accepted provided I was medically and dental fit. Decided to join and paid my own way to Salisbury, going by boat to Beira at a cost of about GBP 10.

My mother went from Durban back to England, then on to Canada where she remarried to one James Henry **Widdecombe**, which judging by their letters led a quiet but happy life until he died. Mother became an invalid and later came to Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in 1959 where she stayed at Nazareth Home Harare. The same place that my son's sister-in-law Elizabeth Gilfillan Conchar (nee Potterton) lived for several years.

I passed the medical and dental and was accepted on 3rd July 1923 as a mounted trooper at sixteen pounds thirteen shillings and four pence (GBP16.66) per month with messing expenses of about GBP 4.10 per month. Had some GBP 300 left over from my savings. I was well off ! Being able to ride was accepted into the training squad and quickly learnt to 'keep up' and passed out some four months later - it was a happy life and my recruits course was much enjoyed especially as I made friends with two others - Yeoman and Mellor. Each Saturday the three of us walked to Meikles Hotel in Harare (about 2 miles away) to have a hot bath - 2/6 and then dinner and a drink for under a GBP1. The training at depot consisted of equitation - 6 mornings a week for several hours before breakfast, animal management, musketry, law, court duties, first-aid, drill of course, police duties with an exam at the end that had to be passed. Drill was based on British Army Cavalry - column of fours. Depot was an all male affair with no female staff at all, including clerical duties.

[Commissioner Capell - 'I recommend cold baths in the morning and shaving in cold water - which I do myself. I will not sanction hot water installation (at the depot). I would as soon think of recommending an issue of Lanolin or face powder']

Then a posting to an out-station with the rank of Trooper. The Police were regarded as something special with the public proud of its Force and that



a healthy co-operation existed without which the successful maintenance of law and order would not have been possible. Full dress uniform consisted of green gabardine tunic with uncomfortable high collar, polished bandolier, riding pantaloons, leggings and boots – very hot in the summer months.

When I joined mobile horse patrols, which lasted several weeks at a time, sometimes a month perhaps where the order of the day. A mounted trooper, packhorse and several African constables.

Advertising literature spoke of:

‘600 white officers and 850 natives split into tiny detachments of two or three entrusted with the task of carrying justice over a territory four times the size of British Isles. The police force provides the Colony’s first line of defence, the Guard of Honour at the opening of Parliament. Each man assigned an area of anything up to 2,000 sq miles which he visited every native kraal and European farm once every month whilst on patrol with his rifle, horse, one sometimes two native constables on foot and pack donkeys. Southern Rhodesia having a population of 60,000. One was expected to learn Sindabele or Mashona, be able to talk both, study and pass an examination in law and for a bonus act as a Customs Officer. Instructors went ‘home’ to Scotland Yard, Hythe Musketry School, and the Guards depot at Caterham for special courses’

One had to live off the veldt, camping out most nights and shooting for the pot, dealing with any crimes reported or discovered. One developed the initiative to see one through successful, there being no superior officer to turn to for guidance and advice. One stood or fell by the result of one’s own decisions and actions. Naturally one got to know the local headman and began to understand the native custom and the tribesman’s ways. One was allocated an area and was responsible for the prevention and detection of crime within that area and the compliance with the laws of the land by its inhabitants, not an easy task. Witchcraft was a curse and although proscribed by law but the superstition amongst

Africans so ingrained over the centuries, that cases were difficult to resolve. On return to Camp reports had to be prepared and assistance given in the office.

I was posted to Gwanda and became one of the staff of four troopers, a saddler and one married farrier and a single clerk for the whole district all under a married sergeant and widowed Sgt Major.

Discipline was good and each trooper had his area to patrol by horse or mule dependent on availability, as horse sickness was prevalent. Patrolling, with one or two African constables and your own private servant, was compulsory for two or three weeks per month on the basis of being out in the areas and showing the flag. You’re own boss! A pack horse or mule or two donkeys were allotted to carry all supplies of food, blankets, pots and after a few days you were allowed to purchase food for the horses on a refund basis when you returned to the station. Needless to say the Africans were always appreciative of the odd antelope shot for the pot - one large or two small per week, we often miscounted when game was sighted! Africans were invariably pleased to see the patrols and also the European farmers and miners. At times it was not easy to get away from the hospitality, which was so generous, it had to be recorded in the patrol diary and the authorities were not pleased if too much seen. [Commissioner Stops stated ‘if any patrol took a pack animal it would be an offence to accept hospitality’]

A trooper was: a mounted rifleman for marauding animals, a policeman to settle domestic disputes, an annotator of maps to facilitate development of the area, maintainer of defence from neighbouring tribes straying over the borders, a provider of security information like water, roads etc. and arbitrator of grazing rights. My time in Australia served me well. A tough but happy and enjoyable life with good comradeship. Like many others I was transferred to other police stations thus saw a lot of the district. I recall being sent from Gwanda to Tuli Police Station on the Shashi River [the Police Station was closed down



October 1941] in late 1924 to assist the Chief Native Commissioner when Chief Mafirwa together with his tribe and cattle from Bechuanaland encroached into the then little known disputed area where the Pioneers had established Fort Tuli. Lt J M W Parr in command.

Many troopers left the force after the initial three year period to pursue other careers within Southern Rhodesia's expanding Civil Service in departments such as Native Affairs, others went farming. This gave one a wide network of contacts.

Remember - not sure of the exact dates - when I was sent to help patrol the Panda-Ma-Tenka road, a rough track defining the Rhodesian - Bechuanaland borders when foot and mouth disease had broken out again. I spent a few months helping the veterinary official, a change from ordinary police work.

(Phew, what a memory! To be continued in our next edition - bet you can't wait!! - Ed)

-ooOoo-

### BSAP Mounted Trooper

(In late-2011, Richard Pike wrote to us as follows – Ed)

I have recently started to produce a scale model kit of a BSAP Mounted Trooper - photo below. The scale is 120mm with the kit coming in 11 pieces - base, horse (2 halves), trooper, arms, lance, helmet spike, 2 sets of reins and rope. The price per kit is £59:99 which includes post and packaging (registered/recorded delivery) from England. This price is specifically for BSAP members and x Rhodie. The market price will be set higher.



Those members wishing to have an item of this nature to grace their bar or living room or office,

and would appreciate it if you would get the word out.

Andrew Field and Alan Hadfield have been a great help with my project

Richard (Pike) DP/O 8745  
[ariolmodels@hotmail.com](mailto:ariolmodels@hotmail.com)

### BSAP Shields



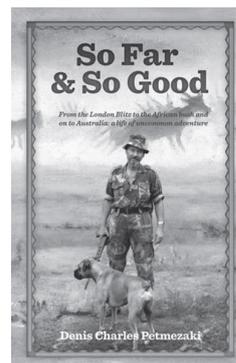
These are available from Tom Doherty who may be contacted at the following email address or by phone: [peejay26@tpg.com.au](mailto:peejay26@tpg.com.au) Tel. (08) 9341 5228

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

-ooOoo-

### 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](mailto: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-

**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.



**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-

**The Benefactor's Monkey**

By Chris Morten

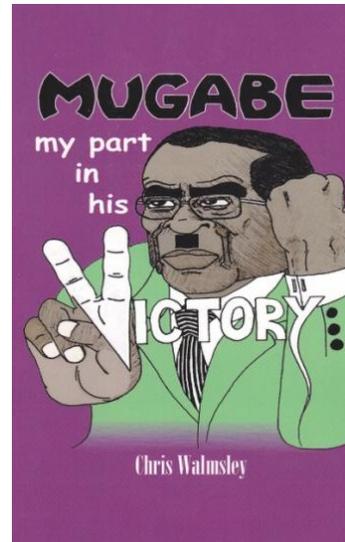
This book is available directly from Chris Morten at a cost of A\$29.95 plus postage and handling costs.

Contact Chris at [cmorten@wn.com.au](mailto:cmorten@wn.com.au) or phone him on 08 9756 0264.

-ooOoo-

**Mugabe - My Part in His Victory**

By Chris Walmsley



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](http://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.

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## Roll of Honour

08-Jul-2012	John, Colin Barry (6994) - Nambour, Australia
17-Jul-2012	Freemantle, Albert Brendon "Bert" (4105) - Perth, Australia
23-Jul-2012	Dutton, Trevor (5293) - Gillets, South Africa
31-Jul-2012	Long, The Hon John (4827), Wiltshire, UK
04-Aug-2012	Jansen, Graham Allen (6780) - Cape Town, South Africa
17-Aug-2012	Jones, W.E. (Bill), (P/R8359) – Northcote, New Zealand
19-Aug-2012	Radford, John (6078/7222) - Kirkwood, South Africa
19-Aug-2012	Fletcher, Neale Robert 'Nick' (6746/8520) - Howick, South Africa
21-Aug-2012	Papenfus, Robert Kenneth 'Bob' (5095/5897) - Johannesburg, South Africa
25-Aug-2012	Allen, Dermot Henry 'Paddy' (4072) - Durban, South Africa
26-Aug-2012	Matchett, Edmundson 'Eddie' (4789) - Lisburn, Northern Ireland
10-Sep-2012	Wright, Douglas William (4071) – Lindisfarne, Tasmania
28-Sep-2012	Forrest, Stanley Oldham 'Stan' (4005) - Solihull, United kingdom
29-Sep-2012	Woodcock, John Stewart (5129) - Johannesburg, South Africa
05-Oct-2012	Ayretton-White, Michael Henry 'Mike' (5754) - Durban, South Africa
18-Oct-2012	Jessop, Alexander Charles Frank 'Sandy' (4937) - Worchester, UK
23-Oct-2012	Smith, Malcolm Ernest (7014) - Mutare, Zimbabwe
27-Oct-2012	Penning, Peter Dale Penning (5406) - Okehampton, United Kingdom
29-Oct-2012	Powell, Gerald Harry 'Gerry' (4587) - Port Shepstone, South Africa
03-Dec-2012	Martin, Christopher Michael (6428/7942) – London, UK
16-Dec-2012	<u>Bulford</u> , Ian Frederick (7353) - Johannesburg, South Africa
+/- 25-Dec-2012	Griffiths, Tommy (4212) – Wales
28-Dec-2012	Payne, Peter James (5700) – Surrey, UK
05-Jan-2013	Larkan, Gary Wilfred (8923) – Warm Baths, South Africa
06-Jan-2013	Johnston, Gordon Oswald James 'Johnny' (7354) - Opotiki, New Zealand

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**Committee of the Australia Branch**

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

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