Wilfred Bussy joined the British South Africa Police of Southern Rhodesia in 1909 as a trooper and was appointed editor of the embryo Regimental magazine, *The Police Review*, in 1911.

He wrote a series of articles covering the history of the various units which eventually evolved into the B.S.A.P. and published these in *The Police Review* up until 1914. The work was unfinished, due apparently to the outbreak of World War I.

Stirring events in the history, not only of the force but also of the country which came to be called Southern Rhodesia, are recorded. These include the Matabele and Mashona Rebellions and the Anglo-Boer War.

The fact that this history was written relatively soon after the events described, by a serving member who would have known some of the personalities involved, adds an immediacy which is of value.

Written in the style of the period, this is a valuable contribution to the bibliography of the British South Africa Police.

Included is a Nominal Roll of the members of the B.S.A. Company Police who escorted the Pioneer Column and a brief narrative of the force’s involvement in the Anglo-Boer War by Lt. Col. A.J. Tomlinson (later Acting Commissioner of the B.S.A.P.)
Previously unpublished, *Zambesi Patrol* is an account of a patrol undertaken by Trooper John Hoddinott in 1928 in the Zambesi Valley to verify a report that smallpox was ravaging the area and, if so, to establish cordons to prevent the spread of the disease and to vaccinate the native population.

Written in Patrol Diary style recording every day of a four month patrol, it provides an insight into what was demanded of a B.S.A.P. Trooper in a wilderness area in those days. Far from his Station, his only communication with civilisation being by native runners who took days to accomplish their journeys, with no medical assistance in an emergency, the trooper had to be self-sufficient and taking in his stride everything that the bush could throw at him.

Leaving Gokwe with three African staff and twenty two carriers, John Hoddinott trekked an estimated 1500 miles, wearing out four pairs of boots. Pack animals could not be used because of tsetse fly.

He had encounters with wild animals, crossed the Zambesi River by dug-out canoe, met African Chiefs and overcame the problems involved with vaccinating hundreds of persons.

Much of the territory he covered would later be inundated by the waters of Kariba Dam.
Book Three

Sunrise Patrols
A Trooper’s Story of Life in the British South Africa Police
in the late Nineteen-Twenties

Author; John Edgar Palmer (Trooper Reg. No. 2829)

Seeking a more eventful life, John Palmer resigned from his job as a storekeeper in Basutoland and joined the British South Africa Police in November 1926. He had to pay his own way to Salisbury, then pass a medical examination before he knew he would be accepted.

He describes vividly his experiences as a recruit in what was then a Mounted Infantry body of men, under the watchful and feared eye of one of the characters of the force, Regimental Sergeant Major ‘Jock’ Douglas. On his Pass-Out Parade the Commissioner instructed the recruits to make all their patrols Sunrise Patrols, starting the day early so that the horses would have the benefit of cool travelling.

Posted to Gwanda he took part in all the activities of a District Trooper; long bush patrols, dealing with poachers and wild animals, with ranchers and miners, witchcraft and murder; all are described in detail.

He became Member-in-Charge of the newly opened Beit Bridge Police Station, where he was also the Immigration Officer and had to deal with the many people seeking to enter the country. He was then Member-in-Charge Nyamandhlovu where he investigated a complicated murder case involving witchcraft.

All who want to know more about Police life in the more primitive parts of Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) early in the 20th century will find it in this book.
The British South Africa Police and its forerunner, the British South Africa Company Police, was responsible for maintaining law and order in the vast territories between the Limpopo and Zambesi Rivers and between the Bechuanaland Protectorate on the West and Portuguese East Africa on the east, known at that time as British South Africa.

These territories later became known as Southern Rhodesia, named after Cecil John Rhodes, the driving force behind the Company.

From formation in 1889 to disbandment in 1980 the B.S.A. Police steadily evolved from a military organisation, the First Line of Defence of the country, into a modern Police Force. It maintained many of the traditions of a Regiment while embracing the changes necessary to efficiently perform the functions of a civil force.

This book comprises memoirs and articles applicable to each decade of the Force’s existence and chronicles its evolution from the era of horse transport to that of the helicopter; it gives the reader a snapshot of the history of the British South Africa Police.
This is a previously unpublished memoir by one of the early members of the British South Africa Police. In an incident-filled life, ‘Bunny’ Rabbetts ran away to sea at the age of twelve and later saw action in the Boer War and the Natal Rebellion of 1906. He first joined the B.S.A.P. in 1902, serving under such well-known figures as RSM Blatherwick and Colonels Bodle and Flint. He paints a vivid picture of life as a trooper in those days.

After his contract of service expired he joined the Johannesburg Fire Brigade, leaving this to serve in the Natal Rebellion of 1906 in a unit formed by Sir Abe Bailey, the mining magnate. He also found time to be a diamond prospector. Following that he went to Bulawayo hoping to join the Fire Brigade but a chance meeting led him to rejoin the B.S.A.P. This period of service from 1906 to 1911 took him to District stations like Wankie and Victoria Falls. He describes the characters he met, including the notorious ex-trooper Joe Phelan, the main suspect in the Killarney Mine Gold Robbery.

Still restless, he left the Police in 1911 and managed the West Nicholson Hotel while also carrying on business as a transport contractor for the giant Liebig’s Ranch. The area was teeming with lions and one of the people he met was ‘Yank’ Allen, the legendary lion hunter. He then describes his life as a prospector in Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Barotseland.

He returned to uniform in both World Wars with the Southern Rhodesia forces.

His life can truly be said to have been ‘not without incident.’
The British South Africa Police of Southern Rhodesia has been fortunate in having had many members who wrote interesting accounts of their experiences in the Force, especially of the early days.

One of the greatest of these, if not the greatest, was Eben Mocke. Writing under various noms-de-plume such as ‘1437’ (his regimental number) and ‘Pioneer’ he was one of the most prolific contributors to the B.S.A.P. magazine *The Outpost* whose editor, Alan Stock, met Eben. Alan escorted him to Bulawayo to meet the bushman, Cwai, whom Mocke had not seen for fifty years since they had encountered each other during the course of an epic patrol, masterfully described by Mocke in his *Kalahari Patrol*.

Eben’s stories spanned the years from the Boer and First World Wars on into the ‘Seventies. In his submission to the National Archives of Rhodesia he gave valuable information on the late Pioneer period of the country.

Letters from his contemporaries are included in this book, some of them critical, but all confirming what a great veldsman he was.
The British South Africa Police
Military Operations outside Southern Rhodesia during World War One
and World War Two

Authors: John Berry (5584) Cliff Rogers (4735) Alan Stock (6063)

This book is a compilation of memoirs and articles about the British South Africa Police involvement in military operations outside Southern Rhodesia during World Wars I & II. Most have appeared before in various magazines many years ago, but these earlier and fragmented publications are now difficult for the ordinary reader to access and so are re-published here in one easy to read book.

Part One covers World War I and consists of various memoirs written by men who took part in the events, with connecting and explanatory text. There is thus some duplication but it is interesting to read how different writers had different interpretations of events. The obituaries of leading figures and Nominal and Medal Rolls are included.

Part Two covers World War II. There were much less actual military operations as the B.S.A.P. was no longer the de facto army of Southern Rhodesia. However, some 138 members of the force were seconded to various units in North Africa, the Dodecanese, Iraq and Burma, where they served with distinction.

Many wrote articles about their experiences and these are reproduced here. After their return home many rose to high rank in the force.

A Nominal Roll is included.
This book contains eleven stories by members of the British South Africa Police who started out as troopers at periods ranging from the earliest days of the Force to immediately after World War Two.

They tell stories of times when malaria and blackwater fever were rife and a cure unknown; the young despatch rider who died while carrying out his duty as a link in the vitally important task of carrying the mails from the brand new territory (later called Southern Rhodesia) to South Africa; of dealing with rebellion in neighbouring Portuguese East Africa; of such mundane tasks as running the postal service at a small rural station; of the 1920s when roads were still few and far between and the horse and the pack mule were important means of transport; of a time when, once he left his station, the trooper was on his own.

One story describes how the ‘old hands’ enjoyed a typical pub crawl in Bulawayo; another tells of the drifts on the Limpopo River before the bridge at Beit Bridge was opened; another trooper tells of his slightly unorthodox hunt for an elephant which was destroying native crops.

The famous gold robbery at Filabusi where the chief suspect was a B.S.A.P. trooper is recounted.

The memoirs of Trooper Seward who rose to be a Lieutenant Colonel commanding Bulawayo District offers an important insight into how Police duties were performed.

Last but not least is the story of Trooper Johnston who was a member of the famous Alcantara Draft immediately after World War II and who was recruited in London by Lt. Col. Seward.
Discussion with many former members of the British South Africa Police of Southern Rhodesia revealed a dearth of knowledge amongst them concerning the Commanding Officers and Commissioners of their Regiment, particularly the early ones.

It is hoped that this book will go some way to providing that knowledge.

The book chronicles events leading to the formation of the Force and the foundation of the country it later policed. The foremost personalities involved are described, with biographical details and photographs.

A section is devoted to each Commanding Officer and Commissioner and, by their very nature, these in themselves constitute a condensed history of the B.S.A.P. and show how the Force grew and evolved with the country.

All Commissioners faced new challenges and this is the story of how they overcame them.
Stanley Edwards joined the British South Africa Police as a Trooper in 1938 at a time when the B.S.A.P. was the first line of defence of Southern Rhodesia.

When he retired from the B.S.A.P. in 1966 he was a Senior Assistant Commissioner, having risen through the ranks to command Salisbury Province (the senior Province) and become Chief Staff Officer to the Commissioner.

In his service he experienced many changes; the period before World War II when long horse patrols were the norm and outstation conditions were primitive; during the War when Police were stretched due to the shortage of manpower; the creation of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the great changes which occurred in the Force as it moved to a more civilian role; through the rising tide of African Nationalism; Ian Smith’s Unilateral Declaration of Independence and the first stirrings of what to become the Rhodesian Bush War.

This book, however, is not just about police matters. Stanley Edwards was a keen observer of people, personalities, African customs and the veld. He comments on characters in the bush and on farms; on District station on which he served; on domestic arrangements at stations; on witchcraft, ritual sacrifice, African courts and justice; African languages (he had language and law qualifications which relatively few members had); on the important factors of the Rhodesian economy (gold, coal and tobacco); on botany and the various trees of the veld and their uses; on wild animals, with many tales of big game hunting in which he was involved; of the building of Kariba Dam and the ensuing problems with the tribespeople and animal rescue.

To quote Chief Justice MacDonald in his foreword ‘this book will, I feel sure, become a valuable addition to existing Rhodesiana.’

The book has 383 pages and is profusely illustrated, both with drawings and photographs. Some of the drawings are the work of his wife Patricia, whom he met at Banket and who supported him throughout his long life.
Since its formation in 1889 the British South Africa Police had taken part in many campaigns, including service with distinction in the Anglo-Boer War, but during the period 1915 -1918 it was to take part in a longer and more challenging campaign than any that had gone before.

One the outbreak of World War I it was decided that the German colonies in Africa had to be conquered. German East Africa (later Tanganyika) was one of these. When the North-Eastern border areas of Northern Rhodesia were threatened by the Germans various units were raised to defend them and to also carry the battle to the enemy.

One of these was the Service Company of the B.S.A.P. which was sent to the border in 1915. It became famously known as ‘Murray’s Column’ after its commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel R.E. Murray, D.S.O. and Bar, D.C.M.

These days the German East Africa campaign is relatively little known compared to the Western Front. For that reason this account by the well-known Rhodesian author and historian ‘Tony’ Tanser is an important and detailed record of an epic period in the B.S.A.P.’s history. It has not been previously published and, since the author’s death in 1976, it has remained in manuscript form in Salisbury (now Harare). In his thorough and exhaustive research for this book, Tony Tanser not only had access to the records of the National Archives of Rhodesia, but also the private papers, diaries and letters of participants in the campaign and personal interviews with survivors.

He paints a vivid picture of battles, forced marches along bush tracks, through swamps and rivers, over mountains and high plateaux, on short and sometimes no rations. In the course of a single day the lightly-clad troops could experience cold and rain in the morning and hot, steamy, disease-ridden river valleys in the evening, while all the time having to be on the alert for a highly-trained, well-equipped enemy led by a brilliant and ruthless leader, General von Lettow-Vorbeck. He was never defeated in the field and only surrendered two days after the Armistice was signed in Europe.
George Cecil Style was a man of many parts; during his life he was a bank clerk, police trooper, cattle inspector, army lieutenant, tobacco farmer, pioneer of game ranching in the then undeveloped lowveld of Southern Rhodesia and, during his retirement, a voluntary relief farm manager during the years of the Rhodesian Bushwar.

He was also a man of letters, an accomplished author of many articles about the British South Africa Police, hunting and wildlife conservation and Rhodesian personalities and characters he met. He gave of his time freely to communicate with former colleagues and bring them together.

Part One of this book is his biography, the early years written by himself and the later years by the well-known lowveld doctor, Colin Saunders. Part Two comprises stories he wrote about the B.S.A.P., of which he was proud to have been a member.

Part Three has many of the stories he wrote about general Rhodesian topics, personalities, hunting and wildlife observation.

In Part Four Style provides a valuable history of how the Lowveld of Southern Rhodesia was developed during the early years of the last century. This he accomplishes by detailing the lives and achievements of three of the ‘Great Characters of the Lowveld.’ He was himself another such.
The British South Africa Police has been fortunate in having many great writers in its ranks, such as Eben Mocke and George Style, to name only a couple. Most of the writers recorded stories of isolated areas of Southern Rhodesia and also the daily doings of members of the Police.

There were also a number who wrote very funny stories of Police life. Unfortunately most wrote under pen names which has made it hard now, many years later, to identify them.

One of these is the author of the Constable Wonderwayi stories, an amusing yet knowledgeable series on the adventures of an African Constable. He wrote under the name of Umuthi Wenganekwane. There is some evidence that this was Inspector Henry Howard Johnson (4892), but this has yet to be confirmed.

One author whose name is known is the late Staff Chief Inspector ‘Paddy’ Watson (4119). He was a former editor of the Outpost and wrote under the name of ‘Wobbly.’ He penned the series on Scrimshank-Wick which feature in this book. He is also thought to have used other pen names when writing for the Outpost (as editors have been known to do for their publications). The series ‘How are They at Home’ was written under several pen names but with the same style.

Also featured is some of the work of the great cartoonist, J.H. Jackson, who contributed to the Outpost for decades. Of more recent vintage is former member Richard (Dick) Hamley (5567), author of The Regiment and an illustrator of note.
Over nearly seven decades the chronicles and happenings of the British South Africa Police, together with the experiences of ordinary members of the Force, have been recorded in the Police magazines. First there was *The Police Review*, founded in 1911, then the Rhodesian Defence Force Journal during and after the Great War years, then, in 1923, the *Outpost* for the remainder of the Force’s existence.

Several books have been produced over the years reproducing articles from the magazines. This is another such one.

In addition to articles from the early days of the B.S.A.P. there are also some memoirs not previously published which will be of particular interest to those who served during the Rhodesian Bushwar of the 1970s. These give an insight into what was happening behind the scenes.

The Regimental Association of the British South Africa Police is a flourishing institution with Branches and members all over the world. Those who would like to know how it all began will find it here.

Other institutions such as the Forensic Science Laboratory and even the origins of the magazines themselves also find a place here.

The Regimental Sergeant Majors played an important role in setting the tone of the Force and stories of three of them are recounted.

The articles and memoirs cover a wide spectrum both in content and time and the reader should find much of interest.