



# NEWS FROM CENTRAL

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## Comment

During November 2009, I drove down to South Africa for a shopping trip as I generally do at this time of year. Heading south from Mvuma (Umvuma) I came to what used to be Chilimanzi. Alas, Chilimanzi is no more! All that is left there now are two derelict houses. One was the house of the Member in Charge Police, which is on the right hand side of the main road when heading south. The other was the house of the Animal Health Inspector, which is on the left hand side of the main road. There is nothing else there to indicate that there was once a police station and a small administrative centre there. The police station and administrative centre has moved to Chatsworth.

As I drove through what used to be Chimimanzi, I go to thinking about my posting ex Depot to first Midlands Province and then to Fort Victoria in January 1955. Three members of Recruit Squad 6/54 were posted to Midlands Province, 5278 Andy Stirling, 5279 Gerry Moores and myself, 5281 Peter Bellingham. The three of us travelled by train overnight from Salisbury (Harare) to Gwelo (Gweru), and arrived in Gwelo at some ungodly hour as I remember. We met Propol Midlands, 3088 Col. Walker, (The father of General the Lord Walker who was Chief of the General Staff when he retired from the British Army) that morning. He told us that Andy was being posted to Enkledoorn (Chivhu), and that Gerry and I were being posted to Fort Victoria (Masvingo). Gerry and I left Gwelo by train that same morning en route to Fort Victoria, arriving there at 5.30pm that evening. This was without a doubt the slowest train journey of my life. We were met at Fort Victoria Station by 4899 Mike Walsh who greeted us with the words, "Welcome to the arsehole of the Empire"! I will never forget that greeting.

Gerry and I met Dispol, 3369 Major Harries, the following morning. Gerry was posted to Fort Victoria Urban where 4023 Sgt Joe Rowley was Member in Charge, and I was posted to Fort Victoria Rural where 4034 Sgt Jock Binnie was Member in Charge. The other members of the District Headquarters were the District Inspector, 3630 S/Insp Sandy McCall Smith, the District Clerk 4225 Ron Underwood and the Radio Operator 4670 Sgt Arnold Thorne (Mr. ZEF7).

Fort Victoria in those days was a typical small Rhodesian town. It has grown considerably since 1955. The commonage area along the Salisbury Road where I used to go riding is now a residential area, as is the area along the Beitbridge Road. What used to be the rifle range is now also a residential area. It is possible to see where the butts of the old range used to be at the base of the kopje to the south of the houses, but only if you know where to look.

I have very many happy memories of Fort Victoria in the 1950s and my mind was full of nostalgic thoughts as I headed south for Beitbridge and South Africa.

Getting back to Chilimanzi, which is what brought about this chain of thought, the Member in Charge Chilimanzi at that time was 4413 Dickie Cox, who now lives in Vancouver, Canada.

Zimbabwe News.

External Pension Payments. After the suggestion last year that the Government would start paying external pension allowances, it is with great regret that I have to advise that there has been no further progress on this score. This is likely to remain the case as long as there is “disunity” between the partners of the Unity Government. We were told that the exercise may commence around Easter this year, but this is now unlikely. We can only hope that perhaps South Africa and SADCC can apply sufficient pressure to the government here to make this happen. Another aspect that must have a bearing on this issue is the availability of the hard cash with which to pay external pension allowances! The EU has recently renewed sanctions for another year, but pressure from Great Britain, the EU and the USA does not appear to help very much. Such pressure just antagonises the Government here, and makes it dig in its heels!

Mashonaland.

The Annual General Meetings of both the Mashonaland Branch and of the Central Advisory Committees were held at the Mount Pleasant Sports Club on Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009, and these were followed by a braaivleis. Those attending were: 7615 “Tok” Arnold, 5281 Peter Bellingham, 6384 Peter Birkett, 5608 Dave de Burgh-Thomas, 6083 Hugh De Robeck, 4728 Bill Ellway, 8646 Andrew Field, 5917 Rod Finnigan, 7458 Mike Fox, 6262 Nigel Gabriel, 90849 John Hammond, 5119 Ian Hayes (with son Shane), (8235) Lynn Kay, 5652 Bill Linfield, 6319 Chris Looker, 8150 Dave Lurie, 10115 Dave Mackintosh, 4394 Dave Martin, 3976 Taff Morgan, 9406 Red O’Connell, WP228 Shevaun O’Donnell, (5387) Jane Phillips, 9494 Malcolm Smith, 8746 Rick Summers, 8375 Dave Winhall and (4130) Betty Wright.

Apologies were received from: - 7706 Rod Bowan, WP275 Pam Cooper, 8294 John House, 11038 Cliff Johnson, 902015 Mike Lear, WP191 Wendy Lurie, 4371 John March, 6377 Tony Maycock, 7532 Gilly Oberholzer, P/Pilot Ron Pascoe (Praw), 10107 Dave Payne, 6007 Bob Schonken, P/R Obs. Richard Seward (Praw), 6026 Jamie Tennant, 8654? Les Townsend and 9210 John Van Zyl,

The new Mashonaland Committee was largely unchanged and with 9406 Red O’Connell holding the reins once again as Chairman. His committee members’ are 9494 Malcolm Smith, 10115 Dave Mackintosh, 111038 Cliff Johnson & WP134 Denise Woodiwiss. Also, the Central Advisory Committee was largely unchanged. 9494 Malcolm Smith was brought onto the committee to replace Mike Rowley as the representative for Manicaland & Masvingo. Mike relocated to the UK at the beginning of the year.

Once the formalities were over, those of us who did not have other commitments enjoyed an excellent braai. The weather was good, the company was excellent, and the beer was cold. What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

The Mashonaland Branch held a pre Christmas Braaivleis at the Mount Pleasant Sports Club on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Those attending were: - 5568 Dennis Anderson; 5281 Peter Bellingham; 6384 Peter Birkett; 11997 Dennis Borra; 760 Rod Bowen; WP.275 Pam Cooper; 5608 Dave de Burgh-Thomas; 9348 Bill Edwards; 4728 Bill Ellway; 5917 Rod & Laura Finnigan; 7458 Mike Fox; 6262 Nigel Gabriel; 9491 Pat Hammond; 5118 Ian Hayes; (4234) Pat Hobley; (8235) Lynn Kay; 90402 Gerry Kolpien; 5927 Max & Judy Macdonald; 10115 Dave Mackintosh; 9406 Red O’Connell; (4086) Olive Osborne; 8477 Peter Quick; 9494 Malcolm Smith; 8746 Rick & Roz Summers; WP.134 Denise Woodiwiss; and (4130) Betty Wright.

Apologies were received from: - 7615 “Tok” Arnold; P/R Pilot Jim Barker; 4795 Bob Burrell; 8263 Athol Estment; 8646 Andrew Field; (4049) Esme Jarvis; 5652 Bill Linfield; 6319 Chris Looker; 5949/6735 Tony Machan; 5877 John Mackinnon; 6377 Tony Maycock; 4829 Terry Oatt; (5387) Jane Phillips; 5162 Mike Robinson; 6007 Bob Schonken; 7014 Malcolm Smith; 6029 Jamie Tennant; 9210 John Van Zyl; 7437 John Woodward and 6783 Dave Young.

This was a most enjoyable “get-together”. The venue was great, the food was excellent, and a great spirit of camaraderie prevailed. The Branch arranged a first class raffle with a large selection of prizes and these were equitably distributed amongst those attending. All in all, it was a most enjoyable event.

The Mashonaland Branch have instituted a monthly “get-together” on the second Friday of each month at the Mount Pleasant Sports Club from 5.00pm onwards. So far this is receiving good support from Harare residents, and a great feeling of camaraderie has been established by these evenings. The Branch is very grateful to the Mount Pleasant Sports Club for permitting us to use their premises. At the March 2010 “get-together” we had a visitor from the UK, 5507 Brian Taylor, who was out here on a routine visit. It was good to see him once again. (*Brian and I were stationed together in Sinoia (Chinhoyi) in the early 60s. Ed*)

#### Matabeleland Branch.

The Matabeleland Branch produced their inaugural Newsletter in May 2009 (Volume 1 No. 1). The Newsletter is very well presented. It is printed in A5 booklet format on good quality paper, is printed in colour and contains colour photographs of various Matabeleland Branch functions. The Editor is 9499 Karl Hurry who takes on this onerous task in addition to his duties as Vice Chairman. We hope that this will be the first of many Matabeleland Outposts.

A Sundowner was held on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009 a new venue – Busters Sports Club – in their private bar. The following members attended: - 8510 Dave Adams; NRP Tony Adams; 8347 Dave Anderson; 4750 Ken Berry; 111040 Jeff Davidson; 4993 John Fielder; 5117 Dick Hall; Ass. Kit & Margaret Hawkins; 9499 Karl & Denise Hurry; 7435 Taffy Jones; 8496 John & Margaret Learmonth; 5247 Ken & Glenys Macdonald; NRP John Minshull; Ass. Peter Rollason; NRP Ian Terry with Pat Parker; Guests Rod & Anne Tourle; 961231 Tony Turner and Associates Piet & Joy Van Rensburg.

Despite the almost inevitable power cut, the event was most successful. In fact, the candlelit effect gave the evening an additional charm which made the event all the more enjoyable.

#### **Regional News.**

##### Natal Branch.

The Annual Lunch (yes, Lunch, not Dinner!) of the Natal Branch was held at the German Shamwari Club on Thursday 24 September 2009 and, judging from the turnout and positive comments made, the Committee’s decision to change from an evening function to a midday one was vindicated. Ninety-three ex-members (including, in some cases, wives/partners) and invited guests attended – and it would have been over 100 except for ‘non-shows’ and last minute cancellations – where, at Annual Dinners in the recent past, we were lucky to get 70 people. The Guest Speaker was ex-Group Captain Tol Janeke, Rhodaf, who gave a very interesting talk on the Air Force’s role in the bush war and, in particular, the work done with the BSAP in combating terrorism. The ex-Dog Section lads in the audience gave knowing smiles when Tol described helicopters ferrying dogs and their handlers to contact scenes and the not-so-funny incident when a dog leapt from a chopper at far too great a height, pulling his handler with him. The Reply Speaker, the inimitable John Haswell, who had everyone laughing from the moment he held the ‘mike, especially at his Tickey Ndhlovu stories which never lose their attraction. Apart from Tol, other guests were George (ex SAS) Galbraith and his wife Lynn, Steve Stevens (Chairman, Midlands Branch) and Marion, and Judge Hilary Squires. A large contingent of the Margate Station mob made their presence felt. Also there was a fine representation from the ladies & gentlemen of Natal Midlands. It was good to see Ted Painting, who had recently suffered a stroke, John Hardie and Alan Brent (whose wife, Myrna, provided everybody with a presentation pack of the best fudge in the country). Denis and Marion Wyatt ran a very successful raffle, which netted the Branch R1500.00. The auction of a leather-bound book of drawings of Rhodesian security forces uniforms, donated by 5888 Neville Cook, swelled the Branch funds by a

further R2500.00. Good food and excellent company were the order of the day and many requests were received to continue with a Lunch in future, rather than a Dinner.

#### Natal Midlands.

The “Annual Dinner” was successfully changed to an “Annual Lunch” which took place at the Hilton Hotel, Hilton. The old hotel has recently been bought by the Protea Hotel Group and is about to undergo major renovations, however I’m told will still maintain the old familiar Tudor style. Seventy seven (77) members of the BSAP Association and friends sat down possibly for the last meal to be held in the old well known institution. I’m sure that everyone agreed that the décor, from the flowers, memorabilia on display, the finely produced menu’s and the exceptional meal produced by the Hotel made for a very successful occasion. Thanks to all concerned who include our Chairman Steve and Marion Stevens, Mike, Cheryl and Mandy Crabtree, Nancy Carroll and Flik Bennett. Our guest speaker Rob Bristow gave a good account of himself, and certainly brought back many memories for those who were brought up as children of policemen or policewomen. Rob will certainly be in demand as an after dinner speaker in the future. John Haswell replied in his normal professional and courteous manner ensuring that we all remember what a great bunch of people we were, and still have the ability to laugh at ourselves. Our thanks go to both Rob and John for rounding off such an excellent occasion. Those attending were: 8242 Alan and Flik Bennett, P/R Jeff & Carol Biles, P/R. Allison Blackmore, 8303 Rob Bristow, 6519 John & Nancy Carroll, (4210) Sheila Chadwick, Betty Chance (Widow of P/R Martin), 6283 Nobby & Natascha Clark, Mandy Crabtree & Dave Low, 3708 Bill Crabtree, 8507 Mike & Cheryl Crabtree, (6786) Ros Crone, Guests Martin & Margie Cronje, 6136 Ant Crossley, 5826 Nigel Cuerden, Marion Davies (Widow of P/R. Alistair), 6170/7756 Graham and Betty de Wit, 7706 Chris Driver, P/R 26773 John Drury & Partner Heather Botes, P/R. Stan Ferguson, P/R Ian & Ann Forrest, 4404 Frank Franklin, P/R. Ross Gower, 9693 Peter Green, 6187 John & Yvonne Haswell, 5876 Roy & Barbara Hendry, 7229 Des & Trish Howse, Guests Col & Elizabeth Hughes, 4178 Dick Humphries, P/Res “Honk” & Gina Hyde, P/R. Hilary & Lynne Keeton. 6835 Eric & Lorna Kennelly, (4805) Fay Marshall, 4380 Pat & Rosemary McCulloch, 4521 Phil & Eve Mingard, 8458 Brian & Trish Moores-Pitt, 8175 Rob Parker, P/R Malcolm & Barbara Raistrick, (4330) Bette Riddle, 6135 Gerrard Robinson and partner Lucy Blackman, 4254 Smudge & Shirley Smith, 4767/5717 Steve & Marion Stevens, Guests Caven & Jenny Swift, 8594 Hugh & Denise Temple, 4898 Chris & Hilary Thorne, P/R. Bill & Isobel Treacy and, (4559) Phyllis Trower with daughter Carol & and son-in-law Alan Hooper.

#### Western Cape Branch.

There was a Luncheon held at the Mowbray Golf Club for Members, Wives & Guests, on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009, which was well attended. Those attending were: - PR6531 Dave Acker; 6639 Bob & Sue Beddingham; 7880 Guy & Sally Bekker; 5483 Dave & Hanni Blacker; 6846 Jim & Marlene Blain; 7751 Alan & June Crook; 8895 Rod & Elmari Eterman; 6694 John & Rosalie Holmes; Roger & Alison Humphreys; 6780 Graham & Pauline Jansen; 6588 Mike Job & Michaela; 7108 Alastair & Patricia Mackenzie; 5880 Stan & Deidre Macmillan; 5623 Mike & Lucille May; 8714 John & Cheryl Munro with Mrs Helen Miller; 5800 Tom & Phoebe Naude; 6893 Brian & Miriam Oberholtzer; 5689 Gilly & Isobel Potter; 5098 Dave Riley & Amanda Vos; 6494 Tony & Hazel Rozemeyer; 6874/8032 Neville Spurr; 6671 Jan & Felicity Steenkamp; 6226 Andrew & Ursula Stevens; 7577 Geoff & Heather Thistleton; NRP Chris & Gwyn Thorne 5675/7285 Dave & Nikki Waddon; 7041 John Waterhouse & Sigi and 8527 Phil & Sue Wright. The lunch was excellent, as was the socializing both before and after the meal. There was a special word of thanks to Cheryl Munro who organized the gifts for the ladies.

The Annual Dinner was held at the popular PGA’s Restaurant at the Mowbray Golf Club once again on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009. The dinner was well attended, but the numbers were down somewhat compared with previous years. The Guest Speaker was the well known author 4831 Peter Stiff. Some generous donations were made towards the raffle and the auctions including two cases of KVV Wine

and one case of KWV Brandy. Those who attended were: - 6639 Bob Beddingham; Guest Roche Benecke; 5483 Dave Blacker; 6846 Jim Blain; 6354 Derek Bothwell; 6920 Andy Bullmore; Guest Ryan Cremore; 7751 Alan Crook; 6110 Mike Douglas; 8895 Rod Eterman; Guest R Gibbons; 5860 Doug Grierson; 5217 Nigel Harris; 7544 Dave “Fluff” Hawkes; 6694 John Holmes; Ass. Dick Horn; Guest Deon Huysamen; 7310 Ed Ions; 5342 Peter Jackson; 6780 Graham Jansen; 6588 Mike Job; 6118 Pat Keyser; 6253 Ian Laing; 7702 Chris Lemesurier; PR.21091Z Ralph MacArthur; 5880 Stan Macmillan; WP.70 Wendy Mayer; C697 Mike Mays; “SB” McEvoy; 8302 Niall McKrill; 7364 Dusty Miller; 8714 John Munro; Guest Rudolph Murray; 6749 Howard Neill; 6120 Dave Parry; Guest John Penfold; 6158 Don Peters; 5689 Gilly Potter; 5098 Dave Riley; 6494 Tony Rozemeyer; 6784/8032 Neville Spurr; 6226 Andrew Stevens; Guest Luke Stevens; 4831 Peter Stiff; 6248 “F J” Van Eeden; 8897 Carl Van Woerden; Guest Ted Vickery and Guest Kevin Vos. The evening was most successful, both socially and financially.

6158 Don Peters presented the Western Cape Branch with a Coffee Table Edition of a book Transvaal.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Johannesburg Country Club on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009. This turned out to be a wonderful evening, as was fitting for the premier event of the year. Journalist David Bullard was a great guest speaker with his dry sense of humour in regard to accents, censorship, freedom of speech and Ferrari motor cars – as you all probably know, he was the motoring correspondent for the Sunday Times. He also wrote a popular column called Out to Lunch in that newspaper. It was over a particular controversial article about colonialism that he was sacked. During his speech he chirped that he had been “fired and shot in the space of 48 hours!” It may be recalled that he was the victim of armed robbers at his home at that time and collected a bullet. David was given a well-earned ovation at the end of his most entertaining speech.

Dave Sloman replied to the guest speaker in his own inimitable way. He did this by constructing a humorous Annual Performance Report (A.P.R.) about Bullard, the details of which will not be repeated here!

We also had a mounted policeman at the dinner (Yes, an actual horse made a brief appearance ridden by 6166 Keith Nortje wearing breeches, pith helmet “et al”). He brought the horse all the way from east of Pretoria. This provided an interesting interlude for all those present.

There were about one hundred attendees. Those who signed the register were: Guest Andrew Barker, 9142 Max Barker, 5806 Steve Barry, Army 0480 Ian Bate, 2746 Bill Bragge, Guest Ray Branch, 8556 Darroll Brent, PRAW John Bridger, 10017 Tony Bridger, 7102 Harry Browne, Guest Speaker David Bullard, Intaf Alex Bundock, 781418 I. Carswell, Piper (Ex RR) Kevin Coetzee; 7038 Ashley Collings, 6650 Peter Combes, 6534 Ian Cuthbertson, Guest H De Waal, Guest Charles Deacon, 900335 Noel Deacon, Guest Nick Dempsey, 5526 Phil Devlin, 6817 Keith Douche, 7789Q Peter Drysdale, 7489 Ian Duncan, 6117 Roy Edwards, SAP G.N. Erasmus, 3560 Wally Ferreira, Guest Alan Ferrett, 6145 Alex Fraser, 6692 Brian Garvey, Guest Sean Gibson, 6769 Dick Glanville, 7319 Tony Glover, Guest Theo Greeff, Guest A J Hammill, 6587 Ian Harries, 4228 Bruce Harrison, Guest John Harvey, 8026 Jonathan Harvey, Guest Trevor Harvey, 110887 John Herdman, Army 0410 Pat Hill, 6345 Dave Holmes, 6059 Laurie Ibbitt, Guest Mike Johns, SAAF L Jordaan, Guest Theo Jordaan, 5991 Don Joss, 6535 Rob Kenny, 7651 Dick Latilla, 6904 Ian Lawrence, 8272 Manie Leonard, Guest Jimmy Littlewood, 49286 Chas Lotter, 6538 Glenn Macaskill, 6715 Sam McCrorie, Guest Paddy McKinlay, Guest John Mills, 6166 Keith Nortje, Guest Richard Pearson, 8239 John Pearson; 6610 Jock Pirrett, Guest Jean Pitout, 8557 Corrie Pretorius, 5845 Gordon Rendall, 34476Y E Robinson, 7400 Brian Rogers, Guest Ian Ross-Marsh, 5231 Don Rowland, 7184 Chris Russell, 7609 Tom Short, 5695 Dave Sloman, Guest R Sloman, 8544 Clive Slowe, 10098 Bryan Smith, Guest Richard Smit, 6416 Terry Smith, 8410 Andy Sternslow, 5577 John Thorne, 9431 Simon Thorpe, 4028 Terry Thorpe, 7290 Steve van den Heever, 8393 Dutch Van Eck, 8057 Robin Waller, 8446 Derek Walters, 10435 John Waspe, Guest Cameron Waugh, 9790 Duncan Waugh, 9496 Kai Werner Weinzheimer, 728230 Ron Wheeldon, 22115M Alf Whisten and 8157 Barry Woan.

## **International News.**

### **Australia.**

The 2009 Annual Lunch took place on Saturday the 12th of September 2009 at the RSL Belmont. It was attended by 66 members and guests, amongst whom were the Guest of Honour, Colonel Harry Harvey ex Director of Military Intelligence and his wife Bente, Special Guest Alan Richardson JP President of the Belmont RSL and his wife Yvonne, and John Standing, the Secretary of the Kenya Police Association.

Amongst those attending were: - 8260 David Amm, 11556K Don and Joyce Bulloch, 7682 Ian and Breda Calderwood, PR Pat and Moira Cane, 8617 Doug Capper and guest Pete Van Aarde (The Editor of the Bundu Times), (4147) Vivienne Cordy-Hedge, Valerie Davies (Widow of the late Roy Davies), 380126E Dave De Salis, 4326 Tom and Marjorie Doherty, PR27613 Pat Dunne, 4105 Bert and Sylvia Freemantle, 7045 Rob and Laurie Gates, PR22399 George Gault, 8755 Alan and Lesley Hadfield (Flew in from Sydney), Col. Harry Harvey and his wife Bente (Guest Speaker), 5316 Kerry Hoadley, (2388) Sylvia Holborn (Daughter of 2388 Tpr Stewart), WFR Merle Howden and her guest Betty Cilliers, 7625E Arthur Hutson and his guest, son Robert Hutson, Intaf Bill and Liz Johnstone, 7694 Steve and Linda Martin, 6929 Howard and Jean Martin, 19034N Alan and Joyce McGrath, (6387) Margot Morgan, PR Rob and WFR Barbara Osborne, 200894M Celia Parkinson, 4564 Peter and Jean Reynolds (Visiting from Natal) & their daughter Jenny Joseph, Special Guest Alan Richardson and his wife Yvonne (President of the RSL Belmont), 4663 John Savage & guest John Standing (Secretary of the Kenya Police Association), 17845W Charles Scott and his daughter Amanda English, 4649 John and Margaret Seward, with guests son Michael Seward (Ex Army) & Michael Gale (Ex Intaf), 9849 Taffy Van Zuydam, 383583 Chuck and Peggy Warren, 7049 Lew and Joanne Whitmore, and 4780 Sam and Elizabeth Williams.

The lunch was delicious and the enjoyment of the meal was enhanced by all the fun of a mammoth raffle. All in all it was a great success and, thanks to the fact that those attending knew each other well, took place in a most convivial atmosphere. The Committee is to be commended for organizing such a successful event.

### **United Kingdom.**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Regimental Dinner took place in the Carisbrooke Hall at the Victory Services Club, London on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Chairman, Peter Phillips, got things underway. He welcomed Dr Sue Onslow (Guest Speaker), Peter Petter-Bowyer (RhodAF) and Nighean Darlaston (NRP Association). He also welcomed all those members attending from overseas, with a special mention for 3708 Bill Crabtree who had come over from South Africa, who looked very well at 93 years of age. Then he then read out greetings and best wishes from Her Majesty the Queen, General the Lord Michael Walker (Patron), Rhodesian Army Association and the Natal Branch of the Association.

After the loyal toast, 67 members and guests sat down to a very enjoyable meal. Following the customary short break, Peter introduced our guest speaker, Dr Sue Onslow, Research Fellow and Lecturer War Studies, Kings College. Sue, having lived and worked in South Africa and Kenya, gave an insight into her work, especially her present project which has brought her face to face with many of our Members when recording their involvement and experiences in terrorist war leading up to the change in Government in Rhodesia. Her speech was very well received. Tony Granger replied in his usual eloquent manner.

Those attending the dinner were: - 7784 Steve Accornley, 6743 Bruce Allen, Guest Jason Allen, 5111 Jack Bacon, 4278 John Balchin, Associate Andy Banks, 5408 Richard Barnes (Australia), 111032 Colin Bewes, 7211 Peter Biddulph, 9591 Les Burrow, 8009 Peter Butler, 'A' Reserve 4891 Sid Cooper, 3708 Bill Crabtree (South Africa), 4882 Peter Dancer, Guest Nighean Darlaston (NRP Assoc), 5272 Pat Deasy (Eire), 7677 Peter Dewe, 5755 Stewart Edwards, 6629 George Glibbery, Guest Nick Golden, 9086 Tony Granger, 4851 Murray Harrison (Spain), 6630 Jim Hazlett, 5662

Barry Henson, 5171 Peter Hillier, 7996 Peter Hirst, 5259 Wilf Howe, 6308 Dan Hughes, 4503 Derek Humberstone, 5248 Alan Lane, 5349 Peter Lane, Associate Jacqui McLaren Associate Claire McLaren, 9102 Ian McLaren, 5615 Tom Meekin, Guest Stan Mills, 201279 Heather Milner, 5055 Ken Miners, Dr Sue Onslow (Guest Speaker), 6609 Hugh Parry-Jones, Guest Glyn Parry-Jones, Guest Huw Parry-Jones, 6632 Gerry Paxton, Wing Commdr. Peter Petter-Bowyer (RhodAF), 6905 Peter Phillips, 6348 Dennis Poole, 6507 Seamus Power, 4853 Fred Punter, 6123 Brian Pym, 19566 “Skip” Rausch, 5075 Dick Ray, 5601 Eric Robb, 6432 Chris Roberts, W199 Linda Robertson, 8163 Mike Robertson, 4735 Cliff Rogers, 453 Patricia Shaw, 4897 Brian Shiers (USA), 6130 Randy Symmons, 4964 Mike Tadman, 5507 Brian Taylor, 5559 Dick Thompson, 7391 Alan Toms, 5625 “Biff” Way, 4158 Tim Weimer, 4857 Mike Wiltshire and 5358 Mick York.

*(We were very sorry to learn that Bertie Cubitt suffered a fall whilst preparing the Hall for the Annual Dinner damaging his hip. He was admitted to hospital and so missed the dinner. He underwent a hip replacement operation on the following Monday. Happily, he is now back at home where he is recovering from his unfortunate accident. We wish him a full and speedy recovery. Ed).*

#### A “Snippet” of Force History.

The following transcript of an original set of notes written by 230 Trooper Arthur Edward Bryant, describe his early experiences in the BSAP, and appear in the latest UK Outpost. Bryant attested first on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1901 and served until the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1901. It seems he then took leave of absence, and re-attested as Trooper 658 on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1905. He finally left on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1910.

It is not known exactly when the notes were written but it is thought to have been around 1905. The notes were donated to the Association by his grandson Alan Bryant who is still living in Zimbabwe. It is intended they will be lodged with the National Army Museum.

### **EARLY DAYS IN THE RHODESIAN POLICE**

**By**

**A.E. Bryant, Plumtree,  
S. Rhodesia (PO Box 13)**

Born in Essex I received as good an education as possible and on leaving school was apprenticed as a gunsmith. I did well at this but on the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War the restlessness of youth seized me and in 1901, at the age of 18 years, the lust for travel and adventure duly overcame discretion and parental advice and I volunteered for service in S. Africa. I joined the B.S.A. Police (that is the Police Force of Rhodesia) and proceeded to that Colony. The Boer War was then in progress and the journey up country to Bulawayo was as exciting as any youngster could wish. There were 50 of us lads that had been recruited in London and none of us African explorers. We took 10 days on the journey from Cape Town to Bulawayo only travelling by daytime. We were constantly shot at by the Boers, but saw no very serious fighting.

We were accommodated First Class! That was 10 men in an iron cattle truck and even though this was the month of June, the heat across the Karoo and through Bechuanaland was quite as much as we youngsters could stand. We had to cook our meals, or rather I should say make our coffee or tea at any time the train stopped and it was quite usual for us, just as we had our billies near boiling, there would be a terrible screech - the whistle of the engine - and all would get aboard with our lukewarm water.

However Bulawayo was reached eventually, and at the BSA Police camp there we were able to get rid of the dirt and dust of the journey and the bath we enjoyed then was, I think, one of the greatest luxuries of our whole career.

During the journey up country, although we were fully fledged Policemen, we only had our civilian clothes, so I will leave to the imagination what a scarecrow party we looked, some in grey lounge suits, some in blue suits others in once white summer suits and, in one case, a Policeman in morning suit complete with tails as then worn. To add to the glory of our apparel was Police boots, slouch hats (Police pattern) bandolier with 50 rounds of ammunition, water bottle haversack and mess tin.

After a few days halt at Bulawayo we started on the 300 mile trek to Salisbury, our ultimate destination. It must be remembered that this was the year 1901, so that the luxury of motorcars or armoured trucks had not yet arrived and we had to make the journey on our as yet untried policeman's feet. Fifty of us started out one cold morning in July.

In charge of us was a police officer and sergeant, two good men who had born the hardships of the Rhodesian Rebellion, which please remember had only been over for four years, so for we youngsters, the very unsettled state of the Country and the hate filled eyes of the natives was as thrilling and as nerve testing as one could wish. With us to carry our kit and supplies for the journey were three ox wagons under charge of Hottentot drivers, with a Quartermaster Sergeant to issue our rations and to see we did not get too fat for that 300 mile walk.

As we were still in our civilian clothes plus the martial trappings, we began to resemble good old English tramps but what did we care, we were young and fit, and going up to Mashonaland to guard railway bridges, this to be our glorious part in helping to beat the Boers.

At the midday halt the first day of our trek happened one of the most amusing incidents of my life. (It did not appear so humorous at the time). The wagons were outspanned, and the military voice of the Q.M Sergeant, called we 50 innocents to come and get our rations. Now, having been well fed and looked after at Bulawayo the thought of how we were going to feed on the road had not occurred to us, so we strolled up to the ration wagon for the goods. What was our surprise, not to say disgust, when the worthy Q.M.S. hurled at each of us a tin of bully beef. As we stooped to pick up these luxuries, we were told to come and get our flour, (we had expected bread). A scoop full of flour (that was supposed to be 1lb), was thrust at each of us so we were obliged to empty it into our haversacks or mess tins. Next a hand full of sugar (3ozs) was given us and this, together with 1oz coffee and half oz of tea had to go into our pockets. This comprised our rations for the next 24 hours. In a very chastened mood we sat down. Fortunately there were one or two of us who had previously soldiered and we were soon, under their guidance, arranging ourselves into messes, but the greatest mess of all was that first attempt to turn flour into bread or its equivalent, and to sort out the tea, sugar and coffee from our pockets. This first day was, naturally, the worst. We soon had little ration bags (made mostly from our handkerchiefs) to hold the sugar, tea, etc., and after a few days really enjoyed the rough life and its equally rough food.

Owing to being young and somewhat soft, the first few days we only walked 12 miles each day, but this was gradually increased to 15 and then to 20. Try this some of you tough Policemen of the motor era, and don't forget, civilian clothes, military boots, rifle and bandolier, 50 rounds ammunition, water bottle, haversack and mess tin and we just youngsters, average age perhaps 20, straight out from good living in the Old Country, but we did it and there was never a grouse or sore foot amongst us, for we were not adventurers, coming out for the love of the life and its excitements, not to mention the great attraction of the fabulous pay of 5/- per diem.

There was a certain "sameness" about each day, but one great hardship, or so we thought, was the fact that all the wayside stores and hotels refused to serve us. We naturally wished to add some luxuries to our spartan fare, but the stores were all barricaded and the storekeepers on guard with rifles. The reason for this was that just prior to our journey up country, a certain Regiment, (not an English one) coming down country from Beira en route for the South, had shown a very unsportsmanlike attitude by helping themselves at the stores and neglecting to leave the money, hence we had to suffer for this.

Towards the end of July we were nearing Salisbury and were then burnt and fit; a real tough looking lot notwithstanding our attire. At the time of which I write there was a splendid military band attached to the Police at Salisbury and at our last halt some six miles from Town the Band met us headed by that grand old soldier, Jack Flint, who was then Commandant of the Police. Jack, as he was affectionately called, was an old Indian officer of the Royal Dragoons and I understand at one time the best swordsman in India. The Colonel was in the full dress of a Dragoon Colonel and the band also was in full dress to welcome us. The joke of this situation was that as the Band approached our camp, they broke into the hymn tune of "Art thou weary art thou languid", which we considered

very appropriate after our 300 mile stroll. The last six miles, headed by “Jack” and the band, was accomplished in fine style and in under two hours.

After a few days rest at Salisbury Camp we were issued with uniforms and our training commenced. This did not take long as we could all both ride and shoot, these, accomplishments having been a necessary qualification before joining in London, so at the end of three weeks we were ready for our jobs and I with about 20 other youngsters were sent down to Umtali and were there we were detailed to guard the railway bridges on the Beira and Mashonaland railways. Three men on each bridge, 2 hours on guard and 4 hours off duty and there we remained on this glorious and noble duty until peace was proclaimed in May 1902.

*(What a difference between his journey from the UK to Salisbury and that of my squad, Recruit Squad 6/54. We sailed from Southampton on the Pretoria Castle and on arrival in Cape Town in late July 1954, travelled by train “First Class” to Bulawayo and then on to Salisbury by rail. We were met at Salisbury Station by our Squad Instructor 4777 “Tackie” Macintosh. We travelled in comfort. Our first night on the train from Cape Town, as we travelled up through the Hex River Mountains, was bitterly cold though, and none of us slept well. As the sun rose the following morning, we were all sitting on the eastern side of the carriage seeking the warmth of the rising sun. We stopped at Kimberley, and saw icicles some 12 inches long hanging beneath the carriages. I shudder to think what Arthur Bryant’s first night must have been like in his open cattle truck. However, he makes no mention of the cold, only the heat! Although change is not always for the better, in our case it certainly was, particularly as we had no “Boers” firing at us! Ed)*

#### The BSAP Memorial.

The unveiling and the dedication of the BSAP Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum near Stafford in the UK will take place on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2010. The memorial is a replica of the Blatherwick Memorial in the Police Depot. Bronze plaques will appear on each face of the memorial. The plaque on the front face of the Memorial will be the BSAP Crest; on the rear face the plaque will feature a Mounted Trooper, whilst the plaques on the two side faces will provide historical details of both our military and civil backgrounds. Although the Memorial Project is a United Kingdom initiative, it has the blessing and support of ALL Branches, worldwide. Branches have provided financial assistance for this worthwhile project although the financial support from some branches has been disappointing. The UK Branch reports that even though some fifteen thousand pounds (£15,000.00) has been raised so far for the Project, this amount is insufficient to complete the Project. More funds are needed. We are aware that the majority of ex members still resident in Zimbabwe have little cash to spare at the end of each month. To those who have though, it is not too late for them to assist the UK Branch by making personal cash donations towards this very worthwhile project.

#### Mailbag.

I received an E-Mail from 4777 “Tackie” MacIntosh regarding the death of Edward Burbidge. He stated, “I was saddened to read in the last Outpost that 6119 Edward Burbidge had died, it would seem from unknown circumstances. Edward was one of my recruits. In fact, I chose him and 6120 David Parry to be my “Escorts” on the Freedom of the City Parade when I paraded the Scroll on the parade in Kingsway in 1960 - one of my more memorable days.” *(Photographs of this memorable Parade can be found on page 296 of the new Blue & Old Gold. They show “Tackie” with his two Escorts, all three immaculately turned out for this very special occasions. Ed)*

Tackie also mentions that 4762 Jim McEvoy, with whom he was in Depot in 1951, is now resident in Aylesbury in the UK, and so he sees him regularly.

I received a long E-Mail from an old friend and colleague from Marandellas – 7207 Arnold Woolley, now resident in the UK. Arnold left the Force in 1984 when he was the Provincial Superintendent (Police Reserve) in Gwelo and returned to the UK. He quickly realised on his arrival there that his age was against him when seeking employment. He took a cram management course at Graduate

level in Wrexham. It was a three year course crammed into one year, and was the top student of the course. After the course, he took a Management & Sales position with a Security Company in North Wales. He continued with his Management studies at Wirral Metropolitan College. By 1991, having achieved further qualifications in management, he was asked by the WMC to become a Part Time Lecturer in Management Studies whilst he was still working for the Security Company. However, upon discovering that his employers were engaged in some questionable practices, he and the company parted company. The parting was not amicable.

Arnold developed his tutorial links with the WMC and established a Management Consultancy Wing there which, though successful, only lasted a year for the college decided that they wanted to revert to their core-business. He continued with his management consultancy work and eventually formed his own company.

In 1994, he became involved in local government. This started with the death of a local Town Councillors which resulted in him being offered a co-opted position with the local Town Council. He was to fill this position until the next local elections. He won a seat at the next election and has been a Town Councillor ever since. He was the town Mayor from 2002 to 2003.

He closed his company in 2004 and devoted time to environmental work. (He is a Director of Zero Waste Alliance UK, registered charity.) Having been approached by local residents, he stood for election in the next Local Government elections and was elected as an Independent to both the Town Council and the County Council. He was re-elected in the 2008 elections, and was nominated for the position of Council Leader, which he accepted. His work keeps him very fully occupied. He states that he puts in a 55 hour week at least for he has to keep pace with changing legislation and policies. He says that in addition, he finds he has to travel a great deal to meet with Ministers and attend conferences. He finds the work both interesting and fulfilling however.”

*(Good luck to you Arnold. I don't know of any ex-member made the move to politics as a career. I find the account of your experiences following your return to the UK at the age of 45, and your early difficulties in trying to find work, extremely interesting and inspiring. Ed).*

### Roll of Honour

<u>Force No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Forenames</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>
3919	Anderson	Charles John Boyers	Waterfall, Natal, RSA	20/09/2009
6147	Anderson	Antony Finn	Cape Town, RSA	17/01/2010
4206	Avery	Michael Peter	Durban, RSA	27/09/2009
4822	Beale	James Wilson	Lafitte, France	05/11/2009
5643	Bell	Derek Turnbull	Brisbane, Australia	01/06/2009
4321	Berry	Jack	Ruwa	14/08/2009
A212	Brown	Anthony	Torbay, Devon, UK	29/12/2009
6119	Burbidge	Edward John Francis	Chipinge	2006
7808/8625/ 9456	Campbell	Douglas Clifford	Harare	19/08/1081
5225	Carse	James	Port Elizabeth, RSA	26/09/2009
4037	Cavey	Bernard Edward	Newcastle, UK	30/01/2010
4040	Clarke	Derek Peter	Adelaide, Australia	15/09/2009
6381	Cooper	Anthony Macmillien “Tony”	Christchurch, New Zealand	25/07/2009

9712 “A” Res	Coupar MLM	Francis Xavier Bruce	Pretoria, RSA	16/08/2009
8017	Coetzee	Hendrik Carsten	Cape Town, RSA	26/09/2009
WFR203222	Cowley	Alice Cecilia	Harare	24/06/2009
4991	Craker	Rex	Mpumulanga, RSA	24/06/2009
5470	Deetlefs	Duane	Pietermaritzburg, RSA	06/03/2009
9437	Donachie	Neil Mervyn	Cape Town, RSA	17/08/2009
7617/9154	Fowler	David John Hannan	Johannesburg, RSA	20/09/2009
4006	Fox	John Charles Hooten	Auckland, New Zealand.	30/07/2009
3657	Godwin	Alan Roger	Johannesburg, RSA	07/12/2009
8043	Goodchild	Alfred John	London	21/05/2009
90849	Hammond	John McArthur	Harare	01/11/2009
PR21134W	Harrold	David	Lesmahagow, UK	10/02/2009
F/R	Ingram	Aubrey	Port Elizabeth, RSA	27/12/2009
4388	Jasper	Paul	Colchester, UK	14/09/2009
6739	Johnson	Robin Michael	Cape Town, RSA	11/05/2009
WP.223/552	Law née Groenewald	Susanne Dorothy	Cape Town, RSA	30/10/2009
8225	Le Roux	Trevor John	Port Elizabeth, RSA	31/07/2009
(8210)	Marsh	Jennifer (Wife of 8210 Malcolm Leathern Marsh)	Maidstone, Kent, UK	16/05/2009
(4805/6163)	Marshall	Fay (Widow of 4805/6163 Oliver Dennis Marshall)	Pietermaritzburg, RSA	06/03/2010
5869	May	Brian John	Durban, RSA	28/04/2009
5552	McGuffog	Neil McGilp	Tasmania, Australia	20/08/2009
4165	McKay	Edgar Ian	London	26/07/2009
7625	Mommsen	Alistair John	Cape Town, RSA	27/04/2009
3976	Morgan	David John “Taffy”	Harare	06/01/2010
6515	Nicholson	John Bradshaw	Durban, RSA	01/11/2001 (Late Report)
4563	O’Hara	Terence Michael	Johannesburg, RSA	31/05/2009
111029	Pascoe	Antony Keith	Devon, UK	11/05/2009
6275/7507/ 110719	Preston	Michael Edward	Perth, W/Australia	01/05/2009
P/R 20321M	Rayne (Ex S/Ldr RRAF - 7 Sqd)	Keith Leask “Pops”	Gauteng, RSA	02/11/2009

5187	Reeves	Francis Michael	Cape Town, RSA	06/06/1984
“A” Res	Rowles	Jack	Southampton, UK	14/07/2009
4983	Sankey	David John Michael	Yorkshire, UK	15/10/2009
(9139)	Saunders	Brenda, (Wife of 9139 Joe Saunders)	Port Elizabeth, RSA	13/09/2009
3824640R	Sheward	John Frederick George	Johannesburg, RSA	01/09/2009
4332	Short	Peter Charles	Chelmsford, Essex, UK	11/12/2009
(4332)	Short	Joan (Wife of 4332 Peter Charles Short)	Chelmsford ,Essex, UK	11/12/2009
4668/5389	Smallbones	St John Leslie	Johannesburg, RSA	11/05/2009
4153	Smith	Terence Walter Stewart	Queensland, Australia	16/06/2009
3835	Stanyon	Herbert John	Maroochydore, Qld, Australia	08/06/2009
5879	Stow	David Graham	Port Elizabeth, RSA	31/01/2010
7720	Tasker	Derek	Johannesburg, RSA	28/03/2009
8581/10354	Van Dyk	James	Port Shepstone, RSA	23/01/2010
8304	Weatherall	Sydney	Stockton on Tees, UK	24/06/2009
4416	Webb	Edwin Alfred	Bulawayo	28/08/2009
WP501	White	Lindsay Ann	UK	22/01/2010
110856	Williams	Keith	Johannesburg, RSA	09/12/2009
(7644)	Wilson	Anne	Harare	14/09/2009

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