



# NEWS FROM MASHONALAND

Issue Number 2 (November 2017 – April 2018)

*Annual General Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018*

Greetings from the Mashonaland Branch. Firstly a reminder to all members of the Mashonaland Branch that the 2018 AGM for the Branch will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018, venue Larmenair Village, Harare, 11.30am for 12 midday. A free lunch will be provided for all paid up members, and available to others at a nominal fee. It is in the interest of all members to attend this meeting as the Branch needs the full support of all members if it is to survive.

Andrew Field recently emailed members appealing to them to assist in bringing more former members into the branch. Andrew advised that he has a list of 120 former members in the Harare (and we know there are a lot more), of which only 48 were members as of last year, so if you know of a former member who is not a member of the Association please make the effort to contact him or her and encourage them to join the Association. Please remember that residing outside the Harare area does not mean you cannot be an active member of the Association. The objectives of the Association are welfare, social interaction and preserving our history and contacting fellow members via email and the internet is not a problem for most people in this day and age. Andrew is also updating his records of widows of former members so if you know of any please let Andrew have their details, and in the case of any widow needing assistance please copy the details to the Branch Almoner, Nigel Gabriel.

*Lt.Col John Kelly VC CMG DSO*

My thanks to 6345 Dave Holmes who has written to me regarding John Sherwood Kelly VC CMG DSO who I mentioned in my last newsletter. Dave advised that JSK was his great uncle and he was always known as Jack. JSK was actually christened John Kelly, the name 'Sherwood' was an assumed name he acquired during his career. Several histories refer to his great uncle by the full name John Sherwood Kelly but Dave advised that this is incorrect. Dave further informed me that his grandfather was Edward John Kelly MC. Thank you Dave for your information. By coincidence I have recently read an article ('Britain at War', November 2017 issue) that mentions that JSK's grandfather James Kelly, took part in and survived The Charge of The Light Brigade at Balaclava in October 1854. The military history of this family makes fascinating reading.

### *Unclaimed Medals*

We are trying to locate the recipients of the following medals who are believed to have served in the Beatrice area. Anyone wishing to obtain further information regarding these medals should contact Rob Anderson on the following email address:- [Robert@zol.co.zw](mailto:Robert@zol.co.zw)

<u>Rhodesian General Service Medal</u>			<u>Police Service Long Service Medal</u>		
19513Y	S/L	Jones C J L	15806E	F/R	Van Huyssten W H
22775E	S/L	Murry A N	800350	G/R	Gonthi
25132 R	F/R	Scholtz A H	800351	F/R	Sinto
26769W	F/R	McKersie J F.	800352	G/R	Jeremiah
92427N	F/R	Wallace C C	800353	G/R	Edwards B
902359	NSPO	Stuart P D	<u>Zimbabwe Independence Medal</u>		
A6214	F/R	Lemani M	62542	F/R	Emerick J M
A12200	F/R	Otiresi	62597	F/R	Piers G P
A17749	F/R	Dafter	62619	F/R	Samuel J G
A21321	F/F	Luka	62639	F/R	Smith T C
A21378	F/R	Musindo	62668	F/R	Van Rooyen S G

### *Horace Arthur Ramsden VC*

Whilst on the subject of VC recipients my good friend Dr Bob Challis reminded me that I have not mentioned the only VC recipient who actually joined the BSAP before he won the VC, namely, Horace Arthur Ramsden VC. In his article (Heritage Publication 24 of 2005 ), Dr Challis notes that Arthur John Ramsden joined the BSAP (Regimental number 409) on 17 October 1902 and bought his discharge on the 2 November 1903. He won his VC on 26 December 1899 near Mafeking whilst serving as a trooper in the Protectorate Regiment (N.W. Cape Colony) South African Forces. He was awarded the VC for saving his brother who had been shot in both legs and was lying about ten yards from the Boer trenches. Ramsden picked up his brother and carried him some 600 to 800 yards under heavy fire, to safety. This was only the second occasion a VC was awarded to a man for rescuing his own brother. I am obliged to Dr Challis for reminding me of my omission.

### *Monthly Sun Downers*

The monthly sun-downers (second Friday night every month at the Biker's Club) continue to attract the same group of regulars but we do see a new face every now and then and they are most welcome, the more the merrier. Unfortunately driving at night on Zimbabwe roads is not to be recommended and many of our older members have now reached the age where night driving is out of the

question for them and they have to rely on an obliging friend to bring them along to any evening functions. Your committee realizes that many people cannot attend the evening sun-downers for various reasons and in this regard they have asked members for suggestions as to what social events they would like to see held as they feel there is a very real need to get members together more often. The attendance at the last lunchtime braai held in November 2017 was very disappointing and it is difficult for the committee to plan and arrange social functions unless they hear from the members what type of functions they would like to see being held, and of course it is vital the members support these functions. So on behalf of your committee I appeal to all members to get involved in the activities of the Branch, and let your committee know what sort of social functions you would like to have. Those attending our monthly sun-downers over the period November 2017 to March 2018 were :- 7615 Tok Arnold, 5503/6384 Peter Birkett, 902115 Bill Birkett, 5917 Rod Finnigan, 7459 Mike and Sue Fox, 7007 Gordon Law, 5652 Bill Linfield, 6019 Chris Looker, 8207 Lopyy Lournie, 9213 Les Mallett, 5927 Maxy MacDonald, 8746 Rick and Roz Summers, 6007 Bob Schonken, 9694 Mark Salthouse and Rob Anderson guest) .

*Visit of Gerry Paxton and Rob Briscoe*

6262 Nigel Gabriel wrote to inform me that on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 he and fellow locals 8374 Peter Jelliman , 6019 Chris Looker, 6794 Ray Ritson, 6007 Bob Schonken, and 6724/9210 JohnVan Zyl, met 6632 Jerry Paxton over from England, and Rob Briscoe up from South Africa at Garfunkel's, a popular restaurant in Sam Levy's Village, Borrowdale.

Garfunkel's is run by Lew Hughes, a well known local restaurateur and his and his brother Trevor Hughes, both ex BSAP, who are the sons of the late Spike Hughes. Nigel said he met Jerry again later that week at the same venue and said that Jerry had also been seen at the Borrowdale Races watching the Ipi Tombi Stakes at the Borrowdale racecourse. Hopefully he won a few shillings on the afternoon.

*4853 Frederick (Fred) Albert Punter PMM*

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Fred Punter aged 85, on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Sue Ryder Hospice, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom. Fred was born on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1932 in Sandy, Bedfordshire and ultimately retired there. He joined the BSA Police on the February 1952 and enjoyed a varied and distinguished career including his appointment in August 1973 to Staff Officer (Welfare) at PGHQ.

In this posting Fred served on the Editorial Committee of the Outpost and became popularly known to many members for his welfare initiatives .

Fred was awarded the PMM in November 1977. Fred was a member of the United Kingdom Branch and a Trustee of that Branch and rarely missed a Regimental social event, I recall that he frequently wore a blue beret with a police badge, a form of headdress which I personally feel it most appropriate for such occasions. Fred is survived by his widow Margaret, and daughters Sue and Carolyn, to whom all members extend their sincere condolences. Fred will be greatly missed by his family, all members of the Regimental Association, and his many friends. R.I.P Fred.

### *Recovery of Stolen BSAP Medals*

The UK Outpost, Spring addition 2018, recently published an interesting article concerning the recovery of some BSAP medals that had been stolen. In 2013, 5181 John Evans gave the medals awarded to him during his BSAP service to his grandson who was studying at Perth University, Australia. Shortly after his grandson went into residence the medals were stolen. In 2017 the medals turned up at an auction sale organized by Dixon, Noonan Webb of Mayfair (DNW). Contact was made with DNW, mainly through Paul Brewster, and an arrangement was made with Chris Mellor-Hill, the Head of Client Liaison, DNW Medals and Militaria Department, to have the medals withdrawn from the auction. Through the worldwide network, BSAP members had a whip-round and collected 250 pounds (R4,605) to match the bid made by an Australian collector. Mr Mellor-Hill, who was due to travel to South Africa, offered to take the medals to South Africa and present them to John. Needless to say they were received by a delighted John Evans and his family who were most grateful to all the members of the BSAP Association who had contributed to the return of his medals. In concluding this article the editor of the UK Outpost advised any member or their friends who lose their BSAP or service medals to contact him so that he could circulate that information to BSAP medal collectors. In that regard I would suggest that such information is copied to all Honorary Secretaries of the BSAP Association, the more information circulated the better. I noted with interest that both Paul Brewster and Chris Mellor-Hill are members of the Zimbabwe Medal Society.

### *April 2018 Sundowner*

To close off this newsletter, a brief mention of the April 2018 sundowner that was attended by the following :- 7615 Tok Arnold, 902115 Bill Birkett, 5917 Rod Finnigan, 7458 Mike and Sue Fox, 6262 Nigel Gabriel, 5652 Bill Linfield, and Bob Warren – Codrington (Army) guest.

Rod Finnigan (RN)  
Harare  
April 2018