Why don’t you listen to the wife and clean out that old trunk under the bed and turn it into cash. I am looking to buy:-

- BSAP badges including cloth flashes and slip ons
- Books on Rhodesia
- Bits of uniform, kit and equipment

I intend to make a donation to the Association on every purchase made

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Please try to avoid making a cash deposit

COVER PHOTO: A little bit of historic nostalgia, by kind courtesy of Andrew Field for supplying the photograph and Nobby Clark for sponsoring the cover.
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EDITOR’S NOTES

At the risk of being accused of being a pessimist (I am actually just the opposite) I would like to make a forecast which may come across as doom and gloom but in fact is intended to be a persuader to urge our ‘non-believers’ to believe and come to the party – before it is too late.

I predict that the BSAP Regimental Association will in all likelihood cease to exist in fifteen years time (around 2025)!

“What a load of rubbish ” will be some reaction, or “So what?” from other quarters.

If anyone wishes to argue against my prediction then let’s hear it. But I am basing my assessment on the assumption there are currently likely to be in the region of 2500 of us left at the moment (regulars, women police and police reserve).

No one argued against this estimate when I first brought up the subject not so long ago. If it is to be accepted, in the absence of any other number, then the next step is to consider your age today and calculate your age in 15 years time?

OK – many of us hope to still be around then but most of us will be at an age when those capable and willing to ‘manage’ the affairs of the Association will be too few. Also many of our members will not be there to offer support in the way of being “paid up” – another essential element of our existence.

One can argue that an 18 year old who joined in 1980 and before 1st August will, in 2025, be only 63. But if they are not interested in the Association today what makes us believe they will ‘come to the party’ when the ‘old timers’ have popped their clogs.

Of those who currently take an active part in our Association the ‘latest’ name on the Nominal Roll that I recognize is 110890 Karl Hurry (Branch Secretary of Matabeleland) who served from Apr 1979 to Sep 1982. Karl comments, “........on the 5th December 2025 I will (God willing!) be 68 years young”.

This page sponsored by 5666 Dave Wright
Closer to home is 8507 Mike Crabtree (a committee member of the Natal Midlands Branch). In 2025 he will be 73 and if he takes after his father he should still be around to run things but I suspect he won’t have much support, apart from his current Branch Secretary, 8242 Alan Bennett, who will be one year older.

Although there are likely to be a lot more Police Reservists out there than we have calculated I would suggest that in some cases they also have a military war service record and therefore belong to the MOTHS, albeit in some cases support both the BSAP and whatever other uniform they wore. In any event if they are not members of our Association today they are unlikely to come forward to help run the show at some future date.

An important point also to bear in mind is that the rate of attrition does not favour the young. In other words age alone is not the only criteria when calculating our diminishing numbers – death visits the young too.

Karl Hurry has hit the nail on the head – “God willing”.

My suggestion is for all of us who know of a former colleague who, for whatever reason, is not a member of our Association, to show him (or her) a copy of this page and ask him/her to re-consider the situation. If we can recruit more of our younger members especially, then our 15 year life line should be extended. Good luck!

Hands up all those who did the Crossword in our last edition of the Outpost? I haven’t come across anyone to date which suggests we don’t have any, or many, “crossworders” in our midst. Unless we hear to the contrary this project, the brainchild of Val Hughes (nee Oldham), will be discontinued as I wouldn’t want Dick Isemonger to think he is wasting his time and effort.

Finally - our oldest ‘serving’ member, Bill Crabtree, turns 94 on 12th February. All our readers I’m certain will join as one in wishing him a very very happy day and safe journey to the next birthday in his illustrious life. ..........Trevor Dutton

My grandfather started walking 5 kilometres a day when he was 60.

Now he is 94 years old and we don’t know where he is!
A
tother year has flown past and as I write, we are over a week into 2011. The Natal Committee and I wish both you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and peaceful year. Normally I would have included “prosperous” but there are many of us at this time of life, who rather than being able to watch our capital appreciate, instead with some trepidation, see it diminishing and wondering if we had our sums right.

When reading through the various obituaries from the branches, I am often saddened at the passing of those members whom we knew well and were mentors, stalwart colleagues and good friends, who enriched our lives and in some instances assisted in our development and career shaping.

In December I travelled to Johannesburg to see a very special friend of many years, Dave Sloman, who was bravely battling the final stages of cancer. We had joined the force within a month of each other and kept in touch over the years. Latterly in South Africa, when Dave was visiting his specialists in Pretoria, we would regularly enjoy a breakfast or lunch together. David was always one of life’s gentlemen, a fine police officer, a man of integrity and values, who bore his final illness with great dignity, fortitude and bravery.

During this visit, we reminisced and had more than a few laughs for some two and a half hours, when finally Joyce chased me out, as Dave was tiring. David sadly passed away on the 4th January and is now at peace. Rest well my friend, you will always be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

I was fortunate also to be able to attend David’s Funeral at St Mungo’s Church in Bryanston, on the 7th January 2011, to pay the personal respects of the Natal Regional Committee, members and myself, as well as to tender our sincere condolences to Joyce and the family. There were many members of the B.S.A. Police Transvaal Region Regimental Association present, and Jock Pirrett, the Chairman gave a moving eulogy. He mentioned that numerous members from around the world had tendered their condolences, which would be bound into a book for Joyce and the family. He read out two of these, the first from Dave Blacker in Cape Town, a friend and CID colleague of David’s and
another from Peter Allum, the last Commissioner of the British South Africa Police.

After the service, refreshments were served in the Church Hall and this gave me the opportunity to speak to Joyce and the family and also to meet many friends and acquaintances from the Force, who came to pay their respects to David. Terry Thorpe was I think the senior member present, and he continues to maintain his superb sense of humour in spite of the vicissitudes of age. I always associate Terry and his late wife Doreen with the spirit of the festive season, as they were kind enough to invite me into their home, in the Morris Depot, during my first Christmas in Rhodesia in 1957 for a meal, certainly a nice break from walking the beat at Salisbury Central Charge Office, as a very junior Constable.

At the beginning of this New Year, we also remember those of our members and their spouses who struggle on with severe ill health or medical problems, and some of whom of necessity, strive to nurse their partner at home. Our thoughts and wishes for 2011, are also with you.

Our Branch enjoyed a relatively good year on the whole, with some pleasant and well attended “Station” functions, where old friendships were renewed and many a tale told. Our annual lunch at the Augusta Estate in Hillcrest in September, was also well supported and reportedly enjoyed, although one speech seemed interminable. Regrettably I missed this lunch due to a long planned holiday in Namibia with friends from overseas, but my abject and humble apologies were tendered.

Some of us were also able to enjoy the very pleasant Midlands Branch annual lunch at the refurbished Hilton Hotel, where again it gave the opportunity to catch up with many more friends from the Force, resident in the area. Many more good laughs were had and Phil Mingard the Guest Speaker gave a superlative, succinct and humorous speech which resulted in much mirth in respect of his equine experiences in Depot, including a “back rake” for a constipated horse. It must have been good, as even Smudge Smith was in “stitches”.
On a more serious note, I would once again ask our members to try and encourage those who do not belong to the Regimental Association to join. It also goes without saying that I request all of you, to please pay your annual subs, as this helps towards our costs. The subs have now risen to R80 per annum, but this is still reasonable considering that we subsidise our first class magazine, on which Trevor Dutton labours long and hard to put together, and also the costs of the annual lunch.

Your efforts Trevor and those of our Secretary Des Howse, who unstintingly and almost daily gives of his time and efforts, are greatly appreciated, as always. What would we do without you!

To make things easier for our extremely valued book keeper, Ethne White, who provides us with incredible support and does such a sterling job, please identify your payments/deposits, preferably with your Name and Force number, together with the nature of the deposit, i.e subs, donation, annual dinner etc. so that we can credit you accordingly. It is very difficult to maintain accurate books of account, if we cannot identify who has made a payment.

That reminds me, I need to close, before our esteemed editor once again hauls me over the coals for the length of my submission and suggests that I am being excessively loquacious; an accusation that I took exception to many years ago, when Tom Egleton used it in my APR in 1958, and then promptly posted me to the Mortuary, where such propensities, were of necessity curtailed! In retrospect and after much introspection, I suspect that he may well have had a point!

Once again in closing, my sincere best wishes to you all and may 2011 prove to be a good year for you and yours. ..........................Trevor Wilson

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing..

This page sponsored by 3708 Bill Crabtree “In memory of my mates in squad 4/38”
BSAP WORLD NOMINAL ROLL

To complete our round up of the two hundred plus members of the Natal Branch of the Association these are currently our 33 Non-Resident members -

| REGULARS | 9083 Allen Kiaran Secunda | 8212 Barr Alastair Meyersdal |
| 8242 Bennett Alan Natal Midlands | 7077 Bresler Hank Cape Town |
| 4795 Burrell Bob Harare | 8761 Cameron-Dow Will Australia |
| 3708 Crabtree Bill Natal Midlands | 8507 Crabtree Mike Natal Midlands |
| 5826 Cuerden Nigel Natal Midlands | 8129 Crage Colin Barberton |
| 5526 Devlin Phil Jhb | 6170 de Wit Graham Natal Midlands |
| 6268 Du Toit Leon Stubenvale | 7402 Hamilton Robin Ladybrand |
| 7564 Hart Philip Ladybrand | 7504 Hayes Brian Natal Midlands |
| 5118 Hayes Ian Harare | 5876 Hendry Roy Natal Midlands |
| 8693 Lemon Dave UK | 6371 Le Crera Lee Lowveldt |
| 8980 Paul Duncan Natal Midlands | 7550 Pretorius Ben Natal Midlands |
| 6135 Robinson Gerard Natal Midlands | 6911 Schmidt Ferdi Koedeoskop |
| 10098 Smith Bryan Johannesburg | 5653 Taylor Mike UK |
| 5559 Thompson Dick UK | 8722 Weare Rob Beira |
| 5666 Wright Dave Johannesburg 30 | WOMEN WPO Wiggill (Cameron-Dow) |
| 241 Daphne Australia 1 | 107412 Chappe P Benoni |
| 16496 Hammond D Excom 2 |
BSAP MATURE MEMBERS’ CLUB

The current membership tally remains at eleven.

We received a letter from Mrs Joan McGarrick, who resides in Cornwall, England, advising that **16707 Milton McGarrick** had suffered a fall at his home in Launceston during May last year causing a serious head injury. He was airlifted to hospital in Truro, later Bodmin, and remained hospitalized until the end of August.

The injury has apparently affected his memory and he is presently resident in a Care Home.

Of the four potential ‘new’ club members mentioned in our last edition of the Natal Outpost we have received the sad news that **(3497) Beryl Castle-Ward** (widow of Bill) passed away in Johannesburg on 5th November 2010, whilst being treated in a Frail Care hospital.

*This page sponsored by 6578 Ken MacKay*
THE BSAP - RHODESIA’S FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE

When we joined the Force we were proudly told two things – that until the mid 1950s the BSAP had been the country’s first line of defence (hence the, then, military titles of rank) and that the Regiment was “second to none”.

We accepted these credits without question but it should be of interest to our readers to learn more about the background and truth to these statements.

Probably the best authority on the first subject is Richard ‘Dick’ Hamley and he has kindly submitted a most informative exposition which we publish herein, in two episodes.

As for the “second to none” claim that boast will be discussed in a later edition of our Outpost but in the meantime if anyone can assist in suggesting where this claim originated, bearing in mind it was the official motto of the Coldstream Guards, then please enlighten us.

Dick Hamley will be known to many as the author of “The Regiment” but for the benefit of those who have never met him –

5567/6219 Richard ‘Dick’ Hamley served initially from 1956 to 1959, leaving as a Constable. Re-joining the following year he served for 22 years before retiring in the rank of Assistant Commissioner in 1982.

This information is on record but we will publish more about this man’s credentials as an authority on the history of the BSAP with Part 2 of his article in the next (June, 2011) issue of the Natal Outpost.

This page sponsored by 6578 Ken MacKay
PART ONE:

‘The Regiment’ in Review

(By Richard Hamley)

Prompted by your editor, following exchanges on the B.S.A.P History website under various headings such as: “King’s Colour”, “Battle Honours”, “Right of the line”, etc., I am moved to attempt to set the record straight with regard to our regimental bona fides, and that of my own, as one of the more recent recorders of regimental history. To do so I must of necessity reprise some of my earlier writings in ‘The Regiment’. I trust I may be forgiven for this.

As many of my readers will know, ‘The Regiment’ (the Book), was published in three editions:

- **By Quest Publishing (Salisbury, Rhodesia, 1980)**: ‘An illustrated history of the uniforms of the British South Africa Police’ - a limited edition of 350 copies;
- **By Covos Day Books ( Weltevredenpark, South Africa, 2000)** ‘A History and the Uniforms of the British South Africa Police’

The ‘artwork’ in each edition was quite different, ranging from a naïve pen and ink, to self-taught colour and then, finally, colour representations that almost (but not quite) satisfied me. The written history, however, allowing for some small changes to the text of the Bulpin edition, was substantially the same.
throughout. As I said at the outset, these were not claimed to be the work of an academic historian, but, as stated in the prologue to the 2000 edition: “...that of an ordinary policeman conducting any enquiry or investigation”. My endeavour, always, was to provide proof of any claim – and in this, I believe, I was successful.

The intention of ‘The Regiment’, in its various forms, had always been to encapsulate the proud history of the Corps in which the author had the honour to serve. And, at the same time, provide an assemblage, or more detailed history, of the various uniforms worn by the Force - from its inception in 1890 to the stand-down in 1980 – before all was lost to the mists of time and faulty recollection.

There were those, I know, who claimed that my writing style was very much akin to that of a police report. I can’t say that I’m unhappy about that, as long as, with this, I might claim accuracy in such reporting.

R.S. Roberts in his ‘Towards a History of Rhodesia’s Armed Forces’\(^1\) after dealing some-what dismissively with Peter Gibbs History of the BSAP, gave me something of a back-handed compliment, while referring to the first (Bulpin) edition, by saying:

“Hamley’s book by contrast is severely factual and very brief, being essentially a series of illustrations of uniforms which explicate the many different changes in the name and organization of the police forces. This may seem a very limited approach but it does have the advantage of making it as easy to understand as the confusion of names and lack of fundamental research in the subject allows.”

And again:

“For the history of the police force since 1939, one has to rely on Hamley's illustrated topics which nevertheless do give a clear but brief synopsis of the process of modernisation - of the introduction of motor-cycles, a Traffic Branch, an expanded C.I.D., a Police Dog Section, a Support Unit, a riot stand-by party, the Police Anti-Terrorist Unit and increasingly sophisticated equipment and armoury.”

It was somewhat disturbing to find, however, that over the years a number of members of the History Group – many, if not most of whom, own one or other edition of the book – asking questions the answers to which were in an edition of ‘The Regiment’ that was, most likely, in their possession. I can only hope that in the future my work will not be regarded simply as a collection of picture books!

In endeavouring to ‘set the record straight’, I will deal with what appear to be the most contentious of the matters debated, in the order of their (seeming) importance and, as far as is possible, with regard to the historical time-line.

(1) "Was the B.S.A. Police a Regiment; and (2) Was the BSAP a Regiment on the British Army List?"

The answer to the first question is yes! The answer to the second – no!

Not wishing to appear didactic, but with regard to our ‘Regimental status’, it is necessary to establish just what a ‘Regiment’ is:

The historical origin of the term [and here, for the sake of convenience, I borrow quite heavily from Wikipedia] was in the French word Régiment, which entered military usage in Europe at the end of the 16th century when armies evolved from collections of retinues who followed knights to become formally organised military forces. For some time, such ‘regiments’ were named after their commanding colonels, and were usually disbanded at the end of a particular campaign or war. At that time, the Colonel and his regiment recruited from wherever they might. Later, it was customary to recruit from specific places and to name the regiment by its geographic recruitment area. Regiments which remained ‘in being’ obtaining a numeric precedence in the order or line of battle.

[Note: ‘Line of battle’ means the arrangement of troops for battle (usually) in column or line formation. ‘Regiments of the Line’ means ‘Regular Army’ Regiments (not ‘Auxiliary forces’ or those of the Guards).]

Traditionally, Regiments were formed `ad hoc’ as a particular need arose, or for a particular purpose (usually when the Regular Army was over-stretched or committed elsewhere). Their formation founded in British constitutional history and sanctioned by the British Government in such Acts as The Militia Act of 1757. Volunteers Regiments came into their own during the Napoleonic Wars with further revivals occurring at the time of Napoleon III and during the Crimea war. The aspects that such regiments had in common usually included: a symbolic ‘Colonel-in-Chief’ (often a member of the royal family)², a ‘Colonel

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² As did Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother become, symbolically, our Honorary Commissioner.
of the Regiment’ or ‘Honorary Colonel’ whose endeavour was to protect the traditions and interests of the regimental family and the maintenance of high standards; battle honours, distinctive ceremonial uniforms, badges and other peculiarities in insignia, particular regimental marches and songs.

In British (now ‘The Commonwealth’) territories, regiments were similarly founded and sanctioned under relevant local laws and - when involved in Britain's wars, such as the Anglo Boer War – were ‘listed’ separately under the heading ‘Empire and Colonial Troops’. With the achievement of ‘Dominion’ status, former colonies acquired their own Army Lists as was the case with Canada and Australia, for example.

Thus to the BSAP:-

Formed and paid for by the British South Africa Company [in a similar manner to those regiments formed under the aegis of the East India Company]; sanctioned by Royal Charter and the Burgher Law of the Cape Colony and having oversight by The Governor of the Cape Colony, the B.S.A.C.P was structured as a military unit.

To quote from ‘The Regiment’:

"The British Government was adamant that any column of so-called pioneers, or first settlers, had to be provided with an adequate military escort. They were equally adamant that such escort should not, either in fact or by any fiction, be seen as, or be interpreted as being, an ‘Imperial’ military force. So it was that the British South Africa Company Police came into existence with the configuration of a small regiment of cavalry.

The majority of the force raised to provide this military escort was drawn from personnel retrenched by the BBP, which was reduced in strength for this purpose. The Company's 'Police' were encamped near the BBP Camp at MacLoutsie where, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel S. G. Pennefather, formerly* 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, it rapidly grew in strength to five troops. By the middle of June 1890, the Police and Pioneers were considered ready to undertake the task ahead of them. Major-General Methuen, the Adjutant General of British forces in South Africa, inspected them, watching a sham fight between the Company's Police and the BBP and the formation at speed of a defensive wagon laager. He was pleased to pass them as ‘ready in all respects for duty’." [*Nb: Actually ‘Attached’ from].

Historically linked Regimental precursors to the British South Africa Police were: The Frontier Armed & Mounted Police [Later Cape Mounted Rifles (Colonial)] and the Bechuanaland Border Police.

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3 Op Cit.
As has been indicated, the presentation of the Regimental Banner, on behalf of King Edward VII, by Lord Milner, at Mafeking on 5 October set the seal on the Corps military status and this was further confirmed by The Commandant General's* Orders of 5 October 1903 which read:

"The duties of the B.S.A. Police combine those of a military force for the defence of (Southern) Rhodesia and those of a police force for the preservation of peace, prevention of crime and the apprehension of offenders."

[* Nb: As a result of the Jameson Raid, the British High Commission in the Cape placed all Southern Rhodesian Forces, including the B.S.A.Police, under the command of a Commandant General, Sir Richard Martin.]

(3) **Foundation Day**

This matter was discussed on the BSAP ‘History’ Website in February 2008. The first enquiry posed being a question as to what, or which, day might be considered the ‘Foundation Day’ of the British South Africa Police? Taken literally, the adjectival ‘foundation’ defines the day as that upon which the Force was established on a permanent basis.

It is easy to put a date upon the date the Corps became the British South Africa Police:

Police General Orders dated 22 August 1898 formally recorded the change of title to the British South Africa Police:

"His Excellency the High Commissioner's Police Notice No. 18 of 1897 is published for general information: It is hereby notified for public information that the white Police Forces serving within the limits of the Bechuanaland Protectorate and the British South Africa Company's territories will in future be designated 'The British South Africa Police' and will be composed of four as follows:

1. Bechuanaland Protectorate Division
2. Matabeleland Division
3. Mashonaland Division
4. North Zambezi Division

The Native Police in the Bechuanaland Protectorate will continue to be styled 'The Protectorate Native Police'..."

Nevertheless, Regimental Tradition and the Oral History handed down to us, has it that BSAP Day was September 13th 1890. [After all, who was it that ensured the possessing?]

If I might be allowed the conceit of quoting once more from 'The Regiment':
"The history of this distinguished paramilitary organization (the B.S.A.P) is in reality the history of five corps of police, each of which for a while having a separate existence under the banner of the British South Africa Company and then, in the fullness of time amalgamating to become the national police service of Rhodesia”.

The point I make is - where is one to start in the matter of the foundation of the Corps? In extension one could, perhaps, go back to the CMR⁴ and other Corps from whom we drew men, material and traditions. It is for this reason that I made the remark about 'Tradition':

"Tradition: a custom, opinion, or belief handed down to posterity. Especially orally or by practice – the process of handing down."⁵

And it was for this reason that the Annual Regimental Dinners [a celebration of the event] were held on the Friday nearest to that date - 13th September.

Much later, September 13 was to become known to Rhodesians’ generally, as Pioneer Day:

“Proclaimed a Public Holiday in 1920 as Occupation Day, in terms of the Bank Holidays Amendment Ordinance (No 14); it became Pioneer Day in terms of the Bills of Exchange Amendment Act, No 3 of 1961. The day commemorates the occupation of Mashonaland by the Pioneer Column on 12th September 1890, and the raising of the Union Flag on the morning of 13th September 1890. On this day each year the Union Flag (the Union Jack) is unfolded and flown for the day from the mast standing on the spot where the flag was first raised, in what is now (Sic.) Cecil Square, Salisbury.”⁶

(4) The Antecedents of the B.S.A.P

I was not a little surprised, indeed I was a bit hurt when, in February 2001, a former member of the C.I.D and well known personality in the History Group, wrote on their Web Site:

“Some of the Units within the BSAP have not been the subject of close attention. One in particular would appear to be the RMP. Peter Gibbs mentions the Unit in relation to the Jameson Raid on page 115 of his book "The First Line

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⁴ Cape Mounted Rifles
⁵ Concise Oxford Dictionary
of Defence" (Vol.1 of the Regt. History)...” “…I feel there is a need for an interested person(s) from, say, this Group to consolidate the information available on some of the lesser known earlier branches of the BSAP. How much for instance is known about the Matabeleland Constabulary?”

[See R.S. Roberts (supra)]. Clearly, ‘The Regiment’ had not fallen within this gentleman’s purview! I was not at home (Australia) at the time, but in South Africa, talking to the publisher Covos-Day. Had I my P.C to hand, I may have quoted tersely from an earlier work - as follows:

“Perusal of Regimental Orders shows that orders for both the Mashonaland and the Matabeleland Mounted Police ceased on 31 October 1896 and that both regiments had amalgamated as the Rhodesia Mounted Police with effect from the 1st October that year.”

Yet another member, in April 2004 said:

To the best of my knowledge nobody has actually come up with a formation date for the Rhodesia Mounted Police…” To which I responded with the quote:-

"A further result of the Jameson Raid was that the early Rhodesian Police forces were removed from the authority of the Chartered Company and placed under the control of the United Kingdom High Commissioner in South Africa. On 1st October 1896, while still on active duty engaged in suppressing the rebellion, the Mashonaland and the Matabeleland Mounted Police were integrated to form the Rhodesian Mounted Police. This title was not maintained for long, however, for in General Orders dated 29th December 1896, the Commandant-General laid down a fixed establishment for “........the Mashonaland and Matabeleland divisions of the British South Africa Police.”

Thus the life-span of the Rhodesia Mounted Police was from 1st October to the 31st December 1896.

(5) The ‘First Line of Defence’.

..................to be concluded in the next edition of the Natal Outpost....(td.)
20

STATION NOTES

DURBAN SOUTH

The Member in Charge, **5042 Peter Arnold**, reports -

"What looked like a possible no show due to the inclement weather turned out to be an enjoyable "Bring & Braai" (on Sunday 14th November) for the 19 who turned up at the T C Robertson Nature Reserve at Scottburgh. The venue was in a state of refurbishing but the facilities available were sufficient for those present to have a pleasant session. The covered area was sufficient to accommodate those present and due to some forethought by one or two true Rhodesians braai grills were brought to use on the braai sites. Those present commented favourably on the site and its quiet country atmosphere.

We had support from Margate Station but it was regrettable members of the Natal Branch Committee were conspicuous by their absence.

Currently the Durban South Team are investigating other potential venues including the bowling club in Warner Beach where Neville Cook is a member. The next get together is provisionally set for March 2011 - venue as yet undecided."

Regarding Peter’s complaint that none of the Natal Branch committee members attended their function I suggest the reason was due to having three different Association social events during the same month. This situation highlights the need for the Members in Charge to talk to each other – and “maak” a plan. Already we seem to be heading for a duplication – Margate and Durban South both indicate a preference for March this year for their next get togethers!……………..(td.)

MARGATE

The Member in Charge, **8157 Barry Woan**, advises –

“Gerry Powell, who underwent extensive heart surgery mid year, has recovered well and attended the Durban South Braai which was held a few weeks back.

My two "Police widows" Mavis De Bruin and Penny Callow work hard at keeping "us youngsters" in line and we meet most weeks for a cuppa and chat. Both are in good health.

Dennis O Hanlon who has recently joined the Association and who has run a Pub and Grill in Port Edward for many years had to contend with a fire which destroyed most of the premises.
Luckily no one was hurt and repairs were completed just before the Christmas rush. It goes without saying that the Pub is well supported by our contingent down here.

Myles and Trish Cathcart-Cunnison spent a few days with us recently and loved the area so much that they are to move here in March and will be resident in Southbroom. We welcome them both to the Station.

Brian and Rose Goddard who currently reside in Rustenburg were also down here recently on a house hunting exercise and have bought a cluster right opposite Penny Callow. Brian retires next year and will be transferring his membership from the Transvaal to the Natal Association (this is a pre requisite to living within the Margate Station area).

Sakkie McKay whose wife Colleen tragically passed away a few months ago spent a couple of days at the “Woanery”. He too is house hunting and is hoping to move to strengthen the Ranks soon.

The SAP Legion of Police Officials, the equivalent of our Association, has a Branch here on the South Coast. They are very interested in getting together on a social basis and to get things moving I hosted a gathering which included a group from the SAP headed by ex Major General Gert Schoeman, Peter Huson, Andy Messina, Fred Mason, Des Howse and I propped up our side. We had a nice chin wag and will certainly organize a couple of gatherings later in the year in order to foster a good relationship amongst former "coppers”

The Margate station Braai is scheduled for March with exact date to be finalised.

Butch and Hilary Von Horsten have been in Australia visiting family over Christmas and should be back sometime in January.  

HILLCREST

The following letter from Jock Pirrett, Chairman of the Transvaal Branch, who paid us a visit in November and attended the Bring & Braai at Augusta on Sunday 21st of that month –
It was delightful to see Ben Pretorius, Allan Brent, Pete Gatland and John Lees after so many years and find that Roy Gardiner settling in well after recently relocating from the Highveld.

You had 30 plus at the braai and what a lovely gathering. The old adage, strength in weight of numbers, not the case in Natal. Concern, sincerity and love for each other was evident; the people present make the day.

Trevor Harvey, another Trevor- my colleague and I, thank you all for making us so welcome and wish you every success for the future.

As aye, Jock Pirrett”
23

THE GIRLS OF NATAL

And now for an update on our ladies in Natal.

In our October 2009 (82\textsuperscript{nd} edition) of the Natal Outpost we featured thirteen former WPOs resident in these parts. A potential ‘14\textsuperscript{th}’ at that time was WPO 241 Daphne Wiggill (married to 8761 Will Cameron-Dow) but they had managed to disappear without trace. They have recently re-surfaced in Australia and re-joined the Natal Branch, so hopefully we can persuade Daphne to send us some material for this feature.

However, we have also ‘lost’ one of them – WPO 426 Berenice Dutton (nee Tarr) has re-located to Zimbabwe, so we remained at 13.

The good news - membership has now “swelled” from 13 to 15 –

\textbf{WPO 303 Jacqui Short} “When I left the BSAP in 1978 I trained as a dealer and spent just over a year working in London before moving to South Africa to spend around 13 years with Sun International.

I moved to Durban to work in the networking industry for a couple of years then resigned, sold my flat and car, got rid of anything that was not of any value and put the rest in storage. I bought a one way ticket to London. Rob Bristow and Gerry Rickson saw me off at Louis Botha Airport with a couple of English pounds to buy some drinks with. Once there I registered with a temp agency and because I had my English gaming licence and had a security background from my police days I was able to begin work immediately and got a position at Crockford’s Casino in Mayfair, London.

While I was working in London I applied to Royal Caribbean Cruises, went through the interview process and was accepted and in October, 1996, I finally flew to Miami to meet my very first ship and the rest is history.
I have just celebrated 14 years on the high seas having visited some phenomenal places; Alaska being my favourite. There does not seem to be an end in sight just yet although I do love returning to South Africa and visiting my lovely small home in Kloof; not too far from my sister and her family.

I am now an Assistant Casino Manager with a wonderful 2-ship company called Azamara and am enjoying the ‘old style’ cruising.

My working life had a wonderful start with my decision to enlist with the BSAP. The job was great and many of the people I had the pleasure of meeting and working with have remained an integral part of my life even after all this time. The values and ethics learned while in the BSAP have been a mainstay throughout my working life."

WPO 565 Shireen Otto (now van den Berg) “On leaving the Force in 1981 I left Salisbury for South Africa. Lived in Port Elizabeth where I worked for General Motors for a year and married. We then moved to Vereeniging where my son was born, from there we moved to Standerton in the Eastern Transvaal where I worked at Tutuka Power Station and then my daughter was born. We then moved to Durban in 1988. Have been here ever since would not live in any other Province.

I am currently working for The Salvation Army as an Administrative Assistant and find that this job has the tendency to keep one humble and to appreciate everything that you have as there are so many people out there who have lost everything. I hope to work for them until retirement. “

“I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.”

This page sponsored by PR 9465 Hilary Squires
THE GUYS OF NATAL

Now it’s the turn of “The Guys”. The first group come from the beginning of the alphabet but future selections will be random – otherwise those whose name begins with ‘W’ may feel they may not live long enough to see their names in print! This new feature is not designed to replace the ‘Natal Profiles’ which will continue in greater detail.

4072 Dermot “Paddy” Allen, now 88 years old, retired as an Assistant Commissioner in 1977. He joined the Liquor Licensing Board in Harare where he worked until 1987. Still not being able to sit back and relax, Paddy found himself managing Chisipite Hardware (a different type of policing!) for over 10 years until the store was closed down when the centre was sold.

Paddy and his wife, Helen, left Zimbabwe end July 2007 to move down to their daughter in Durban and are now living in Ridgewood Retirement Village in Mount Edgecombe.

9083 Kiaran Allen, son of ‘Paddy’ Allen above, left the Force as a Section Officer in 1980. He transferred to the Veterinary Dept. as an Animal Health Inspector until he and his wife Barbara emigrated to South Africa in 1982. Kiaran completed a Fitter & Turner qualification with Sasol and is currently employed as Procurement Manager in the Commercial Dept. of the Sasol Group Shared Services organisation in Secunda.

5042 Peter J. Arnold left the Force in 1964 to join the Rhodesian Army. From School of Infantry into military logistics he retired with the rank of Major in 1980. After a short spell in the new Zimbabwe as part owner of Baker Avenue Service...
26.

Station and Waste Away  Peter emigrated to South Africa and joined the Rennies Group in the Cargo Terminals Division being responsible for operating various Cargo Terminals and Health and Safety Management.

In 1996 he took early retirement from Rennies and established his own consultancy company in logistics and Health and Safety which has subsequently developed into dealing with Quality Management Systems, Health and Safety and Human Resources.

Peter ends with “……like many of us today instead of enjoying retirement I still do a full days work consulting to clients to get by.”

5107 Peter Ashworth  resigned his commission in Dec 1975 to join the Department of Local Government. He lasted 12 months, saying he could not endure the heavy bureaucracy, so instead joined a local bank and stayed that course for 20 years before retiring in the position of Manager of the Foreign Dept.

In the late 1990’s Peter and Biddy decided to re-locate to South Africa and after a great deal of searching found their ideal new home in the Umdoni Retirement Village on the Natal South Coast. Peter considers themselves most fortunate to have tennis courts, bowling greens, swimming pool, a small gym and clinic together with Club House and community hall. And to top it all their living expenses are within the limits of his Bank pension (there being nothing to show for his police service!)

5754 Mike Ayrton-White  served 24 years, mostly in ‘District’, before he retired in 1980. He and Ethne then went farming for 2 years on Nandi Estates, Chiredzi, before being so frustrated by Govt. intimidation they decided to leave for South Africa. After working for Fidelity Guards for a short while Mike joined Metek (the Refrigeration Division of Dorbyl Engineering), qualifying as a Refrigeration Engineer and becoming Manager for their Natal Division.
Since retirement with Metek he has occupied his time consulting for other refrigeration companies in Natal – his main responsibility being the design, manufacture and installation of the multi-glass-door fridges seen in supermarkets and at service stations.

Mike and Ethne now live in Hillcrest, their two grown up children, Kim and Guy, living in Holland.

**5788/6422 Lionel Baker** served all his service in Bulawayo, leaving in 1972 to work for Schweppes, Byo, for 5 years. Then returned to his home town, Durban, in 1977 and joined Tongaat-Hulett Group before retiring on medical grounds in 2000.

**RIGHT ON OUR OWN DOORSTEP**

Very few visitors to the Makaranga Garden Lodge, set in beautifully landscaped gardens in Kloof, some 25 kilometres inland from Durban, will realize the connection between some of the very fine wood sculptures on display and the BSAP.

Nicholas Mukomberanwa was the sculptor and most of us will ask “who was he?”

If you go onto the internet you will not only find him declared ‘a first generation genius’ but compared very favourably with the likes of famous European artists Epstein, Klee, Picasso and Gill. What has that to do the BSAP? Our Chairman, Trevor Wilson will tell you – when he, Trevor, was Member in Charge at Waterfalls, Salisbury, Nicholas was stationed there as an African Constable!
“Nicholas is considered to be one of Zimbabwe’s most gifted and successful sculptors and is highly regarded internationally. His work can now be seen in the permanent collections of many international museums.” is another one of the many accolades on the website.

Born in the Buhera district in 1940 he started wood carving whilst attending a Mission school. He continued developing his skill whilst serving in the BSAP and upon leaving the Force it was not long before his work was being exhibited internationally and with considerable acclaim. He died in November 2002 at the age of 62.
6816 William McPherson ‘Bill’ Cumming
died in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 6 October 2010, whilst visiting on holiday from the United Kingdom. Bill served from Dec 1962 to July 1968, retiring as a Section Officer.

8066R Hubie van Niekerk died on 6 October 2010 in Port Elizabeth. Hubie served in the Police Reserve, mostly in Bulawayo, from 1958. He was an active member of the East Cape Branch where he was an Honorary Life Member. He was also an active MOTH

10529 Charles Hamilton Kydd died from natural causes in Johannesburg on 11 October 2010. He served as a Patrol Officer from April 1978 to December 1979 when he left ‘By Purchase’.

5327 Bruce Wallace died at Redhill in the UK on 13 October 2010. He served from February 1955 to July 1956, leaving as a Constable.


4317 Peter Wallace Richmond ‘Tickie’ Woods died in Bethlehem, New Zealand, on 1 November 2010. He served from Nov 1948 to March 1972, retiring as a Chief Inspector. Tickie's son Huw (110760) was also a member of the force.

4631 Alexander Anderson ‘Alec’ Blair died in Calgary, Canada on 3 November 2010. He served from May 1950 to December 1975, retiring in the rank of Assistant Commissioner.
8496J John Learmonth passed away at his home in Bulawayo on 24 November 2010, following a short illness. A former member of the Police Reserve John had been an active member of the Matabeleland Branch and had been Branch Secretary for many years.

4738 Raymond Horace George Walker died peacefully in his sleep at home in Swainsthorpe, Norfolk, UK on 21 December 2010. He served from June 1951 to June 1961, retiring in the rank of Detective Sergeant.

6550 Edward Henry Fee died in Wentworth, Sussex, on 25 December 2010. He served from December 1961 to July 1969, leaving as a Detective Section Officer.


5695 David John Sloman passed away at his home in Johannesburg on 4th January 2011, after a long fight with cancer. Dave served from April 1957 to May 1983 when he retired in the rank of Assistant Commissioner. He was the immediate past Chairman of the Transvaal Branch and gave his much valued support to the Association right to the time of his death.

7370 John Graham Weeks passed away on 10 January 2011 in Mutare, Zimbabwe following a fight with cancer. John served from July 1965 to October 1969, when he left the service with the rank of Section Officer.

3974 James Liddle McEwan recently died in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. James served, mostly in the District Branch, from April 1946 to May 1969, retiring as a Chief Inspector.
PHOTOGRAPHIC ROUND-UP. – PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE HILLCREST BRAAI ON 21 NOVEMBER 2010

Fred & Lindsay Mason

Ben Pretorius

Some of the mob!

Hugh Dixon

John Lees

Peter Colepeper  Pete Gatland  Ant

Neil Smith
I was born in London, England, in 1940 – not only within the sound of Bow bells but also the noise of bombs dropping from German aeroplanes.

Shortly after my birth I was evacuated with my mother to Banff in the northern reaches of Scotland where we were sheltered until the end of the conflict six years later.

In 1946 we re-located to Ramsey in East Anglia where my father was based, working as an aircraft inspector. There I grew up, attending all the normal levels of schooling until matriculation.
It had been my ambition when leaving school to become a policeman, probably because I was above the average height for an English lad in those days. But it was my mother who took me a bit by surprise – whilst I was engaged in negotiations with the East Anglia Constabulary and the London Metropolitan Police she wrote to Rhodesia House and offered my services with the BSAP!

In November 1959 I found myself boarding “Capetown Castle” with my few possessions and great expectations. My squad mates on the same ship included Peter Grist, Paddy Gardiner, Ron Miles, Dennis Bennyworth among the other eager hopefuls.

On arrival in Salisbury we were formed into Squad 11/59 (In this photograph Dennis Bennyworth can be seen in the background.)

I cannot remember what Police Commissioner Basil Spurling said to me, but I don’t think it was “Are you really taller than me?” as Trevor Dutton suggests!
Bulawayo was my first posting and Hillside Police Station was my first home until I joined CID in January 1961 and was posted to Gwelo for my probation period. I and two colleagues, Robin Clarke (now ‘stationed’ at Hillcrest in Natal) and Derek Higgins, were the first three probationer detectives to be stationed in the Midlands.

As a Detective Constable I carried out the last extradition between the Colony of Southern Rhodesia and the United Kingdom.

During seven years at CID Gwelo I survived working with the likes of Dave Blacker and Mac McGuiness, as well as enjoying the experience of knowing Alan Best and Norman Burns (who later became godfather to our son, Mark).

On 8th June 1963 I married Miss Sue Collison -

Unfortunately I do not have a photograph of our DCIO Gwelo at the time, Peter Allum, being part of the group of rowdies who bounced our wedding car!

Two of our three children, Leslie and Mark, were born in Gwelo whilst Janine arrived later in Salisbury.

In January 1968 I was transferred to CID Headquarters in Salisbury and worked as assistant to Angus Ross in the Forensic Science Laboratory. Later became responsible for running CID Training Courses. From CID Salisbury I was promoted to Detective Inspector and transferred to CID Bindura, taking over from Jim Carse.
Working in Bindura was vastly different to anything I had previously experienced. It involved travelling throughout the Mazoe Valley and the Tribal Trust Lands and I especially appreciated the support given by Ron Dick, DISPOL. The Police Club was close to both my office and home, which lent itself to much entertainment, mingling with local farmers and the likes of Alf Winter, Winston Hart, Vic Opperman and of course, Ron Dick – often flying low over the bar in a spitfire!

Whilst travelling from one farm to another, investigating farm attacks by groups of armed gangs, our landrover went over a land mine and I was blown out of the vehicle.

I spent a week in the Bindura Hospital, with broken bones, but healed quickly – probably due to the many donations of beer to relieve the pain (which alarmed the local doctor somewhat).

In 1974 another transfer – this time to Bulawayo where I was promoted to Det. Chief Insp. In 1978 I was promoted to Det. Supt. and transferred to Umtali to work with Bill Esler (PCIO) and DCI Dudley McLachlan where I attained the next rank of Chief Superintendent.

But by 1981 the ‘writing was on the wall’ and I felt compelled to move my family to South Africa in order for our children to complete their education and for me to change my career before it was too late. We re-located to Durban where I was able to get an appointment as an Insurance Loss Adjustor.
My new career developed over the next 27 years and peaked when I was able to form my own company, working from home in Chaka’s Rock on the North Coast of Natal.

A setback occurred in 2007 when I underwent a triple bypass operation and a year later suffered two strokes which meant I was unable to continue working.

But we are blessed to have wonderful children who have rallied around us and we have also experienced an amazing amount of support from so many ex police members and friends.

God has been my main source of strength through these trying times and I trust Him to walk with me each day.
WOMEN POLICE.

BOTSWANA.

WPO 82 Barbara Sargent (now Cantle) –

“I left the Force in 1965 in order to marry Brian Garvey who was also in the BSAP. Sadly my marriage to Brian only lasted 5 years but I had two wonderful kids, Adrian and Christine. Adrian especially will be well known to South African rugby fans as he was a former Springbok as well as Natal Sharks player.

After leaving the Police I was involved in the Tourist industry - Air Rhodesia, then the owner of Mlibizi Resort on Lake Kariba and now working in the Okavango Delta for the last 25yrs - this has been the best experience of my life.

Working those many years in the Delta I met up with yet another ex BSA policeman, Bruce Cantle, who was very involved in wild life, had the same interests and what better thing to do but get married and have been working together ever since in various camps all around the Delta. We now live in Maun, Botswana and visit Durban at least twice a year and would love to attend one of your bashes and meet up with old comrades. Best regards, Barbara ”

...and the fight against rhino horn poachers hots up
We continue with the publication of this rare document – preserved initially by 2065 Cyril Johnson and handed down intact to his son, 5087 Robin Johnson. In this and future editions of the Natal Outpost it will be re-produced in full.

RAIN GODDESS CASE AT MOUNT DARWIN.

By CPL. A. W. FRASER.

With reference to the recent big murder case, Rex. v. Chigango and others, reported so voluminously in The Rhodesia Herald, and which has caused such widespread interest not only in Rhodesia, but throughout the world, it might be of some interest to members of the Police to see the Police side of the affair, as the procedure taken from the beginning to its final disposal was a trifle irregular and out of the ordinary. I would like to say now that at the first I realised it was a “native customs” case, and so had to “hamba gahle.” The real difficulty the case presented at first was to obtain material evidence as apart from hearsay evidence. Natives have a habit of giving evidence as if they heard or saw it, and later one has the annoying experience of finding out that they only heard it through quite a diversity of channels. Many a good case has had to be withdrawn owing to this factor. I am digressing by relating a personal experience I had in Que Que in 1921, but it will help to illustrate my point.

On New Year’s Eve, 1921, I had just finished dinner, and was endeavouring to fix a black tie prior to going to a dance at the Gaika Mine, when an old Matsabele arrived with a complaint that his son-in-law had murdered his daughter. He very graphically explained that he had seen the whole thing—the girl stabbed twice in the neck and three times in the side and breast, illustrating each stab with his assegai, and giving the guttural hiss that usually accompanies each thrust. He brought with him two of his daughters, also polished liars, who in a way corroborated his story, and finally ended by saying his daughter was lying in the veld somewhere near Hunter’s Road. I sent out a native Police patrol at once to search, and another to arrest the alleged accused, and spent my New Year’s night taking statements. To cut it short, the old blighter had heard this from somebody else, who had told somebody else, etc., etc., and the girl—alive and kicking—was found at Balla Balla by the native Police. I sent out to search for her dead body. I had some suspicion from the first that it was a put-up job, but of course had to go on with the case. The girl had really left her husband, and the old man had been told to return her lobola, and this was his way of trying to evade it. I haven’t met him since, but would like to.
But to return to the case in point. The brief acts leading up to the murder of Mandumza by his father, and his being offered as a human sacrifice to the god of the Mtwara to appease his wrath and send rain, are these:—

During 1921-22 the rains were late, and Mandumza was alleged to have seduced the rain god's (Mwari's) junior wife Nechiskwa. Fearing the outcome of this allegation, he fled over the border, about 400 yards away from his kraal, and did not return till after the rains had fallen in February, 1923. As the rains had come, he was allowed to live unmolested. However, the country suffered a very severe famine that year, the worst on record since the great famine which occurred before our occupation of this country.

Again this year the rains were late. A few showers fell early in the season; just enough to make the crops come up, and these were being scorched and withered. Chigango, Mandumza's father, and high priest of the cult of Mwari and Nechiskwa, could not obtain food on his visits. No doubt the headmen of the villages he visited said it was due to Mwari's anger not being appeased, and approached him to take some steps to alleviate the evil. The gifts of limbs and beer and the prayers of himself and others not having any effect, he no doubt was greatly influenced to commit the supreme act of sacrificing his son on the ground of the old charge laid against him. Whether he decided to do it himself or was persuaded by some higher authority has not come to light. At any rate, he did. The story of the burning, the preliminaries and preparations, and some of the ritual observed, has been graphically described in The Rhodesia Herald. I do not propose to add anything further to these. In a further article I hope to give some account of this cult of the Mtwara, together with some folk lore I have obtained from some of the natives, and also from Mr. N. H. Wilson, N.C., Darwin, and Father Burbridge, of the Roman Catholic Mission. However, I would like to say now that this particular form of religion has been handed down by the elders of the tribe for ages, and has been existing amongst the Mtwara tribe for at least five centuries, if not longer. And, apart from any personal fears and superstitions instilled into them by local "mudoro" (witch doctors), they have a very profound belief in the religion taught them by their old men. The fact that on all four occasions when Chigango is alleged to have committed sacrifice of this nature, and rain has fallen plentifully within 24 hours of the act, must have had a great influence on the simple, primitive reasoning of the natives. Chigango is no doubt a very able weather prophet, and foretold the rain, and so laid his plans accordingly; yet there the fact remains that he did bring rain. Chigango never dreamed of any interference from the white people, thinking in burning his own son that the matter would be reported, and again believing in his infallibility as high priest.

The act was committed on the morning of the 4th January. On 5th January heavy rains fell, and continued unabatingly for 30 days. On the morning of 6th January a native, Mazensonzo, arrived at the office and reported that his brother's wife, Bereko, had told him on his return from Portuguese territory, where he had been on a visit (personally I think he had some inkling of the coming sacrifice and got out of the way, thinking he might be offered up), that two of Chigango's headmen, Bandimba and Chiriwari, had burnt his brother, Mandumza, for seducing the rain goddess, Nechiskwa, and so stopping the rain. This native said he knew no more. There is no doubt he did, but wouldn't say so. He handed in the dead native's registration certificate. It was raining fairly heavily that morning. At first I thought
Tprs. Batezat and Grimmett and four native Police left in the rain for Chigango’s kraal, 43 miles away, and returned on the 13th January with 82 natives, amongst whom was the girl Nechiskwa, the alleged rain god’s wife. They reported that a native had been burnt, as the charred remains were seen in the ashes of the pyre at the sacrificial spot named Nyamakungua (meat of the crows), which has been the usual place of sacrifice, as the name indicates, for ages. This was under a big mopani tree on the northern foothills of the Muvuradonna Mountains.

On going into the case I found that, with the exception of the female Bereko and eight of Chigango’s natives, who professed total ignorance of the whole thing in true native style, the whole of the remainder had taken some part in the actual murder. The eight mentioned before all said they had heard Manduza had been burnt, and that is all I could get out of them. I was left with one very feeble witness, the female Bereko, who could not give much in the way of evidence, except that the hondo (mob) from Chiswiti’s kraal had taken her husband at night and that she had not seen him again; not much evidence by itself. After three wearisome days I sifted the remaining
into different degrees of guilt, and linked up facts into the connected story reported in The Rhodesia Herald, and I decided to charge the seven main principals, using a little of the evidence I obtained from the lesser offenders. I proved Chigango as the producer of the act, Chiriseri as the stage manager, Chiswiti as the agent, and the other four, as it were, took "leads"; the remainder comprised a big chorus. I included Chiswiti to represent the action by his people in assisting in the arrest of Mandum, as he was the instrument of their being there, and they obeyed his instructions. Although the evidence was rather conflicting as to whether Chiswiti knew the ultimate result of the hondo he sent to Chigango, there is every possibility that he did know, and that he and Chigango had discussed this matter prior to the messenger going to him. It was argued in the High Court as to whether a paramount chief would receive and carry out instructions from a lesser personage. I think that Chigango's position in the religion of the people has a much bigger influence amongst the natives than that of an ordinary executive local chieftainship. I think I may say that it is quite common knowledge to people who know native ways that it is not always the locally proclaimed chief or headman who has the real power over the natives living under him. It may be some dirty, insignificant-looking old rascal credited with occult powers, or who is a mundoro, who is the real influence and governing spirit. I know of several cases myself where these beneful influences exist to a very great degree.

The High Court was to sit in Salisbury on 29th January. As the post has to be taken as far as Bindura by carriers, it would have taken at least 10 days to report fully and ask for instructions and get a reply. I decided to open a preliminary examination on 17th on lines I had thought the best to meet the case, and thus save a lot of expense, time and the possibility of any trouble arising out of a lengthened detention of the large number of natives I had in camp. I decided to use the smallest possible number of the natives who were not very much implicated in the crime. In case the Attorney General, after perusing the papers, wished further prosecutions against any of the remainder. Apart from the female Bereko, I only called four others, Chigango's messenger to Chiswiti, Chiswiti's messenger to his headmen, and two eye-witnesses of the actual burning. The docket was small but complete. The accused had no witnesses to call on being asked, and try as hard as I could then, I could not obtain any real evidence of any native customs to introduce into the examination. What I did get was such
During the three months that elapsed every endeavour was made by the Police and the Native Department to collect evidence for the defence, but practically none was forthcoming, and except for the introduction of Mr. Edwards of Mrewa to give evidence of native customs, the case put before the Judge was very much the same as that of the preliminary examination. No further witnesses were called for the Crown, although I took a further six statements on oath to deepen the evidence. Mr. N. H. Wilson, N.C., Darwin, spent many weary days trying to elicit evidence for the defence on the lines the accused asked for whilst awaiting trial in Salisbury. The witnesses he did manage to obtain some evidence from were not called by the counsel for the defence. I think the long report he sent did not contain much to help the defence, but tightened the noose round Chigango’s and Chiriseri’s necks. I took down a long tissue of lies from a female, Kamwenje (who is the mother of Nechisikwa, and acts as a sort of duenna), on the observances at the Mitimisheena, the home of the rain goddess. These were subsequently proved to be untrue by the next successor to Chigango, a native Mawodzaka, who gave quite a lot of interesting, instructive and, I think, fairly true facts; but these were never used. The woman Kamwenje would make a very good model for Sir Rider Haggard’s witch “Gageol,” in “King Solomon’s Mines.” I visited all the places in turn, making the witnesses take me in succession to all the main places and personally explain the whole happening, and I took some photos of the scenes, but, with the exception of one, they all turned out failures. I intend visiting these places again shortly on patrol, and taking a further series, copies of which I will send to the editor for publication in the Outpost.

The case was tried at the High Court on 22nd and 23rd May, and Chiswiti was acquitted and the remaining six sentenced to death, with a strong recommendation for mercy.

That there was some other power at work influencing Chigango and the others in their acts there is no doubt, but nothing could be elicited in the investigation, as natives are as close as oysters in speaking to the white race about their spirit mediums and superstitions, fearing some ultimate injury by occult powers. Had Chigango been the real head of the cult, there is no doubt every native would have lied solidly and professed total ignorance in the true native way, and nothing would have shaken them. Had they done this from the first it would have taken a great deal of weary work trying to obtain any evidence, if it ever could have been obtained. Chigango paid the penalty of being found out, and his power over the natives was not strong enough to keep them from giving him away, which they would not have done had he been the real moving spirit.

In closing, I would like to add my appreciation of the work done by Tprs. Baterat and Grimmett. It was filthy weather all the time they were out—incessant rain, and the country round about Chigango’s kraal must have been very unpleasant. What they were sent out to do they did so well that it was not necessary to send out again. All the material necessary was brought in. They must have had a pretty rotten trip, but must have satisfaction that their labours were not in vain and that the Police work in the case was well approved of.
INBOX – “I HAVE 6 MESSAGES”

7860 Rob Bresler writes (re. Natal Annual Lunch)

“Dear Des and Trevor,

Just to say thank you very much for a splendid lunch.

It was very well attended and gave one the opportunity of meeting friends whom one thought you would never see, from Bulawayo days, Kezi and the North East.
Steve Acornley looked just the same, as did Pete Gatland of the "B Car" Bulawayo Central days.
It was great speaking to Ian Hogg who was Member In Charge at Kezi, when I was transferred there, with Chris Morris as the 2 I/C.

Well done to you both and your committee on putting together a great day.”

From 6319 Chris Looker (Zimbabwe)

“Hi Trevor
Your name really came as a blast from the past. Yes I am very active in a number of areas. I have the late John Pearce to thank for involving me initially with the Horse Society and now having ended up as President of the Society. I always think of myself as a bit of a con, as I never was a horse rider apart from in depot.
February 13th next year will mark the 50th anniversary of my attestation into the BSAP. Podge Russell is the only other member of 4 Squad of 1961 still in Harare, or even the country to my knowledge. Podge’s health is not that good, a combination of the effects of old rugby injuries I suspect, and more recently failing eye sight. He is still running his business as an insurance broker.

I am plant manager at CarnaudMetalbox Plastics Packaging Division. The name is a carry over from two previous owners Carnaud of France and the old UK Metal Box Company, although in truth we are now RSA- owned by Nampak. I have been with the company for 22 years. “

This page sponsored by 5087 Robin Johnson
Readers of our last (October 2010) edition of the Natal Outpost will recall the feature written by Ben Pretorius on his ‘clash’ with the Hell’s Angels in Umtali many years ago. Ben has since received the following e-mail –

“Subject: LETTER OF APPRECIATION - HELL'S ANGELS HILLBROW CHAPTER

Good day to all you lovely folk

It was brought to our attention by some friends that our Hells Angels club in Hillbrow from many years ago, recently featured on a website. This was a biking tour our club did consisting of 104 bikers in 1968, through our neighbouring country then named Rhodesia. It was at the time, due to our large numbers, customary to ask for a police escort through the various cities and larger towns. On this particular occasion, I can still clearly remember us being escorted into a town called Umtali, where we stayed over.
We were escorted by a policeman patrol officer named Ben on a Vespa scooter, ...................... can you believe it!
We all had such a "fat" laugh !!
We remember Umtali well as only 11 of us had to spend the night in the cells because we spun doughnuts with our Harleys on the hotel verandah.
The cops even supplied the guys with blankets in the cells.

We are in the process of organising another rally soon in Zimbabwe, district Inyanga, so Umtali folk, as we need to go through Umtali again, be aware, but we will try to be on our best behaviour this time.

We want to congratulate the author policeman Ben and the cartoonist Vic for his amazing cartoon, they have captured fond memories.
Should we meet again it is our intension to induct Ben and Vic into our chapter as honoury members

Herewith attached is a foto taken in Umtali in 1968 of a few of our guys.

All the best, Jaw Sinclair

7784 Steve Acornley, writing from Scotland (also regarding our annual lunch)-

“Thank you very much to all the members and committee members who were responsible for arranging such a great BSAP Luncheon on the 18th. It was good to catch up with friends again after such a long time and wish everyone well for the future.

This page sponsored by 5087 Robin Johnson
The venue was fantastic and as for the cost of the luncheon it was incredible value for money – well done to all concerned.

Hopefully we will all meet up again in the not too far distant future, be it in sunny South Africa or a wet and cold UK”

Nigel Seaward, also writing from Scotland -

"Good Morning Trevor

Your 85th edition of the Natal outpost arrived by e-mail yesterday, courtesy of the Hon. Sec. UK Branch.

I rush to offer my apologies to you, though, for misleading you over the identity of the originator of the photograph of an Annual Inspection parade at Kanyemba that you published as a letter from me. You knew of course that I had obtained the photo whilst Pauline and I were in Australia earlier this year to visit our son. Whilst there we also visited a number of former BSAP mates, including Colin JOHN in Queensland. This is certainly not the first time that Colin’s surname has been taken as a Christian name.
I know that Colin will now be demanding plenty of beers (or XXXXs in Qld) in compensation for me denying paternity in the past, and I guess that as I am a mere five or six years older than him, I should take all of this as a compliment and pay up quietly.

Colin and I were both at Kariba in 1966 when Dispol Minor at Sinoia (and later of Outward Bound School), C/Supt Bailey was pushing for proper training and preparation for the coming insurgency. He initiated 'VATS' (Voluntary Advanced Training Scheme), forerunner of PATU. His first course was for his own men and held at Sinoia, a two day event which included a field exercise in Poker Ranch to the west of the town.

This was especially important for the blokes stationed at Kariba and Chirundu in the Valley, who by then were carrying out extensive foot patrols along the border (in the blue issue Riot kit of those days!). Our 'stick' of five or six blokes, included Colin, myself, one or two from Chirundu, and also 'Pom-Pom' Castell-Castell, then stationed at Karoi. For the overnight field exercise, the 'sticks' were dropped off at intervals along the road to Alaska Mine to make through the bush for an RV about a two-hour walk away. 'Pom-Pom' made no more than about 200 yards, hurled his rucksack to the ground and refused to budge any further. The rest of the 'Pom-Pom' story had best remain as an unrecorded part of the folklore of the BSAP, and on reflection now, I suppose that he must have been the very first of our 'insurgency' casualties! Wonderful memories, Cheers..... Nigel”

7045 Rob Gates (Chairman, Australia Branch) writes

“Hi Trevor,

Firstly very many congratulations on the content and style of your latest publication.

I am delighted to read about and see the photos from the marriage of Val Oldham and Stretch Hughes. I was in Depot at the same time as both of them but in different squads. Any attempt by me to be part of Val’s squad would have been soon found out because I’m a very poor drag artist.

I saw Stretch when I was in Durban in 2007.
I was also pleased to see Alan Brent in one of the photos. He and I have been close friends since being in Depot together, being stationed at Southerton together and both played rugby for the police.

I have picked up one error and that is in the notice about the death of 7000Dave Harley. It says Dave was not a member of the Reg Assn. This is incorrect as Dave was a member of the Australia branch and has been so for a number of years. Andrew Field’s August 2010 News notice on bsap.org has the correct info.

I saw Dave on a couple of occasions when I was visiting Melbourne and he came to Perth 5 or 6 years ago to attend one of our annual formal Regimental Association luncheons. We hold those functions in the Belmont Returned Services League premises and on the wall there is a photo of Dave landing a Hercules transporter in a huge cloud of dust when he was in the RAAF.

Part of his RAAF flying experience was in spent in Vietnam during the war there. Dave was also in depot in 8/63, Stretch was in 9/63 and I was in 10/63”.

ZIMBABWE PENSIONERS

Hannes Botha, Director of Zimbabwe Pensioner’s Support Fund, has provided the following updated material regarding the ongoing plans to assist the plight of many destitute pensioners still resident in Zimbabwe –

“The Zimbabwe Pensioners Supporter Fund is a registered Section 21 Non Profit Organization that supplies food to more than 1650 pensioners in Zimbabwe.

Every 6 weeks more than 20 tonnes of food are transported in 3 trucks and distributed to 28 homes / organizations. Clothes and basic medicine are also supplied to the pensioners. The supply trip lasts 8 – 10 days and a distance of 11200 kilometres will be travelled by the 3 trucks using more than 2600 litres of fuel. The value of the food and the cost of delivering it to the pensioners in Zimbabwe exceeds R200,000 per trip.

The ZPSF relies entirely on donations to carry out this mission.

This page sponsored by 5087 Robin Johnson
The pensioners have been left destitute by years of hyper-inflation. Some of the pensioners receive pensions of 40 USD. A few receive NO PENSION at all.

Should you wish to support the ZPSF relief efforts the banking details are listed below.

The food hampers not only supply much needed food but the pensioners then know that someone cares about them

ZIMBABWE PENSIONER SUPPORTER FUND
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
MALALANE BRANCH
BRANCH CODE 270952
ACCOUNT NUMBER 62239042906
SWIFT CODE FIRNZAJJ

Please fax or e-mail the ZPSF your contact details so that your donation can be acknowledged and a receipt issued.

Kind Regards, Hannes Botha

By this time I am sure everyone knows that Hannes had to undergo an emergency heart by-pass operation on the 22nd of July. This came as a huge shock and surprise to all of us and threw all our arrangements out of kilter and into a high-speed broadside. I can
however report that he is finally on his way to a full recovery provided he behaves and follows the doctor’s orders. The year 2010 has not been an easy one for the Fund and its members.

First came the world wide economic slump, which has affected our income as much as it has everyone else, and placed some constraints on our spending. The result of this is that we may need to revert back to doing the trips every three months or cut out some homes if things do not improve.

Secondly, I needed a knee operation on the 11th of March that effectively sidelined me somewhat, but the work needed to go on and I accompanied the late Norman Nimmo on the long trip in April to show him the route. He was then tragically killed in a motorcar accident on the 3rd of May. One of our stand-in drivers, KC Schuuring was also killed in a motoring accident in May. Now Hannes will be out of the drivers loop until next year so we are under a lot of pressure to keep the wheels turning.

“Real integrity is doing the right thing knowing that nobody is going to know whether you did it or not” Oprah Winfrey.

Once again, many, many thanks for your kindness and please keep us in your prayers. We have some interest from some drivers; thank you and we will be in touch.

God Bless you all. 

Pastor Attie Botha.

Barry Woan adds -

“We continue to travel to Zimbabwe two to three times a year with a car and trailer packed with boxes of "goodies" for pensioners and others struggling in the Bulawayo area through no fault of their own. We do not represent any organization although the inspiration is drawn from the excellent work done by the Zimbabwe Pensioners Fund and others.

The late Dave Callow and I identified some years ago a need to help poor people who were not catered for in Centres and Old Peoples Homes who mostly benefited from the input and work done by the larger relief organizations.

This project is largely self sponsored but this year I have had fantastic support from many ex members who chose to remain anonymous.
With the passing of Dave I have recruited a new "shotgun man in 8436 Brian Hutchinson. On our last visit we found the Border pleasantly quiet on both sides and after a few Police Road Blocks (manned by scruffy but polite Policeman in different items of uniform) and a couple of manual Toll gates we arrived in Bulawayo.

I know there have been reports of harassment and other problems but we experienced none of this. The City is clean and apart from electricity and water supply interruptions nothing out of the normal. You can buy anything and everything at about 40% to 60% more than in South Africa. However basic commodities such as rice, mealie meal, cooking oil and sugar is cheaper than here in South Africa!

We quickly located the needy and off loaded our boxes and loose goodies to some very poor, frail but enormously thankful people. The experience will bring us back again...that's for sure.

Whilst there we were able to catch up with all the news and renew old acquaintances. We met up with 5247 Ken McDonald and were kindly invited once again to his house for a braai. The local Association Chairman 9499 Karl Hurry was also there in attendance. Karl told me that 5117 Dick Hall and his wife had recently taken advantage of the UK repatriation exercise and had returned to the UK.

We visited 3893 John "Robbie" Robertson who is well into his nineties. He is in remarkably good health and is always full of interesting stories of the old days. We also saw Kay the wife of 6451 Don Hatton. Kay is very active in helping the pensioners and was able to give us some positive leads in terms of our own exercise.

We also visited 8367 Alec and Heather Frazer. She is former 152 WPO Heather Duguid. They unfortunately have just been "relieved" of their farm and are now working in Bulawayo.

Our stay in Bulawayo culminated in a visit to 8088 Ray Munro and family who are still living and working in an area near Bulawayo. It is wonderful to see how ordinary Zimbabweans continue to work hard and have the hope for a better life in the future. We wish them all well.

This page sponsored by 5842 Derek Starr
Barry Woan remembers -

“In February 1974 and after some of the heaviest rains experienced in Matabeleland for some time a farmer tried to cross the low level bridge spanning the Umgusa River. After realizing the water level was too high he parked his VW Beetle and made his way to a friends farm nearby. When he returned early the next morning he found that the river had burst its banks and his car was no longer!

Police Sauerstown were contacted and Sub Aqua were asked to attend. The team consisted of Bob Rankin, Tubby Shankland, Bob Packer, Rick Wentzel and myself.

The river had by this time subsided somewhat with a gentle flow. We initially patrolled down river until we found an oil slick and proceeded to dive. We soon located the car in some six metres of water. We decided to deflate our rubber dingy, push it through a broken window and then inflate it. We did this and with the car now floating just below the surface we pushed it to the side, hitched it to a rope and got a tractor to pull the car from the river... much to the relief of a very happy farmer.
A CID Photographer, Des Ferreira, was on hand to capture the action and subsequently the March 1974 Outpost had 8194 Rick Wentzel, 8214 Bob Packer, and 8157 Barry Woan photographed in the water with the "beetle" as the front cover.

Thirty six years later, with Rick having returned to South Africa, we met for a braai and a few beers at my home here on the South Coast. I dug out the Outpost and we were photographed together...something special.

9058 Allen Spiers has started a new enterprise – he is making key rings with the Force crest. Cost is only R35 (plus packing & posting) of which R5 will be donated to the Association.

You can have either your name and regimental number (or both) included.

Alan can be contacted either at fishonline@worldonline.co.za or phone 033 330 8319: cell 082 765 2448 – please order direct.
I would like to bet very few readers recognized Biff!...........(td.)
An ‘early’ bridal party, with BSAP mounted escort, by kind courtesy of 8318 David Cushworth, who suggests the photograph was probably taken circa 1905.

And something a little more modern - members of ‘to be’ Squad 4/57 pictured mid-ocean on the “Arundel Castle” early that year.

Rear from L to R: Max Dodd, Peter Huson, Barry Henson, Dave Wright, Danny Stannard, Tony Robinson, "Jim" Tipple, Trevor Wilson.

Front L to R: Denis Williams, Brian McDonnell, Bruce Smith, and in front of him, Tim Davis, and Mike Pringle.

This page sponsored by 5842 Derek Starr
PHIL MINGARD - AN ACCOMPLISHED SPEAKER

At the Natal Midlands Annual lunch held on Sunday 7 November 2010, Phil (the immediate Past Chairman of the Branch) was tasked with introducing the Guest Speaker, John Haswell.

Here follows his rendition, which was very well received –

“………………I have attended about fifty Association annual dinners and lunches but I will report on my first one in 1952.

Mid-year, on promotion to the heights of Staff Second Sergeant, I was posted from Bulawayo to Mash Prov HQ in Salisbury. The OC, Colonel Rowley, told me that one important duty I had to take on was the position of Secretary of the Salisbury Branch of the Regimental Association.

The annual dinner was in two months time and I would have to organize it “and it had better be a good one”, as the Commissioner, Brigadier Appleby was the main speaker – and, as we all knew – Jimmy Appleby didn’t take prisoners.

One of the benefits of being Association Secretary was that I met many ex-members of the Force, some of whom served at the turn of the century. Some from Murray’s Column who went overland in the 1914 – 18 war to East Africa to sort out the Germans.

Many were the tales they told of the early years in Rhodesia.

The thing that was outstanding about these men, who mostly wore gaudy blazers in old gold and blue stripes (like deck chairs), was their pride in having served in our great force and their wish for us to maintain the proud traditions of the BSA Police.

Our force was a bit like the French Foreign Legion, with members coming from many countries. The majority were from the UK, with some South Africans and a small but valued bunch from Rhodesia.

My boss in Bulawayo was Insp. Jimmy Huxtable, from Canada. In my era we had a Frenchman from Mauritius – George Daniel; Frank Batt from New Zealand; Paddy Moeran from the Irish Republic and some others with strange accents.
Most of us were raw poms who had never met a black man in the UK; never experienced the heat of Rhodesia and the strange topical fruit and vegetables – mealies, paw-paws, mangoes, avocados etc.

An early Commissioner had said the function of the Depot was to produce men who were clean, smart and with an enquiring mind – and that was the aim of the loud-mouthed gentlemen we had as instructors.

Over some months we bonded as a squad into friends in adversity, being hounded by Fiends – like Neil Smith! We did learn many things with a Cavalry/Police bias.

My favourite subject was Animal Management – I think the syllabus had not changed since the turn of the century. We learnt of Dunkop and Dikkop – two terrible horse sickness and colic which would kill a horse if it lay down and rolled.

We learnt how to sort out a constipated horse! The treatment was called a Back Rake, and practicing on a lovely old grey horse named Emir is still a vivid memory.

It was a very simple, if messy, treatment. First take you shirt off, then get someone strong enough to hold up one of the horses front legs. Soap your arm all the way up with blue mottled soap, then lift the tail, insert your fist and explore inwards until you clear the obstruction. Thereafter whip your arm out and stand clear!

I'm glad I wasn't required to do it again and for real on a constipated horse.

The other instruction I can remember was what to do if your horse died on patrol! Easy – dig a big hole and bury him. But first, cut off his left front hoof with his Force number on it to produce back at your Station to prove that you had not sold the horse.

At the 1952 Association Dinner Jimmy Appleby told of his attendance at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II that same year. Those attending the ceremony were required to be seated in Westminster Abbey some 2 hours before the ceremony was due to commence.

Our Commissioner in full dress order was seated next to some Governor from one of the far-flung colonies, resplendent in a brilliant uniform with feathers in his helmet. He appeared to be a very religious man as throughout the long wait he would kneel and engage in what appeared to be silent prayer. After a while the devout Governor invited Jimmy to join him kneeling in prayer, which he did. The 'Colonial' man then quietly produced a large hip flask of fine whisky and shared it with his fellow supplicant. "Don't worry" he said – I have another flask! From what he could remember Jimmy thought it had been a very pleasant occasion.
In closing I would like to recall three special sounds from Rhodesia that I will never forget –
- The trumpets playing Retreat at sunset in the Depot;
- The fish eagles cries echoing in the Sanyati gorge on Kariba; and
- The cry which went up from the crowd at the Police Club rugby ground when Rhodesian rugby teams were beating visiting teams – RHODEESIA!

POLICE DISPLAYS: 1955 & 1970

In our previous two Natal Outposts we launched the start of a new feature series, written by Smudge Smith, on the Police Displays in which he was personally involved between 1948 and 1971.

We have already covered 1948 to 1950 and to give Smudge a bit of a break (but only temporarily) we report on two specific years where we also have valuable input from two of the respective participants –

1955: RIDE & DRIVE

Smudge Smith writes – “Carried out by members of the Mounted Unit and consisting of a motorcycle agility ride, a vaulting team, members then combined to present a Ride and Drive. The ‘Brains Trust’ from Police Headquarters in their wisdom instructed that to save rail fare the display was to travel by road riding their motorbikes. The result being a Police display team carrying out their movements between Salisbury – Umtali and Salisbury – Bulawayo, much to the amusement of fellow motorists travelling on these roads. The Display was due to perform at Livinstone and Lusaka in Northern Rhodesia but the Lusaka leg was cancelled due to an outbreak of horse sickness in that area. At Livingstone, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the Victoria Falls, the team was camped on the banks of the Zambezi River where the showgrounds were situated. The display was very popular with the Northern Rhodesians who entertained them royally.”
5240 Roger Patching adds “One night around bedtime some enterprising members of the team captured a piglet from one of the livestock pens and were intent on inserting it into the bed of one of us who was attempting to negate the effect of a few beers by means of an early night. The frenzied squeals brought members of the Northern Rhodesia Police hotfoot to the scene.

They seemed convinced that it was our intent was to roast and consume the unfortunate youngster and it was only after lengthy explanation that they accepted that it was just a lighthearted prank.

They happily went off to return the victim to its pen.”
1970 : MUSICAL RIDE

8371 Colin Kerr reports - “The scene opens at the official residence of the President of Rhodesia, the Hon. Clifford Dupont. It is at this venue where recruit squad 11/69 have arrived on horseback, after the opening of the First Republican parliament of Rhodesia and the date is Thursday, 28th May 1970. The mounted escort is led by Insp. Neil “Smudge” Smith who, after ordering the ride into parade formation, addresses the mounted detail “Right, pay attention. There is good news and bad news. The good news is you all did well today and you can have a long weekend off. The bad news – fall in at the hard square on Monday morning at 6 am sharp where we will begin training for the 1970 Police Mounted Sports and Display.

Squad 10/69 will be participating in the making of the film “THE SHANGANI PATROL” and you chaps will be travelling around the country performing a musical ride and motor bike display.

RIGHT TURN to the stables – WALK MARCH”.

Not so favourable words of dismay and disbelief were uttered from the mouths of those unfortunates in the saddle.
One was under the impression that after 6 months training in Depot there would be Driving School and then a posting to either Rural or Town Police (wishful thinking has always been the downfall of man).

Monday duly arrived and so did the endless bum trotting, practicing of musical ride manoeuvres, with lance, without lance, at the walk, at the trot and canter and for some “how to ride a thundering 500 and 650 cc motor bike”, as, for most of the recruits had never even sat on such a monstrous machine of such description.

And so the next 7 months of touring the Agricultural Show Grounds of Rhodesia began.

The first display, at Morris Depot, drew an incredible cross section of Salisbury’s population, all it seemed hoping to witness a cop falling off his horse or motor bike. Of course P/O Kerr had to oblige them when he toppled off the shoulders of P/O Corby who was in the kneeling position behind the rider, P/O Pretorius.

Travelling between the various venues produced many “ups and downs” – having to pile into a ‘down-town’ omnibus, full kit and all, scrambling for a seat which had upholstery on it before enduring a 7 to 8 hour journey without toilet facilities.

On arrival the state of events looked like an episode of “Hancock’s Half Hour” The first port of call would be the railway station in order to de-bus the horses who had been cooped up in cattle trucks for some considerable time and so were not in the best of moods. Recruits and their batmen chasing their steeds around the station, trying to bring them under control, with the booming admonishments of Inspector’s Smith and Pearce only added to the confusion. Of course the horses were never at fault!

Members of the Display Team became proficient in one thing (if in nothing else) – camping. Which proved the point – those connected with a circus live in tents. But the situation was always saved by the high standard of graze provided by the Police Reserve manning the “Queen Mary”.

The Police Mounted Sports and Display Tour lasted for three months, so taking into account the four months of hard training beforehand meant that we recruits had been “Depot personnel” for seven months.

Although none of us had volunteered for this unexpected experience I will admit that from my perspective, the time spent, the knowledge gained and the comradie, emphasizing “esprit de corps” were exhilarating and worth every minute.”
ROUND & ABOUT.

Our sources advise that 4947 Roy Welch, formerly of Natal, has married a lady from his new domicile, New Zealand. I’m sure all of his former mates in SA will wish them both lots of happiness.

This young man was a prominent BSAP sportsman in Salisbury in the late 1960s – notably soccer. In my view he had the longest throw-in at that time – could reach his own goalkeeper without the ball touching the ground.

He is, of course, 6182 Pat Kelly, and is a paid up member of the Natal Branch of the Association.

My reason for telling you all this is to try and get someone who knows him well to persuade him to attend one or more of our social activities?

In our last Natal Outpost we featured the Commander of the Last Parade but unfortunately did not, at that time, have access to a clear photo of him as the ‘clean cut’ Depot Instructor we all knew. Now we have…………………………….

When I interviewed Ted Painting for this edition’s ‘Natal Profile’ he said he enjoyed reading the Natal Outpost because it put him to sleep! Ah well.

During last November I telephoned one of our more mature members in Natal to wish him a happy 74th birthday. He had received his copy of the October edition of our Outpost some six weeks earlier and said he thought it was very good – but he hadn’t had time to read it yet! Proves the point that we seem to have more to do when we retire than when we worked for a living.
Remember when we had Riot Squads -

Thank goodness some looked a bit more professional - in this instance Garth Viljoen & Stretch Hughes.
when-we’s” boringly relating the past. If I could get access to his e-mail I would like the chance to prove to him that times have changed and we are really an interesting group of people!

That well known fingerprint expert, 6067 Alan Terry, tells me he has lived in Durban for the last 20 years but he is not a member of the Association because he found that the social events were nothing more than a bunch of “when-we’s” boringly relating the past.

6908 Ian & Jenny Waggot were spotted in the Durban area last December but made their getaway before we could ‘arrest’ them. Informants report the Waggots of UK fixed abode were making contact with known former associates in Natal and we hope to get more up to date intelligence when they eventually return to their hideout in March (and we thought there was a recession!).

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again

This page sponsored by 5661 Trevor Wilson
Within my soul, within my mind,
There lies a place I cannot find.
Home of my heart. Land of my birth.
Smoke-coloured stone and flame-coloured earth.
Electric skies. Shivering heat.
Blood-red clay beneath my feet.

At night when finally alone,
I close my eyes - and I am home.
I kneel and touch the blood-warm sand
And feel the pulse beneath my hand
Of an ancient life too old to name,
In an ancient land too wild to tame.

How can I show you what I feel?
How can I make this essence real?
I search for words in dumb frustration
To try and form some explanation,
But how can heart and soul be caught
In one-dimensional written thought?

If love and longing are a "fire"
And Man "consumed" by his desire,
Then this love is no simple flame
That mortal thought can hold or tame.
As deep within the earth's own core
The love of home burns evermore.

But what is home? I hear them say,
This never was yours anyway.
You have no birthright to this place,
Descendant from another race.
An immigrant? A pioneer?
You are no longer welcome here.

Whoever said that love made sense?
"I love" is an "imperfect" tense.
To love in vain has been Man's fate
From history to present date.
I have no grounds for dispensation,
I know I have no home or Nation.

For just one moment in the night
I am complete, my soul takes flight.
For just one moment. then it’s gone
And I am once again undone.
Never complete. Never whole.
White skin and an African soul

Written by Michelle Frost, a
talented young poet and author.
She is originally from Zimbabwe
but lived in Gonubie and
attended Clarendon High School
East London.

This page sponsored by 8157 Barry Woan “In memory of my great mate, Dave Callow”
FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE E-MAIL.

I have a Braun Paximat semi-automatic 35 mm slide projector for anyone who has colour slides and no longer has the facility to view them as enlarged images.

The projector comes with collapsible stand; roll up screen with stand; a magazine carry case (holds 20 x 36 magazines = 720 slides) and spares for a further 258 slides.

I will donate all the aforegoing to anyone interested – please phone me at 031 764 3853 or cell 082 896 1911.

Trevor Dutton

Marriage is like a pack of cards. In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond. By the end, you’ll wish you had a club and a spade.

I joined a health club last year, spent about R400. Haven’t lost a kilo. Apparently you have to go there.
TRIBUTES TO DAVE SLOMAN

“Dave suffered a lengthy fight with cancer; a fight which never dampened his spirit neither did it ever lessen his keen sense of duty towards the Regimental Association. Dave was the immediate past Chairman of the Transvaal Branch, a role he fulfilled for many years with dignity, ability, tact and dedication. Right to the time of his death, Dave maintained a "watching brief" on all matters BSAP and never lost his keen but dry sense of humour. He will be very greatly missed, he was a source of inspiration and was always ready with sound advice whenever called upon.”

…….. Dick Glanville

“I can recall his time spent at C.I.D Head Quarters where he carried a reputation of total reliability and a constant affability with all those with whom he worked. His work was free of bias, well balanced and stated which I (and others) admired tremendously.”

…….. Peter Allum

“There have been many police officers, less gentlemen and a very few who were both police officers and gentlemen but Dave was one of that rare breed. At CID Headquarters he was my number two and I could not have had a fairer, more honest or stabilizing influence. The latter trait being a blessing with my volatile temper at times.

For people who were not part of the BSAP it is perhaps difficult to understand what a close knit fellowship we had and have maintained ever since, but pride bound us together and pride continues to bind our ever dwindling band…………………

Dave Blacker