



Queensland Newsletter March 2010.

COMMITTEE

It is just over twelve months ago that the Queensland Committee decided that it would convert from a formal Branch of the Regimental Association to an informal one and the offices of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor would become the Administrator. A committee of one can be highly prized but, to ensure that I didn't get carried away with visions of Ocean Liner Cruises with our funds, I asked 6604 John Gold to remain as Social Secretary, to which he agreed.

COFFEE MORNINGS

John continues to arrange frequent coffee mornings for the retirees as well as other ex-Rhodesians; thank you John for that as well as the organisation of the Annual Dinner in September. Other members who regularly meet us when their social arrangements do not conflict are 6278 Gerry Dyer and 7432 Will Keys. A regular visitor is Goofy Lawrence, well known to my era as Rhodesia's opening bowler in Cricket and 1962 Rhodesian Sportsman of the Year! (It will probably surprise him that I know of this accolade as he doesn't talk about it in his "whenwe" chats). He, of course, only played in the Salisbury League whereas I played under Basil Spurling in the Bulawayo League so never actually played against him, although, to digress, I remember one match where we played the MCC touring team and were allowed to win.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

7012 Mike King had been a long serving and loyal Secretary but decided to hang up his boots last year, which in fact was the catalyst to me for the decision to "go it alone". Mike and his wife Ginny were honoured for their service at the Annual Dinner and I made arrangements to take over the finances. Having been helped by the Queensland Police Association in the past through the daughter of one of the better known members of the Force, John Restorick, my application to change signatures fell on bureaucratic ears, because she had left the organisation only a week before, and the mountain of documentation that was sent to me seemed unnecessarily difficult. Rather than make waves I have arranged with Mike that he obtains a new cheque book through the old system and all he will be required to do in the future is sign a cheque when needed. This less than onerous task will be accompanied by a suitable libation at the Dinner!

MEMORIAL TO THE BSAP

The biggest challenge to ex-members worldwide was to support the initiative of the UK Branch in unveiling a Memorial Statue to the Force at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield in Staffordshire, UK, which takes place on the 25th July this year. I am pleased to report that our branch, small though it may be, was the first to respond with a handsome donation of One Thousand Pounds and hearty congratulations have already been passed to the 21 of you who responded to my request for support, as well as to Debbie, widow of Inspector Tony Dawson; Peter Barton, son of my old colleague Assistant Commissioner John (Pug) Barton; Goofy Lawrence and Louise Bradley daughter of 4589 Roy Jennings.

The Branch will be represented at the unveiling by me and it is just possible that Will and Jacqui Keys, Gordon Hodnett his partner Joan and Dave and Jean Clinker may be there as well.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

In my case I am indebted to Will Keys for his fundraising among the legal profession and, in Rosemary's case, to all those who bought the Zimbabwe mint 10 Trillion Dollar Notes and a substantial donation from Gerry and Wendy Dyer. To all of you I say thank you very much. I paid for our air tickets on 2 March and will travel to the UK on 17th July via Brunei Airlines; the Sultan owns the Airline and sits on a pond of liquid gold, so the company is not subject to the vagaries tormenting others in the industry. After that somewhat painful exercise I am not sure that we can afford to travel to Rutland to attend the Braai on 24th July, as the nearest we will be is in Trentham, Stoke on Trent, whereas Rutland is closer to Nottingham. We shall see but I am not sure I can survive 48 hours of "whenwe" with the large crowd expected at the unveiling and the braai.

HISTORY OF THE FORCE VOLUME THREE

I move on now to the final volume of the History of the Force and the De-Luxe copy donated by the publisher "30 Degrees South". It has been received and I hope to hold the draw of the raffle at the next coffee morning with John Gold, Will Keys and Gerry Dyer. Nick Russell has received orders from members and will be contacting you shortly regarding payment. To those of you who truly enjoyed their service, it is an excellent publication embracing all previous volumes and includes previously unknown articles embracing all sections of the Force with accompanying photographs and an article 49 Days a bit of our Secret past, that spells out the plan to balance Mugabe's intimidation of the electorate, which unfortunately was switched off at the last minute when, if successful, and there was no reason that it wouldn't have been, would have guaranteed a Government of National Unity and international support to keep ZANU PF under control. No good crying over spilt milk.

PENSIONS

Towards the end of last year there was a possibility that foreign currency pension payments would be resumed to those living outside the country but, this hope was short-lived as Robert Gabriel once again reneged on promises to rein in his supporters and support the coalition government. He even went so far as to undermine fiscal reforms and have Zimbabwe Currency re-printed to replace the international currency currently in place, which was nipped in the bud at the last minute but, from all

accounts, the coalition government is a complete non-starter and the MDC members are beating their heads against a brick wall, trying to get things to work. The regular news bulletins I am getting via Iron Horse (Zimbabwe News); letters from Cathy Buckle and Eddie Cross and a publication minuted on to me from my friend ex-Detective Inspector Roy Welch now living in New Zealand paint a miserable story highlighted by the news that "Tim" spent over Three Hundred Thousand Pounds on his 86th birthday party feeding the guests on Lobster and other exotic foods. With starvation rife among the elderly and unemployed it is a complete disgrace.

The Branch is not in a position to assist Zimbabwe Pensioners in Zimbabwe but I am happy to record that some individuals are doing their bit with the various associations buying up and delivering regular food parcels to the needy.

BSAP WEBSITE

Andy Field, still living and earning a modest crust in Harare, has been doing sterling work re-vamping the BSAP website and, to those who do not know of it and would like to read what is happening, you are invited to look up the website:

Quote: You may, if you have the time, go and look at the page I (Andrew Field) have put up for Natal Branch. You will find this at: <http://www.bsap.org/brnatal.html> - you will find links to your branch there, but these are shells at present. I have not linked these branch pages to the site yet. Unquote.

I have sent Andy some information to bring him up to date and will be looking up previous newsletters and Chairman's Chats to bring our branch up to date, all this will occur within the coming week after I have circulated this Newsletter.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Members' reaction to the events of the past year has been both interesting and revealing.

I had the pleasure of meeting 5216 Eric Foulkes and his wife Julie, who journeyed for two days from Rubyvale, in the far North of Queensland, to meet family arriving from Germany, and expressed a wish to meet me and Rosemary. A very pleasant lunch was had with them and interestingly there is a vague chance that they might also be at the unveiling.

Encouraging messages from a number of you regarding the new composition of the Branch and the fact that I keep the news from the rest of the world circulating, so that each of our members, wherever he or she may be, is abreast of what is going on. These remarks make my efforts worthwhile.

Carol, wife of 6303 Peter Nortje, continues to lighten up my In-Box and she will be surprised to learn that that she has sent well over 3,000 to me to date!

7861 Mike Woods also sends me interesting emails on matters of public interest.

Christine Lenz sends me news of her father 4016 Eric Jones from time to time who, like some of us, miss having the benefit of our Zimbabwe pensions. He can best be described, at fast approaching 84, as frail but alert but has moved in to live with his daughter so that she can keep an eye on him.

3835 John Stanyon passed away last year but he was over 90 and the send off by his friends and well-wishers was all the family could have wished for. The attitude of his son 8638 Douglas to members of the branch was unnecessary and his daughter Kay apologised on behalf of her brother.

Cobby Hollis, widow of 4731 Roy Hollis, my squad mate, remains fit and well but has moved to be nearer one of her daughters. She has recently been in touch with 4729 David (Dag) Grobecker who was invalided out of the Force in 1952 after being kicked in

the spleen by a horse and returned to the UK. Haven't seen or heard from him since until he approached the UK Branch to obtain details of Cobby as he and Roy had been good friends and Cobby had nursed him in the Hospital; may see him too at the Unveiling.

7432 Will and Jacqui Keys spent some time swanning around the world in different directions to meet up in America for a holiday. Will's regular news by email kept me up to date with the exotic cities that he visited and the interesting people that he met. He has recently returned from a shorter visit to New Zealand.

6278 Gerry Dyer took his retirement from the Sun Corporation during the year and has become a regular part of the Coffee Club. He was due to take a short caravan holiday earlier this month to iron out any problems taking that type of holiday. He didn't pick a particularly auspicious time as the days have been highlighted by the amount of rain that has fallen in Queensland. It will certainly have been a memorable learning curve!

5165 Don Silliss took the opportunity over the Memorial fundraising to recommend that we use the money held in our bank account to fund the Queensland contribution. It wasn't necessary to go that route but we do not see the need to keep this money on tap, particularly as the majority of it was raised by raffles at the various functions attended by members for the benevolent fund. There is insufficient money in it to warrant holding it or using it for benevolence therefore it will gradually be phased out by using it to pay for the wine for the toasts at the Annual Dinner for those members who contributed the money in the first place.

Debbie, widow of 8231 Tony Dawson, holder of the Australian Centenary Medal for her work in Community Centres, was able to travel to Lake Bled in Slovenia to be present at the wedding of her 31 year old son (young Tony) on 10 July to Rachael Scoffi an Australian Nurse of Italian heritage. They live in London.

7429 Fred Carr-Thompson and Carol report that things couldn't be going better for them in one of the most beautiful and friendly places at Malua Bay in New South Wales, where he has taken up kayaking on the multitude of crystal clear lakes and rivers in the area.

The following members have not been in touch with the branch for well over two years or no longer respond to emails and I am no longer in contact with them:

7445 Michael Bennett and Kathleen; 6864 Peter Bentley and Petisi; C782 Clinton Cain and Tania; Tim and Vivienne Craft (Army) George and Sofia Economou (Warden); 6128 Brian Jeoffreys and Margaret; 204738Q Merv Legg; 8324 David Naisbitt and Cynthia; 9950 Rob Nimmo and Deborah and 9440 Lindsay O'Brien and Sandra.

GENERAL

John Gold has agreed to continue supporting me for another year and both Gerry Dyer and Will Keys act as unwitting Committee Members so the Queensland Branch remains fairly healthy considering that its area is about twice the size of South Africa and Zimbabwe combined.

Best wishes to one and all for a happy and successful 2010 and I look forward to renewing happy memories in July.

Mike Edden