Our Second Annual Gathering:

With just over seven weeks to go before our Second Annual Scottish Gathering on 26th May 2012, it is pleasing to report that 45 members and wives have already confirmed their attendance. ‘Thank You’ to the following for your support: Bruce & Paddy Allen (6743); Jack Bacon (5111); Jim & Eileen Bailey (14521); John & Dawn Bannister (20254); Peter & Maggie Biddulph (7211); Robin & Phyllis Birch (6898); Keith & Sharley Black (6800); John & Barbara Bryan (7343); Barry & Anne Cotton (5340); Ian & Carol Cochrane (6736); George & Jane Fairlie & Guest (5766); Hugh (Jock) & Ray Gibson (5355); Brian & Helen Hughes (4700); Eric & Lorna Kennelly (6835); Alan & Pauline Lane (5248); Andy & Olive Nicoll (7424); Dennis Poole (6348); Dick & Beverley Thompson (5559); Norman Vincent (6082A); Alan Whitehurst (5658); together with your organising team, Steve & Wendy Acornley (7784); Eric Robb (5601) and Nigel & Pauline Seaward (5976).

This is a reminder to those who wish to attend and have yet to respond, that our caterers will require the final attendance count plus payment by Thursday 10th May 2012. Our Organiser/Treasurer awaits your confirmation together with payment of £10 per head, please. Steve may be contacted at phone 01506 466 593 or e-mail sacornley@hotmail.co.uk for payment or banking information. Please make cheques payable to ‘S. Acornley’ as we have no separate banking account for the Scottish Group.

Apologies:

John Pirrett (6610) of the Transvaal Branch sends his apologies, his best wishes for a successful day, and a donation. Thank You ‘Jock’. We sincerely hope that your brother David, who lives near Glasgow, will see his way clear to joining us as a guest.

Raoul Gilbert (5498) writes from Spain to say that he is sorry that he cannot get to the Gathering this year, and sends his regards and best wishes. He asks whether the wearing of a kilt would be de rigueur, which indeed it would! Thank you for this timely suggestion, Raoul. If things work out as planned, we will have a Regimental piper there as well.

Bob Smith (6160) has sent his apologies, adding that he hopes to be at next year’s function.
The name Alexander McCall Smith is known throughout the world for the authorship of over sixty books on a wide array of subjects, as well as the fact that for many years he was Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh.

Perhaps not so widely known is that his father served in the BSA Police, retiring on Pension as a Chief Inspector in 1960. It is for this reason that the acclaimed author was invited to attend our Gathering by our UK Branch Chairman, Peter Phillips. Although regretting being unable to be there for family reasons, he wrote of his appreciation for the gesture, and sent his best wishes. He also included a donation towards Association Welfare Funds which we are pleased to acknowledge.

Good news is that Brenda Braes, widow of ex-S/A/C Andy Braes and mother of Bruce Braes (110619) in Australia, has returned to her home after a lengthy spell in St. John’s Hospital, Livingston. Brenda is unable to attend the Gathering due to inadequate facilities for her needs at the venue. She extends greetings to all friends and hopes for a successful day. A special ‘Thank You’ to Wendy Acornley for all of the help and attention so willingly given to Brenda over a prolonged period, both in hospital and at home.

Rhodesian Operational Plaques:

Would you like either an ‘Operation Thrasher’ or an ‘Operation Repulse’ plaque, or both?

These are in very good condition, and will be available ‘First come, first served’ at the Reception Desk at the Gathering in exchange for a donation to Association Welfare Funds!

BSAP Regimental Association – Nearly 100 years old:

The Chairman of the Western Cape Branch of the BSAP Association Jim Blaine, in an introduction to the latest Cape Western OUTPOST (No. 71), brings a timely reminder that our Association was inaugurated ninety-nine years ago in 24th May 1913. He gives a worthy outline of the history of the Association, and ends with the challenge:

“There has been a suggestion that a function be held to commemorate the occasion (the centennial in 2013), perhaps the final chapter in this history of the BSAP. Regretfully though, little enthusiasm for such an event has been forthcoming.”

Clearly our Chairman, Peter Phillips, will wish to make mention of this fact when we meet on 26th May in Edinburgh, noting the coincidence of dates! Has chance not presented us with the challenge to stage a meaningful Centennial Commemoration as part of our Third Annual Gathering in 2013?