



OUTPOST

THE TRANSVAAL

Newsletter of the
BSA Police Regimental
Association Transvaal
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2000

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COMMITTEE 2009

**Contact numbers see Page
39**

Jock Pirrett – Chairman
Glenn Macaskill-
Vice/Chairman
Dick Glanville – Secretary
Alex Fraser – Treasurer
Dick Latilla - Member
Malcolm Bamfield - Member
Ashley Collings - Member
Barry Enslin – Member
Andy Stenslow - Member

**August 2009 Issue 26 – 2
of 2009**

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Editorial **By Dave Sloman**

To those of us of a certain generation PC 49, Archibald Berkeley-Willoughby, was a fictionalized policeman who kept us all agog when he used common sense and initiative, of which he had plenty of both, to catch the criminals around London in the 1940s and 1950s. He started his one-man fight against crime in 1947. If you missed his weekly serial on the wireless you had to wait until 1950 to catch him when he appeared in the Eagle comic. He really was BSAP material but seemed content to pound the beat in some of the dingiest suburbs of the metropolis.

PC 49 must now be turning, nay spinning, in his grave. Recently Constable Tony Cobban of the Lancashire Constabulary was asked at a press photo session to sit on a new bicycle that had just been presented to the police by a well-known cycle shop. He refused – because he felt the health and safety risks were too great! He was not asked to ride around, just strike a pose in the saddle. Apparently he had not passed his cycling proficiency test and felt that without a risk assessment having been done he could get into trouble. Nothing could be more politically correct than that – a PC who was too PC

for his bicycle! And his inspector backed him up!

What nonsense! I don't want to malign the UK but how things have changed in the 52 years since I left – and I am sure our colleagues now resident in that rain-sodden isle will agree. We were fortunate in that we had Standing Orders, which guided us through our daily duties – “These Standing Orders are published to assist members in their work, and members are expected to interpret them reasonably”.

But nowadays almost every aspect of life overseas seems afflicted with the misguided thinking of the PC-brigade.

The author George MacDonald-Fraser once said that the twin pillars of political correctness were wilful ignorance and a steadfast refusal to face the truth if it did not fit with what the PC-brigade wish to believe.

I predict Cst. Cobban will not last long in that career. Thank goodness he never had the chance to join the BSAP.

Speaking as one who had the opportunity, albeit for a short time, to recruit members at Rhodesia House (I looked for Billy Bodle's “yeoman stock”), Tony Cobban would have been sifted out at the first interview. And his narrow-minded inspector would not have got far either.

In our service, be it three years or thirty years, we all had good days and bad



days. Our Depot training, for all the shouting and bull-dust (BSAP:- Bull-Shit-And-Pageantry) was geared to sorting out the material the recruiting office had sent, to teach initiative and responsibility, to obey orders, and basically learn how to get the job of being a policeman done successfully. Most of us had occasion, when confronted with a difficult situation or being alone on a one-man station in the bush or on patrol alone, to reflect back on our Depot training and thank our lucky stars that we did not turn out like Cst. Cobban!
Well said, Dave! Ed.

RECENT EVENTS.

Monthly Sundowner 03/04/2009

Most of the usual 'suspects': 6769 Dick Glanville, 6538 Glenn Macaskill, 7651 Dick Latilla, 5695 Dave Sloman, 5619 Barry Enslin, 900202 Malcolm Bamfield, 6610 Jock Pirrett, 7038 Ashley Collings, guest Morag Willis, guest Charlene Bamfield, 4831 Peter & Fran Stiff, 7489 Ian Duncan, 9271 Frik Hanekom, guest Yuanting Xie, guest Wilfred Ndlovu. Your committee is now providing

snacks at no charge at every monthly function.

Monthly Sundowner 8/05/2009

A far better turnout and a good time was had by all. 7038 Ashley Collings, 6610 Jock Pirrett, 900202 Malcolm Bamfield, 7651 Dick Latilla, 5807 Alistair Webb, 6534 Ian & Dee Cuthbertson, 5405 Brian Thomas, 4831 Peter & Fran Stiff, 5526 Phil & Robin Devlin, guest Tvl Scots Tom Cross, 5695 Dave Sloman, 6017 John Hill, 6345 Dave Holmes, guest Gilbert Holmes, 4028 Terry Thorpe, (5703) Judy Hankinson, 9431 Simon Thorpe, 10435 John Waspe, 7489 Ian Duncan, 6817 Keith Douche, V4028 Allan Lord, 22225 Harry McKinley.

Monthly Sundowner 12/06/2009

Not so great a turnout this time. 6538 Glenn Macaskill, 7038 Ashley Collings, 7651 Dick Latilla, 5619 Barry Enslin, 8410 Andrew Stenslow, 900202 Malcolm Bamfield, 6345 Dave Holmes,, 7489



Ian Duncan, 6017 John Hill, 9790
 Duncan Waugh, 5526 Phil & Robin
 Devlin, 6610 Jock Pirrett, (5703)
 Judy Hankinson, 6769 Dick
 Glanville.

Curry and Rice Lunch 21/06/2009

Again we had a good attendance and a great lunch; although quite a few members who promised to attend did not pitch. This makes it very difficult regarding catering, and too much food was prepared. Some guys were ambushed because of Father's Day, but we appeal to our members to give us prior notice if they aren't going to attend once they have committed. Fortunately, we were able to realise a small profit for benevolence. Those who signed the register were:

6769 Dick Glanville, 6538 Glenn Macaskill, 900202 Malcolm Bamfield, Charlene Bamfield, 6017 John Hill, (5703) Judy Hankinson, 5619 Barry Enslin, 6610 Jock Pirrett, 6144 Dick Judson, guests Ted (9th Batt) and Jacqui Coetzee, 6345 Dave Holmes & Michelle Knight, guest Gilbert Holmes, 6539 Dave McNamara, Assoc. Lorraine Rutherford, W346 Maureen Merrifield, Intaf Alec Bundock, guests Rob & Megan Jones,

Selous Scouts D. Croukamp, Selous Scouts Kevin Thomas, 110905 Doug McGibbon, (7347) Pam Loubser, 6612 Dave Willis, RLI Ian Carswell, 4831 Peter & Fran Stiff, guest Richard Bamfield, guest Natalia Neophytou, 5137 Don Norris, 2 RR Richard Owen, 6268 Leon & Merle du Toit, 5070 Tom & Sheila Holden, 6316 Bob & Wendy Wishart, 7628 Jim & Sheila Morland, 6255 Jack & Fiona London, 5806 Steve & Chris Barry, 5695 Dave Sloman, 6099 Sakkie McKay, 5405 Brian Thomas, 5587 Howard Marshall, guest Roger Crosby, 7670 John & Verona Sutton, 25763 Bob Boggis, Kenya Police Capt. R. Semple-Fisher, Army Pat & Noelle Hill, 6059 Laurie & Liz Ibbitt, WP 58 Gwen Drummond, 780315 John & Mary Redfern, 111378 Pam Clark, 8968 Dave Nixon, 6817 Keith Douche, guest John van Eyssen, 5809 Peter Stanton and his wife WP 74 L.. Keats, 7651 Dick Latilla, guests Louise Swart, Bridget Henning, Dez Henning, guests Paul & Sheila Harper and boys, 110887 John & Helen Herdman, 9790 Duncan & Carol Waugh, 5577 John Thome, guest Donald Tindale, guest Margo Eorwine, 7038 Ashley Collings & Morag Willis.

Monthly Sundowner 10/07/2009



Not a large turnout after the Curry and Rice, but most enjoyable. The snacks are proving a drawcard. 6769 Dick Glanville, 7651 Dick Latilla, 7038 Ashley Collings, 5619 Barry Enslin, 6145 Alex Fraser, 6817 Keith Douche, 6610 Jock Pirrett, 5695 Dave Sloman, 7489 Ian Duncan, 6017 John Hill, 6345 Dave Holmes, 6382 Terry Schwartz, 4831 Peter & Fran Stiff, 5526 Phil & Robin Devlin, 9165 Geoff & Orlanda Lotter, 9150 Jeremy & Libby Thompson, 22979 Mike Miskulin and Ruth Reed, 7118/8597 Mike Harrison, 6538 Glenn Macaskill.

Chairman's corner

We are in the midst of what a farmer would call 'A good winter' but spring is less than two months away.

Sunday, 22 March, first social event of the year, Bring & Braai, at Dickie Fritz. Additional event thrown in and proved a great success with a large turnout of family members and guests. Good to see several youngsters and new faces in attendance.

On Saturday, 25 April, I attended the consecration and enthronement of Bishop David Hugh Bannerman. A very auspicious occasion and well attended by members of the

Anglican Community. Alan (Tiff) Thompson and family also present. I handed Bishop Bannerman a congratulatory card on behalf of the association and he in turn subsequently responded with a thank you letter.

Sunday, 21 June, annual Curry & Rice function held at Dickie Fritz. Well attended but down on last year. Accepted, I regret, it coincided with Father's Day but if you did book please let us know in good time if unable to attend and avoid the problem of over catering and resultant extra cost. A great day and thanks to Peter Stiff and Gwen Drummond for donations which will be auctioned off at the Annual Dinner.

Barry Enslin did a tremendous job, not only at the Bring & Braai but also coordinating the Curry & Rice. Thank you, Barry.

Lastly, congratulations to our long-serving and long-suffering secretary, Dick Glanville. In April, he attended the Grand Lodge in London where the order of Grand Rank was bestowed on him by the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of English Freemasonry. Well done Dick!



Yrs Aye
John Pirrett

REMINDER!!!!

Monthly gatherings every second Friday at the Transvaal Scottish (The Jocks) anytime after 5.30pm. Wives, partners and guests welcome Please make the effort – you'll not be disappointed and you'll be surprised at who you meet. Snacks are served at no charge.

**Next big event:
Annual Dinner at Johannesburg Country Club on 11/9/2009. See insert.**

You will see that all members and appropriate guests are invited. This is our premier event of the year and is a formal Regimental Dinner with guest speaker. We ask that you bear in mind that any guests you invite should feel comfortable in such an atmosphere and environment. We have also been forced by economic factors to increase the price of a ticket to R250 – Editor.

Notice: The annual golf day will take place at Roodepoort Country Club on 25th September, 2009. Please contact Jock Pirrett for details.



NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

**Home News - Extracts from the UK Outpost Issue No 71 [Spring 2009]
Edited by Mike Abbotts 5975**

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT – 6905 Peter Phillips. News is a little thin this time round although I suppose, as good Englishmen, we can always talk about the weather. Actually it is relevant – for the first time in my 20+ years on this committee we had to cancel a committee meeting (February) because of the weather. Hopefully we won't have that problem for the AGM in May although, as you will see from the Notice, we do have a couple of problem positions to fill. I think I have filled the Events Sec. position, which I mentioned in my last chat, but, Barry, our Hon Sec, still finds himself called away by the UN from time to time. He finds he is not able to perform his duties with us to his own satisfaction and, whilst he is a very young 73, he also feels it is perhaps time for someone younger to take over.

So who is up for it? The position of Hon Sec is the lynch-pin of the Association so cannot be taken lightly. Nevertheless, there are a number of people out there who are prepared to give us the benefit of their wisdom and advice from time to time.

Perhaps now is the time to step up to the mark.

In similar vein, I will put you on notice that in a couple of years time – say AGM 2011 - you will need to find a new Chairman . Frankly, I was of a mind to retire this year, however I have committed to see the Memorial through to completion, but thereafter.....

Note from the Hon Sec - 5662

Barry Henson. I now have 72 names and email addresses on the Email Information Group. Just a reminder that unless you have actually asked me to include you in the group, you are not included. This condition ensures that we have up-to-date addresses.

I have not received anything new from the UK State Pension people and have not heard whether any of those who have appealed, have had any success.

It is with regret that I have to advise that I will be standing down as your Hon Sec at this year's AGM. When I took on the job three years ago, I was not aware that my circumstances would change and that I would be spending so much time away. My absences have meant that I have not been able to carry out my duties in the way that I would wish to.

Bertie, Jeannie and Chairman Peter have done a wonderful job in covering for me, and I thank them. However, it is



not right that they should have to do so. After much soul searching I have decided that I must hand over to someone who knows that he/she will be around to do the job full time. As things stand at the moment, I expect to be away in Somalia until the day before the AGM. Not too good for the Chairman, Committee and Branch Membership as a whole, when the Hon Sec cannot even prepare for the AGM.

So, if there is anyone out there who would like to take over the position of Hon Sec, please contact Chairman Peter without delay.

HISTORY SECTION 7391 Alan Toms.

Wanted – Books ~ I recently read the following which struck me at the time as particularly relevant to the BSAP:

“Orwell reminds us that control of the future is predicated on possession of the past. In the absence of historical certainty that past becomes a palimpsest on which convenient truths can be reinscribed with impunity.”

It is the duty of the Association to ensure that our history is properly recorded and available to prevent it being re-written. As part of our efforts to ensure this happens Geoff Quick, who maintains a bibliography of books relating to the BSAP, is heading efforts to try and have copies of as many of those books as possible deposited in the

National Army Museum to ensure the correct version will always be available to refute any attempts at historical reinscription. We are starting with anything that is autobiographical or has a biographical content. *(A full list of the bibliography can be found on the website, www.bsap.org - those without internet access can contact Geoff on: 01278 722 095).*

Should anyone be in possession of one of those volumes, or know where one can be found, please contact Geoff. Whilst we are seeking donations the UK Branch would consider making a payment for any particularly valuable manuscript.

A selection of some of those needed are “Paradise Plundered” by Jim Baker, “Tatenda” by Ian “Brick” Bryson, “Far Bugles” by Colin Harding, “Some Famous Rhodesian Trials” by Alan Hardy and “How We Made Rhodesia” by Arthur Leonard.

The Books Of The BSAP series (formerly Outpost Memorables) continue to increase, the latest being “Commanding the Regiment” by Fred Punter. With a foreword by General the Lord Walker, a section is devoted to each CO and Commissioner with biographical details and photographs. Very good value at £5!

‘Troopers’ Tales’, dedicated to the memory of Mike Leach, has been



published. A collection of some eleven tales it includes the memoirs of Lt. Col H.G. Seward and of 3967 Dennis "Johnny" Johnston relating to his BSAP service, as well as an account of the Filabusi Gold Robbery in which the main suspect was a BSAP Trooper - well worth a read.

The "BSAP in the World Wars" is shortly to be reprinted with considerable new material including an excerpt from

AROUND AND ABOUT THE UK AND IRELAND

VICTORY SERVICES CLUB GATHERINGS

4th November 2008 - saw the usual stalwarts brave the winter weather to attend - those present were: 4278 John **Balchin**, 4503 Derek **Humberstone**, 4853 Fred **Punter**, 5248 Alan **Lane**, 5469 Dave **Grimbly**, 5662 Barry **Henson**, 6308 Dan **Hughes**, 6348 Dennis **Poole**, 6527 Mike **O'Donnell**, 6905 Peter **Phillips**, 7359 Bertie **Cubitt**, 7391 Alan **Toms** and 19566 "Skip" **Rausch**.

2nd December 2008 - Christmas Get-together there was the usual good turnout of members, wives, family and friends, which provided a good atmosphere for this year's gathering.

During the evening, our Chairman, 6905 Peter **Phillips** welcomed everyone and thanked them for making the effort to attend and make the event worthwhile. He especially welcomed 8646 Andrew **Field**, on holiday from Zimbabwe. (*Andrew is the Moderator of the BSA Police Association website*). Special thanks should also go to those members who donated prizes for the raffle, which despite the present economic climate, raised just over £200 for Association funds – well done. Also putting in an appearance and enjoying a few beers were: 4158 Tim **Weimer**, 4278 John **Balchin**, 4503 Derek and Joan **Humberstone**, 4735 Cliff **Rogers**, 4777 Tackie **MacIntosh**, 4819 Brian and Jacky **Lay**, 4840 Mike **Purslow**, 4853 Fred **Punter**, 4882 Peter **Dancer** and daughters Wendy and Carol, 4964 Mike **Tadman**, 5055 Ken and Jean **Miners**, 5248 Alan and Pauline **Lane**, 5468 Dave **Adshead** with Christian **Adshead** and Davina **Jolley**, 5469 Dave **Grimbly**, 5507 Brian **Taylor**, 5615 Tom and Joan **Meekin** (Northern Ireland), 5625 "Biff" **Way**, 5635 Dave **Riley**, 5883 Murray and Ellen **Gouldstone**, 6130 Randy **Symmons**, 6150 Dave **Paterson**, 6348 Dennis **Poole**, 6432 Chris **Roberts**, 6514/7562 Chris and Anne **Johnson** and guests Hobo and Jenny **Hobson**, 6527 Mike **O'Donnell**, 6609 Parry **Jones**, 6737 Mike **Coleman**, 7072



Terry and Jan **Walmsley**, 7211 Peter and Margaret **Biddulph**, [7327] Maggie **Plant**, 7359 Bertie and Jenny **Cubitt**, 7391 Alan and Lynn **Toms**, 7603 Bleign and Sue **Knox-Davies** (*Best wishes to Bleign and Sue who will have returned to live in S. Africa by the time we publish this*), 7677 Peter **Dewe**, 7784 Steve **Acornley**, 8278 Tony **Marillier**, Andre and Mignonne **Okes** and Dr Sue **Onslow**.

6th January 2009 – the first gathering of the year and traditionally not well attended, probably due to the recent Christmas and New Year festivities, and on this occasion, a bitterly cold evening. Braving the elements and putting in an appearance were: 5248 Alan **Lane**, 5662 Barry **Henson**, 6348 Dennis **Poole**, 6737 Mike **Coleman**, 6905 Peter **Phillips**, 7359 Bertie **Cubitt**, 8021 Mike **Rowley**, 8338 Mal and Ros **Thurman**, 8646 Andy **Field** (Zimbabwe) and 10157 Ian **Lamont**.

16th January 2009 - The first 3rd Friday Gathering. 6348 Dennis **Poole** reports that he attended this gathering from 4.30pm until 7.0pm. The other members there were 4278 John **Balchin**., 4735 Cliff **Rogers** and 5507 Brian **Taylor**.

3rd February 2009 - A day of severe weather and snowstorms in and around the UK including the Southern Counties led to the postponement of the first committee meeting of 2009 and a

limited attendance at the monthly gathering. Those present were 6737 Mike **Coleman** and 19566 “Skip” **Rausch**. They were ‘it’ - honest they were!

20th February 2009 - 6905 Peter **Phillips** reports that those present at the Friday gathering comprised himself, 4735 Cliff **Rogers**, 5265 “Biff” **Way** and [7327] Maggie **Plant**.

3rd March 2009 – after last months “white out” it was pleasing to see such a good turnout. 4853 Fred **Punter** was on hand to sign copies of his book “Commanding the Regiment”, the latest in the series of Outpost books – all copies brought to the gathering were snapped up!! (*Copies are available from Bertie Cubitt, Q. Rep : Price £5.00 plus p & p*). Those enjoying the company were:- 4278 John **Balchin**, 4882 Peter **Dancer**, 5248 Alan **Lane**, 5469 Dave **Grimbly**, 5507 Brian **Taylor** with guest Carl **Keith**, 5662 Barry **Henson**, 5975 Mike **Abbotts**, 6130 Randy **Symmons**, 6308 Dan **Hughes**, 6348 Dennis **Poole**, 6527 Mike **O'Donnell**, 6630 Jim **Hazlett**, 6905 Peter **Phillips**, 7359 Bertie **Cubitt**, 8275/8954 Alastair and Vivienne **Morgan** and 8338 Mal **Thurman**.

20th March 2009 Present at this Friday's gathering were: 5625 “Biff” **Way**, 6737 Mike **Coleman**, 7233 Clive **Shelley** with his son Clint and 7661 Rod **Shelley**. Clive and Rod had travelled from Wales



by coach to attend and were staying overnight.

NORTH WEST REGION by 4933 Rod Wilson NEW email: rodwil2@tiscali.co.uk Myerscough, 14th December 2008.

In November I drove up to Cumbria to visit 3385 "Lummy" **Lumholtz** at his lovely home in Cockermouth. Built on the side of a river I could almost have fished from my bedroom window! Lummy has had to move into a residential home nearby in Cockermouth but returns to his home once a week for dinner with Janet. Now 96 years of age, and having attested two weeks before I was born, his short term memory is very bad., He did not remember me at first but as we had dinner and a few drinks, his memory seemed to return and we had a great discussion on the BSAP from 1934 until he departed in 1956. Sadly his wife was lost overboard whilst travelling back to Cape Town in 1947. (*Lummy had flown back after long leave as apparently berths on ships were still hard to get in 1947*). He wrote a book "A Slice of Life" which I enjoyed and brought some copies back - still got two left at £6 if anyone is interested.

4039 Ted **Chapman** has recently arrived in UK and is living out in the sticks outside Penrith. Allen **Day** says he met him in Nyasaland, Ted says he has never

been to Nyasaland so that should be an interesting meeting in the future! Ted does not drive but has a bus service three days a week but none of course on a Sunday that may pass The Myerscough!

Our Christmas Lunch was way down on numbers this year. We had a lot of apologies from those who have always attended, some were working whilst others were playing nursemaids to new grandchildren and some were sick etc etc etc. but as usual we had an excellent lunch for the even more excellent price of £10.50 per head.

Arnold and Paula left with a car boot full of Boerwors made at a farm a mile or so past The Myerscough. Apparently they have introduced many friends in North Wales to the sausage and get lots of orders of "Bring me a Kilo next time you go"

Those attending: 4041 Allen **Day**, 4933 Rod **Wilson** and daughter Andrea, [5607] Penny and Pete **Bolton**, [6314] Val **Marsden**, 6621 Stu and Wendy **Findlay**, 7084 Frank and Margaret **Deardon**, 8307 Flash **Firth** and Jeanette, 4549 Ken and 204504 Dorothy **Standford-Smith**, 7207 Arnold and 203679 Paula **Woolley** and guest Barbara **Mercer**.

Grovelling apologies! From Lance **Combrink**, Brian **Hodson**, Rhona **Johnston**, Larry **King**, Mike **Parr**, Steve



Robins, Sid and Vera **Strickland** and Allen **Whitehurst**.

Sid **Strickland** called and told me that he has been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer just as things were looking up after Vera has been unable to travel for the past year or two they were hoping to attend the Christmas Lunch. Sid now faces a daily trip by ambulance bus from Barrow to Lancaster for treatment over a period of three months, that must be a round trip of at least 100 miles every day! Sid says he will be thinking of us as usual and hopes in the future to attend again at our meetings.

The Myerscough on March 8th 2009.

13 or so members made it to the March 'do'. The weather being very undecided as to what it should do, the rain kept away for most part but it was very cold.

I managed to sell the last books I had, written by "Lummy" Lumholtz but I know there are just a few left if anyone wants a copy.

Our host had put on a couple of specials on the menu. all of which were tried and pronounced very good and as usual the normal menu was excellent.

Steve **Robins** attended, as he always does, having spent the Christmas period in Hong Kong and reports that the credit crunch is really biting in that part of the world with factory

closures and many, many workers being made redundant. However, the Chinese government has waived the equivalent of our Council Tax for one year so that the people will have some cash to spend. Apparently the situation in China proper is just as bad, so who knows soon the goods in our shops might be stamped made in Fiji or Cambodia

Some six years ago Penny **Walker**, the 17 year old daughter of the late 7022 David Walker, gave us a little talk on her experiences learning to fly as she was just about to get her solo licence. Well, now I hear that Penny is just a little older and is flying for British Airways out of Gatwick as Second Officer. Well done Penny.

Mike **Parr** gave me the internet address shown below, which has been set up in the Eastern Cape and has photographs which people have posted, some of them how they looked when they attested and how they look now up to 50 years or so later. I have had a quick look and have seen a few I knew and also a young Ron **Pilborough** and Tom **Coey**. Have a look and if you like post your own photos. There are also a number of Squad photos and recent meetings around the world.

www.bsapec.gq.nu/photoalbum.html

Those attending: 4041 Allen **Day**, 4549 Ken and 204504 Dot **Standford-Smith**, 4933 Rod **Wilson**, 5642 Mike



Parr, 7084 Frank and Margaret
Deardon, 7192 Steve **Robins**, 8131
 Brian and Anne **Hodson**, 8199 Bugs
 and Tessa **Moran** and guest Barbara
Mercer.

Apologies from: 5658 Alan
Whitehurst, 6621 Stu **Findlay**, 7207
 Arnold and Paula **Woolley**, 8307 Flash
Firth, 9786 Lance **Combrinck** and three
 others whose names escape me just
 now.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE Sunday 9th November 2008

On a dull, chilly but dry morning, the
 Association was again represented at
 the annual Service of Remembrance,
 organised by the Rhodesian Army
 Association, and held at the Field of
 Remembrance, St. Margaret's Church,
 Westminster Abbey, London.

A good gathering of ex-Rhodesian
 service members, family and friends
 attended the service, which was
 conducted by 4600 Reverend Terry
Mesley-Spong (*Terry served in both the
 BSAP and Kenya Police before joining
 the Army where he became Senior
 Chaplain, HQ 1 Brigade*).

Our Chairman, 6905 Peter **Phillips**
 read the Lesson. There were six Army
 standards together with the BSAP
 standard, which was positioned on the
 'Right of the Line', and carried this year
 by 5248 Alan **Lane**.

Also attending the service were: 4158
 Tim **Weimer**, 4278 John **Balchin**, 4503
 Derek **Humberstone** and daughter
 Madelyn, 6348 Dennis **Poole**, 7359
 Bertie and Jenny **Cubitt**, 19566 'Skip'
Rausch, Barry **Lennox** (Associate),
 Pauline and Alison **Lane** and Jean
Illingworth and her husband (*Jean is
 the daughter of former Commissioner,
 2853 Lt Col Harold Jackson*). Following
 the service, an enjoyable lunch was held
 at the nearby Novotel Hotel.

NEWS FROM CENTRAL

ISSUE NUMBER 95 : MARCH

2009

6 CLIFTON ROAD, GREENDALE,

HARARE

E-Mail : pbellingham@mango.zw

Comment

How many of us follow news of disasters
 around the world with only a passing
 interest. With our improved
 communications, we are able to learn of
 all such incidents almost as they happen
 and see live pictures. We feel sorrow for
 the victims, but then we move on to the
 next without feeling any real empathy for
 them. This was certainly the case with
 me personally. However, this changed
 for me when I was advised that an ex
 member of the Force, 5363 Andrew
 Northcote and his wife Pam, lost their



home and came close to losing their lives in the recent dreadful bush fire disaster that devastated large areas of the state of Victoria, and whole communities in that state. Andrew said that "Such was the speed and ferocity of that wall of flames that descended upon us and our house, that our motorcar was our saving grace. Even as we passed the end of our house, flames were emerging from the other side. Five seconds - that was all we had - and I wouldn't be writing this letter." With this knowledge, the Victorian disaster became so much more real and personal. It was no longer a disaster that affected unknown people in an unknown corner of the world. It was a disaster that affected real people, friends and colleagues. Knowing this, I was able not only to sympathise but also to empathise with ALL the people adversely affected by this terrible disaster.

6308 Dan Hughes forwarded the following poem that originated in Australia to the UK Branch editor who included it in the UK Outpost. I agree with Dan that the sentiments expressed in this poem echo the sentiments of Rudyard Kipling.

*It's the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the Freedom of the press.
It's the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us the Freedom of speech.*

It's the Soldier, not the politicians, that ensures our Right to Life, to Freedom and the Pursuit of Happiness.

It's the Soldier who salutes the flag, who serves Beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag.

While I was pondering on this poem, my thoughts were drawn to other poems written by Kipling, and in particular his well known poem Tommy in which he wrote: -

For its Tommy this an' Tommy that, an'
Chuck 'im out the brute!"
But its "Saviour of 'is country" when the
guns begin
to shoot.

I thought of this extract from Tommy in the context of the Group of 20 meeting in London recently, and the flack that the Metropolitan Police came under arising from their crowd control measures that they took against the protestors. These measures must have been successful for London did not experience the damage and mayhem that the protestors caused at a similar meeting in Milan, although some malicious damage was caused in London. The two incidents for which the "Met" was most severely criticised related to the newspaper seller who was pushed to the ground and who later died, and the woman who was struck with a baton.



One has to ask why the police acted as they did. Certainly, the woman who was struck on the leg with a baton was right "in the face" of the riot police and I cannot believe that she was merely standing there minding her own business. Something must have been said by her which caused the baton blow. The newspaper vendor was walking diagonally across the front of a line of riot police with his hands in his pockets. He walked right in front of the police line and made no attempt to avoid it. It may well be that something was said by him, which caused the push. The media were very quick to criticise as usual, citing the right of the public to demonstrate. Had the demonstration got out of hand, the "Met" would have been criticised for the failure of its control measures. They were placed in a "No Win" situation!

Zimbabwe News.

The following article appeared in The Herald: -

"State Pensioners to get Forex" - Herald Reporter

State Pensioners will now get allowances in foreign currency', the Minister of Public Service, Professor Eliphaz Mukonoweshuro, has said. In a statement, the minister said, 'All State pensioners would get their allowances

by mid-March.' The Minister of Finance issued a Press statement on Thursday February 19 2009, where he announced that mobilisation of necessary resources for the payment of allowances of pensioners in foreign currency was currently underway and that payment modalities would be announced in due course. He said, 'Consistent with the above undertakings, all pensioners are therefore being advised that pension allowance payments, which take account of the foreign exchange allowance being paid to serving members, will be made to all pensioners in mid-March 2009', he said. Serving State employees started receiving allowances of US\$100 in redeemable coupons earlier this month."

So far, we have been unable to get any information regarding this change from the Pensions Office.

An article appeared in The Times, giving the details of a scheme to assist British Citizens to return to the United Kingdom. Details of the scheme appear hereunder:

"Elderly Britons given lifeline out of Zimbabwe - Wednesday, 18 February 2009

Hundreds of British citizens are being offered a resettlement package to leave worsening economic conditions in



Zimbabwe and move to Britain, The Times has learnt.

The emergency measure to fly people out of the country comes as increasing numbers of residents approach the British Embassy in Harare asking for help to leave. Up to 1,500 elderly and infirm Britons are expected to take advantage of the British Government's 'Zimbabwe Resettlement Programme'. Letters outlining the offer of help were sent to elderly, vulnerable and infirm citizens ten days ago and have already drawn responses from people keen to take it up. One elderly person described the deal as a 'lifeline'.

The offer is focused on helping the most vulnerable to leave the increasingly desperate conditions in Zimbabwe's collapsed economy. Britain is acutely sensitive as to how the resettlement offer will be viewed by Zimbabwe's new unity government. It is emphasising that it is a humanitarian move driven by a collapse in the country's infrastructure, which is hitting the elderly and sick the hardest.

John Healey, the Local Government Minister, said yesterday: 'The situation in Zimbabwe continues to make it hard to access food and medical care. That's why we are offering help to older, vulnerable British people, who are unable to support themselves in Zimbabwe and want to resettle in the

UK'. Whitehall has been planning the operation for months and officials said it was a coincidence that the timing of the offer came as the new unified government took power. It will be some months yet before the first group arrives. We have put in place this programme, which is available to older and vulnerable British citizens and British nationals with the right of abode in Britain", a Whitehall source told The Times. "We do not think Zimbabwe is about to blow up and that it is time to head for the hills, but life is getting tougher for the vulnerable."

The source added that the new Zimbabwean Government, whose Cabinet met for the first time yesterday after Morgan Tsvangirayi, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change was sworn in as Prime Minister, could not be expected to put right the collapse of Zimbabwe's infrastructure overnight.

Under the programme, which is being coordinated by the Communities Department, people returning from Zimbabwe will be offered housing, state benefits and support. Ministers are preparing to waive the rules on residency tests to allow people to claim housing and council tax benefit on arrival.

The programme is available to British citizens over 70 who are living in residential or nursing homes in Zimbabwe and to younger people in



need of social care who live in their own homes. They will be interviewed by British officials in Zimbabwe and will be allowed to bring spouses and partners with them.

There are an estimated 12,500 British citizens in Zimbabwe, of whom 3,000 are over 70. The Government believes that only between 500 and 1,500 will be eligible for the scheme, which will run over the next 18 months.

Under the terms of the scheme, the British taxpayer will pay for flights to Britain and a hotel stay until permanent housing can be arranged. Some of the returning Britons will be found places in nursing or care homes with the State meeting the bill if, as is likely, they cannot afford to pay.

Those who can manage on their own will go into social housing or rental accommodation with the help of housing benefit. They will be provided with furniture and other household goods as the scheme does not include funding the return of furniture. There will be no help with transporting pets to Britain.

The Britons will be eligible for state benefits, subject to a means test, and will be offered a support worker to help them settle. The scheme, which will be means-tested to ensure that the Government does not fund the return of

wealthy people, will apply only to those permanently resident in Zimbabwe for five years or more. The means-testing will not include a person's fixed assets, such as their house, as the Government believes that most people will find it difficult, if not impossible, to sell property in Zimbabwe's present economic conditions.

Ministers have not ruled out chartering an aircraft to fly groups of elderly people to Britain but for now they are looking at using scheduled commercial flights. 'Times Online'."

Commencing in March 2009, the Pensions Office commenced the payment of pension allowances to resident Zimbabwe residents in US dollars. Some pensioners, myself included, have experienced problems with the pension allowance being paid into the wrong account. These problems are slowly being ironed out. There is no intention to pay pensions to external pensioners at this time however.

Mashonaland Branch

The Annual Remembrance Day service was held at the Chapel at the Athol Evans Centre on Sunday the 9th November 2008, with arrangements being made by the British Embassy in conjunction with The Legion. Once again, there was an excellent attendance which included a large number of



Regimental Association members. The Chapel was full with the large overflow being housed in a marquee that had been erected outside the chapel. Wreaths were laid in the Garden of Remembrance adjacent to the Chapel by diplomats, military attachés, and ex service organizations, including the Regimental Association. Invited guests attended a most enjoyable luncheon, hosted by the British Ambassador at his Highlands residence

The Mashonaland Branch held a Christmas Sundowner at the Dandaro Club on the 5th December 2008. The following members attended - 5568 Dennis and Peggy Anderson; 5111 Jack Bacon; 5281 Peter Bellingham; 7760 Rod Bowen; 5608 Dave de Burg-Thomas; (4261) Gill Denley; 4728 Bill Ellway; 7456 Mike and Sue Fox; M Hickman; 5252 Bill Linfield; 8150 Dave Lurie; 6377 Tony Maycock; (6047) Judith Naude, (Wife of Dudley); 9406 Red O'Connell; 6184 Red Oldknow (Visiting from New Zealand); (4086) Olive Osborne; 4059 Peter & Lonya Robinson; 5162 Mike Robinson; 20895 John Slade; 8746 Rick Summers; (7644) Ann Wilson & WP134 Denise Woodiwiss. Apologies were received from - 4795 Bob Burrell; 3905 "TG". Coetzee; 8646 Andrew Field; 6262 Nigel Gabriel; 3960 Jack Hammond; 8235 Martin Kay; 4319 Dave Martin; 3976 Taff

Morgan & (5387) Jane Phillips.. The turnout was reasonable considering that it was an evening event, the camaraderie and fellowship was first class, and the venue T the Dandaro Club was excellent. All in all it was a most enjoyable event, and that Mashonaland Branch is to be congratulated.

Matabeleland Branch.

The Matabeleland Annual Luncheon was held at the WI Hall in Hillside, Bulawayo, on the 1st November 2008. Amongst those attending were – 8510 David & Sandy Adams, (4511) Joan Bradfield, Guest Alan and Eria Bradnick, (3497) Beryl Castle-Ward, 11040 Jeff and Dawn Davidson, 27346Y Father H.F.Day, 4993 John and Val Fielder, 6068 Gordon Geddes, 901227 John Glossop and Mrs D.Mackenzie, 5117 Dick Hall and Sheila Chisnall, 6451 Don and Kay Hatton, 386444 Kit and Margaret Hawkin, 6530 Robert Hopkins, 9499 Karl and Denise Hurry, Guest David & Mrs Johnstone-Butcher. 7435 Taffy Jones, 8766 Gordon and Sandy Kent, Guest Barry & Mrs Knight, 5962 Paul Kruger, 8496J John and Margaret Learmonth, 5247 Ken & Glenys Macdonald, WPO 484 Carol and Graham Mackenzie, 9660/901412 Hugh Montgomery, 110711 Gus Oosthuizen, 5798 John Osborne, 13034 Allan



Pearson, 3893 John Robertson, Ass Peter Rollason, 6540 Hugh Squair, 17859J Ian Terry and Pat Parker, 961231 Tony Turner & Ass Piet and Joy Van Rensburg. Apologies were received from 4750 Ken Berry, John Minshull, 5889? Dave Anderson, Derek Marshall, Ray Herran, 8960 Nigel Fawcett, Dave Meggitt, 8905 George Parkin, & 5348? Hugh James. The Guest Speaker was David Johnstone-Butcher gave an interesting talk regarding his experiences as a Magistrate. During the lunch, it was announced that 3893 John Robertson had celebrated his 90th birthday in August 2008. The lunch was most successful and was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Matabeleland Branch AGM was held at the WI Hall in Hillside on the 28th February 2009. A new committee was elected as follows – 1231Q Tony Turner – Chairman; Denise Hurry – Secretary, & Members 5247 Ken Macdonald, 9499 Karl Hurry & 8498J John Learmonth. *(The E-Mail address of the new Secretary, Denise Hurry, is karden@mweb.co.zw). Ed)*

Coincidentally, I received copies of the inaugural Matabele Outpost dated May 2009, edited by Karl Hurry, at the very moment I sat down to start compiling this Transvaal Outpost! It's a superb 8-pager

inside an impressive cover, all photos and logos are in colour and it makes a good read. Hopefully it will be going up on the BSAP website. Well done to the Matabele boys! One each will be going to Durban and Cape Town by post. Glenn Macaskill – Ed.

NATAL OUTPOST

80th edition: MAY 2009

Edited by Trevor Dutton 5293

STATION NOTES

DURBAN SOUTH

BRING AND BRAAI – Sunday 8 February 2009

After a somewhat wet week, Sunday dawned bright and warm avoiding the need to follow our contingency plan (what plan you might ask?) and people started attending from the appointed hour of 11am at MOTH Mills Bomb Shell Hole, Wamer Beach. Needless to say Old Bill (Gerald Coleman) and his wife Martha had done all the necessary preparations. As time went by it was apparent that this was going to be the best attended Durban South get together yet. Eventually there were 49 attendees being a mixture of former BSAP, BSAP



Reserve, Rhodesian Army and guests. As the braaiers commenced their cooking large pots of Sadza and gravy were supplied by Martha Coleman which quickly went the way that only good Rhodesians know how. It was great to have the Natal Committee present with exception of Des Howse and Ken Wood, who sent their apologies. Visitors from further afield included staunch supporters, Barry Woan, in good humour, ably assisted by Dave Callow and Kevin Wood from Margate, Nigel Cuerden and Sheila Chadwick (widow of 4210 Brian Chadwick) from the Midlands and many new faces to our venue.

Those attending, as per the visitors book were: 9998 Gerald & Martha Coleman; 16911 Errol & Hester Johnson; 5042 Peter Arnold; 5888 Neville and Elsa Coo; 5825 Nigel Cuerden & Sheila Chadwick; Des and Dora Mellet(Visitors); 5939 Vic & Reena Sutherland; Mike Joyce; 6088 Gerry and Mrs. Bowker; 12686 Charlie & Mrs. Adams; 4947 Roy Welch; 7639 Jock & Anne Knotze; The Rabie Family (5Visitors); Buck & Betty Jones (5RR); Dev & Lucy De Villiers (1RAR); 5156 Peter Gibson; PR G Hazlewood & Judy Steedman; 5794 Jac & Muriel Parker; PR 3335 Digger Flavell; WPO 096 Val Oldham; 6283 Nobby Clark; 8531 Kevin Woods; 8157 Dave Callow; 6468 Barry Woan; 5293 Trevor Dutton; 7706 Chris & El Driver & Family (4); 8303 Rob

Bristow; 5934 Fred and Lindsay Mason; 5268 Malcolm Wiltshire and 5760 Malcolm & Jean Torrance.

HILLCREST

Another very enjoyable Hillcrest Station 'bring 'n braai' was held at the Augusta Estate on Sunday 29 March 2009. Although (again) the function could have been better supported, the twenty six members and guests spent four hours enjoying the company of friends and ex-colleagues whilst consuming a few 'lemonades' (!). Surprise visitors from the Midlands Branch were Alan & Flik Bennett and John & Nancy

Carroll whilst Rob & Shelagh Hamilton, who were in town from their Ladybrand (Free State, for the ignorant), graced us with their presence, as did Vic & Reena Sutherland from the Durban South Station. Those attending (in order of arrival) were : 7033 Derk KERR, 5939 Vic & Reena SUTHERLAND, 7229 Des & Trish HOWSE, 7026 Stretch HUGHES, WPO 96 Val OLDHAM, 5087 Robin & Pat JOHNSON, 5802 Ken Wood, 5293 Trevor DUTTON, 7402 Rob & Shelagh HAMILTON, 4947 Roy WELCH, 5661 Trevor WILSON, 6717 Hugh & Jill DIXON, 8242 Alan & Flik BENNETT, John & Nancy CARROLL, 6283 Nobby CLARK, 8086 Denis & Marian WYATT, Guest Eric EVANS (R.A.R.) and 5268 Mac &



Daphne WILTSHIRE. Apologies were received from 7543 Peter GATLAND, 6872 David LYNN, 5934 Fred MASON and 4254 Smudge SMITH.

NATAL OUTPOST

81st edition: July 2009.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT by Nobby Clark

The Annual General Meeting of the Natal Branch was held on June 5. It is pleasing to be able to report that the current committee has agreed to continue and indeed we welcome a new member to the team – Dennis Wyatt. As AGM.s go there was a reasonable turnout (24 in all) and the committee hereby express their thanks to all who came, some having travelled from the north and south coasts as well as Pietermaritzburg. It has been a good year for the Branch for a number of reasons. Our financial position remains sound, thanks to not only members paying their subscriptions, but a number of most welcome donations have been received as well as the result of professional foresight and adjustments by Malcolm Wiltshire, our treasurer. There was some discussion on whether or not subscriptions might be increased as there has been no change for a number of years, but committee member

Ken Wood chirped on this topic and so we backed off. It is hoped to subsidize the Annual Lunch, which is to take place in September.

STATION NOTES

MARGATE

6468 Dave Callow reports on the Margate Braai held on Saturday 16 May 2009 at the Ramsgate Bowling Club –

“Well Margate have had yet another successful gathering. 68 members and wives attended. Thanks to all those who travelled from Johannesburg, Mtata, Kokstad and also the Natal Committee members who attended. A special welcome to The Hon. Mr Justice Hilary Squires. Thanks also to my wife Penny and Mavis de Bruin who supervised registration. And a special thanks to all the wives who supported their husbands whilst we served and still do so at gatherings like these. Over R1050 was received in donations and this was handed to Malcolm Wiltshire, Treasurer of the Natal Branch of the Association. Kevin Woods also donated a copy of his book, signed by all present, including Hilary Squires, which is to be auctioned via OB Extracts and the Natal Outpost. Those attending, in alphabetical order and who signed the register:

ARKLEY John 8291, BARR Alastair & Anne 8212, BISHOP Bob & Wendy



7675, BROWNLOW Roger & Marie
 6785, CALLOW Dave & Penny 6468,
 CLARKE Nobby 6283, CUNNINGSON
 Myles & Trish 7616, COOK Neville &
 Elsa 5888, CUMMING Chris 8332, DE
 BRUIN Mavis (widow Gerry 7228, DE
 WITT Laurie & Doreen 12300, DOLBY
 John & Carla 5251, DUTTON Trevor &
 Beryl 5293, GIBSON Peter 5156,
 HATCH George & Judy 5968, HOWSE
 Des 7229, HUTCHINSON Brian and
 Jenny 8436, KALSHOVEN Wendy 225,
 LYNN Dave, LEWIS Alan 922330,
 LONG Peter 7176, MASON Fred &
 Lindsay 5934, Mc CRYSTRAL Barbara
 (guest) with her son, MESSINA Andy &
 May 7129, MUMFORD Cathy (widow of
 Roger 6363) O'HANLON Dennis
 6457/7248, PACKER Bob & Kim 8214,
 PRETORIUS Quinton, POTGIETER
 Fred (Army) POWELL Gerry & Colleen
 4587, RUMBOLD Frankie & guest,
 SHAW Roger 7954, TORRENCE
 Malcolm & Jean 5760, TAYLOR Harry &
 Susan 22974W, VON HORSTEN Butch
 & Hilary 6467, WALTON Courtney
 6233, WILLIAMS Mike & Hazel 6484,
 WILLIS Ed 7641, WILTSHIRE Malcolm
 5268. WOAN Barry 8157, WOODS
 Kevin 8531.

NATAL MIDLANDS

B.S.A.P. NOTE BOOK VOLUME 11 – JUNE 2009

PAST FUNCTIONS:

The annual Race Day was held at Scottsville Racecourse on Sunday the 21st of June 2009 with a pretty good turnout. As predicted the weather was kind and warm for this time of the year. I don't think that anyone went home with a fortune, however the braai and facilities were well arranged thanks to Peter and Jean Reynolds. Those attending were Bill Crabtree, Mike and Cheryl Crabtree, Beverley Rixon and partner Dennis Logan, Alan and Flik Bennett, John and Nancy Carroll, John Drury and partner Heather Botes, Peter and Jean Reynolds, Tickey and Penny Dalton, John and Sandy Clack, Nigel Cuerden and Des and Trish Howse all the way from Durban and representing the Natal Branch. Apologies were received from Natal Branch Chairman Nobby Clark and our Chairman Steve Stevens. 4521 Phil Mingard received his Honorary Life Membership certificate from Natal Midlands Chairman 4767 / 5717 Steve Stevens at the Amberglen Lunch held on the 13th of April 2009. Phil was the founding Chairman of the Natal Midlands Branch when it was formed on the 9th of September 2000 to the 22nd of



November 2008 when he took "early" retirement after a job exceptionally well done. To Phil and Eve we know that the Committee will continue to get your support.

TRANSVAAL INPOST

"Hi Dick/Glenn,
I also think the RICM is inappropriate. An award like that will mean nothing. What do you tell people who ask about it - 'that you awarded it to yourself?' As far as 'group' medals are concerned I seem to remember that (the Glorious) Gloucesters as a unit was awarded the US Congressional Medal of Honour for its major defence of a hill feature against a Chinese human wave onslaught during the Korean war. However, there have been many examples in recent history where recognisory medals should have been awarded, but were not. As you mentioned no special medal was awarded to pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain, but as you say, they at least they got a rosette. Without wishing in any way to denigrate Fighter Command, it should be remembered that RAF Bomber Command fought the whole war from 1939 to the end in 1945 losing 55, 000 aircrew. On one terrible night they lost 670 airman - more than RAF Fighter Command's total losses in

the Battle of Britain. Bomber Command did more than anyone else to bring the war to a satisfactory conclusion, but there would be no special medal for them. Many thought they should get a separate campaign medal, but they didn't.

Sir Arthur 'Bomber' Harris, commanded Bomber Command throughout the war. He had farmed in Rhodesia for 15 years before leaving to become a pilot in the RFC during World War-I. To the end of his days Harris always described himself as a Rhodesian. He was likewise ignored. Unlike the other leading British commanders who were elevated to the peerage, Harris was merely given a knighthood - which every senior Tom, Dick and Harry in the British Civil Service got and still get for having their bums polishing chairs for the requisite number of years.

After the war this arose because there was much criticism of Bomber Command and its leader by the left-wing Labour MP, Richard Crossman, who led a vociferous chorus that said the bombing campaign had been a costly failure, even an atrocity - the firestorm at Dresden being the most often quoted. They seemed to forget that it was the Germans who started it by bombing defenceless cities like Warsaw and Rotterdam and then London and other British cities. The men of Bomber Command found themselves being



treated in much the same disgraceful way way as the Americans treated their soldiers returning from Vietnam many years later. It has been rumoured that the Royal family shared this common belief and still do. Perhaps because of their German ancestry? If they don't, how come they don't show it by demanding that a campaign medal be struck for Bomber Command?

It was different for their comrades-in arms, the US 8th Army Air Force, who fought the daylight war while the British fought the night one. On their return to the US they were quite rightly lauded as heroes and there was no public criticism of them. Which considering they had lost 26 000 men, they most certainly were. The difference in casualty figures between the British and the Americans can be accounted for because the RAF begun fighting their bomber war in 1939, while the Americans only started theirs in December 1941, after Pearl Harbour. The Americans have moved on and to this day they still have absolute faith in strategic bombing. Witness the campaigns in Iraq.

So what did the enemy think about these so-called 'atrocities'. They didn't like it, that was for sure. Under interrogation after the war Feldmarchall Albert Kesselring said that 'Allied air-power was the greatest single reason for the

German's defeat'. Generaloberst Georg Lindemann declared unequivocally that 'the reason Germany lost the war was allied air power'. Generalmajor Kolb said that the Allied day-and-night strategic bombing, 'forced Germany on the defensive from the middle of 1940'. Alfred Krupp, the arms manufacturer, said that air attacks had left his factories working at only 40% of capacity.

So there it is.

Regards
Peter Stiff."

"Hi Glenn,
As always the Outpost is thoroughly enjoyed and brings back many memories.

The last copy received for Nov 2008 , page 27/28 relates to a medal RICM. This, in my opinion would only be something of possible sentimental value and of little other value. Much water has passed under the bridge and we have all moved on.

On the 2nd March 1979, 'The People of the City of Umtali' were awarded the Meritious Conduct Medal for being at the receiving end of numerous attacks. I was a JOC Officer at the time but 90% of this period I was away at Chipinga or Grand Reef when these incidents occurred. My family were at the receiving end of what were particularly harrowing experiences. I still have the citation but do not think



that it gives us the right to wear the MCM ;possibility some similarity with the wish to introduce a new item of memorabilia or maybe as my wife Marjie says I am missing the point. I am proud of my long service and RGSM medal –t hey are quite good enough for me.
Regards
John Taylor”

~

“Hi Glenn,
Thanks very much for the copy of your excellent Outpost which I have just received as an email attachment. I would like to support Dick Glanville's opinion on the RICM. I see it only as an opportunity by the "perpetrators" to make money. The medal has absolutely no standing or merit. I would also like to thank you for the mention of my book "Commanding the Regiment" which has sold well in UK but I suppose postage costs have limited the sales in SA and elsewhere. I believe every former member should have a copy because it is the basic skeleton of the history of the BSAP. Just one correction my Force Number was 4853.
Thanks,
Fred Punter.”

This matter is certainly causing a lot of response, very little of it positive - Ed.

“Greetings Glen,
Just a short note to let you know that I recently managed to destroy one of my medal ribbons whilst trying to clean the actual medal with silver dip. After much searching, I managed to find someone who actually repairs and mounts medals. He has supplies of most ribbons. I would be pleased if you could publish this in the Transvaal Outpost to assist former members of the Force. His details are:-
Rod Bettley
1 Jacqueline Avenue,
Northcliff,
Johannesburg.
Telephone 011 888 5797
Regards
Peter Finch (6000)”

~

“Hi Glenn,
Don't know if I'm in contact with the right person but I would like to get in touch with a couple of guys from 05/70 squad, namely Chris Inman & Glenn Sharpe. Also looking for a nofficers cap in very good condition ?
I'm based in Nelspruit. See www.coolpoint.co.za
Regards.
Peter B. Emery (8485)”



Can anyone help? Above and below -Ed

~

"Hi Dick,
Please could you help -I am trying to trace Billy Boshoff - ex Rhodesian Forces.
Would appreciate anything you can come up with
Many thanks
Billy Egleton
"B.S.E. Services"
<bseservices@mweb.co.za>"

~

"Important Notice to Forward Button Bandits:
If you forward this email, please delete the forwarding history, including my email address. It is a courtesy to me and others, who may not wish to have their email addresses sent all over the world! Erasing the history helps prevent Spammers from reaping these addresses for their nefarious purposes. Consider using the Bcc box when forwarding to your contacts too, to save them the problem of erasing recipients addresses! Pass this notice on please.
Greetings
With kind regards
Andrew D Field - 8646
Go visit your BSAP website -
<http://www.bsap.org/index.html>

PO Box HG 935, Highlands, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263 4 882897 (h); 04 755593 (w);
011 601416 (m); 0913 239857 (m)"

~

"Hi Glenn,
I visited Swartruggens recently and viewed the BSAP memorial for the Battle of Elandsfontein. John Sutton, Verona, Willie and I went to the celebration and John has all the details. Our memorial is still intact, but most of the others don't have their plaques anymore. Pathways edged with white stones lead among the memorials (Boer, African, Australian etc.,) otherwise the area is rather overgrown.
Regards,
Judy Hankinson."

~

"Gentlemen
5956 Dave Kennedy in Cornwall is anxious to make contact with an old buddy - 7698 Ian MacIntyre.
Ian is thought to have settled in Natal.
Regards,
Tony Down
Email rhino@imagnet.co.za
Perhaps Natal Branch can help? Ed.
"Dear Chairman, Secretary, Editor,
I am looking for two Squad Members of Squad 1/60
6119 Edward John Francis "John"
BURBIDGE and 6126 John Haigh
Howe THATCHER.



Most grateful if you would place a notice
in your New Letter/Magazine
Thanking you
Roy W Edwards
Chairman
Cerefoo (Pty) Ltd.”
*Roy's email is roy@cerefoo.co.za
This is for a reunion of Squad 1/60 Ed*

~

“Dear John and Glenn
You may or may not know, I had a
signed photo (in a frame) of Ian Smith
that I donated to the Rhodesian Forces
Monument Fund. It raised R10 000.00
on an auction. Apparently it was then
donated back to be displayed in the
monument. It might be newsworthy for
the Outpost?
Cheers
Duncan Waugh 9790”
Well done, lad! Ed

~

“This message is sent on behalf of Alan
Toms 7391.
The UK Branch is proposing to erect a
memorial to the Force at the
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM
(www.thenam.org.uk)
Located in the heart of the United
Kingdom, the National Memorial
Arboretum comprises 150 acres of trees
and memorials devoted to the concept of
Remembrance. Set within the National
Forest of Staffordshire, near
Lichfield, it was established in 1997, on

former gravel and sand pits gifted
from Lafarge Aggregates. It already
contains 150 memorials of national
significance, including the Royal
Malaysian Police, Kenya Police, Police
Memorial Garden, RAF Police
Association, Royal Military Police and
would seem to be a most appropriate
place for the B.S.A. Police Memorial.
The current proposal is to erect a smaller
replica of the Blatherwick Memorial in
Morris Depot and it is intended there will
be a bronze plaque on each side. When
the final designs of the plaques have
been agreed Winston Hart will sculpt
them. (Winston was commissioned by
the SA Government to work on the SA
Forces WW1 Memorial at Delville Wood)
The proposed memorial is a memorial to
the Force as a whole and all who
served; as such UK Branch is inviting
comments and suggestions on the
design from all ex-members. The current
proposed designs are on display.
It is intended to have an unveiling
ceremony on 1st August 2010, the 30th
anniversary of the last time the BSAP
flag was lowered at PGHQ, and it is
hoped members from all branches will
be able to attend. The ceremony will be
combined with the UK Branch Annual
Braai at Rutland Water.
The cost is estimated to be in the region
of £8000. A Memorial Fund has been
opened by the UK Branch and



contributions to date total almost £3000. An appeal for donations is being made. UK sterling cheques can be made out to "BSAP Association Memorial Fund" and sent to UK Branch Treasurer: Dan Hughes, 9 Luxford Road, Tollwood Park, Crowborough, E Sussex. TN6 2XQ. United Kingdom. Should you have any comments or suggestions please forward them to UK Branch Secretary at bsapuk@aol.com or contact your local Branch secretary. Alan."

~

"Dear Ed,
Surely this is a first in the history of the British South Africa Police!
7705 The Right Reverend David Hugh Bannerman was enthroned as Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of the Highveld, South Africa on Saturday 25th April. The diocese covers an area encompassing all between Thembisa/Edenvale, Johannesburg to Piet Retief on the KZN/Swaziland border.
David Bannerman is a member of the Transvaal Branch of the Regimental Association. He served from 14/2/67 to 18/1/70. His cousin is 6442/7369 James Hugh Bannerman @ Tackie.
Dave Sloman
5695"

~

"Hi Glenn

The following was sent by 5757 Ian Milton and would not seem out of place in the light of Derek Bell's passing. Andrew Stemslow."

"Derek Bell, Richard (Dick) Barnes, Dick Howlett and others were stationed at Gatooma when I was stationed at Hartley in 1957-1960.

They were well-known for attempting to launch a rocket to the moon with a frog on board from The Gatooma Hotel car park.

The huge explosion caused by the igniting of the "fuel" shattered the windows on one side of the hotel and could be heard 13 miles away at various places in the Gatooma District. No one could ever find the frog intact or otherwise but the dinky toys (military/civil) were intact whilst the actual explosion was being photographed. Copies of this photograph with the accompanying story are held by a few of us.

Inspector David Cook was away at the time, probably on Inspection or Conference. Apparently, Dave Cook never found out, but no one knows who or if the broken windows were replaced. Story says that the folks in the area were so fond of the Police that no "dobbing in" occurred.



Derek first served as a Policeman in the Edinburgh Police. Both of us also served as Commissioned Officers in The Royal Papua & New Guinea Constabulary after our resignations from The BSAP. We strongly agreed that the training and operational skills of the BSAP could not be matched by any other Police Force that we knew of. On our return from New Guinea to Australia, Derek served in ASIO and The Queensland Dept of Justice & Attorney General, whilst I served in the Queensland Public service in Children's Services, Police (Accounts Section) and Justice Department (General Duties, Enforcement of Fines and Mining matters).
Ian Milton."

~

"Hi Glenn

Received the March issue of the Outpost. Thank you. Picked up an email address of a squad mate of mine (DAVE LYNAS 7136), so have made contact. How valuable is the Outpost in keeping abreast of happenings and the whereabouts of former colleagues.

The article from 5695 DAVE SLOMAN regarding Peta Thomycroft was interesting to me..However I always thought Peta was a man. Maybe I was wrong.

Whilst travelling to Cape Town recently, stayed overnight in Knysna at a B&B run by Margi and Robin Law. He was a Field Reservist in Salisbury, so we had an interesting chat. He still goes up often, as he is a consultant in the tobacco industry.

Have also been in touch with Smiler Beukmann in East London, and they have a monthly gathering on the last Friday of each month. Will go this month, and let you know who I see.

Regards,

DAVE ROGERS. 7139/8938"

DEATH NOTICES

We extend our condolences to the families and friends of the deceased.

5643 Derek Turnbull Bell.

He served 10/02/1957 to 27/05/1960 leaving as a constable. He died on June 1st in Brisbane. His death was sudden just the day after he had returned from a months' holiday in UK. His funeral, hugely attended, was held at The Church of The Holy Spirit, Brunswick St., The Valley, Brisbane. A bagpiper from the Queensland Mounted Infantry duly honoured the service with Scottish farewell music. *See Inpost – Ed.*

Joan Bradfield



It is with regret that we report the death of Joan, the widow of the late 4511 John Douglas Bradfield. Although she was normally resident in Bulawayo, she died in Harare on Thursday the 9th July last whilst visiting her daughter. She had been suffering from cancer for quite some time.

6381 Anthony (Tony) Cooper

He passed away in late July in Christchurch, New Zealand after a long illness. He served from 18.05.1961 to 02.05.1982, retiring with the rank of Superintendent. He was a member of the New Zealand Branch.

7153 Michael George Crafter

He died on 9 May 2009 at Harare, Zimbabwe, as a result of heart failure. Mike, or Mick as he was known, was born in Liverpool in January 1943 and served in the force from September 1964 until 30 March 1981, when as a Superintendent he transferred across to the Central Intelligence Organisation. During his uniformed branch service Mike served at various district stations in Lomagundi: Chirundu and Karoi being two. His real passion was for plain clothes work, and he transferred to the CID in 1967, on probation, and ended up with long service in Special Branch at various stations, including headquarters, ending up with the European Desk at

Salisbury Central. He was a keen squash player and excelled in police championships and managed a police Water Polo team, which toured the United Kingdom in September 1980. During the last two decades Mike had been involved with private security work, running his own businesses in Harare and had managed a credit clearing bureau for several years, before moving across to the local satellite TV service provider. Mike was a member of the Mashonaland Branch of the Association.

4661 Rex Craker

He died at Sunda, Mpumalanga on 24th June 2009 after a brief illness. He served 14/12/52 retiring 31/05/1961 with the rank of Sergeant.

Doreen Thorpe

For those of you who served with Terry Thorpe (4028) you will be saddened to hear of the passing of his wife Doreen, in Johannesburg on 5 April. She had been unwell for some time now and succumbed to pneumonia.

6142 Eric James Glanfield

He died at his home in Gonubie, East London on 14 March 2009 as a result of a heart attack while working in his garden. Eric served in the force from March 1960 until September 1963. His departing rank was constable.

**8043 Alfred John Goodchild**

He died on 21 May 2009 at Hammersmith Hospital, London. John suffered a heart attack on 14/5/09. He served 1/8/68 - 1/11/74 leaving with the rank of Patrol Officer. John was unmarried and was a member of the UK Branch.

3960 Jack Hammond

He died in Harare on 30th March 2009. Recently he was diagnosed with cancer of the bowel, and was admitted to the Avenues Clinic on Friday the 20th March for an operation. The surgeon advised that the operation had been successful, but he died in hospital.

Jack served with the Royal Navy during the Second World War. He was captured on the island of Leros in the Eastern Mediterranean during the abortive attempt to capture the Island of Rhodes, on the 12th November 1943. He spent the remainder of the war in a German POW Camp. He was repatriated to the United Kingdom on the 26th April 1945 and took his discharge from the Royal Navy on the 26th March 1946. He attested into the BSA Police on the 28th April 1946 and served until the 30th November 1969, when he retired with the rank of Chief Inspector. Then he joined the Deeds Registry, and attained the

position of Assistant Registrar prior to his resignation from that Department. His wife Sybil was murdered in her home on the 18th August 2005.

6739 Robin Michael 'Johnny' Johnson

He died in May of what appeared to be a heart attack in Johannesburg. He attested 25.09.62 and left Expiration of Contract 24.09.1965 as a PO. In later days spent quite some time in the Police Reserve.

Kay Crabtree

She passed away at Amberglen, Howick, South Africa at 13:30 on Wednesday the 8th of April 2009. Kay has not been well for a number of months and has been in and out of frail care.

Jennie Marsh

She was the wife of Malcolm 8210, and died on 16th May in the U.K. Jennie, who died from cancer, was much more than the wife of a member and will be known to many of us in her role, as assistant to Esme MacIntosh, as librarian at the Police Club Library in Salisbury. Jennie had close family connections with the BSAP, her father being Ben Hustler 4048 (Signals Branch), uncle Vince Hustler (Signals Branch), brother Rusty Hustler 7899 Support Unit, and one of



her daughters Sally is currently serving as a Sgt with the Kent Police.

5869 Brian John MAY

He died while being cared for in a mission in Durban in May 2009. He attested 01/09/1958 taking gratuity 31/08/1969 as S/O.

7625 Alistair John Mommsen

He died following a road accident on 27 April 2009 in Cape Town, South Africa. Alistair served between June 1966 (attesting as a Cadet) and May 1981, serving mostly in the Matabeleland Districts and Victoria Province. He ended his career in the force as an Inspector, last serving at the ZRP Police College, following which he emigrated to South Africa, but later returned to Zimbabwe to open and run well known chicken fast food outlets in Bulawayo, then Harare. His widow is Janine (nee Meredith WP226).

4563 Mike O'Hara He died in Johannesburg RSA on 31/5/09. Mike served 6/2/50 to 5/2/53, leaving with the rank of Constable. Thereafter he had long service as a member of the Police Reserve. Although Mike was a member of the UK Branch, he resided in Fish Hoek, RSA, and was with family in Joburg when he died.

5798 John Osborne. He passed away at his home in Bulawayo on Friday the 24th April, 2009 and was buried at Esigodini on Thursday the 39th May, 2009. John served with the Force for three years from the 8th January 1958.

111029 Anthony Pascoe He passed away 11 May 2009 in Devon, United Kingdom, from a brain tumour. Tony served in the force from December 1979 through to May 1982 when he left at his own request with the rank of Patrol Officer. He subsequently served in the Devon and Cornwall Constabularies.

Patricia Edwards She was the widow of 3749 Stan Edwards. She passed away on 11th April in the U.K. and was an Associate Member of the UK Branch.

6275/7507/110719 Michael (Mike) Edward Preston.

He was a member of the Australia Branch and passed away after a long illness in Perth on Friday the 1st of May 2009.

5467 Henry Edward A'Beckett 'Ted' ROWEN

He died of a heart attack at home on 14th April 2009. Ted served 15/4/56 - 31/1/71, leaving On Gratuity with the rank of Inspector.



5389 St John Leslie Smallbones

He died on 11th May 2009 from a double stroke after a cancer operation in Johannesburg.

St John joined the BSA Police in March 1956 and served until March 1961 when he left of his own request at the rank of Constable. He was the father of WP527 Jane Flowers (nee Smallbones), who is resident in New Zealand..

For many years, Johnnie worked in the Department of Immigration after taking his discharge from the BSA Police.

4153 Terrance Water Stewart SMITH

He attested 29/12/46 and left as a Chief Inspector on 3/1/1965

He passed away on 16 June 2009 in Queensland. He emigrated to New Zealand and then Brisbane after leaving the force.

3835 Herbert John Stanyon

Died 8 June 2009 of heart failure, Maroochydore, Queensland.

Attested 23/4/1939 Discharged: 15/4/1953. Rank on discharge: Det/ Sergeant First Class.

Medals 1939 – 1945 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, Victory Medal, RGSM, Police Reserve Long Service Medal. After leaving the BSA Police, John Stanyon served for many years in the Dept of Immigration rising to quite

senior rank. He was a character of the "old school."

7720 C/Supt Derek Tasker

He died on 28th March 2009 in Johannesburg following a stroke. Derek was well known as the band master and director of music for the British South Africa Police. He served from 1st March 1967 retiring on 1st March 1980.

Derek is survived by his wife Muriel and son Mark. His other son, an NSPO, was killed on active service during 1979. After retirement he continued to teach music from home and played golf until the end.

8304 Sydney Weatherall

He died at Stockton-on-Tees on 24th June 2009. He had been suffering with cancer. Sydney served between August 1969 and May 1982 (then ZRP) when he left with the rank of Superintendent. He spent most of his service in the Signals Branch.

DEATH OF A FAMOUS CARTOONIST

Our final portrayal is also a sad one and in many respects, a very incomplete one. From other sources we hear that **John Jackson** died in Cape Town on December 12th. The following tribute appeared in the South African Digest.



John Jackson was born in Naboomspruit, Transvaal, a small town with which he retained links all his life, and grew up on a farm in the Waterburg district. In his late teens Jackson was trained in journalism by Vere Stent, an editor of the Pretoria News, who settled on a neighbouring farm. It was Stent who recognised the young Jackson's drawing talent and nurtured it. From 1957 Jackson was The Argus cartoonist and, through the years, many of his cartoons were published by sister newspapers of the Argus group, making his name a household word. The Times of London and Punch also published some of his cartoons.

In paying tribute to Jackson, Mr. John O'Malley, editor of the Argus, said that "his masterly economy of line was probably his outstanding quality. He could, in just a line or two, suggest, hint, capture volumes."

Older readers of The Outpost will remember John Jackson's cartoons in this magazine long before he joined The Argus. They date from the years of World War II. The early links between The Outpost and Jackson are concealed by dust and dimmed memories. We would be grateful if someone could clear this obscurity.

Not forgotten, however, is **A/Cst Kachemu**, John Jackson's special creation for the Outpost. Kachemu's

antics were so thoroughly enjoyed by our readers and the audience of Mapolisa that we might be forgiven for saying that in those days we were quicker to laugh at ourselves. Jackson also regularly coughed up his special Christmas presents for this magazine. This notice is in memory of a man with that precious gift of making us laugh frequently.

POETRY

The following two poems were penned by Trevor Decker of the MOTH Warrior Shellhole and deserve to be read.

JUST BOYS THEY WERE

Mankind's history and landscape is besmirched with the evidence of war,
 And the night carries its ghostly cry.
 Is there a chance that conflict would be no more?
 Why oh why do the cream of our youth so needlessly die?
 They were often bound to fight for they knew not what,
 Their anxious families kindling fires of hope and despair.
 They life they had to offer was all they'd got,
 And their fallen comrades were just left lying there.
 As heroes they marched home with medals of valour on their breast,



While dreadful memories sketched
 furrowed lines on their brow.
 Dusty records now recall that many had
 faced the ultimate test,
 And we cry out, oh beloved comrades,
 where are you now?

'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM..'

Old warrior the ribbons are faded on your
 breast,
 The trumpet now is the faintest call.
 We know you had rendered your very
 best,
 And seen the bravest of comrades fall.
 Those memories of conflict will forever
 abide
 Right into your fading years.
 May we be honoured as a comfort at
 your side,
 While we note the pained trickle of a
 veteran's tears.

THIS AND THAT

**A Well-Planned Retirement -
 From The London Times:**

Outside the Bristol Zoo, in England,
 there is a parking lot for 150 cars and
 8 coaches, or buses. It was manned
 by a very pleasant attendant with a

ticket machine charging cars £1 and
 coaches £5.

This parking attendant worked there
 solid for all of 25 years. Then, one
 day, he just didn't turn up for work.

"Oh well", said Bristol Zoo

Management - "we'd better phone
 up the City Council and get them to
 send a new parking attendant..."

"Err ... no", said the Council, "that
 parking lot is your responsibility."

"Err ... no", said Bristol Zoo

Management, "the attendant was
 employed by the City Council, wasn't
 he?"

"Err ... NO!" insisted the Council.

Sitting in his villa somewhere on the
 coast of Spain, is a bloke who had
 been taking the parking lot fees,
 estimated at £400 per day at Bristol
 Zoo for the last 25 years. Assuming
 7 days a week, this amounts to just
 over £3.6 million!

And no one even knows his name.

PAGAN POLICE

**Pagan police find the force is with
 them**

London



Pagan police officers in Britain have been given the right to take eight days off work a year to celebrate “religious holidays”, including Halloween and the summer solstice. It follows the setting up of a Pagan Police Association to represent officers who worship nature and believe in many gods.

Const. Andy Pardy, a pagan officer from Hertfordshire Police, met Home Office officials this week to push for more recognition for pagan officers. The neighbourhood beat manager, who has been an officer for seven years, is a heathen, which means he worships Norse gods, including the hammer-wielding Thor, the one-eyed Odin and the god of fertility Freyr.

“Paganism is not the new age, tree-hugging fad that some people think it is”, Const. Pardy said. “It is not the clandestine, horrible, evil thing that people think it is. A lot of people think it is about dancing naked around a fire but the rituals are not like that. “It involves chanting, music, meditation, reading passages and for pagans the practices have the same power as prayer does for Christians.”

Hertfordshire Police allows Const. Pardy leave on eight pagan holidays each year, including Halloween, which signifies the pagan new year, and the summer solstice on June 21. The days are deducted from his annual leave. Two Pagan chaplains also have been appointed in the past 12 months to support officers. Const. Andy Hill, of Staffordshire Police, is a practicing Wiccan, a pagan witch. He has founded Pagan Police Group UK, a website for pagan police officers and their families.

“Wicca has always been a bit of a taboo religion,” he said. This is nothing to do with black magic or devil worshipping. It is working with nature for good.”

In Strathclyde, Scotland, eight officers listed their religion as Jedi, the fictional faith in the Star Wars films.

A Home Office spokesman said: “The Government wants a police service that reflects the diverse communities it serves. It is down to individual forces to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the religion or beliefs of individual



officers, as far as operational requirements permit.”

According to the Office for National Statistics, there were 30,500 pagans in England and Wales in 2001, the latest year for which figures were available. One police source estimated there were about 50 practising pagan officers in London and up to 500 more around Britain loosely associated with it.

Telegraph Group, London.

Comment, from Dave Sloman:

Well I never! What is the world coming to! I thought it bad enough when people started calling Scientology a religion when in fact it was all dreamed up by Ronald Lafayette Hubbard writing fiction tales when off-duty serving with the US Navy in the Pacific. Now the Jedi are getting in on the act seeking acceptability as a religion and the authorities in the UK are giving credibility to some 550 pagan policemen to reflect what 30,500 diverse members of the public want – 1 pagan cop to every 55.45 people! I’ll probably be accused of showing my prejudices in this mad, mad world but really, Get a life! A walking patrol for six months down

the Zambesi should wear the woad off that lot.

For a second opinion, I bounced this article off our most senior-ranking member, Terry Thorpe, and this was his reply:

“How times have changed! When I was in the navy we had to parade for Church Parade every Sunday morning and to show their total religious tolerance, the Petty Officers paraded Protestants in one spot, Catholics in another, and the remainder were marched down to clean the heads. Pagans would probably have been hanged at the yard-arm!”

The Police of Southern Rhodesia Compiled by P.G.H.Q. 5/2/1962

THE TITLE of the British South Africa Police – the national police force of Southern Rhodesia – stems from the days before the words ‘South Africa’, now generally taken to mean the Republic of South Africa, had any such national connotation.

In 1890 ‘South Africa’ was no more than a geographical term used to describe loosely an area comprising the British Colonies of Natal and the Cape of Good Hope, the Republics of the Orange Free State and Transvaal, certain areas under



British protection, Portuguese settlements on the east and west coasts and their undefined hinterland, and certain native kingdoms known only to a handful of missionaries, explorers, hunters and traders.

Among these native kingdoms was the territory ruled by Lobengula, king of the Matabele. The Matabele, an offshoot of the warlike Zulus, had broken away and struck north in the days of the dreaded Chaka and had settled in rugged granite country beyond the Limpopo, from where they were able to send out their famous fighting regiments (or 'Impis') to terrorise and hold in subjugation tribes inhabiting an area of something like 100,000 square miles.

Seeking the northward expansion of British influence, Cecil John Rhodes, Cape politician, and a gold and diamond millionaire (but also a visionary to whom private wealth and luxury meant little) send emissaries to Lobengula who, after protracted negotiations, agreed to the exploitation of the natural wealth of the regions to the east of his royal kraal at Bulawayo – the regions occupied by the subject Mashona tribes.

For this purpose the British South Africa Company – the last of the great Chartered companies – was established by Royal Charter to mine and farm and trade (and, almost incidentally, to maintain law and order) in the land which

now bears the name of Rhodesia (after Rhodes).

During the dry months of 1890 a column of pioneers struck out for the north – men of every trade and half a dozen different nationalities, their wagons loaded with the tools to found a new nation. With them rode, as an insurance against any change of heart by Lobengula, a hand-picked body of men named "The British South Africa Company's Police".

By mid-September, weary but intact, the column reached a wide and attractive valley with abundant water, and within sight of the hill named by F.C. Selous during earlier travels after that lover of liberty, John Hampden.

Here, on the site of what is now the busy modern city of Salisbury, capital of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the column pitched camp, raised the flag, and named the place Fort Salisbury – in honour of the British Prime Minister of the day.

But the task of the British South Africa Company's Police was not done. The duties for which the Force had been raised were not only to protect the Pioneer column but also to introduce a system of law, and maintain it, in country which up till then had known no law but the arbitrary will of the Matabele kings.

Their task is still not done. Although their title was changed by the dropping of the word 'Company's' in 1896, when they



ceased to be virtually a private police force, the same Force today maintains law and order throughout the 150,000 square miles of Southern Rhodesia, now one of three territories constituting the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The other two territories, Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia, each have their separate police forces, responsible through their territorial governments to the British Foreign Office. The British South Africa Police in Southern Rhodesia has never been a Colonial Police Force in this sense, nor has it ever regarded itself as an expatriate force imposing law and order, as it were, from above.

*This is the start of a 10-page document provided to me by 6000 Peter Finch, and will be continued in the next edition of the Transvaal Outpost. In its entirety it makes for very interesting and thought-provoking reading – Editor.
Until next time cheers – and once again thanks to Dave Sloman and Fiona London for their assistance. And as usual, I've run out of space for any more news. Glenn Macaskill*

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