March 2012 Issue 29 – 1 of 2012

Contents

2. Editorial
3. Recent Events
4. AGM
9. Forthcoming events.
9. News from the Branches
14. Death Notices
18. Articles, book reviews..
26. Inpost
26. This and That
37. Transvaal Committee contact numbers
39. Regimental Branches information
40. Tailpiece
EDITORIAL: by Craig Viljoen

It started with a passing comment from Glenn Macaskill at our Warrior Shellhole meeting towards the end of 2010. Glenn mentioned that he was considering moving on as Editor of the Outpost and casually asked if I would be interested. I considered it a ‘casual’ comment because I thought nothing of it until, with a little more insistence over a year later Glenn proposed that we get together and discuss the matter. The rest is history, as the saying goes and here I am with a new responsibility.

I have a high standard to maintain, one that was established by Glenn and the Editors that preceded him. I am both honoured and humbled to be part of that small group of members who made their contribution to the living history of one of the finest police forces in the world.

With diligence and dedication, I served; with pride and honour, I remember.
Ed.

RECENT EVENTS

Christmas Sundowner – 9/12/2011
Another successful and well attended year-end function was attended by 43 members and guests. Those who signed the register were:- 6769 Dick Glanville; 5619 Barry Enslin; 7184 Chris Russell; 4831 Peter Stiff; Francis Stiff; 6610 John Pirrett; 6817 Keith Douche; 7038 Ashley Collings; Guest Morag Willis; 7290 Steve v.d Heever; 18372 Gavin Soal; Guest Molly Soal; W346 Maureen Merrifield; 5526 Robina Devlin; 6692 Gavin Garvey; 6345 Dave Holmes; [5703] Judy Hankinson; Guest Sue Harris; 7489 Ian Duncan; Guest Rosalind Duncan; Ian & Shirley Lawrence; Neil & Val Archer; V4028 Allan Lord; Don & Erica Ross; 8153 Dick Turpin; 382682 Allan Braithwaite; Guest Dennis Osborne; 6382 Terry Schwartz; 110615 Bryan Peach; 7289 Dave Parker; 6534 Ian Cuthbertson; Guest Michelle Knight; RW Owen; 5137 Don Norris; 22115M Alf Whiston; Guest Marion Whiston; Guest Rhett Gardener; 6535 Rob Kenny; Guest Debbie Ensln; 6124 John Smith; Neal Smith; 110887 John Herdman; 110838 Jamie Demetriou; Guest Cheryl Meyer; 6538 Glenn Macaskill.

January Sundowner 13/01/2012
A reasonable turn-out at the first sundowner of the new year with 23 members and guests enjoying a tipple or two and as usual, excellent snacks. Those who signed the register were:- 6769 Dick Glanville; 6345 Dave Holmes; 7651 Dick Latilla; (5703) Judy Hankinson; 7038 Ashley Collings; Guest Morag Willis; 5619 Barry Ensln and Debbie Ensln; 9214 Ian Edwards; Guest Brian Newton; 5526 Phil & Robin Devlin; 110765 Chris Birtle; 6017 John Hill; 5991 Don & Erica Joss; 110926 Rob Hodgkiss; 7489 Ian Duncan & Rosalind Duncan; WP346 Maureen Merrifield; FR19761 Neil Archer; 18810 Alex McKenzie; 6610 John Pirrett; 110905 D McGibbon; Guest CJ Hellyar [RLJ]
Annual General Meeting  
10/02/2012

A reasonable turn-out with 33 members and a visitor in attendance. The minutes appear below:

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 10th FEBRUARY 2012 : TRANSVAAL SCOTTISH : 18H00

PRESENT:
MR B G ENSLIN                      (CHAIRMAN)
MRMR J C PIRRETT   (VICE   CHAIRMAN)
MR B R GLANVILLE (SECRETARY)
MS MERRIFIELD  (TREASURER)
MR G A MACASKILL           (PUBLICATION)
MR R J LATILLA        (ALMONER)
MR D P HOLMES         (MEMBER)
MR A D COLLINGS          (MEMBER)
MR I J DUNCAN        (MEMBER)
MR J R HILL        (MEMBER)
Members per the attendance register.

APOLOGIES: RtRev Bishop David Bannerman; Col John Redfern; Lt Col Pat Hill; Messrs Doug McGibbon (Memorabilia) Ian Cuthbertson; Roy Edwards; Howard Marshall; Guy Brooke-Smith; Ron Martin; Alex Fraser; Mark Doyle; Don Rowland; Peter Stanton; Bruce Harrison; Chris Russell; Alex McKenzie; Steve van den Heever; Brian Garvey.

OPENING & WELCOME: The Secretary opened the meeting welcoming those present. Apologies were recorded as above.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM held at the same venue on 11th February 2011, having been circulated, were proposed for adoption by Glenn Macaskill, Seconded by Pat O’Connor and adopted. There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

The Chairman rendered a comprehensive report saying, inter alia that the year under review had been successful with a noted increase in attendance at functions which enhanced camaraderie to the benefit of all. Of these the 30th anniversary Golf Day though, not having as many participants as previously amassed monies in the region of R16 000 and the convener of all these days, John Pirrett was thanked profusely (applause). Glenn Macaskill who has produced many Outposts and is standing down from that position was also congratulated on a job very well done. Doug McGibbon, who had overcome severe ailments owing to work commitments is no longer available to fulfil the memorabilia portfolio and he and his team of helpers were congratulated. The finances of the association were in the extremely competent hands of Maureen Merrifield and she too was singled out for thanks for her diligence and ability. In his capacity as Almoner, Dick Latilla was thanked for his diligence and driving efforts. In addition to his organising 30 successive (and successful)
annual golf days, John Pirrett was thanked for his organisational ability. Dick Glanville was thanked for his 23 odd years as Secretary and the remainder of the outgoing committee were thanked for their wisdom and advice. Touching upon membership, the chairman noted that the loyalty and steadfastness of the members continued to astound him and whilst a drop was noted, much of this is due to natural attrition, people moving to other locations and disinterest. Notwithstanding this, the Chairman remarked that the association is most certainly alive and well and it is incumbent upon all to recruit new members and he commented that paid membership is the lifeblood of the association. He commented upon all the various and varied branches which comprised the BSA Police and that persons, from whatever service bring with them their own perspectives and perceptions to which they are entitled. The main factor being unquestioned and undivided loyalty to the Regiment: all should be embraced whatever their opinions. The Chairman then asked all to rise for the reading of the roll of honour in respect of those who had passed to higher service and in respect to departed merit. Referring to benevolence, it was advised that a member had been relocated and employment found for him; in other instances, financial aid had been given to cover funeral expenses. Regarding functions, the quantum of an annual braai, curry & rice event, golf day and regimental dinner and remembrance parade (over-and-above monthly gatherings) were deemed quite sufficient and these latterly had seen increased attendances. Gratitude to the Transvaal Scottish who allowed our association’s continued usage of their magnificent facilities, at no cost, was saluted and proved the most suitable venue for our requirements. On the question of legalities, the question of tax exemption and trustees was ongoing with documents in this regard prepared by Dick Glanville for submission to the High Court. The Chairman concluded by thanking the outgoing committee and pledged his support for the new. The Chairman’s report was greeted by a standing ovation following which John Pirrett addressed the meeting saying that Barry Enslin had fulfilled his role as chairman in an extemporary manner and outlined some of his selfless actions in that capacity. A general vote of appreciation followed with unanimity.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Maureen Merrifield presented the annual income statements and balance sheets. She reported inter alia that subscriptions and donations had declined. It had been decided now to reflect actual investment income whereas hitherto only the initial capital investments had been reflected in annual reports. The two reports before the meeting showed firstly investment accrual during 2011 and secondly accrual since the inception of the investment portfolio. For his management of the investment portfolio, John Pirrett was thanked by the treasurer for his expertise. Overall, despite volatile markets, our financial structure gives the association financial stability with our return from investment above inflation. Whilst technically some functions had run at a loss, raffles and sales at those events had more than compensated. Memorabilia
reflected an excess expenditure over income occasioned by recent stock purchases and sales should rectify this scenario. Benevolence grants had reduced since the previous year as had bank charges, the latter occasioned by the commencement of electronic banking and cessation of credit card facilities. Secretarial costs had increased to assist in the administration of the association. Thanks to the investment portfolio and monies brought in by functions such as the golf day, the association ran at a profit. For the year under review. The Treasurer's report was proposed for adoption by Keith Douché, Seconded Ashley Collings and unanimously adopted with applause.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Chairman: Barry Enslin  Proposed Dick Glanville  Seconded Keith Douché
Vice Chairman: John Pirrett Proposed Barry Enslin Seconded Ashley Collings
Secretary: Dick Glanville Proposed Maureen Merrifield Seconded Alan Braithwaite
Treasurer: Maureen Merrifield Proposed Peter Hobson Seconded Ian Duncan
Publications: Craig Viljoen Proposed Glenn Macaskill Seconded Ashley Collings
Memorabilia: Dave Holmes Proposed Glenn Macaskill Seconded John Pirrett
Almoner: Dick Latilla Proposed Glenn Macaskill Seconded Ashley Collings
Member: Peter Allan Proposed Dave Holmes Seconded Glenn Macaskill
Member: Glenn Macaskill Proposed Barry Enslin Seconded Terry Schwartz

Member Ashley Collings Proposed Terry Schwartz Seconded Barry Enslin
Member Ian Duncan Proposed Glenn Macaskill Seconded Brian Peach
Member Brian Peach Proposed Ian Duncan Seconded Barry Enslin
Each nominee accepted nomination and as there were no other nomination, each was declared to be duly elected.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dick Glanville advised “hot off the press” (and only becoming known that morning) it seemed that the Zimbabwe pensions office had commenced the partial resumption of external pension payments, initially to SA Standard Bank account holders apparently rolling out to other account holders. No further details were currently known and Dick Glanville said that much of this must be attributed to the sterling efforts over many years by Col John Redfern. A wait-and-see position must be adopted in this regard though Dick Glanville had passed this information to the Central and United Kingdom branches for their information. Dick Glanville singled out Alan Braithwaite who over the years, in his own quiet way, had rendered huge assistance by way of, for many years, printing all our publications at virtual cost and many other items at no cost the latter being borne by Allan personally; he Proposed that Alan be elected to honorary life membership. This was Seconded by Glenn Macaskill and carried unanimously with acclaim. Dave Holmes exhorted members to fully support the Association in all its endeavours saying this was not merely a
committee responsibility. He stressed that the views of all must be taken into consideration. He said that the synopsis of the force history given by Dick Glanville at regimental dinners should in his opinion be continued and possibly expanded. He considered that there were split loyalties in regard to the loyal toast given at dinners and might occasion the necessity for two differing loyal toasts. The Chairman said this would be examined in committee. Dick Latilla emphasised that, to fulfil his role as Almoner, there must be strict adherence to the constitution; he said that each enquiry regarding any form of benevolence request, of necessity should be thoroughly investigated and no “hasty” decisions arrived upon.

CLOSURE:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 19h00. Those present were:- 6769 Dick Glanville; 5619 Barry Enslin; 5764 Pat O’Connor; 6539 Dave McNamara; W346 Maureen Merrifield; 16496 Dennis Hammond; 7038 Ashley Collins; Guest Morag Willis; Lorraine Rutherford; 7651 Dick Latilla[5703] Judy Hankinson; 110887 John Herdman; 110615 Bryan Peach; 10555 Peter Hobson; 18372T Gavin Soal; 6817 Keith Douche; 8780 Craig Viljoen; V4028 Allan Lord; 5526 Phil and Robin Devlin; 6382 Terry Schwartz; 6016 John Hill; FR197610 Neil Archer; 10486 Fred Monoyoudis; 110756 Chris Birtle; 110758 Peter Allen; 6715 Sam McCrorie; 6610 Jock Pirrett; 6345 Dave Holes; 101160 Michelle Knight; 7489 Ian Duncan; 392682 Allan Braithwaite; 5991 Don & Erica Joss; 6538 Glenn Macaskill.

From the Chairman’s desk

The Transvaal Branch of BSA Police Regimental Association had it's inaugural meeting on the 1st of April 1974, thus making this year, 2012, the 38th year of our existence with a mere handful of members. Today, our data base shows membership standing at 450 members. Not all are paid up, as subscriptions tend to trickle in over the first quarter of the year. Our Outpost is sent out to approximately 500 addressees in all parts of South Africa, Zimbabwe and indeed worldwide.

I wish to reiterate that the Transvaal Regimental Association's 'doors' are open to all ex-members, be they regular or reservist; they are encouraged to come in from the cold and enjoy the company of all who share the noble and long standing traditions of the Force and Regiment. Talking to many over the years, I am struck by the divergent, disparate, yet collective memories that serving members have. This disparity is due, of course, to the era in which a person served; some just after World War II, others who saw the more military war service of the 70's, and others who served in the years in between. Add to that the
differing departments, be it Town or District, CID or Special Branch, Support Unit, Women's Branch and many others. The common bond is the absolute allegiance, the loyalty to the Country, to the Regiment, and to it's traditions. These traditions began with the first man to mount a horse in 1889 with the Pioneer Column, to the last man attesting on the 30th day of July 1980. We are into our thirty second year after the doors closed on the BSAP. We are all older, scattered all around the globe, knowing that the Regimental Associations have not long to go; it has been predicted that the last man standing will be in 18 to 20 years from now. Between now and then, let our years be ones of camaraderie, filled with a search for a deeper knowledge of each other and a desire to help those who encounter hardship in the latter years of their lives.

I can think of no more apt a quote than this; From this day to the ending of the world, But we in it shall be remembered; We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile

This day shall gentle his condition: King Henry V. iv,iii 35.

Barry George Enslin 5619 Chairman, Transvaal Branch

REMINDER !!!!!!!
Monthly gatherings every second Friday at the Transvaal Scottish [The Jocks] anytime after 5.30pm. Wives, partners and guests are welcome. Please make the effort – you won’t be disappointed and you may just be surprised at who you might meet.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
CURRY & RICE : Provisional date is the 6th May at the Rosebank Bowling Club if their prices are right! Annual Dinner second week in September.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES:

AUSSIE OUTPOST
Chairman’s Chat
My last Chairman’s Chat was written onboard ship en-route from Sydney to Dover. In it I mentioned that Laurie and I would be visiting the BSAP Memorial in the National
Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire. Visit we did and we were most impressed by the memorial and many of the other service memorials and campaign memorials which are located there. If you visit the UK I recommend you put a visit on your must do list.

Our visit to the memorial coincided with the UK branch annual braai. This year it was held at the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall in Shropshire. Lilleshall is only about a half hour drive from Alrewas. About 60 people, consisting of members and partners, attended the braai and that included a number of visitors from overseas. I was expecting there to be more attendees. Several of the people I talked to have former colleagues resident in Australia, whom they have lost contact with. I was asked to try to make contact with them but that is proving to be a difficult task as none of them are members of our branch.

I was pleased to note that the UK branch does take the welfare provisions of the Regimental Association’s constitution seriously. A number of local networks are in existence and these ensure that contacts are made with members who are unwell, are experiencing transport difficulties and generally in need of some assistance. The UK does, like Australia, have established social security services in place and these are the first port of call to people needing financial and other forms of assistance. BSAP welfare services will always be supplementary to those provided by Government because of the extent of financial and human resources they have available to provide assistance. It must be difficult for our branches in Zimbabwe and South Africa to meet their obligations because of the lack of government assistance available.

Australia is a country synonymous with natural disasters and some of our members have lost their homes and possessions as a result of fires and floods from cyclones. Some of may remember roaring bush fires sweeping through the Chimanimani region and the pine forests in the Vumba. Those areas have similar characteristics to the bush around Perth and down south as there are many steep gullies, heavy fuel loads and poor road access. The Margaret River region in our South West has recently had a major fire in which some 40 properties were destroyed. The fire is being attributed to a controlled burn going out of control. What a lot of new Australians are unfamiliar with is that fire can spread underground through the roots of various species of eucalypts for up to 3 months after a fire has been put out. Hence there is a very likely...
possibility that in times of high winds and high temperatures a flare up will occur.

We again had a successful annual luncheon in more than at the UK braai. We have been blessed over the years with having excellent speakers and this year was no exception with John Redgment. In a moment of reflection what comes to my mind is what first class professional people we had in Rhodesia. We have seen this in the form of our guest speakers and Australia has been the beneficiary of their knowledge, skills and ability to get things done.

I am also repeating a previous request which has generally drawn a nil response. The Australian Outpost is your magazine and that means we do have a magazine unless you contribute to it. For the next and subsequent editions we need your input in the form of stories from depot, from driving school, from stations you served at, interesting and maybe unusual and memorable cases (real Police is often stranger than fiction). Member profiles make interesting reading whether they were regulars or reservists so please commit some words to paper about yourself and what you have done in your life.

Rob Gates.

We are very pleased to welcome:
19330A Noel & Patricia Davies of Carine, Perth. 22835V Mike and Rosemarie Goldberg of Duncraig, Perth, 6061 Roger and Ailsa Chapman of Kingston Beach, Tasmania. 5977 Roger and Judith Lebish of Wandiligong, Victoria. 10005 John and Kathryn Storey of North Turramurra, New South Wales

From Rod and Brenda Blevin

Retd. Lt Col Alfred Tomlinson
For the record I am passing this on to you all, as requested by Rory Tomlinson (now resident in Mandurah), great-grandson of Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred James Tomlinson, after whom Tomlinson Depot, Harare, was named. The message is self-explanatory, and Rory would like it to be passed on to members of the B.S.A.P. in Perth:
Hi Brenda
Good to see you, Rod and Suzie yesterday.
I mentioned my great grandfather's memoirs. I wondered if you could pass a message on to the ex BSAP association. It can be found under "Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred James Tomlinson" on www.amazon.com and costs $20 plus postage from the US. The link is given above.
Rory

New Members
**2011 Annual Luncheon**

This was a most successful event attended by 70 members and guests. We were most fortunate to have as our Guest Speaker Mr. John Redgment, a former Senior Magistrate in Salisbury. He was accompanied by his wife Di.

Guest Speaker John Redgment

Those attending were: 11556K Don & Joyce BULLOCH, 16865F Rod & Sheena BATER, 15152 Mike CAVE, Betty CILLIERS, (4306) Carol CLAPHAM, (4147) Vivienne CORDY HEDGE, 7028 Alan PRINCE & Theresa, 4326 Tom DOHERTY, (4977) Valerie DAVIES, 19003E Noel & Patricia DAVIES, Norman & Heidi DAVIES 4105 Bert & Sylvia FREEMANTLE, 7045 Rob & Laurie GATES (Chairman), Mike & Jane GALE, 22835V Mike & Frankie GOLDBERG, 5567/6219 Dick & Helen HAMLEY, 2386) Sylvia HOLBORN, WFR Merle HOWDEN, 7825E Arthur HUTSON, Assoc. Bill JOHNSTONE, WFR 202541C Aoifa LUDLOW, 6929 Howard & Jan MARTIN 19034N Alan & Joyce McGRATH, Greg McALLISTER, (6387) Margot MORGAN, (9234) Margaret O NEILL, 7340 Chris & Dorothy MORTEN, FR Robert & Barbara OSBORNE, 20453F Paddy PARKER, FR52876 John & Di REDGMENT (Guest Speaker), Alan & Yvonne RICHARDSON (RSL President), 4663 John & Janet SAVAGE, 17845W Charles & Adele SCOTT, 7365/8217 Peter & Cecelia SCOTT, 4649 John & Margaret SEWARD, Michael & Carol SEWARD, 9849 David (Taffy) Van Zuydam & Trish SWANNACK, 7049 Lew & Joanne WHITMORE, 4780 Sam & Elizabeth WILLIAMS, Dave & Sarie WILTON, and 12597R David SYMINTON.

**From Duncan “Porky” Paul, S. Africa**

A couple of us thought of arranging the 40th Reunion in 2013 for squads 3 and 4 / 73. At this stage we are just trying to create a Mailing List. Depending on numbers, the place & date will be decided later. I’ve picked up a few names off the website database. If there are any interested members from squads 3 and 4 / 73, please drop me a note with all details, address, email and contact numbers. It would be great to hear from you.

Best regards

Duncan “Porky” Paul 8980

Email: dunadventures@tiscali.co.za

Cell: +27-82-443-7138

Office: +27-33-394-3311

Home: +27-33-345-1804

**NATAL MIDLANDS BRANCH**

The Committee of the Natal Midlands Branch send their best wishes for 2012
and request your support at the following functions planned for the first half of the year - if you're in the area, of course.

**Monday 9/4/2012 : 11h30 onwards : Amberglen Easter Monday ’Family Day’.**
A lunch organised by Steve and Marion Stevens at a cost of R40.00 per person. Bring your own drinks and enjoy a day in the beautiful countryside. Please contact Steve or Marion at [033]2394276 to make your booking which closes on Monday 2 April.

**Sunday 27/5/2012: 11h30 onwards: Bring & braai at Howick Lions Club.**
Bring our own food and please support the Lions Club bar. Bookings not necessary.

**Sunday 22/7/2012: 11h30 onwards: Inchanga Day Bring & Braai.** This is a joint function held annually with the Natal Branch. The event starts off with cricket matches, then leisurely bowls, then the odd darts game. Now everyone eats, drinks a lot of beer and generally enjoy themselves.

**Natal Branch Committee**
Chairman: 4767/5717 Steve Stevens [033]2394276
Secretary: 8242 Alan Bennett [033]3441122: Cell:0722863393

---

**EASTERN CAPE BRANCH**

ANNUAL REGIMENTAL LUNCH: The lunch was held on Saturday the 24th September at 12noon for 12h30 at the Winston Churchill MOTh Homes Hall, Main Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth. The following members and guests attended: 6966 Rob & Pam CLARKE, WFR Mignonne GIBBINGS, 5922 Trevor & Pat COMPTON and guests Brian & Joy SIMPSON,(4782) Jill MACKENZIE, WP137/281 Doreen NOWELL, PR James & Connie FISHER, 4768 Bob COLQUHOUN, PR Dave & Di CARTWRIGHT, Assoc Will & Ann BASSON, PR Roger SOUTHGATE, PR John McFADDEN, PR Rod & Betty SLATER (Humansdorp), Assoc Claire WILSON, (5879) Shelagh STOW, 5624 Pat & Lyn FERGUSON, 7777 Digby & Trish POCOCK (Kleinmond), 6570 Brian & Helena BURSTEIN, C245 Dave & Margy WHINNEY, 7890 Ed HOLLOWAY, 9434 Jimmy SWINNERTON and guest Keith FERNDELL, PR Herbie Du PLESSIS, 6687 Alan & Joan DICKINSON and guest speaker Stan BEZUIDENHOUT.
Apologies: 4747 Gerry DAY, 5907 Pete WILSON, 6870 Dave LOW, 8018 Alan GORDON, 6664 Norman FOSTER, 6443 Basil BLATCH, 5001 Jamie WHITELOW, 6194 Ron SHARDLOW, 4696 Tony DOWN, and 9580 Peter KNOWLDEN.

The Chairman Trevor COMPTON started proceedings by welcoming all those attending. Master of Ceremonies Alan DICKINSON, who did his usual sterling work in this position, called on those responsible for proposing the various toasts and kept matters alive with some good humour. The guest speaker, Stan BEZUIDENHOUT, the Wee-Bill for the Eastern Province MOTH's and a Major in the SADF Citizen Force, gave an interesting talk on the SA Arms Deal debacle, the current probe and possible consequences thereof.

The winner of the ticket draw for the bottle of Bells Whiskey was Trish Pocock who kindly re-donated it for the draw to be held at the Xmas Bring and Braai.

Good wishes for the holding of the lunch were received from Australia, Bulawayo, Natal and Transvaal Branches and these were read out during proceedings.

XMAS BRING AND BRAAI: The braai was held on Saturday the 19 November at 12noon at the Outspan MOTH Club, Kragga Kamma Road, Port Elizabeth. The following members and guests attended: 7777 Digby & Trish POCOCK, 6966 Rob & Pam CLARKE, WFR Mignonette GIBBINGS, 5922 Trevor & Pat COMPTON, PR Herbie Du PLESSIS, PR John McFADDEN, (5879) Shelagh STOW and guest Bill VILJOEN, PR Rod & Betty SLATER, PR James & Connie FISHER and guest Peter WATSON, (4782) Jill MACKENZIE, PR Dave & Di CARTWRIGHT, 9580 Peter & Lindsay KNOWLDEN, C245 Dave & Margy WHINNEY, 6570 Brian & Helena BURSTEIN, Assoc Claire & Alistair WILSON, Assoc Anne BASSON, 7890 Ed & Glennis HOLLOWAY, 9434 Jimmy SWINNERTON and guest Liz MAXWELL.

Apologies: 8710 William GODWIN, PR Roger SOUTHGATE, 6870 Dave LOW, 5001 Jamie WHITELOW, 6443 Basil BLATCH, 4696 Tony DOWN, 4768 Bob COLQUHOUN and 5624 Pat FERGUSON.

A very sociable and enjoyable function was held. The three Xmas hampers made up for the raffle draw were won by Roger Slater, Ed Holloway and Alistair WILSON., Dave Cartwright and Herbie DuPlessis.

DEATH NOTICES

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

110945 Steven John McCullum.

Barry Woan sadly reports the death of Steven John McCullum on 11 March 2012 in Krugersdorp 2012. Steve attested on 16 July 1979 leaving ‘by purchase’ on 9 September 1981. During his servie with the BSA Police, Steve was L/S/O in Lima Troop, Support Unit.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Steves’ family.
4491 Ralph Irwin.
Alistair Black advises, with regret, the death of Ralph Irwin on 13 October 2011 in Oxford, UK. Ralph served in the BSA Police from November 1949 until August 1964. He was in Uniform Branch serving in the Umtali and Salisbury Districts. Ralph was promoted to Inspector in September 1964 and left the force, three years later, on retirement gratuity. He subsequently settled in the UK.

5494 Sinclair Henry Mackay ‘Seamus’ Sutherland
Raoul Gilbert advises, with regret, the death of Seamus Sutherland on 20 November 2011 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Seamus served in the BSA Police between June 1956 and June 1964. He was based in Traffic Branch, Bulawayo. He left the force at own request with the rank of Sergeant and returned to Scotland. He later worked for the Scottish Law Society.

5873 Trevor Sidney Wright.
Cherith Roberts advises with regret, the death of Trevor Sidney Wright on 27 January 2012 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Trevor joined the BSA Police in September 1958 and served mostly in the Criminal Investigation Department at CID HQ until he left the Force in July 1964 with the rank of D/Constable. Trevor joined the Rhodesian Air Force after he left the police and later managed a farm in the Centenary district. He was a keen rifle and pistol shottist. Our thoughts and condolences go to his wife Denise, family and friends to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

7874 Ronald Peter Atkins
Neville Spurr advises with regret, the death of Ron Atkins on 23 November 2011 in Cape Town. Ron served his three in the BSA Police between January 1968 and January 1971.

WP517 Alexandra Joy Earwood ‘Alex’
Dick Glanville reports with profound sadness the tragic murder of Alex Earwood in her home in Blairgowrie, Johannesburg, on 20 December 2011. Alex joined the BSA Police in February 1979 and served until January 1983. She left at her own request with the rank of Woman Patrol Officer. Alex had been the recipient of the Bronze Baton along with WPO Norma Gore [WP550] following their courageous arrest of a car thief in May 1981.

9455 Alexander George Millar ‘Alex’
Glenn Seymour-Hill advises with regret, the death of Alex Millar on 6 February 2012 in Canada. Alex joined the BSA Police in August 1975 and did most of his service in Support Unit.
3385 Lionel Ludvig ‘Lummy’ Lumholst-Smith (aka Lumoltz)
Alistair Black advises, with regret, the death of Lummy Lumholst-Smith on 16 January 2012 in Cumbria, UK. Lummy joined the BSA Police in May 1934 and fell in with the likes of Arthur Baden-Powell [3383], who was to inherit the title of Lord from his famous father, and Frank Barfoot [3342] later Commissioner of Police. After a few years on remote District stations, Lummy did most of his service in the Criminal Investigation Department in Salisbury. He may have been one of the few officers involved in the early start of XB section [intelligence] of the CID. He retired in August 1956 with the rank of Detective Chief Inspector. After leaving the force, Lummy worked for many years with the Grain Marketing Board before returning to Norway and eventually settling in Cumbria, UK. Lummy was born on 12 March 1912 and would have celebrated his 100th birthday this year.

6133/9525 Pieter Janse ‘Piet’ Van Rensburg.
Des Howes advises, with regret, the death of Piet van Rensburg on 6 February 2012 in Margate, South Africa. Piet joined the BSA Police in March 1960 and served and served until January 1973 when he left at his own request with the rank of Inspector. He re-joined the force in January 1976 and served a further 6 years.

4768 Robert Dawson ‘BOB’ Colquhoun.
Rob Clarke, Hon. Secretary, Eastern Cape Branch, advises with regret, the death of 4768 Bob Dawson who died as the result of cancer on 26/2/2012 in Port Elizabeth. Bob had been ill since December 2012 and after suffering a fall, was admitted to St. Georges hospital. Bob served in the BSA Police from 13/8/1951 until his retirement as Inspector on 16/8/1971.

6469 David Vincent Hart-Davies.
Peter Bellingham advises with regret, the death of Dave Hart-Davies in Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe on 25 February 2012. The cause of death is unknown at present. Dave served with the BSA Police from 28/8/1961 until 30/11/1986, retiring as Assistant Commissioner.

4064 Alan Charles Norman “Steve” Stephens
(from Dick Hamley)
It is with great sadness that we advise ‘Steve’ Stephens passed away peacefully and without pain at the Peninsular Hospital, Frankston, Victoria at 8.20pm on Friday 25th November as a result of a severe heart attack suffered at his home in Berwick. His wife Mary and daughter, Jane, were with him at the time. Steve was cremated and fittingly
scattered at sea. A memorial service was held at the Berwick Anglican Church on Thursday 1 December 2011. A great gentleman and honourable member has departed; always to be remembered by members of the Regiment in which he proudly served.

Stand to your horses Gentlemen.

**Eulogy:** 4064 Chief Superintendent Alan Charles Norman Stephens

Born 29 October 1922 - died 25 November 2011 (aged 89 years)

By Rob Riedy 8282 (son-in-law)

The British South Africa Police evolved from the British South Africa Company which was established in 1889 by Cecil John Rhodes after whom Rhodesia now Zimbabwe, was named. Not long after Steve's Second World War service in the British navy, the 23 year old adventurous Steve was attracted to the BSAP in Rhodesia through a recruitment advert in a British newspaper. It came to pass that he was appointed in the BSAP on the 11th June 1946. 4064 Trooper Stephens did his basic depot training in Morris depot Salisbury now Harare. He excelled in equitation. Equitation was an essential part of a police recruit's training as all police patrols in most areas in those days was done either on foot or horseback. Steve first posting was to the Vumba district near Umtali - a beautiful area on Rhodesia's eastern border adjacent to Mozambique. He was clearly very fond of the area wishing his ashes one day there be distributed if not at sea.

He wasn't there for very long and because of his horse riding ability he was recalled to Morris depot to commence training and preparations for the mounted royal escort for the pending royal visit of King George 6th and the late queen mother accompanied by princesses Elizabeth now queen, and Margaret in April 1947. Steve was appointed Princess Margaret's personal official groom for the duration of their visit and I understand they frequently rode together on the Morris depot commons. Steve had a bit of a crush on Princess Margaret I think and has always since had a soft spot for Princess Margaret.

Steve's riding skills and ability demanded he remain in depot as a remount rider training horses and as an equitation instructor. in 1951 he was appointed chief riding instructor. over the following years Steve represented the police at all riding disciplines and prevailed as the country's 'tent-pegging' champion.

For many years Steve's day started at 5am on horseback with his horse 'Kentucky', they commanded the police mounted escorts on many
British South Africa Police

Transvaal Outpost

official occasions such as openings of parliament and escorts to visiting dignitaries. These included personally presenting the BSA police mounted escort for inspection by Prince Charles who represented Queen Elizabeth as part of the Zimbabwe independence formalities in April 1980.

Steve remained at the training depot for probably most of his service. His responsibilities and promotions over the years lead to him being commissioned in 1970 and appointed deputy commander of the training depot in early 1980 as chief superintendent. Steve also managed and presented the police displays that toured the country annually usually as part of the regional agricultural shows. He frequently opened the police display on his horse Kentucky by jumping his horse through a large paper panel. Consider trying to ride a horse through a wall!

Steve was a large man and when in uniform his appearance, deportment and presence naturally commanded respect. Steve received police long service medal and bars and was awarded the Police Meritorious Service Medal in 1977 and was honoured as life vice president of the horse society of Zimbabwe. Steve retired from the BSA police in September 1980 after 34 years and 112 days - an officer and gentleman. His numerous medals also bare testament to his honourable service and conduct.

After retiring from the BSAP, Steve and Mary migrated to South Africa in 1981. Steve took up the position of major in charge of the equestrian wing in South African Defence Force equestrian centre based at Potchefstroom. After several years Steve and Mary then retired to Howick in Natal. In September 1999 they decided to pack up and follow the family to Melbourne Australia where they lived happily ever after.

Steve was very much a naval man as well. He had an incredible historical knowledge of the navy particularly during the war. He was a fine model boat/ship builder who made numerous scale model boats and ships in his retirement. Steve was an avid reader throughout his life with astounding memory and general knowledge until the time of his death from general organ failure in hospital. Always a gentleman and an inspiration who will be sorely missed.

Ex inspector Rob Riedy 8282
1st December 2011

ARTICLES, BOOKS ETC
RESUMPTION OF ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT PENSION PAYMENTS [RECENT UPDATE]
The payment to former government-employed pensioners outside Zimbabwe on 9 February 2012 broke a nine years drought. But it was only a shower.

Account holders with the Standard Bank of South Africa are the first to receive payments in what the Director of Pensions, Mr Sylvester Mnkandla, describes as a “trial run” or pilot scheme. These payments represent the amount of pension accumulated between March 2009 and December 2011. Any pension earned between March 2003 and March 2009, when the Zimbabwe dollar was replaced by the US dollar, was apparently totally wiped out through hyper-inflation.

Only pensioners who had submitted an application for reinstatement of their pension, through the Flame Lily Foundation (FLF), are eligible. However, there are several anomalies in the initial payments, which are based on a percentage of the average taxable income for the current rank or grade which the pensioner held upon retirement. (Length of service is no longer relevant.) Some Standard Bank account holders who submitted their applications through the FLF have received nothing. This should not have happened, as every application submitted to the Pensions Office in Harare by the FLF has been captured, according to Mr Mnkandla.

Amounts paid to Standard Bank account holders, made known to the FLF by recipients, range from R38,000 (department head) to R4,880 (R3,000 in the case of an incentive scheme pensioner).

The amounts paid are very confusing, as no pensioners have received a statement to indicate what their entitlement is. Mr Mnkandla said that monthly statements will be sent some time in the future but postage would be very expensive for the Pensions Office, considering the number of pensioners resident in South Africa and Europe. (The FLF has offered to post statements to pensioners in South Africa.)

No indication has been given as to when regular pension payments will commence, or the frequency of payments.
Mr Mnkandla declined to provide the FLF with categories of pensioners and how their entitlements are calculated. He did say that he would like to know whose payments seem to be below their rank or grade on retirement. The address to write to is as follows:

The Director of Pensions
Mr S.J. Mnkandla
PO Box CY 397
Causeway
Zimbabwe

Provide your rank or grade on retirement, as well as the amount paid into your Standard Bank account.

The same applies to pensioners banking with Standard who have not received any payment since 9 February 2012, provided they submitted their forms through the FLF before December 2011.

Unfortunately, pensioners banking with other banks in South Africa will have to wait for their pensions backlog until the Pensions Office has reviewed the trial run, and has determined the most favourable way to remit pensions to them. The Pensions Office has asked the major banks in South Africa to confirm each pensioner’s account details before payments are made. The FLF has been told by an official in the ABSA Head Office that they will not accept bulk amounts for redistribution to individual account holders. Nor will they “divulge clients details to anyone but the account holder or to someone who has Power of Attorney”.

Pensioners in countries other than South Africa have been sending their applications to the Overseas Service Pensioners Association (OSPA) in the UK, for onward transmission to Harare. These pensions will only be remitted after payment of pensions in South Africa.

Based on answers from the Director of Pensions to FAQs (frequently asked questions) submitted to him by John Redfern, Honorary Secretary of the Flame Lily Foundation.

20 March 2012

**THE DEATH OF AIR ZIMBABWE**

It flew profitably through 23 years of United Nations-imposed sanctions. It carried on without a blip after black nationalist guerillas shot down two of
its Viscounts in the late 1970s, the last years of white-ruled Rhodesia.

After independence in 1980, its name was changed from Air Rhodesia to Air Zimbabwe. It was comfortably in the black with 16 aircraft, and a reputation as a clever, durable little African airline. It has taken President Mugabe 31 years without war or economic sanctions to finally drive it into the ground.

The last Air Zimbabwe domestic flight was three weeks ago. Late last year it cancelled international flights after a Boeing 737 at Johannesburg’s Oliver Tambo Airport and a Boeing 767 at Gatwick were impounded for unpaid services.

On Friday last week lawyers for the National Airways Workers’ Union and the Air Transport Union filed for the airline to be placed under judicial management. Court papers said they had not been paid since January 2009 and were owed US$ 35 million. Air Zimbabwe executives who asked not to be named said the company owed a total of US$160 million.

Among the many reluctant benefactors who bailed it out in emergencies is Nicholas van Hoogstraaten, the former London rack-renter who has recreated himself as one of Zimbabwe’s most influential businessmen. “The demise of Air Zimbabwe is a disgraceful waste of a valuable asset, which is now beyond redemption,” he said.

The “disgrace” he refers to is the blundering mismanagement and greed Mr Mugabe and his cronies have visited upon every enterprise they have touched since he came to power in 1980.

From the outset, Mr Mugabe used Air Zimbabwe as his personal air taxi. The abuse was legendary. Passengers were ordered off their flights when he turned up at 30 minutes notice with a crowd of hangers-on. Or if they managed to keep their seats, they would be flown to wildly out-of-the way destinations to drop off the president. On one trip, he circumnavigated the globe.

Political appointments fill the senior executive positions, and relatives much of the rest. Air Zimbabwe has a staff of 1,400 where experts estimate 400 would be ample. Fares were kept unsustainably low, and charged in worthless Zimbabwe dollars until they were phased out in 2009.

It has no board of directors. The company is in the hands of a coterie of executives who, staff say, pay themselves US$20,000 a month and drive the latest Mercedes Benz
models. “They are law unto themselves,” said one. Early this month a long-unpaid pilot won a court order for the seizure of company property in lieu of his salary. The sheriff entered Air Zimbabwe headquarters and left with three of the limousines.

“It's become the ZANU(PF) (Mr Mugabe's party) carrier,” said a senior technician. Each time the Mugabe “royal family” return from a trip abroad, a 10-tonne truck and several pick-ups can be seen to drive up to the aircraft’s hold to be loaded with the Mugabe’s goods. Last year, Grace, the president’s wife, flew into a rage when her flight was late. Acting CEO Peter Chikumba presented her with US$10,000 “spending money” by way of an apology.

Since the government took control of the fabulously wealthy Marange diamond fields in the east of country, cabin staff say, pilots are regularly given small sealed parcels by Mrs Mugabe’s staff for personal delivery to Asian businessmen in the Far East. Just ahead of elections in 2008, an Air Zimbabwe plane flew tonnes of ZANU(PF) T-shirts from Beijing.

But as Air Zimbabwe (Pvt) Ltd crumbles, a new development is secretly unfolding. A plain white 150-seat Airbus A320 with French markings arrived at Harare airport 10 days ago and was quickly concealed in an Air Zimbabwe hangar. Company and transport ministry officials have been tight-lipped.

The plane is on loan from Sonangol, a Chinese company with enormous interests ranging through oil, air transport and diamonds, Air Zimbabwe administrators say. A larger Airbus 340 is soon to follow.

“It’s a ministry of defence project,” said one. “It can only be funded by diamonds. ZANU(PF) will not be without their own airline.”

The BSA Police History in February.

[Some of the events in our history occurring in February through time- with thanks to Andrew Field Webmaster]

>1 February 1923 – Col. Essex Capell appointed Commissioner of Police

>1 February 1933 – Col John S. Morris appointed Commissioner of Police

>12 February 1954 – HRH Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, becomes Honorary Commissioner of the BSA Police force
>26 February 1959 – 503 nationalists arrested in Operation Spider

>1 February 1962 – General Sir Douglas Packard visits Southern Rhodesia to undertake a study of the BSA Police and make recommendations concerning its’ future operations

>2 February 1970 – Operation ‘Granite – ZAPU group of 6 infiltrated NL Chete Island

>9 February 1970 – Operation Chestnut – group of 7 ZAPU infiltrated at Msuna

>6 February 1974 – Peter Sherren[3862] appointed Commissioner of Police replacing Police Commissioner Sidney Bristow who retires from the BSA Police

>6 February 1975 – McIntosh, the sanctions spy serving a 14 year sentence, escapes from jail


>12 February 1979 – ZIPRA terrorists shoot down a second Air Rhodesia civilian commuter plane [The Umniati] killing all 59 people on board.

DO YOU REMEMBER...RADIO RHODESIA?

"6:30 Get up up up up up..." This was the wake up call of a rotund fun loving clown by the name of Leslie Sullivan who was the morning man on Radio Rhodesia. Leslie, I am told was quite a night owl and would show up about 45 minutes before Radio Rhodesia went on the air and had a "Power Sleep" waking just in time to get the morning radio show kicked off.

At about 5 minutes to 6 in the morning, the day began on the air for Radio Rhodesia. It started with "A thought for the day", an inspirational message to help face the day. At 6AM the morning call would go out announcing what meter band and wave length the RBC could be picked up on. When I think of this, somehow the aroma of toast and Jungle Oats come to mind.

Between 6AM and 6:30 a short recap of the news and weather forecast for the day were given, some music played and then, 'voila! it was time for Leslie to perform his magic and get the children out of bed with his "Get up up up" routine. He usually followed with a kiddie song like "Teddy Bears' picnic or "Pink Toothbrush" but the greatest was when, once a year, he would play a short piece each morning from a story about a fat Chinese boy.
who fell down a well but because of his long name lost potential rescuers when he would call out for help. His name that being Nicky Nicky Tembo etc etc.

Leslie was always so much fun to wake up to in the morning, it almost took the sting out of having to get ready to go to work or school. His audience comprised of both parents and children. Later in the morning it was time for another sorcerer to perform his Radio magic, in the form of a kindly chap by the name of Don Burdette. Don had a hospital request show with "Silver Lining" as his theme music. Don showed tremendous empathy for the ailing whether it was a "new mum" at the Lady Chancellor hospital or Lady Rodwell Hospital, or a malaria case in Salisbury Central hospital, maybe Umtali General, The Mater Dei in Bulawayo or Greenwood Park hospital or even someone recuperating at home. Don always saved a special segment for his "Little Horrors", the sick children who were in hospital. Usually he would play Alvin and the Chipmunks. It always perked a person up listening to his kindly voice admonishing you to cheer up and get better soon.

Around noon, shortly after the "Daily Service", a wonderful woman by the name of Beryl Salt would exhort children to "Bring a cushion or a chair right up to the radio", at which time she would read a story with the most amazing professionalism, never mispronouncing a word, stuttering or losing a beat. I will never forget her for she made my childhood so much more enjoyable with her lovely voice. Around 2PM there was usually a short news update, following which a "Serial" came on. It was usually a radio theatre presentation of a book and so very well done. These programs brought something to look forward to and were seldom missed.

Radio really had an impact on our lives as Television did not come on until 6PM and that was only in the larger cities, until later years as technology became better. It was the great spirit in a small box that penetrated our soul and mind and left that indelible image there. It forced your imagination to take you to places your eye could not see, truly wonderful! Monday nights there was a great show entitled "The Missing Persons Bureau" about an agency that traced folks who had disappeared. Henry Simon, was the director of the bureau. During the rest of the week several radio drama shows were done usually by some great entertainers like Ken Marshall and his beautiful wife Claire. These folk along with other celebrities not only did wonderful radio dramas but often performed in plays at the well known Reps theatre in Salisbury. There were many fine voices on the air - one was Gerry Wilmot who left Radio Rhodesia to work for Lourenco Marques radio, I think that was about 1961 or 1962.

My favourite day was Saturday for all the great hit music generally got played. Ian Warren had a show at 9AM playing new songs that were potential hits. Everyone's favorite was none other than Lyons Maid hits of the week. The show was done by Martin Locke and Trig Tregaskis who not only had a great radio voice but held quite an appeal to the young ladies. Much to the annoyance of
his wife.

Each week there was a jackpot, and if the top ten hits of the week were predicted correctly the winner would win the amount, or if he or she got the top three correct free ice cream was in the works! How we lived for this show! Martin left the Rhodesian airwaves for a while and Keith Kennedy took over the show. Both gentlemen were excellent at their craft and the show was tremendously successful. Trig took over as DJ on Radio Jacaranda where he remained until he left for South Africa in 1978. Another great at Radio Rhodesia was a guy that I thought never got enough credit for his excellence and that was Malcolm Russell. Malcolm had a show called "New Tracks" and it was the last biggie for we young folk on a Saturday morning. The show's theme song was "I Will Follow Him" and was just super. Saturday afternoon at 2PM, a radio game show, "The Eyegene Jackpot", was presented and it was quite enjoyable.

A game show program presented by Mervin Hamilton and Vic Matheson that featured housewives pushing a shopping cart around Meikles gathering groceries without duplicating items in an allotted time, brought excitement to the listeners. It was always quite a rush to listen to. My favourite was "Forces Requests" with Sally Donaldson on Saturday afternoon. Sally was a beautiful young woman with a voice to match. She played all the forces favorites and with the escalating terrorist bush war she became very popular as young men went off to defend their country. Dusk was usually falling as we would listen with the lights turned out in our living room, with only the lights off. It was so peaceful thanks to our security forces. Sadly Sally passed away a few years ago but her wonderful personality, charm and looks will never be forgotten. There were several distinguished voices like that of John Bishop and Peter Tobin that graced our airwaves.

As the years passed small stations were set up in the provinces that covered local issues for about 2 or 3 hours on Friday nights. I have a smile on my face thinking of all the fond memories of a wonderful Radio station. My times for the programming may be slightly off bearing in mind all of this happened so long ago and in a land far away! Thanks to all of these dear people, some still with us, others not but everyone is fondly remembered and never forgotten.

BOOKS REVIEW.

'The Way We Were' by John Kelley

John was a freelance journalist in Zimbabwe for 42 years He covered events such as sport, politics and the war. The book, 'The Way We Were', features 46 Country District clubs and golf courses and is full of humour, anecdotes, personalities and history from Wankie Mine across to Southdown, and from Mhangura to Colleen Bawn. The book represents the finest pioneering spirit of country people, their origins, history and personalities, reflecting the powerful bonding of rural communities throughout the country.
Cost: R200.00 plus postage [R6.25 RSA local].
Copies are available from John Pirrett:
E-mail: piritett@mweb.co.za
Tel: [011] 781 3562/3565
Joanne Cochrane:
E-mail: cocky@zol.co.za
Tel: [0712] 607175
John Kelley [the author]:
E-mail: treaclemine@zol.co.zw
Tel: [0712] 607809.
Please Note: 20% of the proceeds of the sale of this book will go to Trust Homes for the elderly and infirm in Zimbabwe.

'A Skirmish in Africa' by Daryl Sahli

Set in an almost forgotten guerrilla war in what is now called Zimbabwe during the late 1970’s, this is a journey into the world of young men fighting and dying at the behest of their political masters. The strain of having to survive these close-quarter skirmishes preoccupy the combatants, who helplessly find themselves in a conflict spinning out of control.
The story revolves around Mike Smith an insecure 19 year old National Serviceman and Tongerai Chabanga, a commander from the liberation movement. Daryl Sahli’s novel is a great fiction thriller and an authentic account of a war now almost forgotten and unknown by many.
The book is available through indaba@rhodesia.com. [Cost not available]

'The Last Restort- A Memoir of Mischief and Mayhem on a Family Farm in Africa.' By Douglas Rogers

Thrilling, heartbreaking, and, at times, absurdly funny, The Last Resort is a remarkable true story about one family in a country under siege and a testament to the love, perseverance and resilience of the human spirit.
Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Douglas Rogers is the son of white farmers living through that country’s long and tense transition from post-colonial rule. He escaped the dull future mapped out for him by his parents for one of adventure and excitement in Europe and the United States. But when Zimbabwes’ Robert Mugabe launched his violent program to reclaim white-owned land and Rogers’ parents were caught in the crossfire, everything changed.
The book is available through indaba@rhodesia.com. [Price not available]

'The Bush War in Rhodesia : The Extraordinary Combat Memoir of a Rhodesian Reconnaissance Specilaist’
By Dennis Croukamp.

The Rhodesian Bush War was a ferocious guerrilla warfare campaign between the regular and elite units of the Rhodesian Army doing battle against Communist-backed terrorist groups in the valleys, jungles and bush country of Rhodesia, Mozambique and Zambia. Warrant Officer Dennis Croukamp fought in the conflict from its beginnings in the 1960’s to the very end in 1979 and his
It is nostalgic, humorous and both serious and light-hearted. Some names have been changed for obvious reasons, but it is not difficult to identify those with whom one is aware of or had contact with during service. Well worth a read. Available through Amazon.

‘Viscount Down’ By Keith Nell

This is the complete story of the Rhodesian Viscount disasters as told by an SAS operator. The book comprises factual accounts and recollections of several individuals connected with events related to the two Viscount disasters. Keith Nells’ style makes ‘Viscount Down’ read like a gripping novel but without losing sight of salient facts related to the two incidents. Generously illustrated with maps, photographs and line drawings, the book is available through The Flame Lily Foundation, P O Box 95474 Waterkloof 0145. Tel: [012] 460-2066 [Secretary Mary Redfern], or E-mail ras@iafrica.com
Price : R480.00

INPOST

Letter from Hugh Phillips, Author of the recent book 'Blue and Old Gold'. Another vastly entertaining edition; my congratulations to the Tvl Outpost Editor.
I was, Dick, most impressed with your potted history of our force. It could well be jiggled around a bit, printed separately and circulated to those who require an historical hand-out.
on suitable occasions. Consider? Anyway, I hope all is well with you; it certainly seems so as far as the Branch is concerned. Sadly I see no reference to Shelagh and Roy Anderson these days and I've somehow lost their email address. Roy will be nearing 90 by now (for heavens sake, I'm 81!) and is probably failing in some departments - like a civil aviation license for instance!! Anyway - enough; good wishes to all - Hugh Phillips.

**THIS AND THAT … AND A CHUCKLE OR TWO.**

☺

It's all write at Vila Salazaar.

[An extract from the ‘Outpost’ magazine October 1976]

Constable Zuze Ruzano, stationed at Vila Salazaar, wrote:-

I have just been caught reading the Outpost instead of watering the grass on the bunkers. For a punishment, the Member in Charge has told me to write ‘Station Notes’

I think he just wants to satisfy himself that the typewriters here still work because he knows I am no good at writing. Even the OC knows this... that’s why they sent me here! In fact, none of us here is any good at writing except Sgt. Tsanganidzo, that is. We don’t have any dockets to write, so it’s no wonder we’ve all forgotten what typewriters are for.

Our main job here at Vila Salazaar is to look after our neighbours who are not very friendly nowadays. We are supposed to see that they don’t get out of hand or do anything stupid. They are a very exitable lot, you know.

Besides being exitable, our neighbours seemed to very concerned about our welfare. Several times already this year they’ve tried to re-decorate our nice camp. Cst. Chikwanda’s bedroom has been given an extra window – a nice round one and I’ve got similar air conditioning in my room. If I’d been sleeping there when the workman came, he would have woken me up. There are also thoughtful ventilation holes in the roof of the Mess. All these modifications were carried out from afar with a minimum of fuss and delay and finished off in a nice tone of black on the outside walls.

What else can I add to my article...Yes, I know, I’ll relate the conversation that went on in the recreation room yesterday before we went to bed in our bunkers...

*Sergeant Tsanganidzo:* “Tomorrow is Saturday so there will be a camp inspection. I don’t want to see any
sadza on the kitchen walls or ceiling. By now, most of you should know where your mouths are.”

Constable Matunhira: “With all these little holes in the walls, we’ll have to sit in here with our raincoats when it rains.”

Sergeant Chidizwa: “You can patch them up with putty tomorrow…a good job for you! It will keep you out of mischief.”

Constable Chirapa: “All I want to do is go back to Triangle!”

Constable Chaguma: “Since I’ve been here, I’ve been shot at 48 times and mortared seven times. The Town Policemen don’t know what they’re missing.”

Constable Rafunya [to Cst. Muzangadza who is ex-Prison Service]

“You are new here. I bet you can’t fill 200 sandbags in two and a half hours like I can.”

Constable Chimedza: “When I leave the force, I’m going to be a professional bunker builder!.”

Constable Mageza [with a sigh]: “We live in trying times.”

Well, that should be enough for Vila Salazaars ‘Station Notes’. Ooops, here comes the Boss...watch it!

“Come on Ruzano. Stop daydreaming. Haven’t you finished yet?” “No, sir”.

“Well forget it. Go and water the grass on the bunkers.”

“Yes sir!”

Edited – Ed

World order...how very accurate this could be.

In the year 2020, the Indian Prime Minister, the King of Saudi Arabia, the President of Indonesia and the Prime Minister of China, were in a discussion during a dinner party. This was overheard:-

The Indian Prime Minister: “India’s fast growing heavy industries makes us have a large fortune...so we are thinking about going to buy Citibank and Bank of America.”

The King of Saudi Arabia: “with the increase of world oil price, it makes my country very wealthy and cash rich. We are thinking about buying General Motors and the Ford Motor Co.”
The President of Indonesia: “Indonesia is a fabulously rich country. We intend to purchase Microsoft and Google.”

They then all waited for the Prime Minister of China to speak.

The Prime Minister of China drinks his green tea, refills the cup from the teapot and neatly puts it back on the table, takes another sip of his tea, looks at them in the eye, and casually says..

“We’re not selling.”

_Food for thought and a shiver at the realization that this is already happening. Ed_

‘COSTA CONCORDIA’ – the final moments

On Friday 13 January 2012, the Italian cruise ship, the ‘Costa Concordia’ left Civitavecchia at 7.33pm local time, sailing towards the island of Giglio. The ship was set on a computer programmed course which it had done several times before. Captain Francisco Schettino was the man in charge of a crew of 1023 personnel and 3206 passengers.

Time: 9.44pm: The Costa Concordia increased speed as it approached Le Scola point. The ship was traveling at a speed of about 16 knots when it was 300 meters from a reef. The point of impact was in about 8 meters of water and 10 meters away from a large rock outcrop jutting out of the sea some 30 meters from the shoreline of Isola de Giglio.

Time: 9.45pm: Speed reduced to 8 knots. Collision with the rock unavoidable. The Concordia turned hard left to avoid damage being done to the port side. It was at this point that the ship probably lost power and switched to back-up power.

Time: 9.48pm: The Concordia turned right out towards open water. In order to slow it down normally, the ship would reverse engines, but with no power at this point, the Captain ordered hard right rudder.

Time: 9.50pm: The back of Concordia finally struck the reef at Gabbianara point swinging the front of the ship to the right and pinning it against the rocks.

Capt. Schettino said after he was arrested, “I was navigating by sight because I knew the depths well and had done this manoeuvre three or four times before...but this time, I ordered the turn too late and I ended up in water that was too shallow. I don’t know why it happened. I was a victim of my instincts.”
Time: 10.26pm: When responding to a Coast Guard official on the scene, Capt. Schettino reported that the ship was damaged but that all they needed was a tug boat. It was later recorded that some of the crew had been ordered not to report an emergency situation to the Coast Guard.

Allegations have also been made that the Captain ordered the ships speed to be slowed down so that he “could finish his dinner in peace.” He then ordered the ships’ speed to be increased to 16 knots again so as to perform a ‘salute’ to an old colleague on the island. This decision was made by Capt. Schettino despite the proximity of obstacles, shallow water and the conditions under which the ship had to manoeuvre.

It was later established that Capt. Schettino had deviated from the ships computer-programmed course so as to treat people on Giglio island to the spectacle of a ‘close sail-by’ also known as a ‘near shore salute.’

When the ship hit the reef off Isola del Giglio, it immediately started taking in water flooding the engine room and generators and causing the ship to drift and list for more than an hour before running aground.

Costa Concordia – some specifications.

- *length 290 meters or 952 feet long.
- *cost to build: $US600 million.
- *beam - 36 meters
- *draft - 8 meters
- *gross tonnage - 114,500
- *decks - 17
- *power 12 cylinder Wartsila engine
- *top speed - 23 knots.

Of course, it wasn’t very long before ‘Concordia’ jokes came out.

A man phones a hobby shop.

“Have you any models of Italian cruise ships?”

Shop manager replies, “Yes, we do, in fact we have only one left.”

Caller, “Can you put it on one side for me?”

HELGA’S DIARY ON A CRUISE SHIP.

Dear diary: Day 1: All packed for the cruise - all my nicest dresses, swimsuits, shorts. Really, really excited! Our local Red Hat Chapter, ‘The Late Bloomers’ decided on this
Dear diary: Day 2: Entire day at sea, beautiful. Saw whales and dolphins. Met the Captain today—he seems like a very nice man.

Dear diary: Day 3: At the pool today. Did some shuffleboard and hit golf balls off the deck. Captain invited me to join him at his table for dinner. Felt honoured and had a wonderful time. He is very attractive and attentive.

Dear diary: Day 4: Won $800.00 in the ships casino. Captain asked me to have dinner with him in his private cabin. Had a scrumptious meal, complete with caviar and champagne. He asked me to stay the night, but I declined and told him that I cold not be unfaithful to my husband.

Dear diary: Day 5: Pool again today. Got sunburned so I went inside to drink at a piano bar. Stayed there for the rest of the day. Captain saw me, bought me several large drinks. Again he asked me to visit him in his cabin for the night. Again, I declined. He told me that if I didn’t let him have his way with me, he would sink the ship… I was shocked!

Dear diary: Day 6: Today I saved 2,600 lives. Twice.

COURT SCENES

It must be hard keeping a straight face as Court reporter, but the following are taken from a book called ‘Disorder in the American Courts’ and are things that people actually said in court, recorded word for word……

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, ‘Where am I Cathy?’

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

☺

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: You got to be kidding!

😊

A little closer to home…..

A young police officer was taking his final exam at Police College in Zambia. Here is one of the questions:
You are on patrol in the outskirts of Lusaka when an explosion occurs in a nearby township. On investigation you find a large hole has been blown in the footpath and there is an overturned van lying nearby. Inside the van there is a strong smell of alcohol. Both occupants - a man and woman - are injured. You recognise the woman as the wife of your Divisional Inspector, who is at present away on a peace making mission. A passing motorist stops to offer you assistance and you realise that he is a man who is wanted for armed robbery. Suddenly a man runs out of a nearby house, shouting that his wife is expecting a baby and that the shock of the explosion has made the birth imminent. Another man is crying for help, having been blown into an adjacent dam by the explosion, and he cannot swim.

Describe in a few words what action you would take.

The officer thought for a moment, picked up his pen, and wrote:

'I would take off my uniform and mingle with the crowd.'

[Thank you for your contribution Maureen. - Ed]

+++++++++++++++++++++++

Here's a new word [to me, anyway, Ed] that has a ring of familiarity to it........

Ineptocracy (in-ep-toe'-ra-cy) - a system of government where the least capable to lead are elected by the least capable of producing, and where the members of society least likely to sustain themselves or succeed, are rewarded with goods and services paid for by the confiscated wealth of a diminishing number of producers.

THE DEATH OF SOUTH AFRICA’S MINES

There are many microcosm of decay that one can use as examples of the decay of the macrocosm of South Africa. In many respects the booming of South Africa’s mining industry and its current decay under the ANC’s BEE system is a microcosm of the booming of the Republic of South Africa under Apartheid and its decay under the ANC Marxist terrorist regime.

During the first half of the 20th century, gold was discovered on several farms south of the Freestate town of Odendaalsrus. After the Second World War, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer and his Anglo American Corporation, the progenitor of Anglo Gold bought up all the prospecting rights in the area and decided to mine the richest gold find in the history of South Africa.

Prices of property in Odendaalsrus
skyrocketed so Sir Ernest Oppenheimer decided that he would build his own town for his miners instead of paying the exorbitant prices in Odendaalsrus. He drove 20km south and climbed a hill called “Koppie-alleen” (Hill alone) and looked down on the plains where his mines would be and decided to build a town from scratch called “Welkom”, named after the farm where the gold was first discovered. The people of Odendaalsrus were upset and took him to court objecting to the new town. Ernest Oppenheimer’s lawyer was Abram (Bram) Fischer, an Afrikaner Communist and Anti Apartheid activist that would later defend Nelson Mandela at the Rivonia trial. Fischer was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and travelled to the Soviet Union in 1932. He was also later awarded the Lenin Peace Prize (1966) the Soviet equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize. The prize was normally awarded to prominent Communists who were not Soviet citizens. Fischer, incidentally, was married to Molly Krige, the niece of liberal Boer General Jan Smuts. She was also a staunch Communist. Nevertheless, in 1947 the Provincial council issued Oppenheimer with the birth certificate of the town of Welkom. In his mind Oppenheimer envisioned a beautiful garden city with broad streets. He commissioned the design of Welkom to leading town planner William Backhouse and landscape gardener Joane Prim. For Backhouse the design of a town from scratch was a dream came true. Space was not a problem on the Freestate plains, so he designed the streets broad with no traffic lights, only roundabouts, to keep the traffic flowing…and no high-rise buildings. In the centre of Town he wanted a Roman Forum with a square where town folk could gather. It was surrounded by a horseshoe shaped road of 75metres wide, known affectionately by the town people as the “Hoefie” short for the Afrikaans word “hoefyster” meaning horseshoe. Sports clubs, golf clubs, olympic swimming pools, cinemas, theatres, hospitals, parks, schools, a technical college and an airport was built…all with the riches of the gold below the soil. The town attracted people from all over South Africa. Money was flowing, salaries were high. By the 1970’s Anglo Gold was operating six massive mines with 22 deep level shafts in which 122,000 people worked. The mines of Welkom were producing 35% of South Africa’s gold, which in turn was producing 75% of the world’s gold. Everyone was driving a new car at least every year. They would say that when the ashtray was full, it was time to buy a new car. The “hoefie” gave rise to the hot-rod culture of Welkom where young men would drive around at night showing off their new Ford Cortinas with eagles painted on the bonnets and flames on the sides, fur on the dashboard and plastic oranges on the radio antennae. This culture also gave rise to the building of a Grand Prix racing track at Welkom. Times were good for blue collar whites.
Even in the nearby black township of Thabong and the coloured township of Bronville, the living standards were very high. But then the ANC took over in 1994, mostly with the help of the Oppenheimers and J.P. Morgan who founded Anglo American Corporation in 1917. Hardly have the ANC communists taken over or they wanted not only a cut of the pie from the mining industry, but the whole thing. Black Economic Empowerment was introduced and mines had to give away half of their assets to black ANC members. For Anglo American Corporation the writing was on the wall and before they could lose everything, they merged with Minorco in 1999 and moved their assets to London. In the last 10-15 years more than 100,000 jobs have been lost in Welkom. The skip wheels of the mines are not turning anymore and the noise of the mines as well as the hot-rods have fallen silent. The ziggurat-like walls of the slime dams next to the R73 road is the last remnants of a once thriving mining industry.

Today, the mines are in the hands of BEE companies and being plundered for scrap metal. The municipality of Matjabeng is run by the ANC. In June 2011 it came into prominence as one of the worst examples of ANC corruption and misrule. How a small town blew R2bn on dodgy deals. Most of the whites have left Welkom. Blacks make up 90% of the population and whites 8%. To say that the town is a shadow of its former self is an overstatement. The decay is obvious everywhere and it is fast becoming a ghost town. 1500 staff houses at the mines are standing empty. Even churches have closed their doors. The remaining whites in the area, mostly farmers are struggling under stock theft and brutal farm attacks, tortures and murders. Elsewhere it is not going any better. The Aurora mine at Grootvlei, which is owned by the Zuma and Mandela families and at one stage employed 5000 workers now have less than 200. Aurora is now a ghost town. On the 8th of May 2011 in a Carte Blanche TV show, it was revealed that Cosatu calls the owners of Aurora (Zuma and Mandela) “Super exploiters”...

If there is an abyss of desperation these men at the hostels are in it. At Grootvlei near Springs, the water and electricity has been cut, the toilets are a shock. On good days they have hot food.

Two hours drive to the west is the Orkney mine in Klerksdorp. There is an inescapable feeling of sadness here. Cooking pots are empty here too. Ntsani Mohapi has been on the mine since the mid '70s, he should be in line for a pension but that is all gone now. There are people who are crying, there are people who are dying because we deal with people who are lying.” As things stand hundreds of miners are still in limbo; millions are outstanding in salaries. Wives have left husbands, children have dropped out of school, people have been blacklisted. They can't even claim UIF. The allegations against Aurora's directors are damning: since they took over the Pamodzi
mines in 2009, which were fully operational at the time, they have been accused of not paying salaries, making endless broken promises, misappropriating UIF and pension fund money and stripping assets of mines they haven’t paid for. Source Carte Blanche. Even the BBC has extensively reported on how the Zuma and Mandela families exploit their workers and treat them worse than dogs. While the Zuma and Mandela family members grow rich and fat, they do not pay their starving workers, which effectively makes them slave owners. Is this the “Freedom” Mandela and Zuma spoke about and fought for? They were not Freedom Fighters. They were not fighting for the Freedom of the people, rather for the enslavement of the people under a communist yoke.

The Grootvlei mine now stands in ruins. What could not be stolen and sold for scrap is cut up and sold to Chinese state-owned mining company Shandong Gold. The white foreman at Aurora can only watch as the looting of the mine continues. This is the same ANC who wants to nationalize the mines, the banks and the farms. Can you even imagine the utter enslavement of blacks, the dilapidation and ruin of South Africa that will follow? As the rivers of gold and other critical minerals that once flowed from South Africa dries up one after the other due to BEE and nationalisation, the world and especially the Oppenheimer will long back to the good old days when the whites were in charge of South Africa and they were making their fortunes. The day will still come that they will realize that they might have betted on the wrong horse. As the blacks are being more and more impoverished by their ANC masters and South Africa driven into a starving Zimbabwe like state, the day will still come that Blacks will miss and long back for Apartheid. Nevertheless, those who have let the genie out of the bottle will have to put him back again.

Main Source: Beyond the Miracle: Inside the New South Africa. Alister Sparks. 2003. Page 239-246

Not necessarily the views of our association.

Ed.

SENILITY

I’ve sure gotten old! I’ve had two by-pass surgeries, a hip replacement, a new knee, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I’m half blind, can’t hear anything softer than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded and subject to blackouts.

I have bouts with dementia; have poor circulation and hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can’t remember if I’m 89 or 98;
have lost all my friends. But, thank goodness, I still have my drivers licence!.  

[If you've read this before somewhere, maybe even in this magazine, bear with me; we're not getting any younger - Ed]

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: INFORMATION SOUGHT.

Lewis Walter E-mail address: lewiswalter@xsinet.co.za has sent us a request for any information regarding the following ex-member of the Rhodesian Air Force.

John Campbell Atkinson. He joined the Royal Rhodesian Air Force in September 1940 and trained at 20 & 25 EFT's in Salisbury. In May 1941 he attended the 61st Training School in South Africa. He was later sent to Britain where he became a member of 86 Squadron of the RAF. His Force No. was 778335. On 24 July 1942, he and his entire 3 man crew were killed in an air crash in Cornwall.

The Council and community of Camborne, where John was based want to hold a memorial service in July this year to mark the 70th Anniversary of the deaths of John and his crew.

If anyone has any information regarding John Campbell Atkinson, please contact Lewis Walter directly at the E-mail address provided. ED

Being Saint Patricks’ Day this month, 17 March, I thought it would be appropriate to include 6 very funny Irish jokes - Ed.

Winging his way to America from Ireland, Father O'Leary asked a stewardess, "How high is this plane, Miss?" The stewardess replied, "About thirty-two thousand feet, Father." The Father's jaw dropped in amazement. "Who'd have believed it? And could ye tell me how wide it is?"

Two Irishmen were walking home after a night on the beer when a severed head rolled along the ground. Mick picked it up to his face and said to Paddy "Jez, that look like Sean" to which Paddy replied "No Sean was taller than that"

Did you hear about the Irishman who was stranded for an hour when the escalator broke down?

Murphy took his car to the mechanic, who told him he needed a new muffler. He went straight home and asked his wife to knit him one.

Did you hear about the Irishman who was tap dancing? He broke his ankle when he fell into the sink.
Have a laugh! There were only 5 jokes - Ed

The Irish are renowned for their sense of humour and ability to laugh at themselves...here- with an abridged Irish Medical Dictionary:

Artery: The study of art.
Barium: What to do when a patient dies.
Cat scan: Looking for kitty.
Dilate: To live longer
Enema: Not a friend.
Impotent: Distinguished, well known.

Finally, no Saint Patrick’s Day celebration would be complete without someone, most probably a well-Guinessed Irishman, serenading the pub with a rendition of ‘Danny Boy.’ The words to ‘Danny Boy’ were written by English lawyer and lyricist Frederick Weatherly in 1910. Although the lyrics were originally written for a different tune, Weatherly modified them to fit the ‘Londonderry Air’. In 1913, Weatherly gave the song to vocalist Elsie Griffin who made it one of the most popular songs of the new century. ‘Danny Boy’ is considered to be an unofficial song and anthem, particularly to Irish Americans and Irish Canadians.

There are various theories as to the true meaning of ‘Danny Boy’. Some listeners have interpreted the song to be a message from a parent to a son going off to war, or leaving the mother-land to join the Irish diaspora. Personally, I like to go with the speculation that it’s a love song, from a female lover of a young soldier leaving for war. I’ve chosen the words as sung by Johnny Cash. ED.

Oh Danny Boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling,
From glen to glen, and down the mountain side;
The summers gone and all the roses falling,
It’s you, it’s you, must go and I must bide.

But come ye back when summers in the meadow,
Or when the valley’s hushed and white with snow,
I’ll be here in sunshine or in shadow, Danny Boy, oh Danny Boy, I love you so.

But if you come and all the flowers are dying,
If I am dead, as dead I well may be.
You’ll come and find the place where I am lying,
And kneel and say an ‘Ave there for me.

And I will know ‘though soft ye tread around me,
And then my grave shall richer, sweeter be.
Then you'll bend down and tell me that you love me,
And I shall rest in peace until you come to me.

TRANSVAAL BRANCH COMMITTEE CONTACT NUMBERS.

Chairman – Barry Enslin
barryenslin@worldonline.co.za Cell: 082 9734144 Tel: [011]3157819.

Vice Chairman – John Pirrett
jep@pirrett.co.za Cell: 083 3104849 Tel: [011]7813562 Fax: [011]7877419

Treasurer – Maureen Merrifield.
Maureen@dentalwarehouse.co.za Cell: 082 8592364 Tel: [011]7199058 Fax: 086 5109745

Secretary – Dick Glanville
dickg@telkomsa.net Cell: 082 7391432 Tel: [011] 477-2793

Editor – Craig Viljoen
chobehts@yahoo.com Cell: 079 0328169 Fax: 086 6459673

Memorabilia – Dave Holmes
oldseadog@telkomsa.net Cell: 083 2532194 Tel: [011]6152232

Almoner – Dick Latilla
latillagroup@mweb.co.za Cell: 082 8926590 Tel: [011]6157684 Fax: [011]6157685

Member – Peter Allan
theallans@mweb.co.za Cell: 082 2929780 Tel: [011]8462019

Member – Ashley Collins
ashmor@telkomsa.net Cell: 082 6536096 Tel: [011]4520862 Fax: [011]4520862

Member – Ian Duncan
ijduncan@oldmutualpfa.com Cell: 073 2595688 Tel: [011]3057127 Fax: [011]3057020

Member – Glenn Macaskill
glennallanmacaskill@gmail.com Cell: 073 0688162 Tel: [011]7949063

Member – Brian Peach
Cell: 082 4554368 Tel: [011] 4658494

************************************

Transvaal Outpost
The following article is an extract from the 'Msasa Mail’ January 2012 edition. I have included it here as it may be of interest to any of our readers who may still have contacts or connections with the RLI. It’s another example of how Rhodesians across the globe remain united and to those who served in the
Security Forces, steadfastly loyal to their respective Regiments

Rhodesians to lead Anzac Day parade

Extracted by ORAFS from Sunshine Coast Daily, Queensland, Australia.

Former Rhodesians will lead one of the Sunshine Coast’s biggest Anzac Day parade ceremonies this year.

The Coolum-Beach RSL Sub-branch has invited members of the Rhodesian Light Infantry to take the first steps forward in the annual march [25 April 2012].

About 50 people from the African country now called Zimbabwe are expected to travel to the Sunshine Coast to join in.

Sub-branch president Bill Powell said the Anzac parade acknowledged all those who fought in the services, not just Australians and New Zealanders.

“There are no Anzacs left now. We were all allies against communism,” he said.

Coolum has also given the Rhodesian Queens Colours (sic) a new home.

“When Mugabe took over, he would have burnt their colours. The Queen issues a flag called colours [sic], it’s a prestige thing,” Mr Powell said.

“The Queens Colours were taken by these men (former Rhodesians) to Australia as otherwise there would have been no home for them.

“We will be the only RSL in the country to have Queens Colours (sic) in the club.”

The 1st Battalion The Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI) was formed on February 1, 1961. It was nicknamed The Saints or The Incredibles. In its short 19-year existence, the commando airborne unit carved a reputation as one of the world’s foremost proponents of counter-insurgency warfare through internal “fireforce” operation sand daring pre-emptive strikes against the overwhelming tide of the communist-backed guerrillas of Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo based in Mozambique and Zambia.

For these reasons, Charles D. Melson of the United States Marine Corps has described the RLI as “the Killing Machine”. The Rhodesian “bush war” reached its climax in 1980 and the country became Zimbabwe.

The men of the RLI had won all their battles, but had lost the war - and their country - and the weary veterans drifted away.

Many of the veterans have made their home in Australia.

Rhodesian Light Infantry spokesman Andy Tattam said the group had marched in parades all over the country, but had been “homeless” until now.

“Leading the parade is a great honour,” he said. “We are all excited about coming to the event.”

TAILPIECE

AFTERMATH by Siegried Sassoon

Have you forgotten yet?…….

For the worlds’ events have rumbled on since those gagged days, like traffic checked awhile at the crossing of city ways.
And the haunted gap in your mind has filled with thoughts that flow like clouds in the lit heaven of life; and you’re a man reprieved to go, taking your peaceful share of Time with joy to spare.

_But the past is just the same – and war’s a bloody game...have you forgotten yet? Look down, and swear by the slain of War that you’ll never forget._

Do you remember the dark months you held the sector at Mametz – the nights you watched and wired and dug and piled sandbags on parapets?

Do you remember the rats and the stench, of corpses rotting in front of the front-line trench- and dawn coming, dirty white and chill with a hopeless rain? Do you ever stop and ask, “Is it all going to happen again?”

Do you remember that hour of din before the attack – and the anger, the blind compassion that seized and shook you then as you peered at the doomed and haggard faces of your men?

Do you remember the stretcher cases lurching back with dying eyes and lolling heads – those ashen-grey masks of the lads who once were keen and kind and gay?

_Have you forgotten yet?....... Look up, and swear by the green of the spring, that you’ll never forget._