Contents

Chairman’s Chat  2
Buckingham Palace  3
Editor’s Epistle  4
BSAP Regimental Dinner 2012  5 & 6
Outpost Style  6
Asides  7
The Almoner Thinks / Whereabouts Wanted  8
Stock Price List 2012  9
Advertise in the UK Outpost / HonSec. Bleat  10
Centenary / Mass Bicycle Transporter  11
VSC Gatherings  12
Regimental Draw  13
Minutes of the 2012 AGM and Accounts  14
South West Gathering  23
North West Meetings  24
History Section  25
Photo Gallery  28
So Far & So Good (advert)  29
Sixty Years On  30
Fifty Years On / Annual Irish Gathering  31
Diary Dates  32
New Members and Change of Address / Early XB Liaison c.1960  33
Your Letters  34
Live Some For Me (conclusion)  37
One Man and a River  38
Michael John Harlow - Killed In Action  40
The Second Scottish Gathering  47
True Reports from British Newspapers, etc.  50
Pen Picture - Bertram Blakiston Cubitt  51
Obituaries  52
Lummy Lumholst-Smith, The Singing Detective  55
BSAP Association (Officers and Contacts)  57
The Chairman’s Chat

I make no apology for cribbing much of what I wrote at this time last year following the AGM, representation at which amounted to some 6% of the membership. I would so love to see 10% attendance, at least, before I retire. The minutes of the AGM, including my report, appear elsewhere in this edition so I won’t bore you with repetition. The committee remains as was for a further year.

At the moment it is very much situation normal with our usual activities of the Braai, Regimental Dinner, Christmas function, regional functions and first Tuesday gatherings, all being supported by the regulars. As I mentioned in my report to the AGM, 2013 sees the centenary of the Regimental Association. I challenged the rest of the world to hold an appropriate function but regretfully we have been underwhelmed by the response. We may, therefore, have an additional function next year but I can’t give you any detail at this stage.

Believe it or not, our membership continues to increase, albeit slightly. As I said in the last edition, what does concern me is the number of ex-members who enjoy contact via cyberspace; if you know of any, do please encourage them to come into the fold.

I was delighted recently to attend the second gathering of the Scottish Region. This was, again, well organised by Steve Acornley and Nigel Seaward who are to be thoroughly congratulated. It was so nice to meet up with members who, understandably, we do not see regularly at meetings elsewhere. The future looks good north of the border. It was also good to see the number of members who made the trip from down south. We now have Scottish and Irish gatherings. Following my challenge last year, one of our members in Wales kindly undertook to at least look at the possibility of a gathering that side of the Severn. It appears that our Welsh members are a fairly disparate bunch and distance seems to make this a non-starter for the moment.

Finally, as you will see from the AGM report, I gave the meeting notice that, after 25 years on this committee, half of which as Chairman, I believe it is time I stood down. I am quite serious in this and hope that you will all give thought to who should be your next Chairman in time for next year’s AGM.

6905 Peter Phillips

A truck driver was driving along on a country road. A sign came up that read ‘Low Bridge Ahead.’ Before he realised it, the bridge was directly ahead and he got stuck under it. Cars were backed up for miles. Finally, a police car arrived and the policeman got out of his car and walked to the truck’s cab and said to the driver, ‘Got stuck, eh?’ The truck driver said, ‘No, I was delivering this bridge and I ran out of diesel!’
Buckingham Palace

HM The Queen’s response to the Loyal Greetings sent to HM by the BSAP Association

I send you my grateful thanks for the words of loyalty and support which you have so kindly sent on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of my Accession to the Throne.

ELIZABETH R

2012
There have been requests by members for greater flexibility for adverts in The Outpost. The committee has agreed that adverts be accepted for one, two or more issues, and also, small ads of one-eighth of a page and priced by number of words. This gives the opportunity to advertise things such as holiday lets, items for sale and B&B accommodation; details on page 10. The administration of this will continue in the usual capable hands of Bertie Cubitt. Details on page 57.

The information about the Regimental Dinner is on pages 6 and 7 and not within the two central pages as previously.

There is a short corollary on page 30, to the photograph (one of the seven of Fred P) on page 13 of issue 80. It is one of a number I have received about those first steps towards the adventure of the BSAP by British recruits. This one by Murray Hammond, is of interest as it spanned the accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II, 60 years ago. Prior to September 1962 all British recruits travelled to Rhodesia by Union Castle mail ship and enjoyed (suffered?) a three day rail journey from Capetown to Depot. Two of the original members of my squad (2 & 3/62 - we were a composite squad), after enduring the traditional initiation, refused to attest and were flown back to Britain. Later that year, others refused to attest and were repatriated, and I believe another was so badly injured, that he was unfit for service and invalided out before he had attested. The initiations were banned, coincidentally, subsequent recruits were flown direct to Salisbury. Ian Cochrane has provided a short account of the first recruits who flew direct to Salisbury.

I have responded to Fred Punter’s letter (see page 34 - another mention!) requesting text be justified, on page 7.

Interesting and informative newsletters have been received from Natal, Transvaal and Australia branches and these may be viewed on the Association website.

Your hard copy of The Outpost is delivered in monochrome, but you can view it in glorious colour on the BSAP website, or, if you prefer you may have your copy sent electronically. Contact the Asst HonSec. to receive your electronic copy.

I would like to thank Alan Lane again for supplying the great majority of photographs, particularly those at the VSC, as well as commentary, and the Photo Gallery.

6609 Parry Jones

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Corrections and Comments

Issue 80, page 20 the guest’s name was incorrectly given as Dave Doyle, when of course, it was 8199 Bugs Moran. Sorry Bugs.

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6736 Ian COCHRANE - Squad 10/62
BSAP Regimental Dinner 2012
United Kingdom Branch of The BSAP Regimental Association

The Carisbrooke Hall, Victory Services Club,
Seymour Street, London W2 2HF
Telephone 020 7723 4474
For members of the BSAP Regimental Association,
ex-members of the BSAP (Regular or Reserve) and their guests.
Friday 28 September 2012

Guest Speaker
His Honour Judge Robert Hardy (retd)

Programme
17:30 hrs Reception
19:00 hrs Mess Call
19:15 hrs Dinner

Dinner jacket with miniatures
Dark lounge suit with full medals will be acceptable.

Cost £28.00 per person No concessions. All drinks to members’ own account.
If you do not specify a dietary option, you will be served the standard meal.

Accommodation arrangements may be made direct with the Victory Services Club, mentioning attendance at this function, e-mail <res@vsc.co.uk>

An application form is on page 7, which should be sent with your payment to Parry Jones, 18 Roman Way, Thrapston, Northants NN14 4TE.

Bookings will close at 12:00 hrs on 16 September 2012. Tickets are not essential, but if you insist you want one, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.
If you want confirmation of your application having been received send an e-mail to <hipj@hotmail.co.uk> or phone Parry (01832 732668) five or more days after you have sent the application.

6925 Dave DARBY
BSAP Regimental Dinner Application

Please reserve tickets for me

number Regtl number name

I enclose my cheque (payable to BSAP Association) for £. Please do not include payments for the raffle.

I require dietary option.
Endorse the number required, and, if a dietary option, specify below.

Please endorse the name(s) of your guests here.

Outpost Style

Fred Punter has asked that text be fully justified, i.e. in which the text is evenly spread over the line so that both edges are aligned. This can cause irregular spacing within the line, creating holes in the text, and making it less easy to read.

S 21 of the Disability Discrimination Act makes it obligatory to meet the needs of visually impaired readers. I have taken on board guidelines from the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) best practice. I use a minimum 10 point font without serifs. Underlining and italics are not recommended as these are considered more difficult to read. For the same reason left justification is the preferred option, allowing the reader to know exactly where the next line starts.

Centre justification is used for headings and sub-headings and sometimes for extra emphasis on notices. Right justification is used for acknowledgement of authors at the end of a piece. Bold font is sparingly used for emphasis.

Of course, readers who receive an electronic copy have the ability to adjust the font and picture size to suit their needs.

I pointed to two old drunks sitting across the bar from us and told my friend ‘That's us in ten years’. He said ‘That's a mirror, dip-stick’.

6925 Dave DARBY
Asides

A mechanic was removing the cylinder heads from the engine of a car when he spotted the owner, a well known heart surgeon, who was waiting for the service manager. The mechanic shouted across the garage, ‘Hi Doc. Come over here for a minute.’
The surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic who straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, ‘So doc, look at this. I also open hearts, take valves out, grind 'em, put in new parts, and when I finish, they work as new. So how come you get the big money, when you & me is doing basically the same work?’
The surgeon whispered to the mechanic, ‘Try doing it while the engine is running’.

Having just moved into his office in a new Provincial HQ, a newly promoted Assistant Commissioner was sitting at his desk when a SSO knocked on the door. Very conscious of his new position, the Ass. Comm. quickly picked up the phone, told the SSO to enter, then said into the phone, ‘Yes, sir, I'll be seeing him this afternoon and I'll pass along your message. In the meantime, thank you for your good wishes, sir.’ Feeling as though he had sufficiently impressed the young SSO, he brusquely asked, ‘What do you want?’
‘Nothing important, sir,’ the SSO replied, ‘I'm from Signals and am just here to connect your telephone.’

Some airfields have both civilian and military aircraft. One day the control tower received a call from an aircraft asking, ‘What time is it?’
The tower responded, ‘Who is calling?’
The aircraft replied, ‘What difference does it make?’
The tower replied, ‘It makes a lot of difference. If it is a commercial flight, it's 15:00 hours. If it’s Air Force, the big hand is on the twelve and the little hand is on the three. If it's PRAW, it's Friday afternoon and 90 minutes to Happy Hour.'
The Almoner Thinks

Time does pass by quickly - when you're having fun! It has been a while since my last submission, and the number of members willing to help has continued to increase, and we now have 62 Assistant Almoners. I am currently working through our members’ geographical areas so that I can apportion a few members/widows to each Assistant.

During my first year as the Almoner I have become more aware of the need for us to seriously consider the welfare of our members. While it is a sad time when we lose a friend and former colleague, I am more saddened when I discover that the member has been ill for some time and we don’t know.

The increase in the numbers of Assistant Almoners will increase the opportunity for contacting local members, enquiring about their welfare. It is surprising how much can be gained from such contact, so that the Association can react to any needs, and whenever possible, to discreetly and confidentially offer to alleviate unnecessary hardship or financial suffering.

Because of the large number of members, I feel that the 62 Assistants will not be enough for the task in hand. I urge you to consider joining us so that this project may progress, and I will trawl through our nominal roll looking for suitable members. As the saying goes, many hands make light work.

7211 Peter Biddulph
Almoner, UK Branch

If you are able to assist, please contact me on Tel: 01622 812297: Mob: 07986 565079 or E-mail: pwb7211@googlemail.com

Whereabouts Wanted

Information on the Regimental Association's Membership List needs updating. I have been given the task of revising the database of members and associates living in the south west of the country. I request the following to please contact me by Tel: 01278 722095 or E-mail: <quickies@btinternet.com> to provide their contact details.

WFR Marion Rose BISS; PR 15994J Nigel John BISS; (3947) Nancy Marian CALLOW; 8408 Graham Angus CAMPBELL; 9396 Martin Conway CRAGG; (5983) Felicity Ann McMANMON; (7237) Susanna Francis MILLS; 7023 Richard Michael MOSS; 5406 Peter Dale PENNING; 6458 Josiah David ROBINSON; WFR 204556 Caroline Eve WITTS.

6681 Geoff Quick
Stock Price List 2012

Badge, blazer with crown  £12.50
Badge, blazer without crown  £12.50
Tie, BSAP Association, silk  £12.50
Tie, BSAP Centenary  £1.00
Tie, BSAP Regimental, small lion motif  £8.50
Christmas cards, BSAP, pack of five with envelopes  £1.50
146 mm x 114 mm approx. (folded)
Shirt, polo, crested, with crown (state size)  £21.00
Plaque, BSAP, wooden without crown  £25.00
Tankard, glass with crowned badge, and scrolls with number, rank and name inscribed  £20.00
Bookmark, BSAP with Dave Blacker’s The Regiment  £1.00
Book, Blue and Old Gold  £40.00
Book, BSAP Series (new volumes)
   Book 13, Humour in the BSAP  £8.50
   Book 14, Personalities in the BSAP  £8.50
Book, Blondie’s Revenge, by T Grainger  £7.00

Prices are exclusive of post and packing. Cost of postage is available on request to Bertie Cubitt.

Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van because they cannot issue a description. It’s a Special Branch vehicle and they don’t want the public to know what it looks like.
(The Guardian)
**HonSec. Bleat**

With great pride, at the request of Peter Phillips, I wrote to Buckingham Palace and offered our loyal greetings to HM the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee. Subsequently there was a letter, stamped Buckingham Palace, postmarked EII R. It contained a beautiful acknowledgement of the Association’s loyal greetings, which was duly framed and shown to the membership at the AGM. I felt very proud. We have sent copies to all our out stations.

My bleat in the last edition about the 8000s and 9000s has yielded some response. It was pleasing to get a few new applications to join the Association, but the Chairman was right in his report when he indicated that the cyber membership that has grown up is not the same as those meetings that occur on a face-to-face basis – you can’t have a convivial drink over the internet. Come on people, let’s get a membership drive going.

No doubt Peter Biddulph, our Almoner, has a bleat also. The sad part is getting e-mails about the passing of friends and colleagues. Sue and I represented the Association at the funeral of a colleague. What is sad is that this colleague had been ill for some time. Had we been told he was ill and in a hospice, which was not more than an hours’ drive from our homes, Peter and I could have visited him. Please, if there is someone who is seriously ill, let Peter know. We can arrange for a visit from our colleagues through out the UK, and I am sure someone who is ill would welcome a colleague dropping in to say hello and see if we can help.

Till next time, stay well, enjoy the sun and remember the finest Police Force that ever existed. I do.

6001 Alistair Black

And what about our former women members joining our ranks? They can’t have cut all ties. - Ed.
They northwards rode across the land, Mopani forest, scrub and sand. Young troopers fresh from England’s green To take a land few yet had seen. For Queen, for Country and for law Set to inspire a sense of awe For friend and foe alike amaze For these were England’s glorious days.

And when that century had died There followed on a Force of pride The BSAP had had its birth And now was still to prove its worth. Across Rhodesia’s varied lands They held the reins in steady hands. Kept the peace, upheld the law Until there came unwanted war.

We fought to keep what had been won So little time, so little done. To none the faults could we atone None at our backs, we stood alone. With courage, honour, sense of pride

White and Black stood side by side. As did those troopers long before With fortitude our role we bore.

We saw, as they, Zambesi’s dawn The noble sable, lions yawn Watched the jumbo’s ponderous tread The spiralled horns on kudu’s head. The brilliant flash of blue jay’s flight The flying ants round camp fire light. The heavenly glow of setting sun The first impala makes its run.

But in an ever-changing scene Where time erases what has been We watched a land revert and change To values we considered strange. Now all of us can feel with pride The comradeship nought can deride And in our hearts know what is meant Each time we toast, The Regiment.

5483 David Granville BLACKER

Mass Bicycle Transporter
A traffic member’s nightmare, but full marks for the initiative and skill in loading the transporter. No prizes for estimating how many there are.
VSC Gatherings

6 March 2012 – we were a bit crowded out this month when the bar was invaded by members of the Logistics Corps and their wives prior to a reunion or promotion dinner – whatever it was, it was noisy! We were, however, pleased to welcome 5812 Derek Singleton who called in on his way back to Bermuda. Also showing their faces were: 4278 John Balchin, 4840 Mike Purslow, 4882 Peter Dancer, 5248 Alan Lane, 5625 Biff Way, 5469 Dave Grimby, 5507 Brian Taylor, 6527 Mike O’Donnell, 6905 Peter Phillips and guest Ian Stuart.

3 April 2012 – a much cooler evening than expected did not deter the faithful from attending this month’s gathering. Enjoying the company were: 4278 John Balchin, 4735 Cliff Rogers, 4840 Mike Purslow, 4882 Peter Dancer, 5248 Alan Lane, 5507 Brian Taylor, 5625 Biff Way, 6424 Wynne Berry, 6737 Mike Coleman, 6905 Peter Phillips, 7211 Peter Biddulph, 8275 Alastair Morgan, 9270 Geraint Jones and Associate Stephen Morgan.

1 May 2012 – the persistent rain that had been falling for the past month eased during the afternoon for those attending this month. We were able to welcome and entertain PR 14176 Peter and Carol Hambrook on holiday from Sydney, Australia. Putting in an appearance were: 4278 John Balchin, 4840 Mike Purslow, 4853 Fred Punter, 4882 Peter Dancer, 5248 Alan Lane, 5625 Biff Way, 6348 Dennis Poole, 6883 Tim Webb, 4046 Ted Galloway.
5 June 2012 – today being an extra bank holiday for the fourth day of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations with lots happening in London. One wondered what the turnout would be like this month - well attended with members finishing off a hectic day in London with a quiet drink at the VSC, or not so well attended with members staying away from the London crowds. As it turned out it was the latter, but luckily there were a couple of regulars who attended and what a good job they did! They were able to welcome two members from South Africa, 5661 Trevor Wilson from Hillcrest, Natal, who brought along his old school friend, Richard Goodwin and 7751 Alan Crook from Fish Hoek, Cape Province. It was a pleasure to see them both and get the news from South Africa. Entertaining our guests were: 5248 Alan Lane, 6527 Mike O’Donnell and Alan and Lyn Toms.

Regimental Draw

You should find tickets for the draw, which will be drawn at the Regimental Dinner, enclosed with this issue of The Outpost. Please send the stubs with cheque payment only to Mick York, the promoter, at the address shown on the tickets, before 18 September. Please do not send to anyone else. Complete all stubs with your details - name and force number are the minimum requirement. Should you be lucky enough to win, this will identify you and enable the promoter to send your prize. Those who access The Outpost via e-mail will be receiving draw tickets through the post to give you the opportunity to participate. Please support your Association, and good luck.

Thanks and regards.

5358 Mick York

4960 Gerry GIBSON
Minutes of the 2012 AGM and Accounts

British South Africa Police Regimental Association (United Kingdom Branch)
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Victory Services Club, London on Saturday 12 May, 2012 at 11:00hrs.

Present - Chairman - Peter PHILLIPS; Vice Chairman - Alan TOMS; Secretary - Alistair BLACK; Asst Secretary - Bertie CUBITT; Treasurer - Lin ROBERTSON; Almoner - Peter BIDDULPH.

In Attendance - 56 members as per the attached list.

Apolgies - 37 members as per attached list.

Opening - The Chairman opened the meeting by greeting all persons present. He especially welcomed Lord Walker, The BSAP Trust patron and Tim Weimer, The Honorary Vice President of the Association.

Roll of Honour - The Chairman read out the Roll of Honour and called for a period of silence for comrades whom we had been advised had passed away during the previous 12 months.

United Kingdom Branch - 8511 Gerald Douglas ALDERSON; 4629 Arthur Bevan WHITECHURCH; 5634 William Henry ROYLE; 4808 Donald Hugh RUSSELL; 200987 Margaret E. WOODHEAD; 4491 Ralph IRWIN; 5494 Sinclair Henry SUTHERLAND; 4716 Laurence Reginald KING; 7269 Gordon Eric George MURRELL; 6341 Iain William PENFOLD; 5633 Colin OSBORNE; 3385 Lionel Lummy LUMHOLTZ; FR6707 Milton John McGARRICK

Other Branches - 5768 Clive Joseph EVANS; 4016 Eric Donald JONES; 5509 Michael Scouse Anthony JONES; 6522 Patrick Davis CARRUTH; 6942/8465 Dave ELDER; 9463 Clive Richard BODDY, WP314 Angela BOOTHWAY nee Hay; 9890 Richard William DOUGLAS; 5197 Michael John McGUINNESS; 10472 Peter Hercules PALMER; 4521 Phillip Gordon MINGARD; 7564 Phillip William HART; 6496 David Vincent HART-DAVIES; 163163 Graham McCARTHY; 9455 Alexander George MILLER; 7206 Christopher Robin PHILLIPS; 8588 John Bancroft STANDERS; 6271 Harvey Otto WILHELM; 6133/9525 Pieter VAN RENSBURG; 7120 David John TUNNEY; 4200 John William WARE; 5873 Trevor Sydney WRIGHT; 5355 Kenneth John CUTLER; 110945 Steven John McCALLUM; 4537 Andrew Ian YOUNG; 5877 John Angus MACKINNON; 5436 David Thomas CHAMPION; 4988 William John Maxwell CROSSAN; 110627 Stephen Edward CAVANAGH; 4328 Aubrey Carl MASKELL; 12134 Clive HOLMES; 8007 John TILLEY; 4380 Patrick James McCULLOCH; 7874 Ronald Peter ATKINS; 4064 Alan Charles Steve STEPHENS; 7054 Michael John BIRD; WP517 Alexandra Joy EARWOOD; 9322 Ian Grant Brick BRYSON; 4768 Robert Dawson COLQUHOUN; 2222 PR Harold Victor MCKINLEY; 110670 Charles Alberto AZEVEDO

Not Association - Lily BUCHANAN (widow of 4245 Bill BUCHANAN); Kathleen HOWARD (widow of 3923 William Percival HOWARD); Lyn JAMES (wife of 6606 David Taffy JAMES); Joan SANDALL (widow of 4114 Roger SANDALL);

4915 Michael GROOMBRIDGE
Greetings - The following greetings and good wishes for a successful Annual General Meeting were received from The Central Advisory Committee; The Chairman, Committee and members of the Natal Branch; The Chairman, Committee and members of the Matabeleland Branch; the Chairman, Committee and members of the Eastern Cape Branch; the Chairman, Committee and members of the Transvaal Branch; the Chairman, Committee and members of the New Zealand Branch.

Loyal Greetings - The Chairman advised the meeting that the Association had sent Loyal Greetings, on behalf of the United Kingdom Branch and of all the other branches, to HM the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee. He then advised that we had received a gracious acknowledgement and displayed the framed reply from Her Majesty.

Previous Minutes - The minutes of the last meeting held on Saturday 7 May 2011, having been circulated, were taken as read. Acceptance proposed Fred Punter, seconded by Alan Lane and unanimously agreed. The Chairman approved and confirmed them.

Matters Arising - There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Chairman’s Report - Members, We appear to be some forty in number which I think represents only about six per cent of the membership. I make that comment mainly for the benefit of those who have not felt able to attend and who will read this report later, either in The Outpost or on the web. To you who are present, I thank you again for making the effort to be here for what is really the most important meeting of the year.

So herewith my report at the end of my eleventh year in office, which is designed to summarise what has happened during the course of the year, what your committee has been doing and what, if anything, is planned for the future.

Compared with 2010 and The Last Parade the year was somewhat quiet but we couldn’t hope to have another like that. Nevertheless, we have had our regular events. The Regimental Dinner in September, where those present enjoyed entertaining reminiscences from Col. Peter Walton, an artist and historian who, in return for me sending him The Outpost, has made a kind donation to the Association; attendance at the Field of Remembrance in November where Barry Henson was our Ensign to the Colour; the Christmas Sundowner which was made all the more interesting by the fire alert, road closures and general chaos in the area. The staff here coped particularly well in difficult circumstances and duly received our congratulations and thanks afterwards. And, of course, we had the Braai at our new venue in Lilleshall. Regretfully I had to pass on that one but, by all reports, it was well attended, the venue was satisfactory and the occasion was...
enjoyed by all who attended. My congratulations and thanks to all concerned with the organisation of events – particularly our functions secretary, Parry Jones.

To justify my own existence, I am able to report having attended all the above events apart from the Braai. I was also pleased to represent you at the unveiling of the Nyasaland Police Memorial, also at the NMA. This is situated close to ours, indeed, we have Nyasaland on one side, Northern Rhodesia on the other and Hong Kong in close proximity. I was present at the Rhodesian Army Association dinner and was also invited to join them at their AGM for discussions as to the potential for a Combined Rhodesian Memorial, possibly at Alrewas. I, and some of your committee, have mixed feelings on this so it was important I was able to participate. For the first time ever, I believe, I have not attended any funerals during the course of the year. Others have kindly done so and my thanks, again, to those of you who make the effort to attend funerals and give a decent send-off to our members.

I am also pleased that functions have again been held in the North West, South West and Ireland which regretfully I was unable to attend. Our thanks go to Rod Wilson, Dave Kennedy and John Berry for their efforts. I was able to attend the inaugural gathering of our Scottish Region which was a very good event attracting some 80 people. Thanks and congratulations go to Nigel Seaward and Steve Acornley (and their respective spouses) for putting this together and I hope that this year’s event, due in two weeks, will be equally successful. Don’t forget the South West gathering is next Saturday 19 May. Our first-Tuesday gatherings continue to attract both regular members and new faces, but I say again that I still believe that anyone with an 020 phone number, either business or home, has no excuse for not attending from time to time.

Similar events are scheduled for the year ahead. Parry looks forward urgently to your bookings for the Braai; Regional gatherings would welcome your support. The Regimental Dinner is, as usual, on the last Friday in September (28) and I hope you will be interested to hear that His Honour Judge Robert Hardy, recently retired as a Circuit Judge, will be our guest speaker this year (probably better known to some of you as 5803 Bob Hardy who did his three, mostly in Manicaland).

2013 sees the Centenary of the Regimental Association. During the course of last year I threw out a challenge to my fellow branch chairmen indicating that, as UK had organised the Force Centenary celebrations and the Last Parade, we felt it was up to someone else to recognise 2013. The response was underwhelming; Western Cape, under the Chairmanship of Jim Blain, have indicated they could do something in March next year – the Cape being midway between us and the Antipodes and obviously being handy for other South Africa branches. My latest information is that there is not a great deal of enthusiasm being shown so don’t hold your breath. It is looking more likely that branches will make their own arrangements. At the moment we have no plans for a particular celebration over
here, however, if I can obtain the services of a notable for a particular event, that could well change.

I am required to report that your Committee has met on the requisite number of occasions during the course of the year and, as ever, I am so grateful for the efforts and diligence of all the committee members. These people put in a lot of time and effort on behalf of the membership – they and I find it very frustrating that, despite their efforts, only a limited number can be bothered to support the AGM, and no doubt we will be lucky to again reach the figure of 60 who attend the Dinner this year. On a brighter note whilst mentioning committee, you should be aware that your Vice Chairman and Trustee, Alan Toms, completes 25yrs service this year having joined the committee in 1987.

Our finances will be reported on later but I must thank Lin Robertson for her work during the year. Lin was kind enough to step in two years ago but does find that full-time working and running a household does not give her the time she would like to apply to the job. She has, therefore, indicated that she will stand down 12 months hence. The Outpost also maintains its high standard. During the year Mike Abbotts felt the need to stand down as Editor. Mike, you did an excellent job during your tenure and the Association thanks you for your services. Mike has elected to continue in committee service and for this we are grateful. Fortunately, we had that rare beast, a volunteer, in the person of Parry Jones to take over as Editor and our thanks go to him. Alan Lane also gets our thanks for his efforts in this area. We re-arranged the production and distribution of the magazine during the year. Mike Coleman and Bertie Cubitt now have this under their joint wings and appear to have things under control. Our thanks go to both of you.

Whilst in thanks mode I must also mention Mick York who handles our annual raffle and will be after you shortly. Might I also, on his behalf and that of the events organiser, make a plea. It is clearly marked on the raffle tickets that counterfoils and monies should be returned to the promoter i.e. Mick. Please do not send back to Parry with your dinner request or to the HonSec. or Q Rep.

We have welcomed 25 new members during the year but, as ever, we have lost members who have passed on or have just disappeared. Our net gain this year is six members. Those of you who read Chairman’s Chat in The Outpost will have noted my comments about there being two Associations – one physical and one in cyberspace. As a traditionalist I feel this is a very serious state of affairs. No doubt it will be the way of the long-term future but, for the moment, let’s actually enjoy each other’s company from time to time and share the odd chibuli. I recently noted, on Andy Field’s excellent website <www.bsap.org>, that a lot of our colleagues with UK addresses are shown as members, but not members of the branch. Could I implore all of you – if you know of someone out there, get them into the fold. That is the only way that the Association as we know it will survive. Having said that and believing in the old adage ‘if you can’t beat them,
join them’, I should tell you we now have our own branch page on Facebook and have revamped the UK page on <www.bsap.org>.

Ladies and gentlemen, that completes my report other than to thank particularly those of you present and many others for your support over the year. Should the meeting so wish, I am prepared to stand for re-election as Chairman for yet another year but I feel the time has come for someone younger and fitter to now take over. My predecessor did nine years in the Chair, his predecessor seven; I am, therefore, putting you on notice that, at next years AGM, after 12 years as Chairman, you should be looking for a replacement.

Are there any questions? If so I will endeavour to answer them. Since there are no questions can I then have a proposer and seconder for acceptance of my report.

Proposed by Mike Coleman and Seconded by Barry Henson and accepted by the meeting.

**Finance** - The Chairman undertook to present the accounts to the meeting. There was no discussion and the accounts were proposed for acceptance by David Grimbley and seconded by George Glibbery.

**Trustees’ Report** - There was no report this year.

**Almoner’s Report** - At the conclusion of my first year of office I reported that I had encouraged members to support this role and the Association by volunteering to become Assistant Almoners, so that more of our members’ needs will become known by the Association. To this end I have received tremendous support which so far has seen an increase in the number of assistants, from 25 to 61, in all geographical areas of the UK.

My aim is to having early knowledge of members' needs, in the hope that the Association will be able to support them in any way deemed necessary. To initiate this I intend to allocate a number of members to each assistant who will contact those persons, even if it just to say hello, and offer advice or support. It is heart breaking to hear of the death of a member who has been ill for some time prior to his or her passing and the Association knew nothing about it, when support could have been given.

I would like to express my thanks to our previous Almoners – Ted Ayers-Hunt and Dennis Poole, for their wise advice and to the Chairman Peter Phillips and Vice Chairman Alan Toms for their attempts to keep me on the straight and narrow.

Fred Punter proposed and Dick Ray seconded that the Almoner’s report be accepted.

**Election of Officers** - The Chairman advised the meeting that by rotation, he, Alistair Black and Parry Jones, were due to retire but were prepared to offer themselves for re-election. Fred Punter proposed that all three be re-elected en bloc and this was seconded by Alan Lane. There being no further nominations all three members were re-elected.

(2853) Jean ILLINGWORTH - in loving memory of Col. H Jackson
Election of Auditors - The Chairman nominated Tony Granger to continue in the post of Auditor. This was proposed by Brian Pym and Seconded by David Grimbly and accepted by the meeting.

Any Other Business - Mal Thurman advised the meeting that this morning Mike Horner, who had been ill for sometime, had passed away in Kent. The Chairman indicated that his death would be notified in the usual way by the Secretary.

David Grimbly asked about dress order. He pointed out that at the memorial the others present had berets and asked that this be something we should consider. The Chairman replied by indicating that berets were not part of the BSAP uniform and never had been, but he would pursue the matter.

Alan Toms spoke about the DVD project and advised the meeting that all The Outposts from January 1953 through to 1980 have been captured on DVD. It was intended that the Police Review, as it was called, which covers the period 1911 to 1914 would be captured as would others. The intention is to produce three DVDs that will cover all The Outposts and in due course these will be available for sale. It was reported that there were the usual problems with the Zimbabwe Archives and these hopefully would be overcome. Alan took the opportunity of thanking Jim Hazlett and John Berry for their efforts.

Tim Weimer asked if all three discs would be available and this was confirmed they will all be available for sale. The intention was to produce the first one and the others would follow.

A question from the floor asked the Chairman if we had any association with the Metropolitan Police. Apart from very casual contact there was no formal connection with the Metropolitan Police.

Vote of Thanks - John Balchin then rose and proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Committee for all their hard work carried out during the year. This was reciprocated by the members present.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 12.05 hours.

Attendance Register - Lord Michael Walker (Patron); 4158 Tim Weimer; [4180] Jeanne May; 4278 John Balchin; 4503 Derek and Joan Humberstone; 4735 Cliff Rogers; 4809 John Turk; 4819 Brian and Jackie Lay; 4851 Murray Harrison; 4853 Fred Punter; 4882 Peter Dancer; 5027 John Collier; 5075 Dick Ray; 5248 Alan Lane; 5358 Mick York; 5469 Dave Grimbly; 5507 Brian Taylor; 5625 Biff Way; 5651 Phil Nobes; 5662 Barry Henson; 5725 Phil Mead; 5975 Mike and Audrey Abbotts; 6001 Alistair Black; 6123 Brian Pym; 6308 Dan Hughes; 6360 John Moxham; 6432 Chris Roberts; 6479 Ted Ayers-Hunt; 6629 George Glibbery; 6632 Gerry Paxton; 6737 Mike Coleman; 6787 Paddy Finn; 6877 Tich Burgoyne; 6905 Peter Phillips; 7211 Peter Biddulph; 7233 Clive Shelley; 7359 Bertie Cubitt; 7391 Alan Toms; 7418 Colyn James; 7612 Jerry Rickson; 7661 Rod Shelley; 7677 Peter Dewe; 7900 Gordon Greenwood; 8021 Mike Rowley; 8163 Robbie Robertson; 8275 Alastair

(2853) Jean ILLINGWORTH - in loving memory of Col. H Jackson
One of the last initiations in Depot, by Squad 2/62 with new squad 6/62. PTIs are Parry Jones and Crow Croasdell, with Jac van Niekerk as Commandant. New recruits I can identify are Dave Statham, Jock Edie, John Wells, Derek Jewson and Jess Allen. - Ed.

(6772) Mary LANGRAN - in loving memory of Tim Langran
## Income & Expenditure Account 2011

**Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance</td>
<td>770.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrears</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>7172.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raffles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>2117.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>896.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>1593.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costs</td>
<td>2500.00</td>
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<td>Sundries</td>
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<td>Bank Int.</td>
<td>7.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundry Debts</td>
<td>34.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>18.00</td>
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**Expenditure**

<table>
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<th>Functions</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Dinner Costs</td>
<td>2019.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less ticket income</td>
<td>1359.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braai costs</td>
<td>3736.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>3949.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trf to memorial fund</td>
<td>212.81CR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outpost</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>1094.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>1985.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income (Ads&amp;Spons)</td>
<td>1143.00</td>
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<td>Admin Expenses</td>
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<td>Sec/Tres/Almoner/Com</td>
<td>1639.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room Hire</td>
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<td>Stationery</td>
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<td>Sundry Creditors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Admin</td>
<td>319.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7789.62</td>
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</table>

Excess of Income over Expenditure: 858.10

Total Income: 8647.72

Total Expenditure: 8647.72
## Balance Sheet

### 31st December 2011

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stock</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash at bank and in hand</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alliance &amp; Leicester</td>
<td>950.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSBC</td>
<td>16630.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yorkshire Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excess Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>858.10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>25517.24</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES

| Accounts payable                            | 939.83  |
| Memorial Fund shortfall                      | 2466.24 |
| **Reserves**                                 | **22111.17** |
| **Total Liabilities**                        | **25517.24** |

---

Chairman  
Treasurer  
Auditor
South West Gathering

A very happy and loyal gathering of 47 members and guests attended the Cromwell Arms, Bovey Tracey, Devon on the 19 May 2012 for our gathering.

5956 Dave and Cindy KENNEDY, 201279 Heather MILNE, Pat SHAW, 6681 Geoff QUICK, 6509 Don SCARFF, 202956 Hilda OLIVIER and son Peter, 7391 Alan TOMS and wife Lynn, 5349 Peter LANE and wife Ann, Assoc. Barry LENNOX, 4484 Buchan TELFER, 5117 Dick HALL, 11999 George FARDELL, 5279 Gerry MOORES, 4882 Peter DANCER, 5242 Martin HOWELL, 8739 Lin VENTERS, 5856 Peter BRADLEY and wife Margaret, 4709 Ron PETERS and wife Margaret, 3967 Johnny JOHNSTON, 7211 Peter BIDDULPH, 6580 Jim O’TOOLE, 8355 Chris BUTLER and wife Shirley, 5682 Peter BROCK and wife Angela, Guest Peter SHERREN, 6575 Brian COVELEY, 4857 Mike WILTSHIRE and wife Celia, 204556 Caroline WITTS, 5659 Henry ‘Hoppy’ HOPKINS, 4776 Henry MACDONALD, 5515 Martin POWIS and wife Sally, 20962W David VICKERY and wife Lesley, 6657 Keith SAMLER and wife Bev, Guest Tommy TOMPKINS, 6479 Ted AYERS-HUNT, and 4770 Hugh PHILLIPS.

Two committee members breached our no speeches tradition, and, despite the barracking, emphasised the importance of reading The Outpost, and that more volunteer Almoner’s Assistants were required.

Will Cornell in the USA is arranging for supply of Challenge Coins, and Dave Kennedy took orders with the aim of bulk ordering a hundred. One of these coins was included in the raffle, organised again by Heather MILNE, which raised in excess of £130 for the Zimbabwe pensioners – well done Heather.

Our usual relaxed atmosphere prevailed and the stories and drink soon flowed, and the kitchen was stretched to keep up with meals. Quite a few booked in for the night with favourable feedback on comfort and standard.

Our thanks must go to Geoff Quick who continues to locate and invite ex-BSAP, irrespective of Association membership, to our functions. If you have knowledge of anyone hiding in the woodwork please let me know and I will set Geoff on them.

We had a total of 31 apologies from people who, for various reasons, were unable to attend.

Our sympathies go out to 14777 Howard GARBETT who was unable to attend having lost an argument with an angle grinder and injured a hand which may require further surgery. Apparently the grinder is now in a skip - we hope Howard continues to recover and that we see him on 6 October 2012. Please make a note of this date – our next gathering at The Cromwell Arms, Bovey Tracey, Devon. All are Welcome. Howard has PCs as, in the past, he has been known to arrive for the gathering on the next day to find those who have spent the night, checking out.

5956 Dave Kennedy

(6772) Mary LANGRAN - in loving memory of Tim Langran
North West Meetings

March 2012

Only 14 members sat down to lunch at the Feilden’s Arms for our March meeting. We were very pleased to welcome 7211 Peter Biddulph and Maggie who had made the long journey from way down south to be with us. Peter explained the job of Almoner and was keen to recruit some helpers.

I was having one of my off days and spent the majority of the time talking to those next to me and so did not really know what was going on. It was not until I arrived home that I discovered there was a discrepancy at the bar as regards the mess bill. This arose because the pub liked to take all orders and then come around for the money, with a larger group that don't work, and in future we are paying for our meals as we order so as to avoid any confusion. The food is great and compares very well with the Myerscough of old.


June 2012

It has been raining every day and blowing hard most days for months but today the sun was shining - it was warm, bliss at last. Normally we have a braai in June but the weather being as it has I did not arrange one this year and look what happens. At least I have a little more to report this month.

We welcome 6508 Graham and Pat Rogers who arrived in UK 10 months ago from Zim. Graham seems to have spent most of his career in the Sinoia area. If anyone is wondering what happened to Graham Rogers, we've got him!

Another newcomer is 10032 (How is that for a Reg. No?) Stuart Wentzel recently arrived in UK from SA and many other places, I did not get a chance to chat with Stuart but I believe he is in the movie industry as a weapons adviser.

6484 Mike and Hazel Williams joined us on their UK holiday, prior to going off to Scotland for a week or so. Hazel is Val Marsden’s twin sister (I don't think I can cope with two of them) and they had a double wedding way back when.

Those attending: 4933 Rod Wilson, 6508 Graham and Pat Rogers, 6484 Mike and Hazel Williams, (6314) Val Marsden, 203679 Paula Woolley, 7207 Arnold Woolley, 9786 Lance Combrink and growing up daughter Charlotte, 10032 Stuart Wentzel, and 7084 Frank and Margaret Dearden.

Apologies: 4549 Ken and 204504 Dot Stanford Smith. Ken is not at all well and is in a hospice in Runcorn as I write. ( Sadly, Ken has since died although his obituary will not be published until the next issue - Ed.) 8199 Bugs and Tessa Moran, 8307 Flash Firth and 7192 Steve Robins.

(6772) Mary LANGRAN - in loving memory of Tim Langran
History Section

The principal forum of discussion of BSAP History is by the members of the BSAP History Yahoo Group on the web. Items recently discussed were the station history of Fort Rixon; 675 Tpr Thompson who was assegaiied at the Battle of Bembesi, and a letter from 4209 Tpr Julian Birkett describing his experiences in the Wankie Strike of 1948. The letter, which is in Cliff Rogers possession is reprinted herewith.

‘In February 1948 I was stationed at Victoria Falls. My Member i/c, 1/Sgt Bulger Phillips sent me on temporary transfer to Wankie, by m/cycle for two days. The Member i/c was Sub Insp. Sam Weller. The reason I was to assist the Wankie Police was with a two day visit by the Governor of Southern Rhodesia Gen. Sir John Kennedy, who had arrived by special train from Salisbury that afternoon.

To mark the occasion the Governor was to present the African mineworkers with some sort of bonsella, in recognition of their effort during the war years of raising enough money (I believe a tickey a week per African) to purchase a Spitfire for the Rhodesian Air Force.

On the evening I arrived there was a sundowner reception attended by the Mine Management, prominent citizens of Wankie, The Governor, his ADC and entourage and members of the BSAP Wankie. Apart from the Member i/c I can only recall by name 3787 2/Sgt John Peters (an aspiring ballet dancer whose father packed him off to join the BSAP just before the war), 3986 Tpr Pete Taunten, 4043 Tpr Duffield and 4211 Tpr Joe Curtin, but I think there must have been eight or nine European members in total.

After the reception we all repaired to the African miners’ stadium at about 20:00 where there was an enormous gathering, 3-4000 Africans, comprising mine workers and their families of varying different tribes, many of whom came from Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and Bechuanaland as well as other parts of Southern Rhodesia. There were Matabele, Chinyange, Chitazulu as well as Shona and Manicas. There was much dancing, singing, beating of drums and calabashes and playing of zimbees (sic) and bit by bit the atmosphere built up to an incredible air of expectancy. Then followed an ominous silence while His Excellency addressed the assembly in English, which was then translated by three or four interpreters into the various dialects.

Obviously the Africans were expecting something tangible such as an extra few shillings in the monthly pay packet, or perhaps a week’s extra holiday, or at least a beer-drink spread over a few days. When the news finally filtered through that all they were getting was a miserable photograph of Kingy Georgie Sikkies Illuminated Address to be hung in their beer hall the entire stadium erupted into uproar.

The Governor, his ADC and entourage were jostled and pushed and physically abused as they beat a very hasty retreat to their train which had been shunted into one of the colliery sidings adjacent to the main station. By this time the
crowd were enraged and had been stirred to a frenzy, already their blood was up from the drumming and dancing and, as a result, the stoning began and many of the carriage windows were broken. By the grace of God none of the Europeans were seriously hurt but were jostled and booed by the angry crowd as they fled to the safety of the train.

As for the Police, I think there could have only been about nine or ten of us including the Member i/c and Sgt Peters, but we were assisted by about 20 African Police. We carried side arms but no live ammunition as we really could do no more than make our way through the furious mob to the railway siding and feebly try to stop the stoning of the carriages until an engine with steam up could be found to shunt the train off down the main line to a place of safety. Sometime after midnight we were ordered back to the Police Camp and considerably later the crowd dispersed to their various compounds.

The following day began with an all-out strike of the African workforce which was to last for three weeks. Initially there was not a lot that the Wankie Police could do except patrol the roads adjacent to the mine compounds. Police transport was limited to Ford V8 trucks, a vehicle known as a HUC (Heavy Utility Chev.) and a few ex-US Army Jeeps. 1948 was before the advent of the Land Rover. Patrolling went on for a number of days, I remember the daily routine was to drive down the open mine shafts and cover the network of roads underground. The Africans encountered were sullen and quite determined not to go back to work. Very soon Capt. Thatcher came on the scene reinforced by some members of the Bulawayo Town Police. Reinforcements were flown by Dakota from Salisbury, followed by more European Police flown in from Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Eventually the miners were intimidated by this show of strength, normality returned and the strike fizzled out, but as far as I know no concessions were made to the Africans. The various police brought in returned to their units and towards the end of February, I returned to my outstation at Victoria Falls. My thanks to Trooper Taunton for helping to kit me out during my extended stay in Wankie.

On reflection it seems absolutely incredible that the administration in power at that time could have been so naive in their perception of how the African mind (indeed anyone’s mind) functions. How lucky for everyone concerned that no blood was shed in what was a very dangerous and ugly situation. It shows how in those days Europeans were greatly feared or greatly respected, probably both. If you sow the wind, you reap the whirlwind. No wonder the wheel has gone full circle.’

Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe. Albert Einstein
Forthcoming New Book
We were recently delighted to be given access to the photographic collection of 1752 Trooper Francis Graham Elliot which were in his scrapbook in the possession of his daughter-in-law, Liz Elliot of Torquay. There are 59 photos involving the BSAP, starting in 1913.
F G Elliot led an active life, having served in the Royal Navy, the London Fire Brigade, the BSAP (1913 to 1927) and the Permanent Staff Corps. He retired as a Captain in 1942 and died in 1954. He was a crack rifle shot, winning the Southern Rhodesia King’s Medal in 1926. During his police service he took part in the Mobile Column of 1914 to the Limpopo, the 1915 Column to Sesheke, Murray’s Column from 1916 in German East Africa and remained in that theatre until 1918. His photographs range over his passing out parade, his early district police service, the Mobile Columns and German East Africa and his later shooting successes. These photos are of great historical value and the Association plans to incorporate them in a new book in the Books of the BSAP series, together with a number of other articles covering the German East Africa campaign. This will be a companion volume to Murray’s Column, Book 11 in the series. Publication is expected within a few months.
Unless otherwise stated, all photographs on the Photo Gallery are by Alan Lane.
Born on the flat roof of a house in Omdurman, Sudan in 1931, Denis Petmezaki has battled the odds throughout his varied and inspiring life. From London during the Blitz, to the Rhodesian Bush War and the terrors of the Mugabe regime and finally on to Britain and Australia, he has overcome every obstacle.

Available by E-mail: nkosi22@bigpond.com or ring 61 89572 1621 (Western Australia) to order, or write to C. Petmezaki, 250 Alison Street, Mount Helena 6082 Western Australia.

'So Far & So Good' by Denis Charles Petmezaki
Will Yeoman Western Australia News: ‘His prose is elegant; his tone often humorous and self-deprecating, Petmezaki paints a fascinating portrait not just of a successful businessman, family man and member of the British South Africa Police Reserve but of life in pre - and post - independent Rhodesia.’

Review by Dr Douglas Sutherland – Bruce. Swan Magazine, July 2011 ‘So Far & So Good’.
In his delightfully ironic poem The Unknown Citizen WH Auden pens the lines: "When there was peace, he was for peace: when there was war, he went."
Denis writes in an easy conversational tone with amazing attention to detail over Denis's adventures over 3 continents. I commend this book to your attention as a good autobiography, a good window into the recent past and most of all, a book that extols the virtues of the ordinary man, simply doing the best he could with the job in front of him.

Wendy O'Hanlon ‘Acres Australia’ March 2011: It’s like a hand-written letter from an old friend. Denis’ insights on life in Africa and Australia (as an immigrant) make compelling reading – like being a fly on the wall (complete with a glossary). This is an intelligent, insightful, emotional work worthy of a reader’s attention.

John Morrow - ‘Pick of the week’: I feel pleased for his future generations that he has written his story - it will serve as a legacy to them all that a world different from their own did exist.

Kate Burnside: This book of zest is fire in the belly stuff for anyone who has had to overcome obstacles in life. For those who need to turn disaster into some form of good or benefit, this man of courage will be a true inspiration.
Sixty Years On

On 24 January 1952, ten young men started a voyage to Africa to join the BSAP and were met by the recruiting officer, Captain Killick, on board the RMS Stirling Castle, at Southampton Docks. Two members of our group had already seen service; Brendan Brennan had served in the RUC and Jim Davey in the army. The journey would be familiar to all recruits from UK pre-September 1962. It was a rough voyage through the Bay of Biscay to Madeira, where we anchored in the bay and went ashore; a brief tour (no doubt of the many Madeira wine merchants with free samples – Ed.) and then watched small boys diving for coins thrown in by the passengers. The boys would not dive for copper, only silver coins. The rest of the ten days to Capetown were calm seas, deck sports, crossing the line ceremony and generally having a great time.

On our last day at sea it was announced that King George VI had died and so there was no end-of-voyage partying.

The next morning we arrived in Capetown and I shall never forget my first sight of the beauty of Table Mountain silhouetted against the African dawn.

I was met in Capetown by a family friend (my family having lived in Southern Rhodesia in the 1920s) and taken to Seapoint for lunch at Arthur’s Seat.

That afternoon we boarded the train and set off on a three-day journey, passing through Kimberly, Mafeking, Mahalapye, Francistown and Bulawayo, where we changed trains for Salisbury. Early Sunday morning we crossed the Hunyani River where a new dam had been built, but heavy rains had filled it more quickly than expected, and the water pouring over the spillway was shaking the railway bridge. The train had to proceed very slowly (it did anyway – Ed.) and we arrived in Salisbury to be met by our drill sergeant and transported to Depot for breakfast. Friends of my parents took me out so I missed the customary initiation ceremony. The next day, 11 February 1952, when two others joined the squad, we swore allegiance to HM Queen Elizabeth II, the first BSAP recruits to do so.

Nominal Roll Squad 2/52

4847 Aldridge, 4848 Brennan, 4849 Cross, 4850 Davey, 4851 Harrison, 4852 Nicholson, 4853 Punter, 4854 Robinson, 4855 Thompson, 4856 Watkins, 4857 Wiltshire, 4858 Ward.

There are only three of us left now, Fred Punter, Mike Wiltshire and I and we hope to have a celebration with our wives later this year.

4851 Murray Harrison

RLI Officer: ‘Trooper, do you have change for a dollar?’
RLI Trooper: ‘Ja, ek se.’
Officer: ‘That’s no way to address an officer! Now let’s try it again! Trooper, do you have change for a dollar?’
Trooper: ‘No, SIR!’

4189 Jeanne MAY - in loving memory of husband Rick
Fifty Years On

In September 1962 seven British recruits were the first to fly to Southern Rhodesia in a BOAC VC 10. Prior to this recruits from UK had enjoyed a cruise by the Union Castle line to Cape Town and then a four day train journey to Salisbury.

I sought information about the BSAP from PGHQ in July 1962 and in August was interviewed by Col. Walker in Rhodesia House. Two days later I received a telegraph advising I was successful and was to sail on the RMS Athlone Castle on 21 September.

On 28 August my sailing orders were cancelled and I was advised I would fly from Heathrow on 24 September. On that day, we seven new recruits were met at the airport by Col. Walker. We departed at 19:15 and arrived at Salisbury the following day, Tuesday, at 10:25.

We arrived in brilliant sunshine and were met on the tarmac by DCI Trangmar before proceeding to immigration. A troop carrier was waiting for us and we were driven down Queensway towards the city. I was particularly struck by the beauty of the many jacaranda trees in bloom.

At Morris Depot we were shown our quarters in Capel Block, where we teamed up with recruits from South Africa, South West Africa and Southern Rhodesia (two of the latter had been BSAP cadets).

After morning parade on the hard square we were marched down Montague Avenue to PGHQ by Inspector Tackie MacIntosh where we attested and swore allegiance to Queen and Country. We emerged as mere numbers and marched back to Morris Depot to commence a six month period of training. If any declined to attest, they were put on the return flight to London.

In that six month training period Squad 10/62 had the added duty of training, under the watchful eye of Sergeant John Pearce, for escort to the Governor-General for the opening of Parliament in February 1963. After Depot, training continued at driving school at Cranbourne and then postings to all corners of the country.

6736 Ian (Jock) Cochrane

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Annual Irish Gathering

The eleventh annual Irish Gathering will be held on Saturday 1 September, from 12 noon.

Venue is the usual - Sandy Stokes' place near Clonmel, County Tipperary.

Cost is €7.50 (£6) per person. For this you get a good lunch, but bring your own drinks. In addition to ex-BSAP and Police Reserve and guests, other Rhodesian Security Forces are welcome, although it would be appreciated if attendees would let me know beforehand, for catering purposes.

Anyone planning to stay at Nagles is advised to book early as it is filling up. Further information, directions, etc, is available by e-mail from <jb5584@eircom.net>

5584 John Berry
Diary Dates

VSC Social evening on first Tuesday of every month, starting 17:30.

BSAP Braai - Saturday 4 August 2012 - Lilleshall (see pages 25 and 26 of Issue 80) - a few places are still available. First come, first served.


North West Quarterly Gatherings - Sunday, 9 September and Sunday 9 December, all at noon at Feilden’s Arms, Mellor Brook, Blackburn BB2 7PR. Tel: 01254 814655


South West Gathering - 6 October 2012, at Cromwell Arms, Fore St, Bovey Tracey, Devon. Queries to Dave Kennedy, Tel: 01726-851258 or plumville@btinternet.com

The Outpost 82 Deadline for copy to the editor - 1 October 2012.

BSAP Christmas Sundowner at the VSC on Tuesday 4 December 2012.

Third Scottish Gathering in Edinburgh on 25 May 2013. Details in the next Outpost.

Sophisticated people smuggler

Another attempt to smuggle people into Britain has been foiled when a sharp-eyed immigration officer noticed there appeared to be something wrong with this 1951 red Chevrolet. Realising they had been spotted the smugglers sped off at 5 mph until they collapsed in a tangle of legs. Police said they hadn’t a leg to stand on.

At a wedding reception someone shouted, ‘Would all the married men please stand next to the one person who has made your life worth living.’ The poor bartender was nearly crushed to death.

5983 Felicity McMANMON - in loving memory of husband John
New Members and Change of Address

There is one new member in this period, so a welcome to 9042 Robert Michael Henry MINCHIN, 92 Crosswood Terrace, Tarbrax, West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland EH55 8XE  Tel : 01501-785541. Email - robertminchin@hotmail.co.uk

Change of address
8131 Brian HODSON, 18 Top Cross Road, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN40 2RT Email : brian @hodson54.plus.com

5887 Clive NEWTON, 30 Musson Close, Irthlingborough, Northants NN9 5XW 01933 653377

4209 Julian BURKITT, Gortnalaght, Kilrossanty, Lemybrien, Co.Waterford Ireland. Tel No : 00 353 51 291788.

Please let the HonSec. or Asst HonSec. know of any change of address, (additional) phone number, or change of e-mail address. They are not prescient (even if they might appear to be so) and failure to keep your details up-to-date may result in you not receiving important communications, and, if caught out, parading behind the guard.

Early XB Liaison c.1960

A photograph of early senior XB (the predecessor to SB) officers in liaison with Portuguese PIDE officers. From left - Martin Edwards (a fluent Portuguese speaker), Theunis (Dennis) Coetzee, PIDE, Jack Denley, Bill Crabtree, Sid Bristow, PIDE, Eddie Webb and Ted Colbourne, at what appears to be CIDHQ.
Your Letters

Members are invited to correspond with the Editor, who declares the right to edit, shorten or decline to acknowledge or print any letters received. Letters appearing to be advertisements (except for BSAP reunions or functions) will be ignored. Advertisements should be sent to the Asst HonSec. with the appropriate fee. The writers of all letters must be identifiable, although their details will not be published if that is the writer’s wish, but, please use a suitable nom-de-plume.

Dear Editor - Having been alerted to Page 44 (of Issue 80) by Stan FORESTER and seen myself, 4584 Ranoull FRASER-MILNER, known as Percy Milner, I am no longer unidentified. Yours faithfully, R C FRASER-MILNER.

Many thanks to all the others who identified Percy - Ed.

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The Editor - I have to report sightings of several ex-members this week.

8735 Pete CLAASEN dropped by en route to Liverpool from his Cambridge home. He is not currently a member and was admonished. Stan FOURIE ex-Intaf Gokwe, and his brother Robbie ROBERTSON, ex-RLI, and whose father was a member after WWII. Stan is recently back from Kenya and reports several Rhodies settling there. 7572 Al GREENLY on holiday from Perth, Oz, who also reports several Rhodies in Oz. Cheers to all members, 8317 Bob CLARKE.

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Congratulations to the Editor and all the Outpost Team on the recent edition that arrived yesterday. My photograph appears seven times - is this a record? I think the new format is great but one small criticism, I think it would look better if the print was justified, the right margin not looking ragged. (See my response on page 6 - Ed.)

The photo of myself and Mike Wiltshire on page 13, taken at Madeira on or about 26 January 1952. King George VI didn’t die until 6 February, the Stirling Castle with Squad 2/52 aboard was three days away from docking in Cape Town.

So not quite the day Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the throne.

4853 Fred Punter

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Dear Parry - Please find enclosed three photos I recently found which may be of interest to you. They were taken aboard RMS Athlone Castle, showing me winning the fancy dress party. We left Southampton on 18 November 1954 and arrived in Salisbury to attest on 5 December 1954.

5317 Keith J Brooks (1954 - 1961) (See the photographs on page 36 - Ed.)

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Now, 50 years after attestation, it would be memorable to have a reunion of existing squad mates in Harare but I’m afraid, for me, that is not possible. The next best way of remembering is via the internet and the Association.

I left Zimbabwe in 2008, and have joined the UK Branch and enjoy the UK Outpost, the Christmas get togethers in London and the Edinburgh Gathering. The Association has assisted me in making contact with squad mates and other ex-members who I had met over
other ex-members who I had met over many years. Squad 10/62 was made up of members from 6736 (myself) to 6751 Swazi Woodburne. Recent contacts have been 6737 Mike Coleman (England) and 6742 Graham Walker (Cyprus).

I wonder who else is enjoying retirement or whatever, and where?

6736 Ian Cochrane

Dear Parry, I am enclosing a cutting from a 1962 Outpost which may bring back some happy memories.

5111 Jack Bacon

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Above is the advert Jack sent. For those who might not remember, 5/- was 50 Rhodesian cents and 2/6 was 25 cents. It was, of course, a long time ago, when I was still junior squad. - Ed.

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Heard on the London Underground

Some announcements that London tube-train drivers have made to passengers.

‘Ladies and gentlemen, I do apologize for the delay to your service. I know you’re all dying to get home, unless of course, you happen to be married to my ex-wife, in which case you’ll want to cross over to the westbound and go in the opposite direction.’

‘Beggars are operating on this train. Please do not encourage these professional beggars. If you have any spare change, please give it to a registered charity. Failing that, give it to me.’
There are some coincidences in Keith’s account. I too won a prize (not first) at the fancy dress party and I too cross-dressed. Keith’s photos are the first three. My bosom (a stuffed bikini top) was more impressive. Before the party I was sitting with a couple of my squad mates, when a slightly tipsy passenger sat next to me and chatted me up. Later, he saw the funny side of it. Keith attested on my thirteenth birthday - Ed.

When his wife asked him to change clothes to meet the German Ambassador, Albert Einstein replied, ‘If they want to see me, here I am. If they want to see my clothes, open my closet and show them my suits’.
In memory of Mike Leach

Involuntarily, Makonese ducked, as the air just above his head shook and then boomed loudly. Close behind him his pursuer shrieked, louder even than the air had boomed. Makonese risked a look back. He was in time to see his pursuer fall in a rolling tumble of arms, legs and stabbing spear. At his chest was a spew of scarlet droplets. Breathlessly, weak with relief and fatigue, Makonese had barely enough strength to scan the hill above him. His effort showed him a generous puff of black smoke drifting slowly upwards from the mouth of a cave halfway up the face of Nyaningwe Nema.

Makonese looked from the puff of smoke to the dead Matabele warrior a few feet from him. Suddenly, he remembered. Mapuvere and his muskets! A few minutes later, he was safely within the Mapuvere family cave. The entrance was difficult to approach, up a steeply sloping slab of black granite to a slot shaped access about two feet deep and perhaps six feet across. Within the cave there was room for many people. Far more, Makonese realised, than the score or so now present, all of whom were, at once, in clamouring competition, or so it seemed to him, seeking news from Makonese about what had gone on below.

The young survivor told them all that he knew, which was little enough. As he told his story, Sadhunu Mapuvere himself stayed spread-eagled at the mouth of the cave, from where he could survey the land below, a musket cradled to his shoulder, ready to use it if needed. Close beside him lay another of the family elders, while behind them other men of fighting age stood by, assorted weapons close to hand.

From the back of the cave, the Sadhunu’s senior wife fetched water, some for him to drink and some to wash away the blood at his shoulder and from the many other lacerations caused by his mad dash through the maize plants.

As he finished his tale, Makonese caught sight of the second musket in the cave, leaning upright against a flat-topped rock, with firing caps, powder horn, ramrod and lead balls, set out neatly and ready for instant use. He looked to the smiling face of Mapuvere’s senior wife, with her two upper front teeth missing; knocked out, as he knew, according to the tradition relating to the tribal story of the muskets, once she became Mapuvere’ senior wife.

‘Is my life in that musket, or the other one?’ he asked her. ‘Neither,’ she replied. ‘It is in the heart of Mutizwa and my husband’.

‘But Mutizwa is dead’, Makonese responded.

Mapuvere’s senior wife shook her head and smiled again at him. ‘He is with Mwari. He is not dead, for his spirit is with you’.

‘I do not understand’, was all that the weary young survivor could manage.

‘One day, when you are grown, you will understand. Until then, just be grateful to see each day.’

‘Makonese nodded agreement, sank back against the comforting rock wall and slept. In his dreaming, he relived the story that he knew of; not that of his own
incredible escape, but that of the first time that Mapuvere, as a young man, some thirty or more years before, had first used his muskets against a raiding Impi, killing the Induna and then himself having his own life saved by the actions of his senior wife, who shot and killed the single Matabele warrior who had got into the cave and was struggling with her husband and because she did not properly know how to hold, aim and fire the weapon, had managed to knock out her own two top front teeth while saving her husband’s life.

7207 Arnold Woolley, 26/12/2011

Author’s note - In 1965, I was sent on temporary transfer from Mashaba to Chibi, as acting i/c when SO Phil Mead was suddenly injured and out of action for a few months. The POs there then were Kevin Kilfoil and Brian Oberholzer. During the time I was there I learned something of the history of the area and was able to sit and talk with both Chief Chibi and with some of the Headmen in the area, the Sadhunus. Shortly before I left to join Support Unit in April, 1966 just after the Viljoens were murdered by terrorists at Nevada Farm, Hartley, I had a conversation with Sadhunu Makonese, then as best as I could sort out, well into his 80s. The foregoing story is that which he told me. What he also told me was that the muskets had been taken from the cave by Ndambakuwa, the African name for the first District Commissioner at Chibi, in the 1890s. I was posted back to Chibi, as a newly married man and Member in Charge, in 1971. I stayed there until 1973 when I was promoted to Inspector and posted to Shabani. In that second period at Chibi I was shown the Mapuvere family cave and given permission to examine it. The cave entrance was exactly as Makonese had described it. There my wife, Paula, and I found no barrels or ramrods, but all of the firing mechanisms and the butt plates of two Tower Muskets, plus a couple of ramrod holding brasses. Those, with an outline of their story, went to the Museum at Fort Victoria.

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One Man and a River
Zambesi elephant walk 2012

He’s off again! The intrepid, ageing author, 8693 David Lemon is determined to beat all odds and create another first; to walk (stagger or hobble) the entire length of the Zambezi, all by himself (without his Zimmer frame). Readers may recall his previous exploits, rowing the length of Kariba, cycling from Nairobi to Cape Town, walking the southern shoreline of Kariba and recently kayaking the lake in a 12 foot vessel. His books Hobo, Two Wheels and a Tokoloshe, and Blood Sweat and Lions, vividly describe these adventures. Two of his other books, Never Quite a Soldier (Rhodesian policing) and Soldier No More (post independent Zimbabwe) add to a collection of must reads to an ex Rhodie or adventure lover.

In memory of Paddy Anderson
Dave, now 67, is off at the end of March 2012 and had hoped to do this article himself. Unfortunately, he tells me, time has caught up and he is very busy with preparation and interviews so asked, ‘Martin please could you do it for me’. Personally I think he is just passing the buck.

While I know Dave well, I do not share his obsession with strolling, boating or cycling around Africa. Like many others, I did enough of that in the army and BSAP days. I am privileged to have been asked to pen this article (I had to say that, didn’t I?) which Dave will not read prior to his departure. So with licence to rubbish him as I wish, I continue. Brief details of his arduous trek are as follows.

The 2,200 mile journey starts at Mwinilungu in NW Zambia, through Angola, along the borders of Namibia, Botswana, into Zambia where it borders Zimbabwe. Then on to Mozambique where the river empties into the Indian Ocean at a tiny settlement called Chinde. Although Dave leaves the UK at the end of March, he intends to start the great trek (famba gashle) in late April, at the end of the rainy season when it will initially be cooler. Also, when he reaches the Barotse Plains, the annual floods should be receding. It is anticipated that the journey will take 10 months (give or take a couple of years) and he will survive off the land and river and what he can carry. Obviously there are many dangers, not least of which is his age! He is, however, a stubborn and resilient bugger who has faced many serious hardships on his previous travels. Flat dogs, mosquitoes, big gomos, hippos, lions, jumbos etc. also in the mix (sorry, I forgot snakes). Although Dave does not mention it, I think my biggest fear would be meetings with unsavoury characters looking to relieve him of his load or worse. Unfortunately in wildest Africa this is a distinct possibility, but Dave is vastly experienced (and very ugly) and has been there before. He will, no doubt, charm the locals and have a multitude of support along the way.

I know that Dave has always struggled for sponsorship but this time he has three, the major one being Cowbell in Zambia, run by ex-BSAP member 111144 Andy Taylor. He and his firm are to be commended.

There is a website being set up to cover Dave’s journey and plot his movements, he will be carrying a satnav and satphone, which I doubt he knows how to use. Details are not to hand at this stage and are to be advised.

Many reasons are espoused by Dave and others for embarking on this unique adventure. This includes a deep inner need for challenge or highlighting the plight of elephants, but for me he is doing it because he can.

Dave, enjoy the sunshine and create a little bit of history. Bon Voyage.

8515 Martin Powis QPM

Wine does not make you fat, it makes you lean (against tables, chairs, floors, walls and ugly people).

In memory of Henry Wolhuter
Michael John HARLOW – Killed in Action

During August 2011 a request was received, via the BSAP History Group, from Lance Harlow, living and working in Istanbul. He wanted to know more about his father, Mike Harlow, who, as a member of the BSAP was killed during the Rhodesian Bush War. Lance was only two years old at the time, and said he would like to chat to or hear from people who may have known Mike or worked with him.

Lance has received a good response to his plea, but what he didn’t expect was a detailed account, by a member who was actually there at the time, of the circumstances of his father’s death in action. 8276 Brian Perkins, then a DSO, now a member of the Natal Branch of the Association and living in Pinetown, has shared his memory of the event with Lance and his mother, Kate. As a result, the following story is published with their full consent and Brian, the author, has allowed the editor to condense this account. Brian has also indicated that the circumstances and details of the operation have never been documented before.

5743 Michael John Harlow attested in the Force on 4 August 1957 and on leaving Depot was posted to Gwelo, where he was also a volunteer fireman. He was also stationed at Que Que. Mike initially served for seven years, leaving as a Sergeant in January 1964. He re-attested as SO in December that same year and in 1965 joined CID as a DPO. A sequence that was unique.

He was later transferred to SB, where he was promoted to DI on 1 July 1973.

Plumtree, situated on the southwestern border of Matabeleland, has had a BSA Police presence since the very early days, certainly since the town was developed as an important border town on the railway line connecting Southern Rhodesia with South Africa via Bechuanaland. However, the location did not warrant a CID posting until the early 1970s, when a small team of SB Detectives, under the command of a DSO, was established and given office accommodation at the police station.

Their primary function was border movement surveillance and the investigation of security-related matters. At that time the operational deployment
of security forces to Bulalima Mangwe, as the Plumtree district was known, was limited to the occasional territorial military company as well as BSAP Support Unit, PATU and the BSAP Reserve who were mainly used in a guarding and protection role. Elements of the army Rhodesian Intelligence Corps operated the area in liaison with the local SB office.

It was well known that increasing numbers of ZIPRA terrorists were crossing this unprotected and vast border, with little fear of detection, in order to commit acts of terror against Rhodesian farms. They marched large numbers of pressed recruits to Francistown for processing and onward training in other countries. The local populace, members of the same tribe, were living on either side of an international border comprised of a standard veterinary wire mesh fence which allowed legitimate unrestricted movement between the two countries by the locals as well as illegitimately by ZIPRA terrorists.

Whilst the Botswana Defence Force had established a strong presence on its side of the border they, as well as their government, maintained a blind eye to the situation.

In January 1975 the Plumtree SB post was upgraded to a DI position. At much the same time the contingent of South African Police who had been based at Plumtree and engaged in border patrols, was withdrawn as part of that government’s decision to recall all their forces from Rhodesia.

Later in 1975 DI Mike Harlow took over from DI Peter Birkett as Member i/c SB Plumtree, with DSO Brian Perkins as his 2i/c.

By early 1977, intelligence reports identified Maitengwe, an area within Botswana, as a probable transit route for infiltration into the Plumtree area by ZIPRA and that they were harboured and assisted by residents of a specific kraal line. This was situated 10 to 12 kilometres inside Botswana and about 150 kilometres north of Francistown.

Knowledge of the terrain that area was scant, suffice it to say that it was an extension of mopani scrub and gusu sand of the neighbouring Maitengwe TTL on the Rhodesian side which made map reading and navigating very difficult.

External operations into neighbouring countries was strictly at the behest and direction of specialised units, but at that period in the war these trained military components were over extended, being utilised on the Rhodesian borders with both Mozambique and Zambia. It was decided that the Maitengwe situation should not be underestimated and plans were made to reconnoitre the area, hopefully to substantiate earlier intelligence. It must be emphasised that this planning was not intended for a hot pursuit operation but was a foray to glean as
much ground intelligence as could be utilised for future operations. The likely presence of ZIPRA terrorists in the area could not be ignored.

A small SB team under the command of Mike Harlow and comprising Brian Perkins, DC Christopher George, FR John McLean (a local Plumtree resident) and FR Zigara Obert Moyo, a bushman from the Maitengwe TTL adjacent to the Botswana border, was put together and set out at first light on the morning of Friday 18 February 1977.

The inclusion of the bushman was fundamental to the success of the operation given his local dialect and knowledge of both the terrain and local populace on either side of the border. Because the operation was to be limited to a day trip, team members were only equipped with their issue rifles and ammunition, a Rhodesian map of the Maitengwe area (which overlapped into Botswana), hip webbing and water bottles. In view of poor reception, no radios were taken and the only form of communication with Plumtree would be from the radio fitted in the SB Land Rover. Owing to the sensitive and clandestine nature of the operation, neither the local Plumtree Police O i/c nor the SB Provincial HQ in Bulawayo were appraised of its nature whilst the remaining members of the Plumtree SB Office were only aware that the team had departed on a routine patrol.

The trip from Plumtree to the proposed point of entry into Botswana took about two and a half hours with the team arriving in the vicinity at approximately 10:00. As the vehicle was to be left unattended for the duration of the operation, a suitable safe place away from the locals was found, and the vehicle parked and locked.

From here on, the team became completely reliant on FR Moyo, and DC George acted as interpreter. Having breached the border fence on foot into Botswana without apparent detection, the team proceeded in single file through a maze of paths, both human and cattle, in a westerly direction.

Every effort was made to avoid exposure and detection by walking off the paths and keeping close to thicket. Having walked for approximately an hour, it became apparent that the target kraal line was not as close to the Rhodesian border as had been envisaged. It was also evident that the bushman had become disorientated and a decision was needed whether to abort the operation or to take the risk of compromise and allow for the bushman to consult with locals.

The decision was made that the operation continue, given that the team had already penetrated six to eight kilometres inside Botswana. The bushman made contact with some locals who gave him directions to the target kraal line which turned out to be another two or three kilometres inland. In hindsight, the decision to compromise the operation by allowing the bushman to make contact with locals, may well have resulted in the tragic events that followed.

It was now past midday and the team pressed on. About half an hour after the bushman had spoken with the locals, the team arrived in the vicinity of the
target kraal line. Although obviously inhabited, there was an ominous silence about the kraal with no human or animal movement evident. The team positioned itself in scrub about 50 metres from the kraal which comprised several huts, surrounded by the usual tree pole fence. The main entrance to the kraal was situated on the other side from this position and was not visible, nor were any other kraal lines.

The team remained in position for some time monitoring the kraal and huts for any movement suggesting a presence. Surveillance from this position was limited, with the hut doors out of sight. After approximately 15 minutes without evidence of movement, Mike decided that they split in two with Brian, George and Moyo remaining in situ at the rear of the kraal whilst Mike and John would make their way to the front of the kraal to carry out surveillance from a suitable vantage point.

About five minutes after Mike and John had left all hell broke loose from the front of the kraal line with sustained automatic AK fire apparently emanating from within the kraal. The sound of intermittent FN fire could also be heard but this did not last more than perhaps a minute. It was difficult to discern from the rear of the kraal line what exactly was taking place but it was quite apparent that Mike and John were engaged in a contact with ZIPRA. Whilst the AK automatic fire seemed to be coming from the confines of the kraal, the sound of fleeing people through the adjacent mealie field could be heard and although not visible, it was assumed that they were ZIPRA because automatic fire could also be heard from the area of the mealie field.

Brian and George directed bursts of fire into the mealie field whilst by this stage, only sporadic AK automatic fire could be heard emanating from the kraal. After the sound of those running through the mealie field had ceased, Brian shouted out for response from Mike or John but there was silence. By this time, Moyo was in a nervous state and because of his lack of weapon and anti-terrorist training, could not be relied upon or be of support in the contact situation. George was instructed to remain with Moyo and give cover whilst Brian made his way between the mealie field and the kraal boundary fence towards the entrance of the kraal. All the while, sporadic automatic fire continued to come from within the kraal.

When the kraal entrance became visible, Mike was seen lying prone a couple of metres in the open outside the kraal entrance with his weapon lying next to his body. John was slumped against the wooden pole boundary.

In memory of Dave Sloman
fence at the entrance to the kraal. He still had possession of his weapon but was not at that time, reacting to the fire coming from within the kraal and appeared wounded. Once identified, the hut from which the automatic fire originated was silenced by Brian. After firing had ceased, Brian made his way to the kraal entrance. He examined Mike - there was no pulse, he had been fatally wounded by a single shot above his heart. John was in a semi-conscious state slumped against the kraal fence. He had been wounded in the vicinity of his groin, was immobile and losing blood.

Time was against the remainder of the team who were now in hostile territory and needed to exit Botswana quickly. There was bound to be reaction from the Botswana authorities with a Botswana Police post at Dagwi not too far from the scene, and members of the Botswana Defence Force in the area.

It could not be ruled out that ZIPRA elements might still be around. There was no radio communication with Plumtree; the group was on foot some eight to ten kilometres inside Botswana, without transport or other means of recovering Mike’s body or casevacing John. It would have been nigh impossible to carry him out, given the nature and seriousness of his wound.

Mike’s body was stripped of all personal belongings, including his watch, dog tag, maps, weapon and webbing. His body was left in situ at the kraal entrance without any form of identification other than his issue camouflage clothing.

John’s welfare was of now paramount importance. He was seriously wounded and in need of urgent medical attention which of course was not available. There was no alternative to leaving him behind while the team made their way back to Rhodesia to seek assistance. He was lifted and taken into a thicket approximately 100 metres from the kraal and off the beaten track where he was rendered basic first aid in an attempt to curtail loss of blood and made as comfortable as possible. He was left with full water bottles as well as his rifle and ammunition.

Having secured John’s position, Brian returned to Mike’s body to confirm life was extinct before he, George and Moyo started the trek back to the Rhodesian border without further incident.

On arrival, after last light, at the Land Rover, radio contact was established with the Plumtree police station ops room which was alerted to the incident and the M i/c, CI George Higginbotham, initiated the necessary steps to advise the official channels (the cross-border foray was likely to become a diplomatic issue) and the families of those involved as well.

The remaining team members arrived at Plumtree later that night. Supt Ian Waters and DI Tim Healy from SB Bulawayo were on site shortly afterwards and Ian took command of the enquiry, commencing with immediate plans for the recovery of the injured John McLean and Mike’s body.

Debriefing and planning took place until the early hours of the morning. It was anticipated the Botswana authorities would have attended the scene and removed Mike’s body to Francistown – this subsequently proved to be the case. It was felt John had a good chance of escaping detection, so a rescue mission was planned for first light.
Because time was of the essence to ensure a successful hot extraction returning to the scene on the ground was out of the question. Air support would be essential, especially because of the nature of the terrain, the tenuous plotting of the kraal’s exact position and the likely presence of local government armed forces, not to mention elements of ZIPRA.

With the active assistance of JOC Tangent, Ian Waters secured the deployment of a G-car helicopter as well as a fixed wing PRAW aircraft. At first light, Brian flew with the PRAW pilot and after an anxious 20 minutes, located the kraal. Having satisfied themselves that the area seemed clear of any hostile elements, the helicopter, standing by at the Rhodesian border, was contacted and directed to the kraal.

On arrival, the helicopter circled the kraal before touching down and dropping Ian Waters and Tim Healy, both of whom were armed. The helicopter immediately took off and commenced an orbit of the general area giving top cover, together with the PRAW aircraft. Ian and Tim, having confirmed that Mike’s body had been removed from the scene, commenced their search for John. Difficulty was experienced in locating his position and it was only after about 10 minutes of searching that he was found. The helicopter landed and the three men were uplifted and flown back to Plumtree.

Later John confirmed that indeed the Botswana security forces had reacted and swept the general area of the kraal a couple of hours after the contact but had failed to locate him despite being within a couple of metres of his position.

Mike had been taken to Francistown by the Botswana authorities. Ian commenced telephonic negotiations with the Botswana SB office in Francistown but it was not until Tuesday 22 February 1977 that the Botswana authorities agreed to release Mike’s body and transport it to the Ramokgwebana border post where CI George Higginbotham made a positive identification and arranged for conveyance to Bulawayo.

In March 1977 various citations were bestowed by the Commissioner of Police on those engaged in the external operation, including the roles played by Ian and Graham Perkins and Lance Harlow at play in Plumtree.

In loving memory of husband Raymond
Tim in the rescue of John McLean, who, as far as we know, is still somewhere in South Africa.

8276 Brian Perkins

From the The Outpost of May 1977 - 'D/Comm (Admin) L J Jouning, presented eight awards at a ceremony held on 1 April 1977 at Bulawayo's Stops Camp. Supt Ian Waters, DI Tim Healey and DSO Brian Perkins were each awarded the Commissioner's Special Commendation (Silver Baton) while Bronze Baton Commendations went to DC Christopher George, FR John McClean and AFR Zogara Moyo.'

As explained in The Outpost at that time, frequently there are reasons why the circumstances in which awards for bravery are earned cannot be revealed and this applies to the situations surrounding these awards.

(With thanks to Will Cornell for providing this comment)

Mike joined CID a week or two before me, and we were both on Law and Order Section under Jock Crossan. We became firm friends and had a number of adventures together. He was also a regular visitor to my home, for meals and sometimes over-nighting. We lost contact after I was transferred to CID/SB Que Que. This account is therefore particularly poignant to me, and Lance and Kate are to be greatly admired for allowing Brian Perkins to record it. - Ed.
Visitors to Edinburgh on Saturday 26 May 2012 were undeterred by the many street alterations and road closures, particularly those attending the Second Annual Scottish Gathering of the UK Branch of the BSAP Regimental Association.

Our guest once again was Glen Brown, Chairman of the Lothian and Borders Branch of the International Police Association bearing a gift for the raffle and a cash donation. The acclaimed author and former Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh, Alexander McCall Smith, apologised and regretted not being in Edinburgh at the time but was pleased to include a generous donation towards Association Funds. His father served in the BSAP, retiring as a C/Insp. in 1960. Also, with a donation, from David Pirrett of Glasgow and an Honorary Member of the Transvaal Branch, who he would be delighted to attend, if only he could persuade his brother, 6610 John in South Africa, to make his annual visit a bit earlier in the year. Other apologies will be dealt with later in this report.

The informal nature of the inaugural Gathering was followed with those new to the organising team waiting eagerly at 10:00; 5601 Eric Robb setting out the raffle display and 7264 Gordon Best putting up all of his impressive displays. Chief Organiser 7784 Steve Acornley took charge of the reception desk and the Scribe meanwhile scribed.

The following visited from the south; Chairman 6905 Peter Phillips, Almoner 7211 Peter Biddulph; photographer 5248 Alan & Pauline Lane 5625 Biff Way, an auctioneer and raconteur of renown; 5111 Jack Bacon; 5508 Gordon & Eve Norris; 5559 Dick & Bev Thompson; 6348 Dennis Poole; 7212 Tony & Judy Brown; 8307 Flash Firth and Jeanette McMeekan; and 8635 Barry Henderson with Ex-WFR Diane Begbie. Apologies were received from HonSec. 6001 Alistair Black; 5498 Raoul Gilbert; 8278 Tony Marillier; 4777 Takkie McIntosh; and 5926 Jim & Ann Shiel.

From Scotland: 7784 Steve & Wendy Acornley; 6743 Bruce & Paddy Allen; FR14521 Jim & Eileen Bailey; 7264 Gordon Best; 6898 Robin & Phyllis Birch; 6800/7992 Keith Black; 7343 John & Barbara Bryan; 5340 Barry & Anne Cotton; 6736 Ian & Carol Cochrane; 5766 George & Jane Fairlie and guest Margaret Young; 4046 Ted Galloway; 5355 Hugh & Ray Gibson, P/R 20254P John & Dawn Bannister; 8962/9645 Bill & Dawn Hand; 4700 Brian & Helen Hughes; 7418 Colyn & Jutta James and their daughter Mariene McKeand; 9019 Alastair Kennedy; 5601 Eric Robb; 5976 Nigel & Pauline Seaward; A/Res 6082 Norman Vincent; and 5658 Alan Whitehurst.
Apologies from: 6160 Bob Smith; 7795 Harry; 6434 Alf & Jean Taylor; 7424 Andy & Olive Nicoll, 7395 Brian Croasdell; 6548 Peter & Denise Botwright; 6880 Bert & Katherine Hilliard; 6992 Bob & Margaret Dalziel; 5919 David & Ailsa Gall; 6800 Keith Black’s wife Shirley and 7264 Gordon Best’s wife Moira were unable to make it due to family commitments.

6835 Eric Kennelly advised that Lorna had been hospitalised in Dundee for urgent treatment. Thankfully by Sunday the crisis had passed and Lorna was improving.

Our MC Eric Robb introduced and welcomed the Chairman of the UK Branch of the Association, Peter Phillips, who reiterated much of what has been reported in the minutes of the AGM.

He went on to say that it was pleasing to see the development of Association activities in Scotland, and he had some kind words for the organisers. As the years roll by, there is an increase in the numbers of our people in distress; and an increase in the work of the Almoner. In this regard, he was pleased to receive word of some exemplary work being done by the wife of a member, to provide help, comfort and companionship to the widow of a member in need. The UK Branch Committee fully supported the idea that a Letter of Appreciation be given in recognition, which a somewhat startled Wendy Acornley was then asked to receive together with a bouquet of flowers. This announcement and presentation drew a warm round of applause.

The Almoner, Peter Biddulph, repeated his report to the AGM, and stated his great pleasure at the excellent work performed by Wendy.

The draw for the Raffle was handled by MC Eric Robb, assisted by Biff Way who conducted an auction for a generous donation made by Eric and Lorna Kennelly, of a complimentary stay for one week, valued at £300, at their holiday cottage at Loch Earn in the scenic and delightful area near Crieff in Perthshire - check out (www.hamstercottages.co.uk – midsummer cottages).

Everybody brought something and the extended raffle resulted in the sale of many tickets by Biff in his inimitable manner.
The first lot was a set of two BSAP plaques and two Operational Area plaques, eagerly snapped up by Flash Firth for £22. There was then a lively contest for the stay in the Scottish Highlands holiday cottage which went to top bidder, Peter Biddulph, for £150. The raffle brought in £221.50 and all donations amounted to a further £315, a grand total of £708.50 to add to Association Funds. This surely is a very clear indication of the esprit de corps of the BSAP. A very sincere thank you is due to everyone for this wonderful achievement.

The Chairman, Peter Phillips rose to propose a toast to the health and prosperity of HM Queen Elizabeth II in this, the 60th anniversary of her reign.

A buffet lunch was taken, followed by an afternoon of pleasant and relaxed chatting, spending a memorable and satisfying day with friends and acquaintances.

Sincere thanks to Alan Lane for his photographic coverage of the day. His photographs will be included in a separate supplementary newsletter to follow shortly. Copies of individual photographs will be available.

£400 from the day is to be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer of the UK Branch for Regimental Association Funds and £283.01 has been retained as a float for local contingencies and advances in preparation for the Third Annual Scottish Gathering which will be on Saturday 25 May 2013 at the same venue.

Steve and Wendy, Nigel and Pauline, Eric, and Gordon.
True Reports from British Newspapers

Police reveal that a woman arrested for shoplifting had a whole salami in her underwear. When asked why, she said it was because she was missing her Italian boyfriend. (The Manchester Evening News)

A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coastguard spokesman commented, 'This sort of thing is all too common'. (The Times)

At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed a coast guard and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff. (Aberdeen Evening Express)

Mrs Irene Graham of Thorpe Avenue, Boscombe, delighted the audience with her reminiscence of the German prisoner of war who was sent each week to do her garden. He was repatriated at the end of 1945, she recalled, 'He'd always seemed a nice friendly chap, but when the crocuses came up in the middle of our lawn in February 1946, they spelt out “Heil Hitler”.' (Bournemouth Evening Echo)

Etc.

Letter to a mens’ helpline.

‘Hi Bob, I really need your advice on a serious problem. I have suspected for some time now that my wife has been cheating on me. The usual signs: if the phone rings and I answer, the caller hangs up; she goes out with the girls a lot. I try to stay awake to look out for her when she comes home but I usually fall asleep. Anyway last night, about midnight, I hid in the shed behind the boat. When she came home she got out of someone’s car buttoning her blouse. It was at that moment crouched behind the boat that I noticed a hairline crack in the outboard engine mounting bracket.

Is that something I can weld or do I need to replace the whole bracket?’

An Air Force Senior Warrant Officer (SWO) and a Group Captain were sitting in the barbershop. They were both just getting finished with their haircuts, when the barbers reached for some Brylcreem to slap on their hair.

The Air Commodore shouted, ‘Hey, don't put that stuff on me! My wife will think I've been in a brothel!’

The SWO turned to his barber and said, ‘Go ahead and put it on. My wife doesn’t know what the inside of a brothel smells like’.

During operations in JOC Hurricane, the PO who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another Land Rover stuck in the mud with his red-faced Officer i/c at the wheel, ‘Your truck stuck, sir?’ asked the PO as he pulled alongside.

‘Nope,’ replied the inspector, handing him the keys. ‘Yours is’.
Pen Picture - Bertram Blakiston Cubitt

My father was an officer of the Royal Norfolk Regiment. He and my mother were transferred from India by troop ship and I was born 12 May 1938, en route to UK, at Gibraltar in the military hospital. Because I was an Army brat, my birth certificate was signed by the CO Royal Norfolk Regiment.

My mother and I moved around a lot during the war from relative to relative, and me from school to school until 1947, when my father came back from Japanese POW camp in Burma.

I was educated in Sussex and Cambridge where we settled after Dad’s retirement from the Army. I left school in 1956 and went straight into National Service on 20/09/1956 in father’s regiment, ‘Ninth Afoot, pride of the line’. Served with the colours in UK and Germany, demobbed on 12/10/1958, rank, corporal.

Saw advert for Colonial Police, and was accepted into the NRP. Served from 17/01/1959 – 24/03/1965. First tour of three years on stations and promotion passed. Second tour as a Platoon Commander in the Mobile Unit. Then it was down flag/up flag, with rank of inspector to the UK, no jobs, joined BSAP at Rhodesia House in London.


Down flag/up flag time to move on. Returned to the UK, with Jenny and our three children Susan, Nicola and Simon, – mistake – no jobs stayed for a year as guest of my father.

Obtained employment with the Transkei Police with a team of 12 ex-BSAP on a three year contract, 10/12/1981 – 10/12/1984, as Training Advisor at the Training College, Umtata with the rank of Major - was instrumental in having a new training facility built for them, left at end of contract – down flag/up flag. Passed UNISA Security Management Diploma Cum Laude 1984.

Then to RSA Scottburgh as the Training Manager, later Director 13/12/1984 – 30/06/1991 working for a very successful Security Training Company. Three camps in Natal where residential courses were run to a high standard of instruction and discipline for other ranks and took the Officer Courses all over RSA. Twenty-two courses were offered to the private sector and over 10,000 persons were trained. Made redundant when recession started to bite.

Head hunted by Amapolisa KwaZulu as the Commissioner’s ADC 15/10/1991 – 31/07/1996 as a Major stationed in PGHQ Ulundi, later promoted Lieutenant Colonel, left at amalgamation of police forces in the RSA area.

Returned to the UK, and now living in Elmstead in Essex in retirement, joined the BSAP Association and have been on the Committee since 2004, first as a member later as Assistant Secretary.
Obituaries

It is with regret that we report the following deaths. The Chairman and committee, on behalf of all members, extend their sympathy to family and friends of those who have departed.

4827 John Hume Long – we have been advised by Peter Stiff of the death of the Honourable John Hume Long (son of the 3rd Viscount Long) on 31 July 2010 in Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, England aged 80 years. John had served in the Black Watch prior to attesting in the Force on 31 December 1951 and served until 30 December 1954 leaving as a Constable. John had a lifelong interest in horses and fox hunting and introduced drag hunting to Salisbury while serving there.

5873 Trevor Sidney Wright died on 27 January 2012 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Trevor served from 15 September 1958 to 30 July 1964, mostly in the Criminal Investigation Department. He left at his own request as a Detective Constable. Trevor, who was a keen rifle and pistol shottist, joined the Rhodesian Air Force after leaving the Force and later managed a farm in the Centenary district.

4200 John William Ware died on 28 February 2012 in Madeira, Portugal. John served from 24 January 1947 to 23 January 1950 mostly in Matabeleland leaving as a Trooper. Before joining the Force, John attested, under age, into the Parachute Regiment during the Second World War and was deployed to Palestine after the war. John’s love for Africa took him mining in central Africa, doing wildlife photography and crocodile hunting on Lake Victoria, before settling in Cape Town. He later moved to Madeira where he lived with his wife, Beverley. During the latter part of his life, John became a successful author, writing fiction based on his southern African experiences with two books, The Curve of the Tusk and The Dunes of Langebaan.

P/R 16338 Charles (Jerry) Wilkinson died on 3 March 2012 in Margate, KwaZulu, Natal, South Africa after a long illness.

110945 Steven John (Steve) McCallum died on 11 March 2012 in Krugersdorp, Johannesburg, South Africa. Steve served from 16 July 1979 to 30 July 1980 when he transferred to the Zimbabwe Republic Police where he served in the Support Unit until 9 September 1981 leaving that Force as a Patrol Officer.

7564 Philip William (Phil) Hart died on 13 March 2012 in Ladybrand, Bloemfontein, South Africa. Phil joined the Force on 1 April 1966, serving his early career in Bulawayo Central then moving to Salisbury Central followed by various suburban stations, before joining Traffic Branch. He left the Force at his own request in October 1976 with the rank of Inspector.

5633 Colin Osborne died on 14 March 2012 in the Concord Hospital, Hastings, East Sussex, England. Colin, who had previously had heart problems, had gone to the hospital with chest pains and after having undergone tests, had a massive heart attack. Colin, who had once been a member of the UK Branch of the
Association, did his three, serving from 10 February 1957 to 9 February 1960, leaving as a Constable.

**7054 Michael John Bird** died on 18 March 2012 in Auckland, New Zealand. Mike did his three, serving from 13 February 1964 to 12 February 1967 leaving as a Patrol Officer. Mike went into landscape designing and moved to the United Kingdom, later emigrating to New Zealand.

**8588 John Bancroft Standers** died on 2 April 2012 in Hwange, Zimbabwe. John served from 26 January 1971 to 1 April 1979 leaving at his own request with the rank of Section Officer.

**7269 Gordon Eric George Murrell** died on 4 April 2012 in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England after being ill for some time. Gordon, who was a member of the UK Branch of the Association served from 9 February 1965 to 24 August 1973, leaving at his own request with the rank of Section Officer. He later joined the Fire and Rescue Service in Berkshire.

**7206 Christopher Robin Phillips** died on 6 April 2012 in Mutare, Zimbabwe from complications following a hernia operation. Christopher, who was not a member of the Association, served from 8 December 1964 to 15 March 1971, leaving at his own request with the rank of Patrol Officer. He had been the Deputy Sheriff and Messenger of the Court in Mutare for some years, but lost this position some ten years ago as a result of affirmative action.

**5509 Michael Anthony (Scouse) Jones** died on 13 April 2012 in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa after a long illness. Scouse, who was a member of both the Transvaal and Natal Branches of the Association, served from 24 June 1956 to 10 January 1978, retiring with the rank of Superintendent. Prior to joining the Force, Scouse served in the Grenadier Guards on National Service and then the Manchester Police.

**5768 Clive Joseph Evans CPM** died on 19 April 2012 at his home in Bruckless, County Donegal, Ireland apparently from a heart attack. Clive, who was a member of the UK Branch of the Association, served from 29 September 1957 to 28 September 1960 leaving with the rank of Constable. Clive went on to serve in the Nyasaland Police for three years and later the Royal Hong Kong Police where he ended up as a Superintendent in the Special Branch. He returned to Ireland in 1974.

**4537 Andrew Ian Young** died on 21 April 2012 in Randfontein, west of Johannesburg, South Africa following a heart attack. Ian, who was a member of the Transvaal Branch of the Association, served from 3 January 1950 to 15 January 1962 leaving on gratuity with the rank of Sergeant.

**5555 Kenneth John Cutler** died on 23 April 2012 in Durban, South Africa from leukaemia. Ken, who was a member of the Natal Branch of the Association, served from 23 September 1956 to 30 April 1977 retiring with the rank of Chief Inspector.
Gail Lornie. It is with sadness we announce the death of Gail, wife of 8207 Alistair Lornie in St Anne’s Hospital, Harare, Zimbabwe on 29 April 2012. Gail had been ill for some time.

6125 Michael John (Mike) Horner died on 11 May 2012 at his home in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England having been ill for some time with respiratory problems. Mike, who was a member of the UK Branch of the Association, served from 9 February 1960 to 8 February 1970 leaving on gratuity with the rank of Section Officer. After leaving the force he worked at RISCO in Redcliffe, near Que Que and became an active member of the Police Reserve. In 1984 Mike emigrated to South Africa, settling in Port Elizabeth, where he worked for Old Mutual. He was a former Chairman of the Eastern Cape Branch of the Regimental Association. In 1997 Mike retired and settled in the United Kingdom.

8152 Keith Graham Rutherford died on 13 May 2012 in Perth, Australia following a long illness. Keith served from 17 December 1968 to 16 December 1978 leaving on gratuity with the rank of Section Officer. Keith was stationed in Manicaland, mostly in Umtali, but later transferred to the Support Unit. He was the recipient of a Commissioner’s Special Commendation (Silver Baton) for bravery while under fire during a station attack by terrorists.

6047 Dudley Frederick Naude died on 14 May 2012 at St Anne’s Hospital, Harare, Zimbabwe following a long illness. Dudley served from 13 August 1959 to 30 July 1980 when he transferred to the Zimbabwe Republic Police where he served until 13 August 1984 retiring from that Force with the rank of Chief Inspector.

4244 David Stanley Brownless died on 26 May 2012 in Marondera, Zimbabwe. David did his three, serving from 1 May 1948 to 30 April 1951 leaving at his own request with the rank of Trooper.

5051 Ieuan Guy Hemmings died on 28 May 2012 at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Wales following a stroke. Ieuan, who was a member of the UK Branch of the Association, served from 3 May 1953 to 6 July 1973 in the Radio Branch, retiring with the rank of Inspector. After leaving the Force he joined the Rhodesia Customs Service before returning to Wales.

8674 Charles William (Charlie) Davis died on 29 May 2012 in Port Shepstone, Kwa-Zulu, Natal, South Africa. Charlie, who was a member of the Natal Branch of the Association, served from 11 September 1971 to 30 July 1980 when he transferred to the Zimbabwe Republic Police where he served until 3 May 1981, leaving that Force with the rank of Staff Inspector. He served mostly in the Dog Section, Salisbury and later as an instructor in Tomlinson Depot.
Lummy Lumholst-Smith, The Singing Detective

An obituary to Lummy was included in the last issue, but I have received amendments from 4933 Rod Wilson, 5281 Peter Bellingham and Tony Reynolds, which give a more accurate record of one of the BSAP’s characters. I have been asked specifically to correct the impression that Lummy’s use of the name Smith was a pure affectation. I am forcefully assured it was not.

Lummy was born in London on 20 March 1912 with the surname Smith. In 1917, living in Malaya where his father had a medical post, the marriage broke up, ending in divorce, and it was decided that Lummy and his mother, now pregnant with his sister, should return to Norway for the birth. They sailed from Singapore to Marseilles, the year the Lusitania was sunk, by train to Calais, boat to UK and then boat to Norway. There Lummy’s mother resumed her maiden name of Lumholtz.

In 1930 friends of the family who farmed in the northern Transvaal suggested Lummy tried his hand at farming there. This he tried but it did not appeal. It was here that he anglicised his name to Lumholst.

In 1933 Lummy was walking the streets of Jo’burg looking for work when he heard about the BSAP and joined. Amongst his squad mates was Peter Baden-Powell, son of BP who later bought himself out on the advice of his father, before the commissioner found out that he had secretly married without permission!

A man of faith and purpose he was a regular choir singer in his local church wherever he was stationed, and sang in concerts, oratories etc. in those days when TV was not an option.

A wish to join CID. was nurtured when he did a four week CID course in Bulawayo whilst doing his three. On his first home leave, having been turned down for a course at Scotland Yard, as he was not senior enough, he incurred the wrath of the Commissioner by approaching Rhodesia House who got him a course on fingerprints at The Yard, and then he told the Commissioner what he had done. He was awarded five shillings per day allowance. Lummy, not the Commissioner!

Now in CID and in charge of Immigration in Umtali and it being war time, no long leave was possible but a few weeks in Rhodesia or South Africa was allowed, and Lummy met his wife, Beryl at this time. Now very busy with Toc H in his spare time, he married in 1943, in his old church in Bulawayo, at 07:00, so that they could catch the 08:30 train for a few days at Victoria Falls. Later, a daughter, Sonya Mary, was born.

In 1947, the first long leave since 1937 was allowed, the family travelled to UK and Norway. Berths on ships to Africa were hard to come by, missionaries were high on the list for any available berths, and Lummy had to be back in Umtali by a certain date but could not get a single, never mind a family berth.
By chance it happened that a friend knew of a flight to Africa which had lost one passenger and so a seat was available and Lummy had to take it, leaving his wife and child to follow when they could by boat. The flight took five days and Lummy was 12 days late from leave. Then came news that his wife had secured a berth on the Windsor Castle and would be sailing in a week or two.

Some weeks later, Lummy was called in to the office of the OC CID, Rex Borland, and informed that a telegram had been received from Cape Town to say that his wife had been lost overboard from the ship three days before Cape Town. She had not been missed until her daughter did not appear for children’s breakfast, when a steward went and found her asleep in their cabin but no sign of her mother. Lummy flew to Cape Town and collected his daughter and she eventually settled with friends in Umtali for a while until permanent arrangements were made.

Lummy married Maureen in 1949 by whom he had a son, Robert, and a daughter. Robert uses the surname Lumholst-Smith, as does Maureen.

Retiring from the police in 1956, Lummy never quite came to terms with the UDI days and the way things were going in Rhodesia so he returned to Norway in 1974.

I had the pleasure of staying for a night at Lummy’s home, Salmon Lodge, a beautiful house on the banks of a river just outside Cockermouth, thankfully untouched by the recent floods. We talked about the BSAP and how things had or had not changed, how things were done in the 1930s and the 1950s. Plans were already being made for a hundredth birthday party but sadly it was not meant to be. RIP Lummy.
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