# Outpost Newsletter of the British South Africa Police Regimental Association Western Cape Branch

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STANDARD BANK CLAREMONT (025109). A/C 072613580

## Committee

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*Cover picture – Victoria Falls Police Camp, 1925*
As Editor of the Western Cape Outpost I have always tried to keep my personal views to myself and not enter in to political diatribe or dwell on the negativity that surrounds us these days. However, I came across some absolutely staggering figures recently released by the 'Special Investigations Unit' regarding the amount of money being lost to corruption, incompetence and negligence in the public service. I thought I would share some of these details with Outpost readers as I believe, although we don’t like having the bad news we should be aware of what is happening.

An estimated figure (accepted by Treasury) of R30bn was lost to the government during the past year. To put this in to perspective, R30bn would nearly have covered the defense department budget for that year. In 2009 the government gave citizens personal tax relief of R13.6bn, this is less than half the amount lost to graft and ineptitude.

Some facts around current investigations :-

**SABC**
20 employees whose business interests received R2.4bn from the national broadcaster.

**SA Police Service**
Significant irregularities in the SAPS building programme, with allegations of supply chain management problems in the building of 33 police stations exceeding R330m.

**Public Works**
The entire department is under investigation.
Leased accommodation, contracts and conflicts on interest and other irregularities amount to R3.3bn.

**Ekurhuleni Metro**
Ten contracts involving 19 contractors and more than R500m is under investigation. The director of infrastructure had admitted to signing off R12m in invoices for services that were never rendered.
Human Settlements
Twenty Seven projects involving more than R2bn are under investigation. Mostly for contractors being paid for more houses than were actually built and for houses than do not exist.

Arts & Culture
Misuse of funds earmarked for the Fifa World Cup amounting to R42m

A disease that has gripped the country – as I said, the figures are staggering.

A Happy and peaceful Christmas to all of our Outpost readers. See you again in Feb/March 2012

.......Ed
OUTPOST

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WESTERN CAPE OUTPOST
Having recently returned from an extended trip to the Drakensberg, Sabi, Kruger Park and Zimbabwe, I must report on some of the ex members whom I met up with.

8149 “Scotty” and Pam Truesdale. After leaving Zimbabwe Scotty ran and owned a processing and canning factory in Tzaneen. After selling out to Nestle he took on the job of M.D of Nestle Western Cape and thereafter MD of Nestle in Mozambique. He is now fully retired and living in Tzaneen (s.truesdale@vodamail.co.za).

8081 Pete “Tool” Francis & his wife Sheila. Quite by coincidence, soon after crossing in to Zimbabwe we stopped at The Lion & Elephant for the night and bumped in to Pete and Sheila. I had not seen Pete for at least 33 years, so we had ‘a few’ in the pub whilst we caught up with old times. Pete is Director ‘Operations Overborder’ for Cargo Africa.

8150 Dave Lurie. Still living and working in Harare and married to ex WPO, Wendy. Sadly he was in St Annes Hospital undergoing tests for a heart complaint and has subsequently been sent to South Africa to see a Cardiologist. We wish him well.

During my very short time in Harare I was invited to lunch at Harare Club with a group of businessmen. I ended up sitting next to two ex-reservists who both worked with me on ‘E Desk’, Greg Pozzo and Nigel Gabriel. Both of whom still running very successful businesses. 6427 Peter Hind was also present.

All the above send their best wishes to all that knew them.

8151 Lawrie Mabin

24th September, 2011
Dave Waddon (5675) writes from Montagu that he and his wife Nikki had an enjoyable evening when they entertained two recent arrivals in Montagu, namely :-

5091 Jake Jecock (Tel : 023 614 3804)
And
8836 Peter Beckley & wife Sharon (Tel : 083 3213496 : e-mail peter@beckley.co.za)

Regrettably Jake’s wife was indisposed that evening

Two other ex members living in Montagu have also been located, namely : 4378 Gordon Beveridge and 6277 Dan Werth
Dear Lawrie
We're still on Rhodes (Greece) and captured these pics.
The Rhodesian shopping Centre at Iallysos, not far along the "west coast" from Town. The latter shows Ursula standing in front of the name or are my eyes playing tricks?
Regards
Andrew Stevens 6226

Hi Lawrie:
Excellent production. Many thanks.
I was pleased to see the references to Bill Earle, who I was privileged to meet on several occasions on visits to the UK from the USA in the last 31 years. He was a fountain of knowledge about the BSAP and told me many stories about his early days and his interaction with many senior members. His dry sense of humour was infectious and his pride in having served in the BSAP was so evident by all the memorabilia in his home. He was a real gentleman.

I'm attaching a picture of him, that I took in 2008, which you may care to include in the digital version of a future edition of your Outpost. I like to think that I really captured his character in this one. I know that Helga was present at the Last Parade and I was so sorry that I missed meeting up with her again after the parade ended. There were so many people to meet and greet and I did not put the correct priority on making sure I saw her on that memorable occasion.
Thanks for all you do to keep the channels of BSAP communication open.
Cheers,
Will Cornell 6388
Yorba Linda, California

Hi Neville,
A good friend on mine, past Thornhill High School pupil (Gweru) and BSAP member DPO Grant Evans sent me these photos a month or so back from the Police Chapel in Harare. He still lives in Harare.
Both my late Father’s and My Mom's ashes are there in the wall of remembrance. According to Grant, the Chapel is still well maintained and all the plaques still in place. I also happened to tie the knot there on the 10th January 1981.
You may use them or pass them onto anyone who may be keen to know, as I was, the state of the chapel.
Happy to report that my Dad and Mom are still there.
Greetings Neville,

Hope all is well with you and the family and that like us on the South Coast you are" weathering "the winter as best as possible and awaiting clear blue skies,hot sunny weather and the return of the bikini........

First of all I have just had the opportunity to read your latest Outpost which I found absolutely superb. ...a very good publication with stacks of interesting matter...compliments to the entire team.

I was most upset to hear of the passing of Brian Wren in Botswana. We were Cadet Squad mates and then Recruit squad mates later in the year. We shared a room in Edward Block and were both members of the Mounted Escort to the President in 1969 and the Annual Display Team of the same year. We were great mates.

However on leaving Depot we never crossed paths again and I always wondered what had happened to him. Laurie Mabin was also in the same Squad. Do you have any contact details for me on the Wren family ?

On another issue I am researching the activities of the BSAP Car Club which was very prominent in Salisbury and Bulawayo in the 60's and 70's.I have been at it for a couple of weeks now and have had some fantastic feed back from the likes of Fred Punter, Dave Owen,Peter Huson and Peter Arnold who were all former members of the Club.My intention is to publish through the Outpost network my findings in a similar fashion to that just done by Peter Shout on Music. I am trying to track down Nigel Harris and Peter Jackson,both prominent member of the Club in Bulawayo who I believe are in your neck of the
Dear Jim and Neville,

I hope this finds you well and not suffering too much with the Cape winter. I have been onto the Assoc site and just read your latest newsletter and delighted to see so many names and faces of members of around our vintage. I have been in St Fillans in Perthshire for over eleven years, loving every minute of it as long as we are able to escape some of the winter. We return to SA most years, usually to Natal where we have family but on this and the following trip we are bringing pals from our village to visit the Cape, do a game reserve, the Battle fields in KZN and Vic Falls before they return and we continue our holiday visiting family and friends.

On this next trip we arrive in Cape Town am 5th Nov and head for Simonstown to a B&B run by Terence and Brigitte Murphy ex 7 Sqd where we will be for a week before flying to KZN.

Are you by any chance holding one of your regular 'gatherings' over that period as I would really enjoy an evening with old squad mates?

I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully meeting up during our visit.

Please send my best wishes to your members and especially Peter Logue, Shamus P, Doug Grieson.

Yours Aye
Eric Kennelly 6835

Email from Ashley, Daughter of Ben Pretorius (07 August 2011)
Hi all. just spoke to Joan and she says my dad is doing alot better. He is hopefully being moved out of ICU today as the infection in his lungs is easing. He will be on a general ward at St Anne's Hosp PMB. I have copied ALL your messages onto a 7 page email with a photo of each of you next to your messages and she is taking it to him xxx thank you all so much x

Following hereunder is some e-mail correspondence between myself, (6226) Andrew Stevens, and a gentleman by the name of Babusi M. Sibanda. Babusi’s letter makes very interesting reading and if any readers are able to supply him with more information on the ex District Commissioner, Noel Robertson, I am sure he would be most grateful.

......ED

07 September 2011
I am Johannesburg based researcher/writer who is interested in the colonial/pre-independence history of Matabeleland South and Matopos/Kezi in particular

I am researching one Noel Robertson, a legendary Rhodesian Native District Commissioner and Distric Magistrate for Matopos in the mid 1950s to early 60s. Robertson was known to all and sundry in the district and beyond as "Nkom(o)iyahlaba . The angular metal fencing poles that marked the borders of
Chiefdoms are known to this day as Insimbi zikaNkomiyahlaba (Nkomiyahlaba's fencing poles)
The 100meter long Shashane River bridge between Sun Yet Sen and Tshelanyemba Hospital (where I was born and grew up as my mother was the first nurse there in 1950 and would continue to be until her retirement 4 decades later)

What I know about Nkomiyahlaba/Robertson is that was a great rural land use pioneer and some of the systems he tried to introduce (albeit at the wrong time politically) were light years ahead. The system which included Rural Councils, the separation of grazing and living/farming areas, the planned servicing and electrification of rural areas, advanced sustainable/anti erosion farming and most crucially the training and supply of agricultural extension officers.

I read through the March 2011 (No68) issue of the Cape Outpost Kezi and Elephants by Andrew Stevens (6226) (where I got your details) and found the article which makes reference to Noel Robertson absolutely fascinating.

I would appreciate any leads/pointer, articles, references, contacts and information...whether academic or anecdotal...all will be treated with appropriate confidentiality if this is necessary and certainly with a great deal of respect.

Thank you in anticipation.

--
Babusi M Sibanda
Independent Knowledge Merchant
Member of SAFREA,(www.safrea.co.za)
Mobile: +27-721969188
E-Mail: kwizeen@gmail.com

Dear Babusi,
Thank you for your e-mail. I personally cannot assist with any information you require but I have forwarded your letter to two of my associates and former members of the BSAP who served in that area at that time. I shall also publish your letter in the next Cape Outpost which goes out to approximately 140 ex members and other interested parties. Hopefully you will get a response.

Regards,
Lawrie Mabin

09 September 2011
Dear Babusi
Thank you for your complimentary letter and interest in our Association. Unfortunately I do not have much more to add about “Nkom(o)iyahlab” other than he had 2 very attractive daughters with whom I had the pleasure of dining at Matopos in the company of Mr Robertson at his home. I was there on official Police business guarding the ballot box. I recollect vaguely that we had to go later that night to Plumtree as it was election time and I was very tired after working all day.

Lawrie has said he will put your letter in the “Outpost” and I am sure somebody will remember something. Those that were stationed at Matopos at the time
would probably be able to add something too.
I wish you success with your research.
With kind regards
Andrew Stevens BSAP 6226

14 September 2011

Thank you very much to both you and Laurie for your replies.
As I mentioned, my mother was the first Nurse at the Salvation Army’s
Tshelanyemba Clinic (now a 100 bed Hospital with resident doctors and a
Nurses Training Institute). I grew up at the Hospital and knew the area either
side of the Tshatshani River (around the Bridge) fairly well as we herded cattle
all the way past Sun Yet Sen Police Camp to the hills in the area then called Dry
Paddock.
I have also been wondering as to the origins of the Chinese sounding name
Sun Yet Sen. I am aware that there were three better known gold mines in the
early part of the century (Antelope Mine towards Kezi, Sun yet Sen Mine (also
known as New Mine??) in the vicinity of the police station and Legion
Mine, further south.
I went to High School at Gifford High (previously Gifford Tech in Bulawayo)
where I was headboy in 1985 and then to the University of Cape Town.
You might be interested to know that my father Peter Njini Sibanda (1923-
2006...now late) was a Zapu politician (Joshua Nkomo side of the political
divide). He spent a total of 15 years in political detention (Wha Wha in Gwelo,
Gonakudzingwa (in Gonarezhou the South Eastern Lowveld...a few
kilometers from the Villa Salazaar border post) and in Salisbury). He was a
Member of Parliament (Zapu Mat South) between 1980 and 1985.
He and his fellows in the 50s and 60s organised against the Local councils and
the rural land use reforms that Robertson was trying to implement.
The irony of it is that the some of the programmes and structures were truly far
sighted. Rhodesia implemented a Master farmer programme for training and
certifying black small scale commercial farmers and establish almost definitely
the best agricultural extension services in Africa. The Master farmers trained in
those days and given access to plots in what was called the Small Scale
Purchase areas (to farm maize and cotton esp in the Gokwe area) were the
genesis of a real genuine black commercial farming class.
If there is any real hope for a return to agricultural productivity in Zimbabwe
today (after the disasters of the last 15 years), it rests on the co-operative
efforts of those farmers and the displaced white commercial farmers.
But I digress..
Thanks again and I really look forward to some historical bits and pieces from
Tha Matobo District.
Babusi Sibanda

Dear Neville,
My name is Andrew Thorpe and I am a retired Detective Sergeant with the
South Yorkshire Police in England and a member of the International Police
Association.
I have a part time job as a mobile warden checking on elderly people in
Chesterfield, Derbyshire. One of our clients is a lady in her eighties by the name of Betty Needham. Betty is a lovely lady and whilst chatting to her she was telling me about her first love, a soldier called John Brown Gillies COLQUHOUN who hailed from Ayreshire in Scotland. She met him on V.E. day in 1945 and eventually they became engaged to be married. Not long after, John applied for and was successful in obtaining a position with the police in Rhodesia. Apparently John was only intending to do three years and asked Betty to wait for him. Betty was still in her teens at this time, wasn't prepared to wait for him and finished the relationship. She later heard he had joined the Police in South Africa.

Betty says she often thinks of John and always regretted finishing the relationship. She would really love to know what happened to John and I told her I would try and find out what I could.

A google search revealed this entry on your site.

I wondered if there was anyone who could possibly shed any light on John's life and career. I know that Betty would be really happy to learn anything she can about what happened to John.

I hope you can help me with this enquiry.

Yours in Friendship
A. Thorpe

Hi Andrew,
I knew Jock Colquhoun from early Bulawayo days. He was often the CID duty Inspector when I was an SO in the Control Room. I know little of his personal life but to the best of my knowledge he never joined the SAP.

However there were two things that stand out in my mind re Jock.

In the late 1960's exact date I cannot remember Joshua Nkomo returned from the US to Bulawayo Airport to be greeted by many followers. In the middle of his arrival a hand grenade was thrown behind us which caused a few minor injuries but a huge stampede by all to leave the airport parking area. We sealed off some exits but quite a few cars managed to get away. The next morning there lying in the middle of the car park was a hand grenade. I seem to recall it was of Chinese Manufacture but at that stage it was the first one we had seen or come across. It had obviously been in a motor vehicle and when the searches were taking place had rolled in underneath a vehicle.

There was much deliberation what to do about it when Jock took action. He crawled across the tarmac examined the grenade and then dismantled it. We were of course all holding our breath and hoping nothing would go wrong. Well nothing did and I thought it was a very brave action on his part. I cannot recall if he received any commendation for his action.

When Jock had completed about 16/17 years as a Det Inspector he was sent to Australia to bring back a wanted prisoner who had been arrested there. I understand Jock was extremely well looked after on the trip and duly returned with prisoner. Whilst in Australia he was offered a position in the Australian Police Force (Not sure which one). I think at this stage Jock was getting a bit fed up with not receiving further promotion and the next thing he resigned and
took off for Australia. Although it had all looked rosy when he was there it did not come out that way and in approximately 6 months he left and returned to Rhodesia. I rather lost track of him at this time but have an idea he joined the Railway Police but cannot confirm this.

Jock was a very pleasant an who enjoyed a dram or two, played a bit of snooker in the Mess and was well liked by his contemporaries. This actually says little about the man himself but are my memories of him. Hopefully this may assist. Former CID Members such as Dave Blacker and Brian Thomas may be able to supply additional information.

Doug G 5860

*Any ex member who can assist with more information on John Brown Gillies (Jock) Colquhoun 4340 please liaise with Neville Spurr direct.*

Dear Commitee

Just to complement the committee for the choice of venue for the annual dinner..really grand, and far too much to eat for me, but I am sure everyone at our table was more than satisfied..

Another grand evening, we may be getting fewer by the year, but the atmosphere, and spirit lives on.

Best regards, and, once again, splendid event.

See you for the Christmas function, all being well.

Niall McKrill.

The Editor

The Western Cape Outpost

All of our members (well most of them) will be aware of the battles of Isandlwana and Rorke’s Drift on the 22nd January 1879. In brief at Isandlwana in two hours 1357 British and Colonial officers and men were massacred by the Zulus. Later the same day some 3000 Zulus attacked the post of Rorke’s Drift which was defended by 139 men many of whom were sick and ill. Some 15 died in the epic defense of the small post.

11 of the defenders were awarded the Victoria Cross which is the highest figure for any single action by British Troops.

However what virtually all of our members do not know was that your Great Grandfather Colour Sergeant George William MABIN (Corps of Military Staff Clerks) was present at Rorke’s Drift.

I believe it will be of interest to our members for you to publish in your next Western Cape Outpost a short article written about your Great Grandfather and his account of proceedings at Rorke’s Drift.

Doug Grierson. 5860

SEE PAGE 30
In 1951 I was stationed at Bikita in Victoria Province with Jack Berry. One evening over a few beers Jack and I talked about returning to U.K. for our long leave. Between us we decided that an overland journey to U.K. would be an adventure. Little did we realise what we were letting ourselves in for.

In due course Jack visited Salisbury and located a Willys Jeep which was purchased and fitted with storage cupboards etc. It was then decided that 4 people would be a suitable number for the trip. We asked Stuart Alford and Dave Craven, who had been with Jack in his Squad in Depot, if they wanted to join us, and they both agreed.

Eventually the day of departure arrived: March 3rd, 1952. We set off from Salisbury. It was a trouble-free trip through Sinoia on to Chirundu and through Northern Rhodesia to the Congo Border. Night stops were camping by the road or at little Inns or Rest Areas when available. Everywhere was peaceful and there were no problems at Border Posts in those days.

After crossing the Border into the Belgian Congo the road to Elisabethville (now Lubumbashi) was dreadful, consisting of wooden logs across the road for long stretches.

In Elisabethville we stayed at the Leopold II Hotel which was luxurious for the 1950's. Elisabethville itself was affluent, as was the whole Belgian Congo in those days.

At this point the vehicle, which we had named The Yellow Peril, was giving trouble. After a short delay for repairs we set off again, reaching Albertville at the southern tip of Lake Tanganyika.

In an Albertville Bar we met the owner of the local newspaper who told us the name of his paper translated into English was: "The Cabbage Leaf." He didn't explain the reason for such a name.

Proceeding in a northerly direction we visited the Albert National Game Park, the
major Game Reserve, which was fantastic. It had every variety of game, in huge numbers, and we were even given an Askari to guide us. It was also when the whole trip could have come to a sudden stop.

I was driving and the others were hanging on to various places in order to take photos, when unknown to me a hippo started running alongside the truck, and the others were shouting to me to speed up as the hippo was charging us, but I couldn't hear them due to the noise of the engine. We were only saved by the fact that the ground was very wet after heavy rains, and the hippo fell over in an effort to hit the truck, and landed within 2 feet of our vehicle. Not an experience to be repeated -- even the Askari sitting with me was terrified.

We stayed in a comfortable Lodge in the Game Park for a few more days before continuing our journey through the Congo, reaching the ITURI Forest where the Pygmies live. Because of the thick forest the sunlight could not get through, it also rained a lot and the forest appeared dark. The Pygmies would appear and then run off suddenly. The forest was heavily flooded which held us up.

At this time we came across 2 Irishmen with a Morris Minor (!) who were both mechanics. They managed to proceed with the local Pygmies carrying their vehicle across the flooded areas.

We ourselves crossed many rivers by ferry. all of them chain-driven. It was at one of these that Stuart, due to the heat, decided to take a dive from the front of the ferry, and he swam to the far shore, a distance of 100 yards or more, whilst we all held our breath.. He was lucky to survive, as all the rivers were full of crocodiles.

Many miles further on we found a Government Rest Cottage on the banks of Lake Kivu with a fantastic view of the Mountains of the Moon in the distance. After a few days rest we drove on to Costermansville, a beautiful town on the Lake shore with mountains all around.

Further on we stayed at the Stanleyville Hotel, enjoying a few beers on the verandah whilst The Yellow Peril underwent repairs once again.
After a couple of days we moved on to Bangassou on the Border of French Equatorial Africa, passing through to Fort Lamy where we stopped for a short time. The scenery became scrub bordering on desert. Then we drove through the French Cameroons at night on our way to Kano in Northern Nigeria. 76 miles from Kano we broke down - the front axle went. Jack and I hitched a lift on a lorry and took the axle into Kano where we found a replacement after several days. We stayed at the so-called hotel at Kano Airport (it was the best they had to offer) and I remember the large number of vultures sitting on the Airport runway.

Stuart and Dave had to stay behind with the truck on the roadside until we got back. The truck had to be towed in to Kano to have the axle fitted and we all travelled in the pick-up truck.

It was at this time that I received news from U.K. that my Father had died and I had to return by air. Unfortunately I had to leave the other three to carry on.

THE FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION FROM THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARTY, THAT IS JACK BERRY, DAVE CRAVEN AND STUART ALFORD:

We left Kano on Good Friday and drove into the Sahara Desert. After about 650 miles we ran into a large sand dune which put the steering out of action. That night, by an absolute fluke, a section of the French Camel Corps came across us. The Officer in charge spoke perfect English and said he would send a message for assistance on our behalf. We had to sit and wait in the Sahara Desert for 4 days for assistance. During that time we did not see a single person. There were many sandstorms during the days, but the nights were beautiful.

End of story -- we got back to Kano and decided to fly home.

NB 2011 --- Jack, Dave and Stuart are all deceased.

I am the sole survivor: Bill Hollington 4360

Bill Hollington - Now aged 89 years, living in Gansbaai
WESTERN CAPE OUTPOST
Ladies Lunch – Saturday 3rd September, 2011

Twenty three of our members, consisting mainly of the ‘old faithfulls’ and their wives or partners, attended our half yearly Ladies Lunch at Mowbray Golf Club. Once again a good meal was had and much banter between old comrades was heard in the corridors.
CID Salisbury, 1980

Criminal Investigation Department, Salisbury, Rhodesia—9th April, 1980

British South Africa Police

Back Row: D/SO's M. F. Jollivet; W. B. Lines-Williamson; D/WPO's V. Poonia; C. Tomlinson; D/P.O's; P. Mitchell; E. Mustafa; A. Coombe; J. D. Mann; A. Marshall; G. A. Hindmarch; P. Pateen; J. Oliver; J. Gregory; Di/WPO's; A. Wade; M. Chikagaya; D/P.O M. W. F. Makony; Di/SO D. Loney.

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Absent: Supt J. Leves; (O/C/12, Law and Ordnance); Di/Insp's H. J. Larrard; (O/C/12, Bindwe); R. F. Williams; D/SO's M. Griffin; S. Penrose; M. C. Grigg; Di/WPO-C. Evans; Di/P.O's C. Kerr; A. F. Smith; D. van Breunant; Mrs. J. Sivum; (Clerk/Typist); Mrs. A. G. Podzovan; (Clerk/Typist); Mrs. J. Hart; (Clerk/Typist); Mr. J. Afoford; (Staff); Mr. J. F. Jerome; (Staff); D/SO W. R. Barmman; (Transport).
Regular as clock work, every Thursday, Mr. Fadness and Mr. Baker, the Arcturus mine manager and secretary respectively, collected the weeks wages from the bank in Salisbury, and travelled in the mine Peugeot station wagon the short distance back to Arcturus, to pay the workers at the Gold Mine. The wages amounted to R$ 45000.00, a large amount at the time.

On this particular Thursday, Enterprise base received calls on the Agric Alert from small holdings in the area of Arcturus of two bursts of gunfire from the direction of the road to the mine. The report came through at about 1430, and we activated the stand by PATU stick from Goromonzi Police Station. I got on my way from Enterprise with additional troops.

The station wagon had come to a standstill about 60 m off the road, riddled with large bullet holes, and inside were the bodies of Mr Fadness and Mr Baker. The rear door of the vehicle was open. Our initial thought was terrorist ambush, but the bullet holes in the doors were large on entry, and even larger on exit! This was odd, and when the PATU stick advised that they could not locate any “doppies” (cartridge cases) where the vehicle had run off the road, alarm bells rang.

CID law and Order were requested, and arrived in the persons of DI Mick Cundy, DSO Martin Powis and DSO Fred Varkevisser (late)

At this point, Berwick James, the mine Engineer roared up in his Alfa Romeo, stating that he had heard at the mine of the incident, and wanted to help. His agitated state was extreme, enough to cause some raised eyebrows, especially when he pointed out that the cash box, normally bolted down in the rear of the station wagon was missing. We had not been aware of the cash box at this point.

Having set the scene, let me summarise the events that followed.,

Working in conjunction with the CID Law and Order Detectives, we unearthed an extraordinary story.

Berwick James had cultivated a story over the previous few weeks that his Alfa was overheating regularly, so that when Fadness and Baker had that day seen him on the side of the road they were travelling on, with his bonnet up, they slowed up to see if he was OK.

This enabled James to step out from in front of his Alfa and fire an AK into the
occupants of the Peugeot. James has acquired the AK from a RLI troopie whose father farmed in the area, and had cut the barrel short. This was why the entry holes in the vehicle bodywork had been so large, the bullets were tumbling when the came out of the short barrel. He had also made a device that caught the doppies as they were ejected.

These attempts to evade detection were mistakes. James was a serving TF, but was obviously was unaware of terrorist M.O. They left doppies everywhere.

The Peugeot had run downhill off the road far further that he had anticipated, so he had to follow into the bush to get at the cash box. He also had to give a “coup de grace” to one of the occupants, who was still alive. James then took the cash box back to his house, emptied it into a jersey and stashed it under the seat of his mine vehicle, a Peugeot pick up. He threw the cash box into his septic tank.

After appearing at the scene, James had gone home, and then into Salisbury in his mine vehicle, where he was picked up by Uniform Branch Police on instructions from Mick Cundy.

His Peugeot pick up was brought back to the mine, and I by chance discovered the money in the Jersey under the seat when I went to move the vehicle during the night. Some R$ 8000 was missing and we were unsure where this was, until we drove the route that James took to Salisbury the following morning. There in a small river, was money plastered to bull rushes and rocks. We recovered R$ 6800.00, the rest had gone down the river so to speak. (We did hear in days to follow of local farm workers finding cash in the river).

We did not find the AK.

We located the cash box, and based on this and other evidence James was convicted of Murder and sentenced to hang. He was in the Salisbury Central Maximum Security Section, with Aiden Diggeden, and two other prisoners. About 2 months after his conviction he was found dead in his cell, apparently having killed himself by slitting his wrists.

Aiden Diggeden, following his release in 1979. sent a letter to Mick Cundy, stating that he knew the location of the AK, but requesting some GBP 500 for the location, and the same amount again if the weapon was located.

The weapon was located, cut off barrel as expected, and Diggeden got his extra payment.

There is honour among thieves and Policemen.

Article courtesy of ORAFS
 Whilst the Mowbray Golf Club served us well for our Annual Dinner over the past 7 years, rising costs dictated that a more affordable venue be sourced.

Lawrie Mabin came up trumps when he “discovered” the Westlake Golf Club. Negotiating with management and their caterers, he managed to secure the venue and a superb 5 course menu at last year’s per head cost.

This year the Dinner took place on Friday 9th September and was attended by 45 members and guests. A somewhat disappointing turnout considering the efforts that were made to meet members requests to make the occasion more affordable. Fifteen apologies were received which perhaps makes the low attendance a little more palatable.

The proceedings were opened by Rob McLean who gave his rendition of a traditional Scottish grace. Rod Eterman was called upon to toast “Absent friends.” The toast to “The Regiment” was delivered by Dave Blacker when he recited, word perfect and with the passion it deserves, his poem entitled “The Regiment”. This is truly an awesome poem and for those members not familiar with it, and with Dave's permission, it is produced elsewhere in this magazine.

Our guest speaker was David Biggs the well known newspaper columnist with The Cape Argus. David is the writer of the popular column “Tavern of the Seas”. He is also a renowned wine expert and has penned many books on the subject. He gave a short insight into his life as a columnist in which he said that he counts himself very fortunate as he is able to write what appeals to him – many writers do not have that freedom. He touched briefly on his wine tasting expertise and ended by saying that he is one of the few people he knows who gets paid for getting “p---ed” He was quick to add though that on such occasions he always has a driver to take him home.

This year two raffles were drawn – our traditional raffle and one for a beautiful “BSAP” Cake. Lockie Howie did a sterling job in organising our usual raffle. Our grateful thanks is extended to those who kindly donated prizes for the raffle which raised R1200 for the Association funds.

The “BSAP” Cake was won by Ralph McArthur – see the article “RALPH TAKES THE CAKE”

The fine food and pleasant venue, appropriately decorated for the occasion by Neville Spurr, Mike Mays and Tony Rozemeyer, proved to be a great success and a good time was had by all. The very favourable comments received after the event supported this view.

Those in attendance were:-
(6354) Derek Bothwell and guest Rudolph Murray, Wendy Meyer, Debbie Aron (WPO),
(8793) Alastair Semphill, (7702) Chris Le Mesurier, (8336) Mike Webster, (8173/8952)
Lockie Howie and guest Kai Howie, (7473) Dave Hillman, (6780) Graham Janse,
(6874/8032) Neville Spurr and guest Nicholas Spurr, (7751) Alan Crook, (7364) Dusty
Millar, (7797) Eddie Gleeson,
(7389) Taffie Roberts, (8244) Rob McLean, (8304) Niall MacKrill, (5860) Doug Grierson,
(5880) Stan Macillan, Bobby Gibbons (Army), Ted Vickery (Army), (6118) Pat Keyser,
(6120) Dave Parry, (6158) Don Peters, (6893) Brian Oberholster, (6920) Andy Bullmore,
(6846) Jim Blain, David Biggs (Guest Speaker), Steve McEvoy (Guest), (5483) Dave
Blacker, (7310) Ed Ions, (8895) Rod Eterman, Roche Beneke (Guest), Kevin Vos
(Guest), Alan Barnes (Guest), (6248) Basie Van Heerden, (8897) Karl Van Woerden,
Guy Du Gruchy (Guest), Des Easom (Guest), Dave Osborne (Guest), (C697) Mike Mays
(Photographer) Ralph MacArthur (Piper)
Mugabe, My Part in His Victory’ is the title of a new book by Chris Walmsley which gives a mostly humorous account of his early life from his days at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, where he rowed for the University and also played rugby and was prominent in athletics. I knew him from those early days when he was my sub warden in Jan Smuts House, through to the economist and lecturer that he is today. From Rhodes he went on to Trinity College in Dublin, qualifying as an economist. Back to Rhodesia he worked as an economist in the Reserve Bank before his call up as a national service police officer – one of the first intakes in 1974.

His book gives an insight into depot life as an NSPO and then his posting to District Branch in Manicaland, where he was chosen for provincial rugby, when not on PATU duties. This book gives a valuable insight into the police service of an NSPO during the bush war years, and is full of little historical gems, making it a riveting read, and I would thoroughly recommend it. Tony Granger 9086.
THE REGIMENT

They Northward rode across the land,
Mopani forest, scrub and sand
Young troopers far 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
And 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 B.S.A.P. had had its birth
And now was still to prove its worth.

Across Rhodesia's varied lands
We 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 our faults could we atone
None at our backs – we stood alone.

With courage, honour, sense of pride
Black and white stood side by side,
As did those troopers long before
With fortitude our role we bore.

We saw, as they, Zambezi'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 fleet impala make its run
The glorious sight of setting sun.

But in an ever changing scene
Where time erases what has been,
We watched a land revert and change
To values we considered strange.

But all of us can feel with pride
The comradeship naught can deride
And in our hearts know what is meant
Each time we toast – THE REGIMENT.

- Dave Blacker
Ralph MacArthur, our esteem piper, won the raffle for the “BSAP Cake” drawn at the Annual Regimental Dinner on 9th September 2011.

The cake (see pictures below) was baked, decorated and donated by Mayra Eterman, sister of (8895) Rod Eterman, to raise funds for the Association.

Our grateful thanks to Maura for her very generous gift which managed to raise R650.

After admiring the cake yet again Ralph said that he was faced with terrible dilemma. He felt the cake was too beautiful to cut into pieces. Ralph had the sympathy of many of those who took tickets for each one shared the same sentiment as Ralph."
Depression

The likeness to (5800) Tom Naude is purely coincidental.

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Contact
Lawrie Mabin (8151)
Cell: 083 635 1337

Also at
Wynberg
WHAT'S IN A BOOK

Like many members attending the monthly get-together at Timour Hall, I diligently sign the attendance register and pay little attention to the enormous leather bound book in which I record my name. However, I recently had to take charge of the book so that I would have it on hand to take with me to our Annual Regimental Dinner.

Upon examination of the book, I discovered that the spine of the book bears the inscription LEDGER BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA Coy in gold embossed lettering (see picture below). Weighing in at 13 kilograms, the book, although showing signs of deterioration, has weathered the years very well.

On the inside cover is a label providing details of the book manufacturer:

WATERLOW & SONS
Wholesale Stationers and Manufacturers Of Patent Account Books

The first page contains a type written letter compiled by Capt CC Rogers, Commandant BSA Police Depot under the heading BSA Police Salisbury District Contingency Account and dated 24 February 1946. It appears the book was used as a Leger for a very brief period with the final entry recording the date March 1946.

I am not aware how the book found its way to South Africa but can say that it commenced its duty as an Attendance Register on 3 December 1993 when it recorded the names of members attending the Christmas function. With 250 unused pages still available, it will probably outlast the majority of our members in the Western Cape.

For those not familiar, as I was, with the history of the British South Africa Company (BSAC) it was a mercantile company based in London. It was incorporated in 1889 under a royal charter (at the instigation of Cecil Rhodes) with the object of acquiring and exercising commercial and administrative rights in south-central Africa. The charter gave the BSAC rights to maintain or distribute vast territory, to make treaties, to establish a police force, and to set up banking firms.

By 1900, the BSAC was administering both Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia, and by various means had acquired substantial land and mineral rights.
BSAC rule ended in Southern Rhodesia in 1923, when the white settlers were granted responsible government, and in Northern Rhodesia in 1924, when the Colonial Office assumed control. However, the BSAC retained its commercial assets and its mineral rights in Northern Rhodesia became a valuable source of revenue following the development of the copper-mining industry in that territory between the First and Second World Wars. On the eve of Northern Rhodesia's independence, the BSAC was forced, by the threat of expropriation, to assign its mineral rights to the local government. The BSAC merged with two other companies to form Charter Consolidated Limited in 1965.

Jim Blain

DESERVED RECOGNITION

In recognition of his assistance and service to the Western Cape Branch of the Association over many years, the Committee and members were pleased to confer the status of Honoury Member of the Association on Deon Huysamen seen here receiving his Certificate from our Branch Chairman, Jim Blain. Deon, as Manager of Timour Hall has, over the years, provided invaluable assistance to the Association. It is through his continuing support that our Association enjoys the benefit of holding our monthly get-together in such splendid surroundings.
Remember those holidays in Beira!

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George William Mabin was born in October, 1848, in St Augustine’s, Bristol, the son of George Mabin a prosperous publican.

George William enlisted in the British Army in 1868 and initially served with 2 Btn Rifle Brigade (formerly Prince Consort’s own Rifle Brigade). He was promoted to corporal in May 1870 and to Military Staff Clerk with the rank of Sergeant in May 1872. Therefore he served with the Corps of Military Staff Clerks.

In July, 1878, he embarked for Cape Town on the Castle Of Good Hope and joined the forces of Lt Gen the Hon F.A Thesiger. (later Lord Chelmsford). Chelmsford arrived at Kingwilliams Town in March 1878 to become the Commander of all the Imperial Forces in South Africa. Mabin thus saw service in the campaign against the Galekas and the Gaikas. This was reflected in his 1878/79 clasp to his South African Medal.

On the 22nd January, 1879, Mabin found himself based at the mission station of Rorke’s Drift, on the Buffalo River. The garrison was commanded by Major Spalding who had taken a contingent of men off to Helpmekaar to collect supplies & post. This was the day when the massacre of Isandlwana occurred.

1329 men of the Imperial Forces, including six full companies of of the 24th Regiment were killed. The unlaagered camp at Insandlwana was attacked by 20 000 Zulu Impis. One of the 55 European survivors of Isandlwana, Lt James Adendorf, of the Natal Native Contingent, was the first to reach the mission station. In an interview with The Natal Mercury in January, 1914, Sgt Major Mabin graphically and vividly described his experiences that fateful day:

“I was sitting at my office tent door. At the station we didn’t expect any trouble. Just after three in the afternoon a hatless and bootless soldier galloped in on an exhausted horse and I immediately asked him what had occurred. He exclaimed, “Good God, the whole camp has been taken and they are coming on here.” Thus it would appear that Mabin was the first person in the garrison to hear the news of the massacre at Isandlwana.

“We had scarcely finished our preparations for the defence of the station when the approaching Zulus were observed coming around the spur of the Oscarburg Mountains. There were a total of 86 of us bearing arms and we were prepared to sell our lives as dearly as possible.”

A section of Zulus numbering between 4000 and 6000 attacked the mission station

“The first man I ever killed in my life,” said Mr Mabin, “was a big Zulu carrying an assegai and...
shield and as he advanced he took cover behind anything that presented itself. He dropped behind a rock, prior to making another push, and I covered the rock with my rifle. As he rose again I pulled the trigger, and he leaped at least five feet in to the air and dropped dead. At the start of the battle I had only been armed with a revolver but soon realized we were up against terrible odds, I managed to get hold of a rifle and continued firing throughout the night until I could not hold the barrel of weapon any longer. We were firing in to a mass of black bodies.”

“In the early dawn the enemy was seen to be assembling some 600 metres away, we judged this to be in preparation for a final onslaught. By this time our ammunition was almost finished – we had estimated that we had approximately 15 rounds per man left. Just about this time I was on look out and saw movement on the Zululand side of the river. After about 10 minutes, to our extreme relief, we realized it was the General at the head of the column. The Zulus all retreated at that time.”

The brave and resilient defence of Rorkes Drift is well documented. The defenders sustained 15 killed and 9 wounded. Between 400 and 500 Zulus were killed. The authorities were lavish in their praises and their decorations to the defenders of Rorkes Drift. A total of 11 Victoria Crosses and 5 Distinguished Conduct Medals (DCM) were awarded. George W Mabin did not feature in these awards, mainly because he was staff corps and was not part of the Regiment, he did not even appear on the Regimental Pay List. He was however acknowledged later for his services at Rorkes Drift when he was recommended for promotion to Warrant Officer by Lord Wolseley.

George W Mabin was nicknamed and became known as ‘the fighting clerk’. He later saw action in the Boer War, when he accompanied Sir George Colley in the expedition against Joubert’s Boers. He saw action in the battles of Ingogo, Laings Nek, and Majuba, where the British forces were routed. Being staff corps and adjutant to the General, he was standing next to him when the latter was shot through the head at Mujuba Hill.

In 1897, George W. Mabin was presented with The Meritorious Service Medal. Only two of these medals, struck in gold, were ever awarded. This medal is today on display at the South African Military War Museum in Pretoria.

On the 31st May, 1898, he took his discharge after 30 years and 2 days in the British Army, 21 years of which were served in South Africa.

On the 23rd October, 1938 he died in Cape Town aged 90 years. At the time of his death he was the last living survivor of Rorke's Drift. He left six sons and five daughters. One of his grandsons, Arthur Mabin (father of the author), of Cape Town and Rhodesia, inherited his grandfathers military prowess, serving as Lt Col in the
Rhodesian forces during World War 2, being Mentioned In Dispatches five times, and made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE).

Sgt Major Mabin's funeral in Cape Town was clear testimony to the affection and respect with which he was regarded by the Cape Town community. Attendance and wreaths were received from the following:-

W.O's & Staff Sgt's of the Cape Town Highlanders
Members of the Garrison NCO's Mess, Cape Town
Lt Col J. Senescal
Officers & NCO's of the Duke Of Edinburgh's Own Rifles
Officer Commanding & Staff, Aircraft & Artillery Depot, The Castle, Cape Town
Officers & Men of 1 Heavy Battery, South African Artillery
The funeral was accorded a firing party from members of the Coast Artillery Brigade under command of Lt H.C.R Webb. Bugle & drums from The Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles
8151 L.L. Mabin (great grandson)

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Unit 9 Berbax Park, Berkley Rd, Maitland
Lesson 1:
A man is getting into the shower just as his wife is finishing up her shower, when the
doorbell rings.
The wife quickly wraps herself in a towel and runs downstairs.
When she opens the door, there stands Bob, the next-door neighbour.
Before she says a word, Bob says, 'I'll give you $800 to drop that towel.'
After thinking for a moment, the woman drops her towel and stands naked in front of Bob,
after a few seconds, Bob hands her $800 and leaves.
The woman wraps back up in the towel and goes back upstairs.
When she gets to the bathroom, her husband asks, 'Who was that?'
'It was Bob the next door neighbour,' she replies.
'Great,' the husband says, 'did he say anything about the $800 he owes me?'

Moral of the story:
If you share critical information pertaining to credit and risk with your shareholders in
time, you may be in a position to prevent avoidable exposure.

Lesson 2:
A sales rep, an administration clerk, and the manager are walking to lunch when they find an
antique oil lamp.
They rub it and a Genie comes out.
The Genie says, 'I'll give each of you just one wish.'
'Me first! Me first!' says the admin clerk. 'I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat,
without a care in the world.' Puff! She's gone.
'Me next! Me next!' says the sales rep. 'I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with
my personal masseuse, an endless supply of Pina Coladas and the love of my life.' Puff! He's
gone.
'OK, you're up,' the Genie says to the manager.
The manager says, 'I want those two back in the office after lunch.'

Moral of the story:
Always let your boss have the first say.

Lesson 3:
A turkey was chatting with a bull.
'I would love to be able to get to the top of that tree' sighed the turkey, 'but I haven't got the
energy.'
'Well, why don't you nibble on some of my droppings?' replied the bull. They're packed with
nutrients.'
The turkey pecked at a lump of dung, and found it actually gave him enough strength to
reach the lowest branch of the tree.
The next day, after eating some more dung, he reached the second branch.
Finally after a fourth night, the turkey was proudly perched at the top of the tree.
He was promptly spotted by a farmer, who shot him out of the tree.

**Moral of the story:**
Bull Sh*t might get you to the top, but it won't keep you there..

**Lesson 4**
An eagle was sitting on a tree resting, doing nothing.
A small rabbit saw the eagle and asked him, 'Can I also sit like you and do nothing?'
The eagle answered: 'Sure, why not.'
So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the eagle and rested. All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

**Moral of the story:**
To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very, very high up.

**Lesson 5**
A little bird was flying south for the winter. It was so cold the bird froze and fell to the ground into a large field.
While he was lying there, a cow came by and dropped some dung on him.
As the frozen bird lay there in the pile of cow dung, he began to realize how warm he was.
The dung was actually thawing him out!
He lay there all warm and happy, and soon began to sing for joy.
A passing cat heard the bird singing and came to investigate.
Following the sound, the cat discovered the bird under the pile of cow dung, and promptly dug him out and ate him.

**Morals of the story:**
(1) Not everyone who sh*ts on you is your enemy.
(2) Not everyone who gets you out of sh*t is your friend.
(3) And when you're in deep sh*t, it's best to keep your mouth shut!
Our oldest known member of the Association is Neal Arden (formerly 3004 Arthur Neal Alston,) who served from 30 March 1928 to 2 April 1930. He 'weighs in' at 101 years, born 27 Dec 1909, and is currently residing with his wife Julia in Huntingdonshire, England.

STATION NOTES
HILLCREST
Thirty-seven Natal and Midlands Branch members got together on Sunday 17 July 2011 at Inchanga Country Village for their annual social day (which used to involve a cricket match until we got too old for that. Bowls followed but ......). The threatening weather may have put a few people off but the day turned out to be ideal for the burning of meat and the quaffing of various beverages. Many of the usual suspects were present, plus a few new faces, and a most enjoyable time was had by all.
Smudge Smith is to be thanked for arranging the venue and Flik Bennett for proving the sadza and gravy. ........Des Howse

Those attending :-
4254 Smith Neil & Shirley
4717 Knight Pat & Heather
4861 Andrews Rob
5087 Johnson Robin & Pat
5293 Dutton Trevor
5661 Wilson Trevor & Linda
5760 Torrance Malcolm/Jean
5802 Wood Ken
5836 Colepeper Peter & Gill
5930 Gardener Roy & Pauline
5939 Sutherland Vic & Reena
5958 Isemonger Dick
6136 Crossley Ant
6519 Carroll John & Nancy
6520 Lane Barry
6805 Graham Phil
7229 Howse Des & Trish
7453 Dawson Neil & Angela
7706 Driver Chris
8090 Lawson Dave
8242 Bennett Alan & Flik
8303 Bristow Rob
8371 Kerr Colin
11166 Kempen Rob
WP71 Ford Louise

"NOW & THEN". The last time 6520 Barry Lane and 6519 Johnny Carroll had their photo taken together was in Depot – 50 years ago, when they shared the same room (although I suspect they changed sides [in the photos] I mean!!)

MARGATE
Member i/c, Barry Woan, reports - 
our Margate Team has once again been busy finding new members and making sure old ones are kept in the loop.
Some weeks ago the Gillot family decended on us from all over the world. 7571 Norman Gillot, 8116 Colin Gillot, three other brothers, two sisters and all the siblings chose Margate for the first "family get together" since they all split up from the then Rhodesia in the 70's. Family came from New Zealand, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Knysna and numbered 26 in all. Norman and Colin will be remembered for their passion for Boxing with both representing the Police and Mashonaland and Colin achieving his Rhodesian colours.

Another regular visitor to our beaches was 6416 Terry Smith and his family who make the trek from the smog, traffic and crime to be with us for a couple of weeks every year. Terry always squeezes out for our traditional lunch of eisbein and draught so that we can have a nice natter.

Rich and Jo Fiddler who live in Hibberdene have joined the Association. Jo, formerly ex WPO Jo Brophy has joined her husband in India where he has taken a short term contract with a chicken producing company. Tea with John and Carla Dolby and visits to "my girls" Penny Callow and Mavis De Bruin usually keeps me busy.

Our next Bring and Braai will be held on Saturday 5th November at the Ramsgate Bowling Club and hope to see "raiding parties" from elsewhere joining in with the festivities."

.......... Barry Woan

DURBAN NORTH
After many attempts, particularly by Malcolm Wiltshire, to get members living in the Durban North area together, Iain Laing finally succeeded in cajoling eight 'old f-rts' (his terminology) to gather for coffee at the Europa restaurant, La Lucia, on Wednesday morning, 13 July. After much chin wagging (you think women can talk!), it was agreed that the gathering should take place on a regular basis and
Iain will organise a repeat in the not too distant future (could this be the start of a long-awaited Durban North Station?).

Those present were; Iain Laing Malcolm Wiltshire Terry Albyn John Haswell Jamie Scott John McCullum Pieter Cloete Noel Kennedy And 'special' guests Trevor Wilson Des Howse

5281 Peter Bellingham (in a letter dated Sep 6th, addressed to all Branch Secretaries) writes -
"I thought that I should advise you all that Bill Ellway's sight has deteriorated quite dramatically, possibly due to glaucoma, to the extent that he is now employing a driver, and is using a computer like reader so that he can read. He tells me that the Specialist has assured him that he is not going blind. He attributed the deterioration to the aging process. The two attacks that he sustained could also have a bearing on his deteriorating vision. He appears to have accepted his condition and is remarkably cheerful under the circumstances. He has no intention of standing down as President at this time, and has said that he proposes to continue until at least the AGM in May 2013. Should there be any change in his condition, I will advise you all."

8980 Duncan 'Porky' Paul writes
"A couple of us thought of arranging the 40th Reunion in 2013 for squads 3 and 4 / 73. At this stage we are just trying to create a Mailing List. Depending on numbers, the place & date will be decided later. I've picked up a few names off the website database. If there are any interested members from squads 3 and 4 / 73, please drop me a note with all details, address, email and contact numbers. It would be great to hear from you" - dunadventures@tiscali.co.za "

7860 Rob Bresler writes
"WHEREABOUTS WANTED –Please can anyone help me trace – 7702 Chris Le Mesurier, ex BSAP Kezi, with whom I was stationed with all those years ago. Also 7655 Eric Kruger, who was stationed in Chesa, under Mount Darwin, July 74 onwards. Don't know if he is still alive. Eric was in charge of a Ground Coverage Special Section based in Chesa itself, with Support Unit elements for his protection."
OUR 'ORATOR' CHAIRMAN

Whilst on holiday in Italy in June this year Trevor & Linda Wilson joined up with Micky & Norah York and then met with Alan and Pauline Lane in London on their way home. A 'full report' will appear in our next Natal Outpost, but in the meantime –

ANNUAL LUNCH

The Club de Vie Restaurant in Le Domaine Estate was the venue for this year's Natal Branch Lunch, held on Saturday 24 September. Ninety four members and guests attended (see list below) and were treated to an excellent repast, the majority expressing the opinion that it was the best meal ever at a Lunch (or Dinner, for that matter).

The Guest Speaker, Prof Donal McCracken, gave an excellent, humorous talk on the Irish influence in the various police forces of Southern Africa. Our intended Reply Speaker, John Haswell, could not be present and our Hon Secretary was press ganged into giving the Reply, mentioning many Irish 'characters' in the Force.

Unfortunately, a number of our usual guests, including Judge Hilary Squires and Steve Stevens, the chairman of the Midlands branch, could not be present, the latter's place being filled by Alan Bennett, Midlands Branch Hon. Secretary. Attendees from outside the province included Lee and Jan Le Crerar, from Nelspruit; Phil and Robin Devlin from Johannesburg; Peter Combes, also Johannesburg; and Rob and Shelagh Hamilton from Ladybrand.

We also welcomed two visitors from the
UK – Hazel, widow of 5943 Ray Borrett, and her travel companion, Eileen Vincer. Hazel is the sister of Denis Wyatt. The Margate Station, mustered by their Member i/c Barry Woan, was again well represented and we were very pleased to see Shirley Smith (wife of Smudge) who recently underwent major surgery. Many ales were consumed, many memories re-kindled and the day enjoyed by all.

..............................Des Howse

Trevor Wilson adds "The date for the lunch - 24th September was appropriate, as it was Heritage Day in South Africa and we could remember our service in the BSA Police with pride. A 'first' as far as I know – the Catering and Kitchen staff were called from the kitchen after the event and enjoyed a prolonged loud round of applause and thanks for their efforts and the quality of the food. Before the proceedings concluded, I announced that Trevor Dutton had been accorded the honour of being appointed an Honorary Life Member of the Natal Branch for his dedicated work and untiring efforts in producing the Natal Branch Outpost to such high standards, since he undertook the editorship. He immediately announced that in future he would spend the annual subs, he no longer has to pay, on his "trains". He also received a bottle of single Malt whiskey to revive himself after his extended exertions and Beryl received a bouquet for her efforts in proof reading each tome. Well done to you both."

COMMITTEE 2011
Barry Enslin – Chairman
John Pirrett-Vice/Chairman
Dick Glanville – Secretary
Maureen Merrifield – Treasurer
Ian Duncan - Member
Doug McGibbon - Member
Ashley Collings - Member
Dick Latilla – Member
Dave Holmes – Member
John Hill - Member

MONTHLY GATHERINGS:
8/04/2011, 13/05/2011, 10/06/2011, 8/07/2011
Most of the usual supporters were present, and it was good to welcome 8303 RobBristow from Natal in April, and 9150 J.Thompson from Ireland in June. Many thanks to all the regulars for pitching during one of our coldest winters; a ‘newie’ has been 18810 Alex McKenzie from Dickie Fritz Shellhole.
CURRIE AND RICE LUNCHEON:
ROSEBANK BOWLING CLUB 26/06/2011
This was again very well-attended and a good time was had by all it seemed. Close to a hundred were present and assisted in our fundraising project by having a good lunch and supporting the raffle. Many thanks also to those who donated prizes. The following signed the register: 6769 Dick Glanville, 5619 Barry Enslin, 6610 Jock Pirrett, WP58 Gwen Drummond, guest Roger Crosby, guest Carol Doughty, 7855 Alan Jewson, 7382 John Gray, 110977 Mike Evans, 7489 Ian Duncan, 110905 Doug McGibbon, 6345 Dave Holmes, 6538 Glenn & Jo Macaskill, (5703) Judy Hankinson, visitors Keith Scafturus, Gill Merriefield, Chris Howe, Alisha Howe, Alan Strachan, Michael Bowery, Helen Arnett, 6416 Terry & Veronica Smith, W346 Maureen Merriefield, Assoc. Lorraine Rutherfoord, 9214 Ian Edwards, 823 Brian Newton, W422 Hilary Beck, guest Tom Julyan, guest Jackie Diamond, 7670 John Sutton, 6817 KeithDouche, 6316 Bob Wishart, 4228 Bruce Harrison, 5666 Dave Wright, 4831 Peter & Fran Stiff, 6255 Jack & Fi London, 6059 Laurie & Liz Ibbitt, guest Karen Noonan from South Carolina, 110887 John Herdman, 19761D Neil Archer, guest Paddy de Jager, 6019 Sakkie McKay, 7651 Dick Latilla, guest Moira Winslow, 6419 Clive Wheatley and guest Theresa Sheplley, SAP Col Blackie Swarts, 110854 Flo de Meyer, WP74 Aila Stanton, 5809 Peter Stanton, guest Sheryl Boxshell, guest Sandra Stevens, 5526 Phil & Robin Devlin, 110687 Nick Sheward, guest Clare Marshall, 10555 Peter Hobson, 110758 Peter Allum, 22979 Mike Miskulin, guest Ruth Reed, guest Johan van Eyssen, guest Len Beechey, guest C. Sullivan, RLI Papi Bolton, 8053 Gus Albertson, 8081 Peter Francis, 7819 Rob Stewart, 6145 Alex Fraser, 0480 Ian Bate, Karoo 1 Rod Walker, 110615 Bryan Peach, 110756 Chris Birtle, 64358 Richard Margetts.

REMINDER!!!!!
Monthly gatherings every second Friday at the Transvaal Scottish (The Jocks). Anytime after 5.30pm. Wives, partners and guests welcome. Please make the effort – you’ll not be disappointed and you’ll be surprised at who you meet.

A TRIBUTE OF APPRECIATION TO 6610 JOHN CONNOR PIRRETT.
This year celebrates the 30th year that the BSAP Golf day tournament will be held. One man has been the inspiration and the driving force behind this endeavour. The objective of the Day: To raise funds for the BSAP Transvaal Regimental Association that in turn looks to the needs of its members who have fallen on bad times. Many Johannesburg hospices have also been recipients of this benevolence. No single person of the Transvaal Association has through his personal efforts done so much for others as has John. For example, in the last three years alone, the coffers have swelled by no less than R45 000 as a result of the superb organization surrounding these Golfing days. John also gave unstintingly and selflessly his time and energy serving 3 years as Chairman, under whose leadership and guidance, other fund raising efforts have added
much needed funds to the kitty. His generosity knows no bounds. On behalf of each and every member of the Association, we stand and salute you John Connor Pirrett, not only for the many thousands of rand that you have raised, but for the continuous and sustained effort at each and every event, over the last thirty years.

Barry George Enslin (Chairman)

AUSTRALIA

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Victoria        Derek Hardey  tel (03) 9700 1431
ACT            Will Singleton  tel (02)6238 0168

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CHAIRMAN’S CHAT

This edition of Chairman's Chat comes to you from the high seas en-route to the United Kingdom. One highlight of the visit will be meeting close relatives that none of us knew existed until several weeks ago.

Whilst in England, Laurie and I will be attending the annual UK branch braai. I'm anticipating that I'll be able to obtain some information on the UK branch welfare policy. I'm hoping that we will be able to implement our own in September this year.

As well as meeting friends not seen not seen in many years I'll also be able to
make some new connections on behalf of the our branch. I also want to promote our idea in the UK that a 50 year re-union for all members who attested in 1963 be held in 2013 to mark the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Regimental Association in 1913. In the absence of any international support for that proposal, then maybe we could mark the occasion by having a major function and several events for all members of the Association and non-members we can locate between now and then, in Australia and New Zealand? Please let me know what you think.

The committee need your help in recruiting new members. If you know of new arrivals or long timers in Oz please encourage them to join our Association. I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual formal luncheon on 10 September. For further information see page 2 in this edition.

Rob (Bob) Gates

Good News!!
The Australia Branch’s funds are healthy and the Committee has therefore decided that members will no longer be asked for annual subscriptions.

New Members
John Redgment, a former Chief Prosecutor and Senior Magistrate in Salisbury, has joined the Association. John is now living in Bunbury where he is a University Lecturer and Solicitor.
Also joining is John’s son Christopher Redgment, a former NSPO, who is now a medical doctor in Brunei.
8737 Patrick Logue, who lives in Innes Park, Queensland, has also joined the Association.
Finally, 8262 Jeff Cooper of Narrogin in country Western Australia, became a member in March this year.
A warm welcome to you all.

Travelling Members
(5316) Kerry and Olivia Hoadley have recently returned from a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia which included an 8-day trip on the Tonle and Mekong Rivers. During the trip, they tried the local delicacy of fried Tarantula Spiders which tasted "OK"!
(4649) John and Margaret Seward have caught the cruise bug and are off again on 13 July. This time, the voyage will take them around the northern part of Australia to Darwin and Cairns and will finish in Sydney.
(7045) Rob and Laurie Gates are on their way to UK and will not return to 24 August.
Roll of Honour

8980 Richard William Douglas died on the 22nd June, 2011, at Komatiepoort. Richard joined the force in January, 1977 and left in August, 1980 with the rank of S/O. He was not a member of the Association.

5197 Michael John Peter (Mac) McGuinness passed away in hospital on the 6th July, 2011, in Pretoria, from injuries he received after being attacked in his home on a Saturday afternoon. “Mac” will be remembered mostly for his services in Special Branch whilst working with the Selous Scouts. Mac served from January, 1954 and April, 1980 and left the force as a Chief Superintendent.

8161 Brian Wren passed away on the 23rd July, 2011, in Botswana. Brian served from December, 1968 to December, 1971, and left the force as a P/O.

4521 Phil Mingaard passed away on the 31st July, 2011, in Pietermaritzburg. Phil joined the force in December, 1949, and retired as Assistant Commissioner in August, 1976. Phil spent most of his career in Finance Section and Administration at PGHQ. He will be remembered for his keen interest in the administration of BSAP Rugby. He was instrumental in the formation of the Natal Midlands Branch of the Association and served as Chairman up to 2008.


110627 Stephen George Cavanagh died in Durban on the 9th September, 2011. Stephen joined the force in August 1978, and served until May, 1979, when he left the force on pension and other benefits.

5436 David Thomas Champion passed away on the 4th September, 2011, in Alicante, Spain. David served in the force from January, 1956 to November, 1961, when he left the force with the rank of Detective.
Roll of Honour continued...

**5634 William Henry “Bill” Royle** died on the 18th June, 2011, in Sale, UK. Bill served in the force from February, 1957 until March, 1967, when he left at his own request with the rank of Inspector.

**4808 Donald Hugh Russell** died on the 21st September, 2011 in Portimao, Portugal. Don joined the force in November, 1951, and served until July, 1981. He retired from the Zimbabwe Republic Police with the rank of Assistant Commissioner when he moved to Portugal and ran a Pub in Praia da Rocha on the Algarve. He retired in 2004 to live in Portimao.

**WP314 Angela Elizabeth Boothway (nee Hay)** passed away on the 5th June, 2011, in Triangle, Zimbabwe. Angela joined the force in January, 1976, and left in August, 1978, when she left as a W.P.O.


**6271 Harvey Francis Otto Wilhelm** died on the 10th October, 2011, in Cape Town. Harvey served from January, 1961 to June, 1982. His latter years were with Support Unit and he received the PSLM in 1981, shortly before he retired in June, 1982. Harvey was not a member of our Association.

**Joan Fletcher**, wife of the late 4774 John (Butch) Fletcher, passed away on the 22nd October, 2011. Joan took a keen interest in our Association affairs, even after her husband died in 2008.

**4988 William John Maxwell (Jock) Crossan** died on the 28th October, 2011, in Johannesburg. Jock served in the Force from October, 1952 to December 1972 when he retired as Detective Chief Inspector. Jock was well known as an excellent investigator during his time with ‘Crimes Of Violence’. He received (post service) the Police Medal For Meritorious Service in December, 1972. He was a member of the Transvaal Branch of the BSAP Association.
The opinions expressed in the Outpost of the Western Cape are not necessarily those of the Members of the Association.

An electronic version of this edition is available in PDF format from the editor.

WESTERN CAPE OUTPOST