



## Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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## May 2009 Newsletter

Please Note that all previous newsletters are available at

[www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm)

Greetings,

As I write this a week has passed since our ANZAC Day parade. This year, although poor weather prevailed throughout most of New Zealand it did not dampen spirits nor reduce attendances at parades around the country. As far as the main focus of Rhodesians at the Hobsonville RSA went, it was our biggest turnout ever. Further on in this newsletter is an article covering it. This, combined with the sales from our CQ Store, as well as the constant flow of emails, (some of which are also reproduced below) go to show that the spirit of Rhodesia is very much alive.

It never ceases to amaze me the level of support is still out there for us and from so many people in so many different countries. Some support even comes from people who were probably born well after the name Rhodesia had been removed from the map. Over the next few issues of this newsletter I will bring you a report of an American parachuting from a Dak in tribute and respect for the RLI. I am also expecting some material from a team of Russians who partake in war games who have based their uniforms, equipment and weapons also on the RLI. Recently we supplied a Shakespearean theatre company in Stratford, Ontario, Canada with RLI badges so that they can kit out 25 actors in RLI greens who are part of their performance of Macbeth which has been set in Rhodesia. Until the play is opened we do not know how Rhodesia and the RLI will be portrayed, we can only hope that it is reasonably accurate. What is certain though is that the money that we made from the sale will most certainly be used for positive gain for the preservation of Rhodesian history.

The Rhodesian Services Association continues to expand in size and influence at a rate that were it compared to a small business the question would be asked "what recession?" The last two months has seen a level of sales through our CQ Store unequalled in the past. To the best of my knowledge the Rhodesian Services Association is the largest formal Rhodesian association in the world. Our newsletter distribution is of a similar size to ORAFS and of course overlaps with many hundreds of subscribers receiving both.

This newsletter is a big one and for those of you on dial up, I am sorry. I am aware of the dial up limitations and always try to keep the newsletter to a size that does not tax your system and patience to the extreme.

I ask that you pass this newsletter on to anyone that you think would appreciate it. New subscribers are most welcome. I also remind you that you can become a financial member of the Rhodesian Services Association. Subscriptions are NZ\$5 which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September every year.

### Off The Radar

The following people's addresses have gone dead. If you are in comms with them please ask them to contact me, also remember to let me know if you are changing your email address.

- **Ray van der Reit** – New Zealand
- **Anthony and Lorna Jackson** – New Zealand

Louise Berry is looking for **Roland Vincent** who farmed in the Seychelles. Please email Louise at [louise@lbevents.co.za](mailto:louise@lbevents.co.za) if you can help

**Hugh Rowley** – if anyone is in contact with him please ask him to contact me in relation to material that we are seeking for the Rhodesia Regiment history.

If you can help with this email request below please contact Rick direct

"Hi,

A friend of mine passed last week in Australia his name was **Paul Coenrad Odendaal**. He has left behind a fourteen year old son. Paul spoke about his service with the Rhodesian Army and I believe he said he served with the Rhodesian Light Infantry. He was 57 years old when he died last week.

I am organising a memorial service for him and would appreciate if you could find out if he served, what dates and in what capacity so I can make mention during the service. I would also like to let his son know should he wish to learn more of his father's time in the Rhodesian Army.

My email is [rmvmanagement@yahoo.com](mailto:rmvmanagement@yahoo.com)

Many thanks  
Rick Vermunt"

**David Michael Grey** served with the Pay Corps between 1959 and 1962. If anyone knew him please contact his daughter in law Julie Grey on [jpgrey@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jpgrey@bigpond.net.au)

## ANZAC Day 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009

The bulk of this report is from my own attendance at Hobsonville in Auckland, New Zealand. You can access photos on Tinka Mushett's album of Hobsonville on this link "[ANZAC 2009](#)". There are also some photos from Hennie Schoeman's attendance at Waiuku, New Zealand on this link "[ANZAC 2009 Waiuku](#)". There was a pre ANZAC Day report in the Gisborne Herald (New Zealand) which can be accessed via this link "[Former Rhodesians keep the flag flying](#)"

For me the build up to ANZAC starts a couple of months before April with orders for regimental regalia and medals. I always try to get people's orders in with sufficient time to allow for engraving, mounting and postage, but there always seems to be a rush at the last minute with new members who have only recently become aware of our Association and what we can provide requiring items.

On Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> a group of us including Mike Rogers (RLI and 32 Battalion SADF) over from Australia headed up to Auckland. My car was loaded to the gunnels as usual with last minute orders. We spent some time at the Auckland Museum then booked in at our motel which was across the road from the RSA. The motel is excellent and by booking *en masse* we managed to keep costs down. I understand that the intrepid Stompie has heard some rumours of a few 'incidents' involving members of our party so I will leave that reporting to Stompie for the next newsletter.

Saturday dawned damp and windy so we headed over to the Hobsonville RSA to see what the form was going to be. Rhodesians began arriving in force, numbers of which I had never seen before. By the time we were joined by the SAS and Selous Scout guys who had been to a dawn parade at the NZ SAS HQ in South Auckland it had been decided by the Hobsonville RSA committee that we would march, but the ceremony would be held in doors.

We made our way to the assembly point. It was while at the assembly point that I started to realise how many Rhodesians were gathered there.



A random photo from the assembly point with everyone in shot a Rhodesian or descendant of.

Once we were formed up behind the NZ Veterans a message was passed up the ranks that there were about 60 Rhodesians formed up. This is probably double our previous numbers and bearing in mind that several of our number were not well enough to march this was something special.



**The Rhodesian section of the parade forming up. Our ranks run back as far as the man standing just off the road marking line.**

The wind was extreme and I had to reel in our Green and White because it was liable to be blown out of my grip. As it was, I had removed my gloves to better grasp the Rhodesian teak standard. Whether or not I was in step I do not know, but at least Percy Purcel did not pull me up afterwards so I probably did OK.

Sections of the road side crowd clapped as we passed. Despite the weather what an incredible experience once again.

Those of us who could fit into the RSA did so. I was directed to place our Green and White across the window directly behind the lectern. This was a prime position for our flag. It is unfortunate that so many people could not get into the RSA and had to remain outside.

We are most grateful to the Hobsonville RSA for according us this honour. Unfortunately I have not been able to get any good photos from inside the RSA on account of the direct light behind our flag. This below photo was taken while Capt. Penfold former British Army and now New Zealand Army was reading his address. Capt. Penfold opened his speech by welcoming everyone and making special mention of the number of Rhodesians present. In his speech he spoke of 'mateship' and how this translated in military life and with special reference to the alliance between New Zealand and Australia during the Gallipoli Campaign in WWI where so many lives were lost from both countries. To me, his speech was a good one and from our perspective translated into how those of us Rhodesians, now living in the Antipodes, find ourselves befriended by various veteran and service organisations. As a born Rhodesian who has lost his birthright, the friendship extended to us now, and as I look back to the Boer War where Rhodesians, New Zealanders and Australians fought a common enemy, I feel that I have been able to retain dignity and pride which could have so easily been lost had the effort not been made through common bonds.





As the service was drawing to a close inside, the RSA President was made aware that the great number of people outside wanted some form of service. As it was not yet raining, the band was moved outside and the service concluded.

Rhodesians and family then gathered in the lower car park area for our own service. In previous years we had formed up in a squad. Because of hearing problems experienced previously, we had decided that this year we would try something different. We formed an un-military (thank you for reminding us of that Sgt Maj. Hucke!) semi-circle around John Graham who was to conduct our service in the absence of Rob Bates this year. Whilst standing behind John with our standard and flag, I made a head count and I go to 80! This is by far and above the most we have ever had attend and considering the weather, it was a truly amazing turn out. The one advantage to the weather was that our Green and White was shown off to best advantage though it took a bit to hang on to!



John Graham's speech:

*"Good morning everyone, and welcome the Rhodesian Services dedication, I am John Graham standing in for Rob Bates. Welcome again to the regulars who've been here before and welcome to those who are here for the first time.*

*Apologies from Rob Bates who is away in Wellington; Danny Hartman who is just back from 5 days in Zimbabwe; Bryony Bomford sends her best wishes from her hospital bed in Tauranga; Martin Knight-Willis; A text message from Eunice, Peter & George Walls wishing everyone well for the day; An email from Wally Insch who was a Selous Scout and founding member of this gathering – "I would like to pass on to the parade a message to thank them all for carrying on the Rhodesian family tradition in New Zealand and that my thoughts are with you all on this day whilst they are on parade in remembrance of our great country"; Greetings too from Lt-Col Ron Reid-Daly.*

*As we do each year, we confirm our loyalty to New Zealand, in doing so we honour the many ANZAC soldiers who served and gave their lives for New Zealand. We also thank the Hobsonville RSA, for their kind gesture of hosting us again, this is much appreciated. This year, thanks to the initiative of Wolf and Alison Hucke, we have seen an increase in our association with Hobsonville, with regular gatherings here and we hope that these will continue.*

*I would like to give special thanks to Hilton Morgan for laying the wreath today. Hilton was born in Bulawayo in 1930 and was educated at Plumtree School. His father Fred Morgan, was a member of the Springbok and Rhodesia Bisley Shooting Team and in 1920 he won the King's Medal. Hilton served for many years in the Armed Forces. He was a founder member of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Rhodesia Regiment in the Midlands and later transferred to Police Reserve where he was awarded the Long Service Medal. Hilton was a Springbok and Rhodesia Hockey player and was Rhodesian Sportsman of the Year in 1957. He has been married to Dot for 55 years. "Thank you" Hilton for doing the honours today.*

*The following has been sent to us from Brian Robinson, former Commanding Officer of the Rhodesian SAS Regiment*

*"How kind of you to allow me to send my warmest greetings to the SAS callsigns and other former members of the security forces who now live in New Zealand. The fact that they have chosen such a fantastic country to be their adopted home indicates I must have taught them something!*

*I had the privilege of attending an ANZAC DAY Parade in Sydney several years ago. How proud I was to see an SAS contingent marching in step with the SAS Standard. Remaining in step was something they were incapable of doing in my day.*

I have an SAS Roll of Honour in the top right draw of my desk which acts as a constant reminder of the 38 SAS Killed in Action between 12<sup>th</sup> October 1966 and 19<sup>th</sup> October 1979. In particular the 21 SAS Killed in Action between December 1972 and June 1978 which was on my watch as Commanding Officer.

Having just returned from Zimbabwe I ask myself whether it was all worthwhile. My reflex reply was "Never". However on reflection I think of the wonderful camaraderie we all experienced. The excitement, exhilaration and of course fear that we all shared. Not forgetting the many laughs which were very much part of the SAS lifestyle and culture.

I recall giving orders for Operation Dingo where I informed 96 SAS and a similar number of 1 RLI soldiers that they were about to take on an enemy of 11,000 strong. Not a single soldier refused the order to jump or helicopter into action. Between phases of the operation I watched with amazement as two rival Troops conducted a fiercely contested game of cricket on the New Sarum cricket pitch. That is what I call spirit.

I hope you have enjoyed a fantastic parade on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and I know you will never forget our SAS KIA.

My best wishes go to you all,  
Yours,  
Brian Robinson"

I'll turn now to our remembrances. The injured and disabled and also those in difficulty. We think firstly today of our injured and disabled, our elderly and those in distress and hardship, people who fought or went through the wars and who still suffer the consequences so many years on. We remember too, those who served in and survived war but who have passed away over the past 12 months. There are no doubt others we don't know of, so please call their names at the end. We honour them all. The names I have are:

**Bill Jelley** - Wing Commander Rhodesian Air Force (Died on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at his home in Ohope, New Zealand)

**Doreen Wrathall** (Died on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2009)

**Barry Holt** - SAS (Died in Harare 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 from cancer)

**Pete Copping** - SAS Ndola (Died November 2008)

**Denis Desfountain** - Started his military career in during WWII, ultimately retiring from the Rhodesian Army as a Major in the Artillery (Denis was 85 and died on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008)

**Joan Graham** - Joan was 91 (Died in Pukekohe on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008)

**Bernard Walsh** - 2 Commando RLI - Bernard was one of New Zealand's leading specialist immigration lawyers and was Chairman of the New Zealand Association for Migration and Investment (Died in New Zealand on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009)

**Fred Barlow** - Rhodesian WWII veteran (Died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 in Kent, UK)

**Mike Smith** - Mike was one of the "Harare Three" who were released from 19 years of incarceration in July 2006 (Died in Perth Australia aged 55 as a result of a motor bike accident)

**Bob Annan DSO** - RAF during WWII and formerly OC 104 (Umtali) Sqn VR. (Died on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008 at the age of 91 and laid to rest in Umtali)

**Col E.C.R. 'Skin' Turner OLM** - Was the chief army quartermaster (Died on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 in Harare)

**Bertram Owen-Smith** - Royal Air Force. A member of the Guinea Pig Club, the band of Second World War airmen treated by the plastic surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe. After leaving the RAF he pursued a career in medicine and started a practice in Salisbury in 1957. He was elected Rhodesian Front MP for Salisbury North and he was one of Ian Smith's backbenchers when UDI was declared in 1965 (Died June 2008 aged 86).

**Nic Pickard** - A key part of the band Holy Black (Died in December after a long illness)

**Bob Curtis** - BSAP and keen aviator (Died in Port Alfred suddenly on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2009)

**Wendy Campbell** (Died in Zimbabwe on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2009)

**Paddy Molloy** - Served in DRRR, 1NRR, School of Infantry and in the Rhodesian Air Force (Died in England on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008)

**Ian Wiggill** (Died on August 26<sup>th</sup> 2008 in South Africa)

**Lorna Wilson** - Wife of Air Marshal Archie Wilson (Died on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2008)

**Mark van Rensburg** - Police Reserve (Died 4<sup>th</sup> August 2008 aged 75)

**Graham Weaver** (Died in May 2008)

**Tweedy Reid-Daly** - Rhodesian Air Force (Died in Benoni, on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008)

**Vancy Meyers** - Selous Scout and also ex-RLI (Died 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 after a struggle with cancer)

**Dave Edgecumbe** (Died in Cape Town on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008, after a long battle with cancer)

**Garth Snook** (Died on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in South Africa)

**Jon Stokes** (Died on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008)

**Peter Cragg** - Southern Rhodesian Staff Corps in the late 1940s/early 1950s (Died in Harare on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008)

**Graham McBean** - Rhodesian Military Police (Died on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 after a battle with cancer).

**Tom Davies** (Passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008)

**Al Westwood** - In the RAF he flew Lancasters and MK3 Meteors (Died, in Bulawayo, on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008)

**Derek Williams** - Police section of the Rhodesian Air force (Passed away in Nottingham, UK on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008)

**Ron Revell** - Officer in the RAR (Died in Canada from cancer on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008)

**Ian ("Hendo") Henderson** - Air Force (Died on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2008)

*I'll turn now to our dedication to those who served and died for Rhodesia in War. I read first from Ashes and Dust by Chas Lotter, a poem written as if it were being spoken by our own fallen comrades.*

*Turn back the years  
Pick through the bones  
We left behind.  
Examine our few remains  
In vain  
The search is useless.  
For the raw, rich stuff of life  
Has long since fled us.*

*Resurrect our rusty rifles  
From the ever-hungry earth  
Carefully place the faded rags  
Left of that which clothed us  
In warm museum halls.*

*Guard well the curling, yellow photograph  
You found  
Gaze upon our faces  
Frozen  
In a tattered message  
Addressed to those who are still to come.*

*Argue, analyse, theorise  
On the force that drove our people  
We were only human.  
We bled, loved, laughed and cried  
And we laid the foundation-stone  
Of the world you live in.*

*You all have memories of people special to you who died in the War and there were many more whose names none of us here will know but who also fell for our country. As the names and faces run through your mind, remember them with great pride and affection.*

*Please now stand in silence for all of our Fallen. During the silence our Sergeant will take the salute to the flag.*

*They shall grow not old as we are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

*I ask those of you who wish to, to join me in the Lord's Prayer."*

At the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer we adjourned to the warmer confines of the packed RSA where we spent a number of happy hours relaxing and reminiscing. Many people have remarked to me what a wonderful day that we had. Indeed it was, and I thank everyone who attended and hope to see you next year as well as a whole lot of new faces which I have no doubt will be there.

#### Foot notes

The Hobsonville RSA has been welcoming and supportive of Rhodesians in New Zealand since the early 1990's. Every year we pay for a wreath and make a donation to them and the Hobsonville Women's League. Hobsonville is a small RSA and they have a programme of development which sees an expansion of facilities. They have recently completed an outdoor 'beer garden' which they have named 'The Bunker' and is formed with sand bag walls. To raise funds sandbags are being sponsored and given an inscription of the donor's choice. The Rhodesian Services Association has purchased a sand bag which will be inscribed "In Memory of Rhodesia".

A number of Rhodesians who do not live in Auckland are members of the Hobsonville RSA. If you live in the area or not, I recommend that you affiliate to the NZRSA through Hobsonville and show them, in return, the support they have shown us over the years. Thanks you.

## **Search For Puma Helicopter Lost At Mapai 6<sup>th</sup> September 1979**

Many of you will have read this article in other notable publications like Eddy Norris' ORAFS or received it directly from the searchers. It is published here for those who have not seen it with grateful thanks to Rick van Malsen and

his fellow searchers in particular Neill Jackson for the photos and also Prop Geldenhuys. I have included some photos not used in the original article including one that is from 'The Saints' by Alexandre Binda compiled and edited by Chris Cocks.

"A full portfolio of photographs is available at [www.picasaweb.google.com/neilljackson01](http://www.picasaweb.google.com/neilljackson01) Items of a personal note recovered from the site have been recovered to Durban and plans are been made to have them shipped to Empire / Commonwealth Museum which is about to be moved to London.

For those interested in looking up the crash site it is situated alongside a road at S 22: 44': 24.1" and E 032: 06':19.0".

Access to the site does not require 4 x 4 unless coming from Pafuri which entails crossing the Limpopo at Mapai ( River). The National Parks at Mabalahuta were great, clean and well run and makes a great stopover.



**Photo from 'The Saints' – Theo Nel BCR sits in the door of an SADF Puma prior to Op Uric. The man in brown overalls (and cigarette!) is a South African chopper tech. This is the actual aircraft that was shot down.**

*Under the cover of darkness, on the night of the 6<sup>th</sup> September 1979, I was flown out of the forward admin area of Op Uric, situated deep in the Mozambique bush, to our Operational Forward HQ situated at Chipinda Pools. I was the sole passenger in the SAAF Puma that evening, and my task was to sort out noticas's for the casualties sustained earlier that day, when a SAAF Puma carrying elements of 1 Commando 1RLI and 2 Engineer Squadron had been shot down on the outskirts of Mapai (Rail) formerly known as Jorge de Limpopo, killing all 17 on board. During the 40 odd minute flight back to the Rhodesian border, I vowed that I would one day return to the crash site to honour my friends and comrades in arms who had made the supreme sacrifice that morning, but who, because of the expediency of the battle, had had to be left behind where they had died.*

*29 years later I was privileged enough to be invited to join Bob Manser's expedition to find the Donaldson Canberra lost over the Malvernia area in January 1977. It became plainly obvious during this search, that the local police, militia, and Mozambicans were more than willing to assist in the location of these war sites and bore absolutely no malice towards their former adversaries. It was then that I realised that it was possible to honour the pledge I had made in 1979.*

*Slowly over a period of 5 months I was able to assemble a 'Team' for the Mapai expedition by using the members of Bob's Canberra party as the nucleus. Regrettably both Bob and Alistair Macrimmon were both unable to make it and so Neill Jackson ex Support Commando, 'Stan' Standish-White ex SAS volunteered their services. Added to these 'volunteers' were Eastern District farmers Duff Odendaal and his son in law, Gareth Barry. The final search team was thus made up as follows:*

*Rick van Malsen  
Kevin Jones  
Malcolm Macrimmon  
Neill Jackson  
"Stan" Standish-White  
Duff Odendaal  
Gareth Barry*



Nearly two hundred emails were sent out globally as we planned, sourced information, obtained eye witness accounts, speculated on where the actual site was, made up introductory letters with catch phrases in Portuguese, sorted out admin and log etc. It finally all came together and on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2009 when 'The Team', complete with wives, converged on Mabalahuta camp in the southern Gonarezhou National Park.

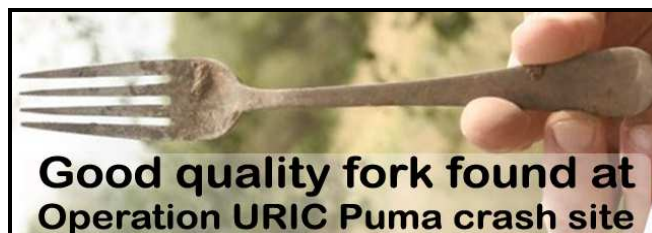
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April was used as a rest day and to prepare ourselves for the trip to the search area. Later in the afternoon we held a final formal briefing of what to expect, where we were going etc.

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2009 we rose early and in two vehicles, left camp at 0500 hours so that we could be at the border at 0600 hours, the supposed opening time. True to form, the bleary-eyed border officials only arrived at 0645, which meant we only got through the border formalities at 0800 hours, 1 hour behind our planned timings. The road down to Mapai remains mostly unchanged over the last 30 years. Trains derailed by various Rhodesian Security Force operations that many years ago, were still in evidence, as well as many shot out buildings. We all just hoped that Stan's contribution to the road had been removed, as he couldn't remember where he had buried them! At 1030 hours we arrived in Mapai (Rail) and asked directions the police station.

This was a broken down 2 room building that could have passed for a toilet. Not an auspicious start! A young policeman read our letter of introduction and said that we needed to see the local military or garrison Commandant. He then went off to find him but returned to say he was not there. We were taken to the head of FRELIMO party for the area. Arlindo Penicela Baloi, who, although unable to speak English, was able to read our letter of introduction. Thank heavens for Bob's notes! He reiterated that we had to go back and get the Garrison Commandant's permission. Back down the road again and fortunately the Commandant was now at home and after reading our letter cheerfully gave permission for us to go to the crash site, but insisted we had to get the local headman's blessing first. Protocol reined supreme. Now accompanied by Arlindo we set off to the site. Suddenly Arlindo stopped me and spoke to a portly gentleman on the side of the road who turned out was able to speak English.

Wallah a translator! Solomone, the translator, climbed in and off we went. We followed a track leading directly East from the main road for about 3 kms. when we stopped at a small village where, seated under a tree, was the local headman Araujo Chivite. After a brief discussion between my other two passengers and Araujo, he readily agreed to show us where the site was. With Araujo's 2i/c also in tow, (now making five of us in a king cab!) we continued down the track which gradually turned South where we intersected the main Mapai – Machaila road about 3.7 kms. from Mapai (Rail).

We had only gone a few metres down the road when we were told to stop. On getting out of the vehicle we were shown an area which we were told was the crash site. An initial search turned up a partially burnt SF water bottle and then we started finding the unmistakable signs of an aircraft crash.



**Security Force water bottle and fork found at crash site**

There was a large mound in the centre of the site and this, we were told, was where the soldiers killed in the crash were buried. We had brought a prefabricated cross complete with a base with us and asked permission to erect this on the site. Araujo immediately agreed but only on condition the site was cleaned up first, which they insisted on doing themselves!





**The cleared mound which serves as the grave on which this cross with caption reads “To Brave Men”**

*Whilst this was being done, the other members continued to search around the site and found amongst other things, the remains of an FN, FN magazines, exploded FN rounds, an eating fork and various aircraft pieces.*



*These were recovered and brought back with us. Once the cross had been erected, a brief service was held, using the exact format as Bob had used at the other sites, and the Roll of Honour read out. This is repeated below for those who have not seen it.*

*“With thanksgiving, let us remember those who sacrificed their lives so that we may live on in peace, and in appreciation, we now dedicate this cross to their memories. Help us to keep them in our thoughts, and never forget what they gave for us.”*

**Capt. Johannes Matheus du Plooy 1 RLI**  
**Capt. Charles David Small Rh. Engineers**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bruce Fraser Burns Rh. Engineers**  
**Sgt. Michael Alan Jones Rh Engineers**  
**Cpl. Leroy Duberley Rh. Engineers**  
**Cpl. Gordon Hugh Fry 1 RLI**  
**L/Cpl. Peter Fox Rh. Engineers**  
**Tpr. Jacobus Alwyn Briel 1 RLI**  
**Tpr Aiden James Coleman 1 RLI**  
**Tpr. Mark Jeremy Crow 1 RLI**  
**Tpr. Brian Louis Enslin 1 RLI**  
**Tpr. Steven eric King 1 RLI**  
**Tpr. Colin Graham Neasham 1 RLI**  
**Tpr. David Rex Prosser 1 RLI**  
**Capt. Paul Vellerman SAAF**  
**Lt. Nigel Osborne SAAF**  
**F/Sgt Dick Retief SAAF**

*"They shall not grow old  
As we that are left, grow old  
Age shall not weary them, nor do the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them"*



**Rick reading the prayer and Roll of Honour at the grave site. L to R: Duff Odendaal, Malcom MacCrimmon (obscured), Stan Standish-White, Rick van Malsen, Neill Jackson, Solomone (interpreter), Araujo Chivite (village headman), who we think was present at both the crash and the burial, Arlindo Baloi (Frelimo party head), headman's 2i/c.**

*Neill then repeated the words of the service in Afrikaans in memory the South African crew. Finally the 'Last Post' was played. At all stages of the service the Mozambique contingent were actively involved which we all found very humbling and magnanimous.*

*"The respect shown during the reading of the prayer and Roll of Honour was extremely heart-warming, and a lesson to us all in forgiveness and reconciliation." - Neill Jackson*

*At the end of the proceedings headman Araujo called over a woman named Lydia, who was farming the surrounding fields, and instructed her to build a fence around the site so that the war graves can be looked after properly in the future. After leaving an appropriate reward with the headman for this to be done, we packed up and left the site, each in our own thoughts.*

*After dropping off Araujo at his village, we returned to Mapai (Rail) and then decided to go down to the old Mapai airfield and Mapai (River) both targets of the Scouts column raid in June 1977. Arlindo and Solomone both accompanied us on this leg, which rather inhibited us from scouting around too much for old military positions. At Mapai (River) we were shown a mass grave, covered by a concrete slab, which we were told held the civilian victims of this raid. Expedition members showed the appropriate respect at this site.*

*We then returned to Mapai (Rail), dropped off our two passengers and headed off back towards the border.*





**That's what we were!**

*Our next task was to return to the site of the Donaldson Canberra crash site in order to place a more permanent memorial to the airmen lost in this crash. Time was running short, so we dispensed with protocol and just drove direct to the site. After placing the cross, we sounded the "Last Post" which was particularly fitting as the sun was starting to set as the sound of bugles rang out hauntingly through the silent bush.*

## **The Last Post - Easter Sunday 2009 Operation Manyatela Memorial**



**Kevin Jones, Malcolm MacCrimmon, Rick van Malsen (team leader),  
Stan Standish-White, Neill Jackson and Duff Odendaal**



**In Remembrance To Brave Men  
Ian Donaldson, David Hawkes and  
Rob Warracker - KIA - 12 January 1977**

**The "Team" at the Donaldson Canberra site**



We then had to rush for the border before it closed, which we got through without any problems and headed for home, arriving at 2000 hours. We had travelled a total of 360 kms. in 15 hours.

There are many people involved in making a trip, such as this, the success it was. My grateful thanks go to the following:

- First and foremost to Bob Manser, who pioneered searching for these forgotten sites. Bob gave us all his notes to use, offered invaluable advice and encouragement throughout.
- Prop Geldenhuys for all the help, encouragement and research done on our behalf.
- Eyewitness accounts from Gavin Wehlburg, Jono Lane and Keith Dell all helped to get an overall picture of approximately where we had to look.
- To the Rhodesians of Francistown, who fabricated the crosses, galvanised them and then painted them all at no cost. They looked magnificent.
- To the five wonderful Mozambicans who took the time out to guide us and asked for nothing in return. You were a wonderful example of what true reconciliation should be. There is absolutely no doubt that this war memorial will be looked after by these people.
- And lastly to the most wonderful "team" "without whom, none of this would have happened. All rallied to the call, and freely gave up their valuable time and at personal cost, to be there.

"Thank you" is not enough.

Rick van Malsen  
Francistown, Botswana"

## Regimental Rumours by 'Stompie'

Greetings again all,

It was good to see you all on Anzac Day.....I managed to gather some very interesting stories about the group from south of the Bombay hills who spent a couple of nights in the motel across the road from the Hobsonville RSA. Let it never be said that Stompie misses a good opportunity, all will be revealed in the June newsletter.

Meanwhile here is a classic story about one of our fellow countrymen who emigrated to England about twelve years ago and ended up in Bristol. This has to be a clear case of poetic justice, karma, what comes around goes around or just plain old s...t happens. Read on, folks.....

Our mate, Wayne, bought a house in Bristol and applied for a job as a plumber at a local plumbing company just around the corner from where he lived. Having had twenty eight years of experience as a plumber back home, he was given the job right away and had to start work the following day. He duly arrived at his new place of employment, eager to start the job. His new colleagues started arriving one by one and they were then summonsed to the boss' office. Wayne remained downstairs but he could hear much joviality and laughter emanating from the boss' office.

"Great!" he thought, "this should be good humour". Wayne's colleagues emerged from the boss' office, accompanied by the boss himself, who told the two apprentices that they were to sit in the front of the van and Wayne was to sit in the back. "Strange.....", thought Wayne but he climbed into the back of the van, moving aside some plumbing materials, squashing himself double, and off they went to Swindon, about an hour's drive away.

They arrived at the job site and got on with the work. At tea time, he noticed the appies giggling like a bunch of schoolgirls who had peed their frillies so he asked them what was going on. One of the pimply-faced appies admitted that the boss had told them that in Africa, the blacks are made to ride in the back of the truck.....and then the penny dropped.....now he understood why the boss had insisted that he ride in the back of the van.

After tea, they carried on with the job, Wayne doing a superb and probably far better job than the appies because that's what Rhodesians do. Then it was time to leave and return to Bristol. Wayne insisted on riding in the back of the van for the return trip. On arriving back at base, everyone else went home except Wayne who went and saw the boss. The less said the better about what he actually said to the boss but the bottom line was he told him what he could do with his job and advised him to give his wages to the SPCA.

You can't keep a good Rhodesian down and it was not long before Wayne secured himself a good job in Bath, commuting between Bristol and Bath every day.

One dark, cold and wet wintery night, Wayne was returning home from work. Then, there, out of the dark, loomed this figure waving it's hand to slow Wayne down. Wayne stopped and lo and behold, there standing in the freezing cold, was his ex-boss who had broken down on the roadside!

There was no roadside assistance available and Wayne offered to give the man and his good lady a lift through to Bath where they lived - approximately two kilometres away. As Wayne only had one seat belt in the front, it became

obvious that the good lady would have to sit in front and his ex-boss would have to sit in the back of the truck (I can all hear you saying "Ahhhhhhhh"! Never mind!).

Now remember, the boss' house was only two kilometres away but Wayne managed to extend it to thirty, his excuse being that he can't tell his left from his right and this resulted in them taking wrong turns. At one point, they were travelling through a street lit area and Wayne glanced in his rear-view mirror to see Boss Man hanging on to the bullbars in the back of the truck, his teeth chattering and icicles beginning to form on his moustache! On arrival at Boss Man's house, he had to be helped off the back of the truck as he was suffering from hyperthermia (Ahhhhhhhh! Never mind).

Wayne did not miss the opportunity to let the Boss Man know that it's much warmer in Africa.....and not everyone can sit up front!

He assures me that he's working on the problem of distinguishing his left from his right! Good on ya, Wayne!

Until next month, go well and remember to keep the articles rolling in to [stompie@rhodesianservices.org](mailto:stompie@rhodesianservices.org)

Cheers for now!

Stompie.



## Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings all

The news of the recent locating of the Puma crash site closely followed contact made with me by some of Leroy Duberly's family. Leroy was one of the soldiers who died that day and also played rugby for Rhodesia. I was able to send the story to his family who did not really know any details before now.

Congratulations to Andy Flower on being named cricket coach for England. Out of the last three England Cricket coaches, two have been Rhodesian/Zimbabwean. Not bad for the little "upstart colony" now teaching the "Mother country" how to play one of her national games!

I received Eddy Norris's excellent ORAFS newsletter in which this article headed "Springbok Rugby Greats Pass On" sparked my interest. This was the ORAFS article:

*"Extracted from the SA Rugby Site.*

*Two former Springboks, Tiny Neethling and Ryk van Schoor, have recently passed away after illness. Neethling, who played in eight tests between 1967 and 1970, was born in 1939 and died in Paarl on April 3. Van Schoor, with 12 tests between 1949 and 1953, was born in 1921 and passed away on March 22. Neethling played prop for Western Province between 1961 and 1972. He played in a remarkable 81 games in the famous blue and white hoops. Van Schoor was feared as a tackler, used to play for Rhodesia, although he was originally from the Cape and also played for Western Province."*

My own research from Rugby365.Com picked up this piece about Ryk van Schoor who moved to Rhodesia in 1949. It demonstrates once again, what a great country we lived in and the spirit of our sportsmen and women:

*"Tobacco farmers in the Inyazura area, just off the road from Harare to Mutare (then from Salisbury to Umtali) banded together at a time when tobacco was booming and decided that they would improve rugby in the area. A condition of employment for farm managers was that they be rugby players. Several South Africans took advantage of the situation and some great names played for Rhodesia, including Bubbles Koch, Salty du Rand and Ryk van Schoor. Rhodesia became a force beating Western Province at Newlands and Northern Transvaal in Pretoria.*

*In 1949 the All Blacks were on tour. The first Test was at Newlands, which the Springboks won 15 - 11 through the boot of Okey Geffin. Ron Elvidge, the powerful All Black centre was a handful in that Test.*

*After the first Test the All Blacks went north by train and played twice against Rhodesia. The first match was in Bulawayo and Ryk, who had not been chosen by Western Province in 1948 and had not been invited to the Springbok trials in 1949, was at centre for Rhodesia. Two national selectors were at the match - Danie Craven and*

Bert Kipling. Rhodesia won 10 - 8. The second Test in Salisbury was a 3 – 3 draw. Two of the Rhodesian side were in the Springbok team for the second Test - Salty du Rand and Ryk van Schoor who tackled every All Black who came into his sights.

Ryk played with Tjol Lategan in the second Test and from them on for 12 Tests. He played on in Rhodesia till 1951 and then came back to Western Province where he played centre with Tjol at Van der Stel RFC in Stellenbosch. He was never dropped from a Springboks team. After the whitewash of the 1959 All Blacks, Ryk was at centre in the great Springboks team of 1951-52 when all five Tests were won. He then played in all four Tests against the 1953 Wallabies. That was his last season.

In his autobiography, Bob Scott, the legendary All Black fullback, spoke of Ryk "who was played purely for his amazing defensive qualities and who, in association with Hennie Muller, tore our midfield attack to shreds. If you saw a cloud of dust rising from midfield like an atom bomb cloud, you knew Van Schoor was at work. He was big and strong and nerveless. He was not really fast but he got such a kick out of making the perfect tackle that he used to clap on all speed just before going into his dive - and boy, was it a powerful dive!"

His defensive ability was famous and in the Test against Ireland in 1951 he showed that he could attack as well. The Springboks were battling and Van Schoor went off concussed just seven minutes into the match. But seven minutes into the second half Van Schoor, legs wobbly, came back onto the field with Ireland leading 5 - 3. Later he broke inside, beat five Irish defenders and scored a great try."

Till next month.

Regards Grunter

Email [fourstreams@clear.net.nz](mailto:fourstreams@clear.net.nz)

## What's On In New Zealand

### Hobsonville RSA

Wolf and Alison Huckle are arranging social evenings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. The next gathering is on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 1800hrs. Everyone with a Rhodesian or Zimbabwean connection is welcome to attend. Stay for a very reasonably priced meal or just drop in to say "hello". Email Wolf and Alison for more details and to get on their mailing list at [whucke@xtra.co.nz](mailto:whucke@xtra.co.nz)

### Tauranga

The Garrison Club run by the Hauraki Association is open every Friday from 1600 hrs and welcomes visitors. On most 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays of every month we put on a meal and show a movie. Email me at [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) to get on that mailing list. We have people coming through from Whakatane, Rotorua and Waihi so if you live out of the immediate area please contact me as you may be able to share transport.

### October RV

To be held over Labour weekend 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009. We will be using the same venues as previously (the Garrison Club in Tauranga and the Classic Flyers Museum, Mount Maunganui). Certain changes will be in place this year. Friday night will be for socialising at the Garrison Club with food available. We will not be showing movies, but we will probably have some applicable music playing. Saturday will have the traditional golf tournament in the morning, followed by the RV in the afternoon and evening. On Sunday we will be hiring the conference facility for the AGM (or 'De-Brief' as we call it) at Classic Flyers, so the weather will not be a factor.

If you will be attending the RV, please book your accommodation early to avoid disappointment. More details will be made available through this newsletter closer to the time.

### Easter Weekend – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010

A family camping weekend is being arranged at the Kiwanis Camp, Little Huia, Auckland (see photos below). Bookings are open to all members of the Rhodesian Services Association (if you are not financial then you know what you have to do!).





Accommodation is in bunk rooms that sleep five or six. Activities will include socialising, canoeing, games, videos, braai etc. The setting is beautifully and accommodation very comfortable.

The fee for the weekend will be \$50.00 per person and will include accommodation for three nights, plus food. Those attending will be asked to bring fruit and baking to extend the menu.

A deposit of \$20.00 per person is required to secure your place. There are only 59 beds available so it is first in, first serve. Deposits are non refundable but you can transfer to another member if you need to.

This weekend is being arranged by Wolf and Alison Hucke. Please email them at [whucke@xtra.co.nz](mailto:whucke@xtra.co.nz) for details of the weekend and how to make your deposit.

Please do not delay with your deposit (or full payment if you wish) as it is important that we secure the booking for the venue which may well be snapped up by another group if we are not quick.

**Be Quick – First in First Serve**

**CQ Store visit [www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm) to see what is in store for you**

Below is a list of our stock. Please give our CQ Store consideration when buying a present for someone in your family. We do ask that you order early in case we do not have your size in stock and also to allow for shipping time if the destination is outside New Zealand.

Our latest product is a Rhodesian Flag Lapel pin pictured below. It is an enamel type finish. Made in New Zealand and measures approx 25mm x 15mm. It was a top seller at our ANZAC Day parade in Auckland with around 50 being sold. Priced at \$10 plus postage they are a great buy.



The last few months have been amazing with the quantity of stock that we have turned over. We have dispatched goods to all four corners of the planet. Thank you all for your support.

## **CQ STORE INVENTORY**

<b>ITEMS EXCLUDING POSTAGE</b>	<b>PRICE in NZ\$</b>
4RR Hackles	\$17.50
'Bumper' Stickers, Rhodesia/NZ or Australia flags; Rhodesian flag; Rhodesian Services Assn Lion & Tusk	\$3 each or 2 for \$5
Bullion wire blazer pocket badge – Rhodesia Regiment & RLI	\$100
Business Card Holder – stainless steel with Lion & Tusk engraved	\$20
Berets	\$50
Lion & Tusk Baseball Caps	\$25
Lion & Tusk Beanies green, black or other (even pink!) on request	\$22
Lion & Tusk Dog Tags 'silver' or 'gold'	\$30
Lion & Tusk Polar Fleece jackets – long sleeved in green, black, navy	\$65
Lion & Tusk Polo shirts - black or green	\$38
Lion & Tusk T-shirts - black or green	\$30
Lion & Tusk Women's v-neck stretch shirts - black	\$30
Name badge – resin coated	\$15
Number plate surrounds – 4 styles to choose from	\$12
Pocket Insert Medal Holder	\$15
Regimental Cap Badges – RLI, Intaf, RAR, RDR, BSAP, Grey's Scouts, RRR, RR, Service Corps, Staff Corps, RWS, DRR and more	Priced from \$20 – inquire for details
Regimental ties – Rhodesian Light Infantry	\$40

Regimental ties – Rhodesia Regiment	\$40
Regimental ties – Rhodesian African Rifles	\$40
Regimental ties – SAS	\$55
Rhodesian Army Recruitment poster copy “Be a man among men”	\$25
Rhodesian Army Recruitment poster copy “Terrorism Stops Here!”	\$50
Rhodesian General Service Medal copy (silver plate bronze) full size medal with ribbon	\$100
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size medal copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$125
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon – full size	\$10/length
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature (solid silver) with ribbon	\$40
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon - miniature	\$10/length
Rhodesian replica rugby jerseys – short or long sleeve	\$110
Rhodesian flag 3' x 5' (900mm x 1500mm) ready to fly	\$40
Rhodesian Flag, embroidered 110mm x 50mm	\$20
<b>NEW Product</b> Rhodesian Flag Lapel Pin	\$10
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge	\$22.50
Various medal ribbons – please inquire	POA
Various miniature medals – please inquire	POA
Various small embroidered badges (RLI, BSAP & Nyasaland Police)	\$5
Zimbabwe Independence Medal copy - full size with ribbon	\$50
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size ribbon	\$10/length
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature with ribbon	\$35
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature ribbon	\$10/length
'Zippo' type lighter – “Rhodesia 1890 – 1980” with Lion & Tusk	\$25

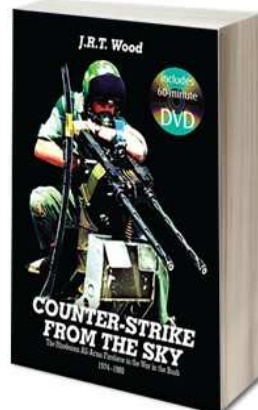
**Watch this space for new items coming on stream in the future**

## Books for Africa

I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at [www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm](http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm). These sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, the Association does benefit indirectly from these sales.

New Zealand stock arriving soon!

**Counter Strike from the Sky - The Rhodesian All-Arms Fireforce in the War in the Bush 1974–1980** by J.R.T. Wood with Chris Cocks. NZ\$75.00 plus postage.



Fireforce as a Rhodesian military concept dates to 1974 and has been adopted around the world by Special Forces and Airborne/Airmobile units. This visionary concept of vertical envelopment of the enemy hinged around the 20mm cannon mounted in an Alouette III K-Car (“Killer Car”), with the army commander on board directing his ground troops deployed from G-Cars (Alouette III troop-carrying gunships) and parachuted from DC-3 Dakotas. In support would be a propeller-driven ground-attack aircraft; on call would be Canberra bombers, Hawker Hunter and Vampire jets. Included in the book is a detailed account of Operation Dingo and the 1977 raids on the ZANLA bases of Chimoio and Tembué in Mozambique. Dingo is regarded as a Fireforce operation “writ large”.

Accompanying the book is a 90 minute DVD, including interviews with:

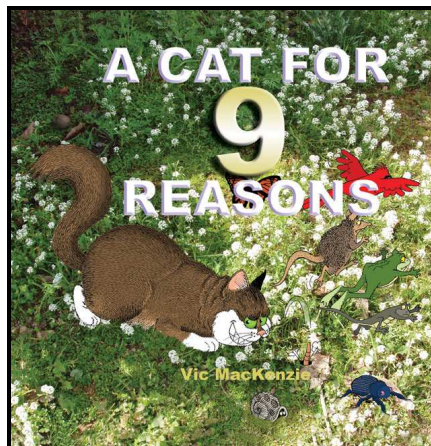
Dr JRT Wood (author and historian)  
 Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Robinson OLM, MLM (OC C Squadron, SAS)  
 Major Grahame Wilson GCV, SCR, BCR (C Squadron, SAS)

Major Nigel Henson MLM (OC Support Commando, 1 RLI)  
 Captain Peter Stanton (Special Branch and Selous Scouts)  
 Lieutenant Alan Thrush BCR (A Company, 2 RAR)  
 Sergeant Gordon 'Beaver' Shaw (Rhodesian Air Force)  
 Sergeant George Dempster (MA2 Medic, 1 RLI)  
 Chris Cocks (3 Commando, 1 RLI)

There is to be a premier of the DVD and book launch at the SA National Museum of Military History, Saxonwold, Johannesburg on Thursday 4 June at 6.30pm for 7.00pm Many of those featured on the DVD will be present. RSVP (booking essential): Ntombi Gama on 011-673 2242, or [marketing@30degreesouth.co.za](mailto:marketing@30degreesouth.co.za)

## The Global Forked Stick

### 'A Cat For Nine Reasons' by Vic Mackenzie



"Hi everyone,  
 Thought I would let you know my book 'A Cat for Nine Reasons' is hot off the press.

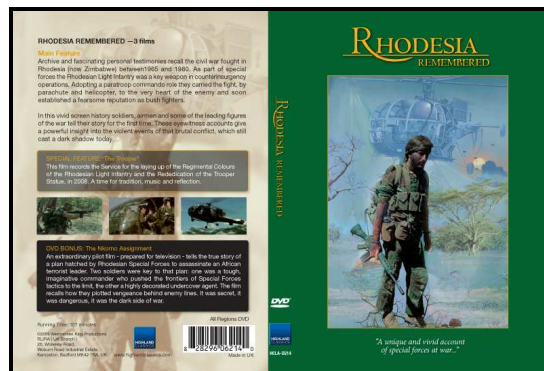
*You don't have to be a cat lover to appreciate this book but it does help. It will make you smile, giggle and laugh out loud. Illustrated through out in beautiful colour, you will delight in my imaginative and whimsical artwork. It also chronicles my introduction to Rhoman the Cat who inspired me to write this book.*

*If you have friends who are cat lovers please forward this on to them. For those who are not cat lovers please read my book. It will CATalytically convert you.*

For more information <http://www.vicmackenzie.com> Email Vic at [vic@vicmackenzie.com](mailto:vic@vicmackenzie.com) "

Editor's Note - Vic is a stalwart supporter of this newsletter – please support him by buying his wonderfully illustrated book.

### 'Rhodesia Remembered' DVD



"Probably the best Rhodesian war documentary ever made! At last, The new DVD, 'Rhodesia Remembered' is now available.

*Described as one of the best made series of films on the Rhodesian war, as told through the experiences of those who fought in it, this three film set is now available to order. One DVD contains:*



*Rhodesia Remembered: 45 minutes. Narrated by James Faulkner. Rhodesia Remembered tells the story of the Rhodesian Bush War in the 1970's as seen through the eyes of men who served in the Rhodesian Light Infantry, a unit which honed the art of Fireforce to its ultimate deadly perfection.*

*The Troopie: 35 minutes At the end of the war the Trooper, a bronze statue cast to commemorate those who served and died in the RLI, had to be smuggled out of Zimbabwe to avoid imminent destruction. The Troopie, narrated and including music by Isla St. Clair, captures the poignant events on a sunny day in September 2008 when over 200 members of the RLI from around the world, came together to celebrate and remember those that fell and to commemorate the end of the "Troopie's" long and eventful journey with a rededication ceremony in Hatfield, England.*

*The Nkomo Assignment: 30 minutes. This is the story of the attempt to assassinate Joshua Nkomo, leader of ZIPRA, the military wing of ZAPU after the shooting down and the massacre of the civilian survivors of the Viscount aircraft Hunyani in Rhodesian. Tasked to carry out the operation, a member of the Selous Scouts, tells the story of the raid, his betrayal, capture and torture. Commanding Officer of the Selous Scouts Lt Col Ron Reid-Daly speaks frankly gives his side of events.*

Price £15.99 plus P&P

Ordering can be done through the RLIRA web site: <http://www.therli.com> “

Editor's Note – I watched this DVD last night and recommend that you get a copy. Please remember – Piracy is Theft, if you copy this DVD you are stealing off Rhodesians. Times are tough but fair play is still our bottom line.

#### **RAR Association**

This is a repeat of the request in our April Newsletter calling all those who served in the Rhodesian African Rifles as a regular or during National Service. Please email David Heppenstall on [d.heppenstall@virgin.net](mailto:d.heppenstall@virgin.net) as he wants to send you an RAR Association circular. A small positive response resulted from the newsletter and we know that there are a lot more of you out there.

#### **Roan Antelope Music**

*“Hi from Roan Antelope Music!*

*The Merry month of May is upon us, winter now fast approaching in the Southern Hemisphere but fortunately for our friends in the northern parts the days are getting longer and hopefully the sun will be showing itself more often! So light your braai fires and get the CD players out because the South African elections have come and gone with large numbers of ex-pats voting. This shows their passion for they were surely bred or born in Africa. The song “Born in Africa” on the album of the same name describes their feelings.*

*Roan have decided it would be appropriate to put this CD on special for the month of May. Also on this CD are several fitting songs like “Give my love to Africa”, “Drink the Zambezi Water”, “A Zakka Zee”, “Bush Christmas” not forgetting nostalgic African standards like the “Lion Sleeps Tonight”, “Meadowlands” and “Skokiaan”.*

*If you purchase this special collection of African songs, Roan will include an additional freed CD - “Circle of Life”.*

*This is an eco message in words, music and sounds of Africa written by John Edmond and John Varty and narrated by legendary radio personality Peter Lotis. The album voices concerns over the decimation of the world ecology echoing the message in Julie Ann Edwards' book “Hokoyo” which was launched last month with John in attendance singing songs from “Circle of Life”.*

Order today from [www.johnedmond.co.za](http://www.johnedmond.co.za) “

**From ORAFS** (if you are not getting it, email Eddy Norris [orafs11@gmail.com](mailto:orafs11@gmail.com) )

*“A signed, framed picture of Ian Smith is to be auctioned with proceeds going to the Rhodesian Forces Memorial Project. The picture was donated by Duncan Waugh ex BSAP. Please contact Carol Doughty email [mha@mortimer-harvey.co.za](mailto:mha@mortimer-harvey.co.za) for details.*

*Gathering at Tovey Lodge Mussina 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009*

*Peter and Ellie Woolcock, Brian and Leslie Warren are wanting to judge the response to a proposed "Gathering" at the Tovey Lodge which is owned by Brian and Leslie in Mussina (Messina) Game Lodge as per the dates above.*

*It is estimated that at least a 100 rooms (200 bodies) can be organised in the local vicinity and cost would be approximately R350.00 per person, per day, which will include meals but not drinks. Please note that should this event become reality it will be necessary to make a deposit to enable Brian and Leslie to secure your accommodation.*

*The emphasis on this gathering will be to regard it as a "catch up and relax" weekend and not subject to any high powered time constraints.*

*This invitation is to all of our services, Air Force, Army, B.S.A.P., Internal Affairs and those that served in the Rhodesia Regiment and any other service which we may have missed. The idea is to have a great weekend and only you can make that happen.*

Any queries, contact Peter on [pwooli@xsinet.co.za](mailto:pwooli@xsinet.co.za) Brian on [tovey@lantic.net](mailto:tovey@lantic.net)

*Bookings will be allocated on the "first come, first, served" basis."*

Until next time - go well.

Cheers  
Hugh

**This newsletter is compiled by Hugh Bomford, Secretary of the Rhodesian Services Association. It contains many personal views and comments which may not always be the views of the Association or Committee.**

**If for any reason you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to [hbomford@clear.net.nz](mailto:hbomford@clear.net.nz) with the word 'remove' in the subject line or body.**