# The Cheetah

Magazine of the
Rhodesian Light Infantry Regimental Association

December 2013

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In Memory of

2013
Anton Keown
Trevor Hodgson BCR
Pieter (Boet) Botha
Frank Robinson
Michael (Chinky) Carrick
Chris Watermayer
John Dolman
George Moffat
Michael (Pinky) Mould
Paddy Berry
Roy Capener
Jon Cole
Darryl Pascoe
Ed Fouche BCR
Danie van Niekerk
Len van Niekerk
Bob Finnis
Greetings to you All

2013 has been a relatively quiet year for the Association, but membership has continued to increase slightly.

The main feature of the year has been the successful setting up of the ‘Joint Services’ Shamwari Trust in South Africa under the Chairmanship of Ian Bate.

This Trust was the long-term aim of our CEO, Bill Wiggill during his chairmanship of the RSA Branch, and I am extremely pleased that it has now come to fruition, well done to Ian Bate and his team.

South Africa needed some form of welfare set up, for former members who had fallen on hard times, because nothing existed there, whereas in UK and Australia members did have a government welfare system to call on.

The Museum in Bedford continues to improve and display more exhibits, and although it has adopted a ‘joint service’ image, particularly with a large amount of RhAF exhibits now on display, it is still very much ‘Our Museum’.

Martyn Hudson and his team continue their enthusiastic development of the Museum which certainly ‘preserves our heritage’ and I am sure will continue to expand.

As the year draws to a close, we look back and remember those of our Regiment who have passed on this year, and offer our thoughts to their families and friends. “We will Remember Them”.

Since the rebirth of our Association in 2008, we have certainly achieved a lot; relocation of the Trooper Statue, a Museum, and our hugely successful celebration of our 50th Birthday in 2011 in both RSA and UK. The birthday celebrations certainly attracted members from the four corners of the world and brought back all the ‘Comradeship’ that existed in the days when our great Regiment was still in the order of battle. Hopefully our 55th Birthday in 2016 will be equally successful.

2014 is the last year of my tenure as your Global Chairman, and I hope to be able to attend all the various Branch reunions during the year. It will be great to be personally present, meet up with members rather than communicate by e-mail, and to thank all those who have contributed to the successful rebirth of our Association.

To all of you and you families, I hope you have a good Festive Season and I wish you all the best for 2014.

May the Saints continue Marching On

Ian Buttenshaw
Chairman
It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the years are passing by; it seems as if we have just celebrated Christmas 2012 and here we are about to celebrate the ringing in of 2014.

We have not heard much from the regions and the association appears to have had a fairly quiet year. We have however, been able to assemble a few interesting pieces, for this edition, which I hope you find enjoyable.

I would like to thank the contributors for their reports.

At this time of year, we tend to reflect and I was really pleased to get the photograph (opposite) from Neill Storey. With so many familiar faces, it was taken of the 1974 RLI Association committee; comprising (L-R Colin Dace, Ken Reed, John Salt, Harry Springer, Wally Watson, Carrie Taylor, Norman Neville, Basil Rushforth and Charlie Aust.)

Judging the standard of dress it appears if, at least, one person didn’t get the order of attire memo!

As we all get older, it is evitable, more people pass away and we lose our friends forever. Sadly this year a number of comrades succumbed; without wishing to isolate anyone in particular, it was very sad to hear of Trevor Hodgson’s passing; a real RLI hero whose soldiering acumen and genuine leadership ability became legendary not only in his beloved 2 Commando but in the Battalion.

I have good reason to remember my old boyhood friend with whom I played Baseball at Milton School Under 13’s through to and including Under 16’s. Trevor was a great school and teammate; a talented pitcher who always led the way in our exploits particularly against Hamilton and Churchill. He will be remembered not only by his RLI comrades but also by his many Milton schoolmates.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year

Best regards

Ian
The CEO’s Report

There has been some important activity over the last six months including the launch of a number of new projects and initiatives.

Not being completely idle I was very pleased, to take up invites and attend a few important events, as a representative of the RLIRA. The actual events are detailed elsewhere in this publication.

The website has undergone some upgrades and we are now attempting to provide the details for each sub unit. (see below). This will not only provide us with a more personalised ‘home’ but allow for the collection of important historic information.

In discussion with Trevor Des Fountain, it became quite obvious that the narrative on our history has a few obvious gaps; most notably the history of each Commando and specific landmark occasions. These topics appear only to have been dealt with in passing; it is however material that deserves to be highlighted and authenticated.

After reviewing the written comprehensive history of Support commando, I have initiated a commando history project, to supplement our formal publications and to emulate that work currently being undertaken by Robin Tarr. In his ‘spare time’, Robin is compiling a behind the scenes story of the granting of the Queens Colour (please see http://www.therli.com/BATTALION_RECEIVES).

Hopefully, the project will see a collection of factual and anecdotal material; providing a suitable adjunct to the material already published.

Ian Macfarlane has stepped up to write the 1 Commando history and I am seeking volunteers to write the histories of the 2 Commando, 3 Commando and Base Group. Are their any volunteers?

I would like to thank Robin for putting in so much effort in researching and taking the time to write up the Queens Colour story and to Trevor Desfountain for his sub unit history suggestions.

The Vale in the Roll of Honour was up-to-date but recent demises have yet to be added. Please have a look at the Vale and if you can give some sort of pen picture/Bio on any of those who have fallen out, you would be doing the families and their memory a great and noble service. I would be grateful if you could send anything you may have at bw@therli.com.

It only remains for me to wish you a stupendous holiday season and hope that you rest up for the forthcoming Reunions early in the New Year. Stay Good you Saints

Billy Wiggill
By kind invitation from Wing Cdr Bruce Harrison, the chairman of the Royal Air Force Officers’ Club (RAFOC), Sylvia and I attended the Battle of Britain Ladies lunch on Friday 6 September. About 120 club members, wives, partners and guests congregated at the Wanderers’ Club, Johannesburg.

The Commander who was accompanied by Mrs Sarah Cookson (seen opposite with Sylvia Wiggle) gave an excellent presentation on the Battle of Britain and paid tribute to the pilots from the many countries, including South Africa and Rhodesia who took part in the battle; ‘Brave men one and all’.

Commander Cookson similarly paid tribute to Bomber Command in the Second World War who, unbeknown to many of the audience, lost over 44% of their airmen during the war.

In recognition of the audience and the dignity of the occasion, the Commander gave the gathering a résumé on arguably South Africa’s most famous fighter pilot Adolph ‘Sailor’ Malan (opposite).

What an unfortunate nickname for a fighter pilot facing Hitler’s finest! He must have taken quite a ‘ribbing’ more than once in the Officers’ Mess!

Sailor’s son, Jonathan is a member of RAFOC and was there to hear the Commander’s accolades to his late Dad. ‘Sailor Malan’ survived the war, only to die at the age of 53 from a Parkinson’s disease.

Of Interest...

(A) One of the highlights of the day was an aerobatic display by Arnie Menegelli’s team (see opposite) flying North American T6 Harvard’s over the Wanderers Club.

After a number of low level passes the team carried out the ‘Missing Man’ formation as one of these historic aircraft peeled off leaving a gap in the formation.

(B) Mrs Sarah Cookson also served with the RAF and was in fact the first RAF female to serve on-board a Royal Navy Ship when she served during The ‘Falklands’ War in 1982.
By invitation from Col. Godfrey Giles of the Combined Military Veterans Association in South Africa, Sylvia and I attended, with 50 other guests, the unveiling of an impressive memorial to Cecil Rhodes at Kedar Country Hotel.

The event was hosted by Robert Forsyth, the Executive Chairman of Recreation Africa (ex Hamilton High, I believe) as part of the association's National Heritage Day celebrations, over the weekend 20/21 September.

"Adam Madebe, the renowned Matabele sculptor now resident with the Recreation Africa group in South Africa, created the sculptures, commissioned by Robert.

Adam was born in Zimbabwe and began making clay models and woodcarvings of animals and birds as a boy, herding his father's cattle near Bulawayo. He perfected his knowledge of anatomy, form and movement by drawing and redrawing figures. His unique technique for creating a clay sculpture, cladding it in welded metal sheets and then removing the clay, leaving a hollow metal form, has been refined over many years."

Sylvia and I took the opportunity of taking a hosted tour of (one of) Paul Kruger's farms which is located next to Kedar Lodge.

Robert has the largest single private collection of Boer War memorabilia in Africa if not the world. The service of the management and staff at the Lodge was really outstanding.

I need to thank Robert and Kedar management and staff for a great stay and a privilege to be part of this event.

In keeping with the African theme, there were, of course, nightly visits to the grounds by Kudu and Bush Buck from Roberts nearby game farm.
Adding lustre to the occasion was a presentation by Professor Nicholas Schofield on ‘Rhodes - The man/the Person.’

Being an ex-military man the whole affair wouldn’t have been complete if we had not been given some fascinating insights to Rhodes friend and confidante, Leander Starr Jamieson.

Chris Ash, the author of “The If Man”, a book focusing on the failed Jameson raid, treated the guests to a fine presentation.

“Chris Ash grew up in the Shetland Isles and studied at Aberdeen University. Blessed, or cursed, with itchy feet and a sense of adventure, he served in the Lovat Scouts and Gordon Highlanders before driving his Land Rover to South Africa and deciding to stay. Ash then worked in oil exploration and mining, jobs which have taken him to 27 African countries and to most of the least pleasant places in the world.

His fascination with the colonial history of Southern Africa was sparked by watching ‘Zulu’ and ‘Breaker Morant’ as a child, and heightened by a heated argument with a drunken Afrikaner late one night in a bar in Pietersburg. Away from work and history, Ash enjoys cricket, rugby and getting his Defender stuck in new and interesting places.

He is married, with three cats and one Rhodesian Ridgeback and commutes between Dar es Salaam, Johannesburg and Mauritius.”

(*) The book is published by 30 Degrees South, who also distributes our book “Africa’s Commandos”
On the manifest of the shipment of RLI Memorabilia & The Trooper Statue to the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum (BECM) in Bristol, UK from South Africa circa 1998 was Craig Bone’s portrait of the late Major Bruce Snelgar, SCR.

Pat Armstrong had made a note on the manifest - “to be returned to his family”.

When the RLI Association started to collect the items in 2009/10 from BECM Bristol for the RLI Museum in Bedford the portrait was nowhere to be seen and it was assumed it had been given to the family or lost in the recesses of the BECM in Bristol.

Mrs. Sandy Snelgar, then in the UK, confirmed it had not been returned to the family and after several clandestine and covert raids to Bristol failed to locate the portrait it was deemed AWOL.

Some time later, John Ashburner was in the warehouse of the company that had shipped the memorabilia from Johannesburg in 1998 and there in a corner, where it had sat for 12 odd years, was Craig Bone’s missing portrait.

Rick van Malsen kindly shipped the painting to the UK after the Feb 2011 50th Anniversary reunion in Johannesburg only to discover that Sandy had returned to South Africa in the interim.

Finally the portrait was returned to Sandy and their daughter Casey Lee by hand (not entrusting any other means - even then there was some excitement at the airport baggage carousel!) this August in Johannesburg.

We can only apologise on behalf of the Association for the very belated carrying out of Pat Armstrong’s original order but nevertheless relieved, after all this time, it is where it should be - reunited with his family.

We have had a copy made which hangs in the Bedford Museum.
Earlier this year, a few former members of Skyde Row with strength, fortitude and courage embarked on a journey of immense danger; treading the harsh bush of Botswana they re-kindled their brave spirits and called-upon their ‘never to be forgotten’ military skills.

Neill Storey (who has a habit of such things), Rick Van Malsen, Mick Walters, Jug Thornton and their respective wives compiled this pictorial diary, which shows our travellers exploring the wilds and enduring the harshest Africa could throw at them.

The pictures require little explanation but below you will find:

- The committee deliberating whether Neill could get inside the 2-man tent
- Rick and Mick, lending their map reading acumen to the task at hand
- Neill climbing Africa’s second highest peak to locate the nearest water hole
- The robust Walters using GPS as a once off, as proof of his new-age technological skills capability

It is pleasing to note that all of them have kept their same (1975) body/mass indices and the view of their rock climbing is exactly as that reported when they were on OP expeditions circa 1976.
The importance of ANZAC day to the RLIRA

The Australian branch has often been asked why we participate and celebrate our Battalion, our fallen comrades and fellow soldiers every year on the 25th April.

For those of us who have made Australia our home, the question has an obvious reply; but to many others the answer may not be that apparent and we have hence taken the liberty of providing some detail which we hope may prove to be enlightening

ANZAC Day - 25 April

This day’s probably Australia’s most important national occasion; It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as ANZACs, and the pride they took in that name endures to this day.

When war broke out in 1914, Australia had been a federal commonwealth for only 13 years. The new national government was eager to establish its reputation among the nations of the world. In 1915 Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula in order to open the Dardanelles to the allied navies. The ultimate objective was to capture Constantinople (now Istanbul in Turkey), the capital of the Ottoman Empire, an ally of Germany.

The Australian and New Zealand forces landed on Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turkish defenders. What had been planned as a bold stroke to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months. At the end of 1915 the allied forces were evacuated, after both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers had been killed. News of the landing on Gallipoli had made a profound impact on Australians at home, and 25 April soon became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in the war.
The 25th of April was officially named ANZAC Day in 1916. It was marked by a wide variety of ceremonies and services in Australia, a march through London, and a sports day in the Australian camp in Egypt.

In London over 2,000 Australian and New Zealand troops marched through the streets. A London newspaper headline dubbed them “the knights of Gallipoli”. Marches were held all over Australia; in the Sydney march, convoys of cars carried wounded soldiers from Gallipoli attended by nurses. For the remaining years of the war, ANZAC Day was used as an occasion for patriotic rallies and recruiting campaigns, and parades of serving members of the AIF were held in most cities.

During the 1920s ANZAC Day became established as a national day of commemoration for the 60,000 Australians who had died during the war. In 1927, for the first time every state observed some form of public holiday on ANZAC Day. By the mid-1930s, all the rituals we now associate with the day - dawn vigils, marches, memorial services, reunions, two-up games - were firmly established as part of ANZAC Day culture.

With the coming of the Second World War, ANZAC Day also served to commemorate the lives of Australians who died in that war. In subsequent years the meaning of the day has been further broadened to include Australians killed in all the military operations in which Australia has been involved.

ANZAC Day was first commemorated at the Memorial in 1942. There were government orders prohibiting large public gatherings in case of a Japanese air attack, so it was a small occasion, with neither a march nor a memorial service. Since then, ANZAC Day has been commemorated at the Memorial every year.

What does it mean today?

Australians recognise 25 April as an occasion of national remembrance, which takes two forms. Commemorative services are held at dawn - the time of the original landing - across the nation. Later in the day, ex-servicemen and women meet to take part in marches through the major cities and in many smaller centres. Commemorative ceremonies are more formal and are held at war memorials around the country. In these ways, ANZAC Day is a time when Australians reflect on the many different meanings of war.

What it means to us ex RLI soldiers?

Australia is an incredibly welcoming and tolerant society; we have made this land our home and we identity with all Australians. In keeping with that, we commemorate those who have fallen and we celebrate the bonds of friendship that uniquely come with soldiering and adversity.

The RLI has been welcomed as a member of the services fraternity and we march with pride alongside many others; not only Australian regiments and ex-soldiers but with those from many countries who have chosen to become Australian. On this day we recognise all those who died in service of Australia and Rhodesia and our fellow citizens in doing so embrace our regiment as one that has endured the hardship of war.
ANZAC is both a solemn and happy day; this is most evident in the way the ANZACs are commemorated:

The first half the every 25\textsuperscript{th} April is rightfully dedicated to those who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms; Dawn services, commemorative marches, and private ceremonies (including by School Cadet corps and the like) are held throughout the country.

As people meander off to organised ANZAC day lunches, invariably at their local RSL (Returning Servicemen’s League) clubs (often the social centre of many Australian towns and cities and suburbs) many move off to the a few traditional and historically important sport events.

In the narrative, I described of how in 1916 the first ANZAC day was followed by a number of sporting fixtures. This tradition continues. The most prominent and most important fixtures are the Rugby League game (NRL) between Sydney Roosters and St, George (a team from south Sydney) and the Aussie rules game (AFL) between Essendon (the Bombers) and Collingwood (the magpies) both of Melbourne.

It does take some time to get used to these ‘foreign games’ but irrespective of the code they are the most enjoyable and poignant of occasions. Sold out long before the day, these two events attract over 120,000 people.

Preceded by old soldiers who played for these teams, the armed services are represented and bands play the national anthem, Flags are lowered to the sounds of the last post. Ceremonies are completed with the delivery of match balls either by parachutists or Apache helicopters. The atmosphere is electric and emotionally charged by the time of kick off or ‘the bounce’ occurs.

Wonderful occasions to end the most heartrending of days.
The RLI fraternity would be pleased to hear that one of their own, Corporal JM (Jon) Caffin, Assault Pioneer Troop, Support Commando, 1 RLI (1978-1980) then later Rhodesian SAS, was honoured on November 1st. Jean-Michel Caffin was awarded the Knight’s Cross of the Order of the Legion of Honor ("Croix de Chevalier dans l’Ordre de la Legion d’Honneur"), France’s highest official recognition.

The ceremony took place at the Miami residence of the Consul General of France for Florida on the occasion of a reception held for the French community to mark the visit of The Hon. Helene Conway-Mouret, Minister for French Nationals Abroad, who was also accompanied by Francois Delattre, France’s ambassador to the US.

Mrs Conway-Mouret presided the ceremony recognizing Jean-Michel Caffin’s accomplishments in the name and on behalf of France’s President.

The Hon. Francois Hollande who signed the presidential decree of April 10th, 2013 appointing Mr Caffin a Knight of the Legion of Honor in recognition of his outstanding contribution to bilateral US-French relations.
Craig is a Regimental stalwart of note and his generosity, especially to the RLI Association’s cause, is well known.

It therefore gives us great pleasure to introduce his first book “Cut to the Bone” is the autobiography of our own world-renowned wildlife artist.

Craig was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia in 1955. He studied Graphic Art at Natal University in South Africa. In 1973 Craig returned to Rhodesia to perform his National Service in the Rhodesian Light Infantry. During this time he painted vivid scenes of combat and was totally immersed in the war effort. (he was of course the artist who painted the picture of Bruce Snelgar, which is the of an article in this publication).

A severe war injury forced his retirement and resulted in a decision to pursue painting full time.

Craig’s strong sense of community spirit and his passion for the military has encouraged him to support veteran programs throughout the United States and in Zimbabwe.

Most recently, Craig has raised over $100,000 for the Safari Club International Veterans Committee, which supports soldiers from Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraqi battlefields who have been wounded during active duty.

His painting, entitled “Earth, Wind and Fire,” is a depiction of the reality of the Vietnam War and honours the sacrifice of American soldiers. This work of art presently hangs in the Pentagon. Craig is currently working on similar projects connected to the Iraq and Afghanistan War.

Craig has kindly consented to send us the RLI Chapter in his new book. You can read this chapter on-line on our website at the link below

http://www.mm3admin.co.za/documents/docmanager/AC4C64A4-0C49-44A4-9D8B-2FCE8390D976/00058084.pdf

Craig says:

“Please download my book ‘Cut to the Bone’ on 11/11 when it’s free on kindle. The book isn’t so much about me, but covers the whole African political fiasco. I want as many people to read about our plight as possible, so when strangers hear the word Rhodesia, they know the truth about the injustice that has been perpetrated on our scattered tribe.”

“Okay, that’s it. Bone has left the building. I have spent the last week pushing Rhodesia so much the missus said I was talking to Smith in my sleep. Thank you all. I know that a lot of people have gone to a great deal of effort to spread the word and I will be eternally grateful. God bless.”

Jeremy writes to us:

From: Jeremy Hall [mailto:outofafrica@cogeco.ca]

Hi Rob,

So my wife and I were discussing this idea of me contributing 25% of my royalties of the book Weep for Africa to various military charities in the countries where hopefully the readership of this book would take place. But it would just be a big hassle and to widespread if the book was being purchased by British, Canadians, Americans, S. Africans, Australians, and New Zealanders etc. etc. Also if the book sales were not high enough (hope not) - then the amounts would be piddling.

Therefore - I am just going to stick with The Shamwari Trust or similar only. However - does this directly benefit ex-RLI guys who are in need? I was looking at the Shamwari Trust web page and it looks like it helps all Rhodesians who have hit hard times - which is a good thing. But I would prefer to just contribute to the RLI ouens in need only. So would it not be better for me to just contribute to the RLI Association alone? Half the book is about the RLI, that is our unit and that is really only who I want to help.

So please advise me - and then give me the official name of the RLI Association and that whoever has the authority) condones the book Weep for Africa and that you will be accepting 25% of the royalties from the book to the association. So a two-liner from you - or whoever - with their title. Then I will use that in the ads and see if I can get it into the front of the book to - front inside page or so (or even on the front or back cover) - if I am not too late and Chris Cocks can get this put in.

Let me know.

Cheers.

Jeremy Hall.

I launched a photo website yesterday that has taken a lot of work. The book is advertised on this site you will see on the main page. WEEP FOR AFRICA. The photo site is:

www.jeremyhallphoto.com

I may also do the same with the proceeds of any Giclee prints I sell on my photo website. Lets us see how this all pans out.

This is indeed a magnanimous gesture on Jeremy's part and it came with pleasant surprise that he has offered to pass royalties onto us. Funds coming in from the sales (you all buy a copy) will be allocated to RLI welfare and distributed as per the Africa Committee instructions.
Following the success of his first book "Three Sips of Gin", author Tim Bax has just published another remarkable memoir titled "Who Will Teach the Wisdom" - Living with the Tribes.

The book chronicles the many years Tim spent living with the tribes in Rhodesia during his service with the Selous Scouts.

Material for the book was extracted from a notebook Tim carried during his bush deployments.

Readers will be interested in what enabled the Selous Scouts to ‘terrorize the terrorists’ to such an extent that they were too afraid even to mention the unit’s name. They referred to its soldiers simply as skuzapu, or ‘those who have stolen our identity’. Of greater interest, Tim reveals the crucial role played by the tribes in the unit’s astonishing success.

Ian Scott in his book ‘the Captain’s journey’ provides a series of inspirational stories of leadership and survival in the harshest of environments - bush warfare!

As noted by the comments below, this is an easy-going, yet highly motivating guide to the transformation of individuals’ leadership abilities.

’I don’t do self-help books. Ever. But when I started reading Scott’s guide, I was hooked from beginning to end...

Through a series of emotional, humorous ...he’s a wonderfully funny writer...and thought-provoking events, Scott imparts some first-rate insights into practical leadership. His sections on staff motivation and development, expanding leadership potential, and getting the best out of your team, to mention a few, make for vital reading for anyone working in an organisation bigger than a one-man-band!

A captivating, inspirational guide with some hilarious accounts of Scott's days of bush warfare!

Peta Lee. Fever Publications.

'Very occasionally, VERY occasionally - you come across a book that includes humorous anecdotal excerpts of the life, of a war that was fought, and yet manages to translate that period of history into the here and now - the lessons we learnt [or SHOULD have learnt], the defining of our lives and our attitudes to fellow human beings, and how we should lead ourselves before we hope to assume a leadership role with others...that book is The Captain's Journey by Ian Scott - I unreservedly recommend this book to all - the one man businesses, the corporate climbers - to those struggling with the daily adjustments life brings at pace.

It embraces, life ‘then and now’ with valuable lessons that none of us are ever too old to learn, or at least, re-fashion into our current lives.

Well done Scott - you've done yourself and all of us, Proud. Salute.

Shaun Blake, Chairman, Inside Edge
MEMORIAL SERVICES

2013 saw Members of Africa Branch representing the RLI RA at numerous memorial services during the course of the year.

Vortrekkehoogte Memorial Service

In May the Regimental Association was invited to attend SANDF Memorial Service. Four members attended the event and Charlie Norris laid a wreath on behalf of the RLI.

Delville Wood Memorial Service

In July about ten members attended the Delville Wood Memorial Service at the Military Museum in Saxonwold, Johannesburg where Bill Wiggill laid a wreath on behalf of the RLI.
Sidi Rezegh (*) Memorial Service

In early November Charlie Norris and Rob Marsh attended the Sidi Rezegh Memorial Service held at the Dickie Fritz MOTH Shellhole in Edenvale, Johannesburg.

(*)The Battle in North Africa where the 5 SA Infantry Brigade was overrun and annihilated by Rommel’s armoured forces. Although this was a severe defeat, the Brigade’s gunners destroyed some 72 enemy tanks before being overrun by a tactically efficient and well-armed enemy.

Rhodesian Forces Memorial Service

On 10 November ex RLI servicemen including Colonels Bate and Hill attended the Rhodesian Forces Memorial Service held at the Dickie Fritz MOTH Shellhole in Edenvale, Johannesburg.

Rob Marsh laid a wreath on behalf of the Rhodesian Army and Charlie Norris, Luis Figuerdo and Bucks Theron on behalf of the RLI.

Elements of the RLI RA also attended memorial services in KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape (where Mark Taunton laid a wreath) and in Cape Town.

The Africa Branch has a standard code of dress which consists of Regimental headgear, regimental blazers and beige chinos with black shoes. Personal medals and awards e.g. wings are worn on the left side of the blazer. Medals worn in remembrance of family members are worn on the right side as per normal practice.

Prayer meetings

Prayer meetings are held at Dickie Fritz and were changed from the first Friday evening of each month to the first Saturday lunchtime of each month.

This has resulted in a dramatic increase in attendance, prior to the change attendance sat at roughly 6-10 people at the most; we now have at any given occasion between 30 to 40 people with friends and family also attending.

A popular aspect of the prayer meeting is a reading of the Roll of Honour and a toast to those RLI members who died in action or were killed in active service in that particular month.

RLI Monument:

A sub-committee headed by Gary Huxham has been set up with a purpose of establishing a permanent RLI monument and site.

To date plans for the monument have been drawn up and will be submitted to EXCO in due course. Members will be advised of progress on the project and the plans will be shown at the monthly prayer meetings.
Range day:

A few members spent a very wet Sunday afternoon in September out at a small arms firing range in Bapsfontein, Gauteng.

An invite was sent out to all members and in no time all the 12 places available for the 9mm pistol shoot had been booked and paid for.

The rains had set in the night before the shoot and continued throughout the day. Despite being soggy under foot and generally damp all over, the afternoon turned out to be very successful with 10 of the 12 participants arriving and participating in the shoot.

The shoot was arranged through G72 and they were found to be extremely professional; taking us through the new techniques of shooting and showing us new developments with pistols and combat rifles.

The participants were split into two groups for the shoot and all had a chance to fire the different pistols available on the day, (Glock 17, Glock 19, USP, and an old Beretta).

After firing a good number of rounds at the targets and at different distances, an accuracy shoot was arranged. To everyone’s surprise, the muscle memory kicked in, and all participants were firing good close groupings. The accuracy shoot ended up with a shoot-out for first and second place and another shoot out with four participants for the third spot.

Well done to the three winners: Ron Wheeldon won the shoot, closely followed in second place by Keith Blanshard and third place went to Chris Ras who was able to see himself through the pressure of the long and closely contested shoot out.

After the competition, two Heckler and Koch 9mm MP5 submachine guns, used by the worlds’ leading Special Forces were bought out. After being given instruction, all had a chance of firing these incredible weapons.

The committee is very keen to have another day at the range and members will be notified in due course.
RLIRA website Merchandise

Len Beechy our Quartermaster did a sterling job during the year and merchandise sales were responsible for a major part of the income received this year.

Len is an enthusiastic QM and was present at close to 15 functions to sell his wares. We do have a problem of getting stocks such as combat infantry badges, lapel badges, wings etc. from the UK timeously and we are also victim of unfavourable exchange rate movements. This has resulted in Len looking to source items from local South African suppliers.

The marketing and selling of Africa's Commandos has been handed over to 30 Degrees South and Helion as the RLI RA had exhausted its impact on the market. This has resulted in a large increase in sales.

At this stage the Association has covered all its costs but is awaiting sales figures from the UK branch to determine exactly how many books have been sold.

Finances:

Year-end for the Africa Branch has been changed to 31 December to reflect the calendar year and to make it easier for members to relate to which year their subs are for. Therefore the current financial period will be for the 18 months ended 31 December 2013.

Subscription amounts remain the same at R200 per annum for full members and R100 for associates and members over 65.

We have a continual problem collecting subs and the committee is investigating ways to make membership more attractive. The current cash on hand is R158 000.

The Legion:

A suggestion has been made that the RLI RA (Africa Branch) joins the SA Legion so that RLI RA members can benefit from what the SA Legion has to offer.

A couple of scenarios were given for discussion:

• The RLI RA to pay the SA Legion membership fees on behalf of their members.
• Association members pay membership fees in their individual capacity.

The committee felt that it makes better sense for the RLI RA members to pay their own fees.

2014 Reunion:

Dickie Fritz has been booked for the Reunion on the 1st February 2014. The reunion will start with a short march to the remembrance garden and full regimental dress will be requested for the parade and service. The service will be followed by a "bring and braai" salads and bread rolls will be provided and the Association will provide Port for the toasts. A cash bar will be available

Please note that the reunion will not include the AGM which will be held in March with timings being given at a later date.
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Seminar

On Saturday 3 August the RLI RA Africa Branch hosted a talk on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder at the Dickie Fritz hall.

- The speaker was Dr Peter Jones a specialist in Integral Traumatologist Psychognologist.
- The seminar was attended by approximately 70 men and women including members from RLI, SAS, RR, Air Force and BSAP.
- A DVD has been produced of the event and will be available to other branches of the RLI RA should they require one.
- Positive feedback was received from the majority of attendees and it appears that the talk was much appreciated, a lot of interest was expressed and everybody found it very helpful and informative.

Should anybody wish to contact Dr Peter Jones, his contact details are as follows:

Phone: +27 11 023 4431
Email: info@traumassist.co.za

The Committee wish to thank every-one for their continued support, with-out you there would not be an Association.

May we take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2014
First Western Cape Combined Rhodesian Services Function

Earlier this year, the CEO of the RLI RA contacted our local Cape Exec John Norman, and discussed with him the possibility of holding a Combined Rhodesian Services Function here in the Cape.

This obviously necessitated a support call from the local RhAF and BSAP Associations and of course from other units of the RhARMY. The first meeting between the RLI and the BSAP was held a month later at Mark BLAGUS’s place wherein we proposed to hold a function of sorts in June.

Those present at the meeting were Trevor Des Fountain and Maurice Gabriel representing the RhARMY and also Lockie Howie and Mike Mays who are both committee members of the Western Cape Branch of the BSAP Regimental Association.

After a number of follow up meetings, it all came to fruition and an extremely successful and well supported Steak Braai and Raffle held at the Cape Branch of the International Police Association Guest House, Timour Hall Villa in Plumstead on Saturday the 22nd June 2013.

A total of 100 tickets were very kindly donated by the IPA and the RhARMY (RLI), the RhAF and the BSAP were each issued booklets containing 35 tickets valued at R100 each and all but seven tickets were sold.

Some of the ex RLI lads who attended were Steve INGRAM, Mike GROSBERG who travelled down from Port Elizabeth, John NORMAN, Mark BLAGUS, Gavin Coutts, Denis CROUKAMP (Selous Scouts).

Deon Huysamen (Manager of Timour Hall Villa) and his wonderful team were happy to do all the catering and braa’ing for us and an excellent meal of Sadza & Relish, Salads and Garlic bread was prepared and laid on by them and the ‘melt in the mouth’ steaks.
FIRST WESTERN CAPE COMBINED RHODESIAN SERVICES FUNCTION  

(Continued)

For Steak officonados the steaks were forty day aged Namibian Rump kindly supplied at cost by two BSAP RA members, Peter LOGUE and Stuart BASS of Supa Meat Market. Deon also very kindly supplied a mystery raffle prize in the form of a bottle of Chivas Regal that we coupled with a set of Gold and Tanzanite earrings which were just one of the three exquisite jewellery pieces very kindly donated by BSAP RA member Neil GRADWELL.

The majority of those attending also kindly donated prizes for the raffle which resulted in us being able to present some 60 odd prizes of wine, spirits, books, guest house vouchers, steam rail trip vouchers, jewellery and so forth to many happy winners.

In keeping with true RLI tradition of never letting a good party fade, a number of the RLI lads decided to book into the Villa for the night and to have another braai there that evening. We have since been informed that the IPA cash bar had a bumper evening and achieved an almost record day as far as sales were concerned.

The organisers wish to extend their thanks to all those who very kindly donated prizes for the raffle and also to all those who gave so much of their valuable time and effort to make this function the roaring success that it was. A special mention must be made in respect of Ralph MACARTHUR (ex BSAP Reservist) and his pipes who did a magnificent job of entertaining the troops with a number of various old marching tunes which impressed all and even had the RLI lads standing to attention when he played the Saints.

A huge vote of thanks is once again is bestowed upon the IPA and in particular, Deon Huysamen and his fantastic family, his very capable barman Steve McEvoy (SAPS) and the rest of the Timour Hall team for doing us all very proud.

All in all it was a great day in which we raised R6, 600.

Well done and thank you to all who supported and attended this fine event.
Here in Natal we still continue with the regular First Friday prayer meetings at the Natal Mounted Rifles which is attended by members from all services but as is usual in Natal it’s a constant uphill battle to get most of the members to drop in because of the on-going “Zero Tolerance” campaign. We now have a braai facility which was kindly donated to us, so every meeting now is a bring and braai with drinks the cheapest in Durban.

Coming up (on 24th November) is the annual Rhodesia Association of SA Golf day held at Amanzimtoti Country Club. RLI usually supports this day by fielding a 4 ball, and quite a few ex RLI emerge out the woodwork on the day. “Boss Doug” (Ian Douglas - RhAF PJI) and “Crispy” Bob Simpson (RhAF) will be parachuting in flying the Rhodesian flag and the RLI flag.

This last weekend saw the annual SAS Remembrance service held at the Flame Lily Village in Queensburgh which was well attended by all the Rhodesian Associations, with more and more ex SADF members attending.

We bid a sad farewell to John Guinness (ex RR) who passed away at the end of August. John, together with his partner Bronwyn Grey, was a staunch supporter of the Association and would get involved in all of our initiatives. RIP John.

We welcomed the following to the Association:

- Philip Harris served 1962 to 1963
- Alastair Bond (2 Cdo).
ANZAC day 2014

In keeping with the RLIRA ANZAC band tradition we are busy planning the 2014 ANZAC day event; we hope that more members make themselves available and attend this most auspicious and important days on the Australian calendar.

For your planning purposes please find below the details of what promises to be a very special occasion:

Place: Brisbane, Australia

Accommodation: Stamford Plaza  (for those requiring): Stamford Plaza (Richard has booked 30 rooms which we need to confirm or otherwise) Please advise Richard if you require a room; prices will be confirmed early in 2014, but we expect the same rate as last year: $250/night

24th April:

Dinner

Venue: Fountain View Room, Mt Coot- the Summit

Time: 18:30 hrs. - till late

Transport: Leaving the Stamford 17:00 hrs.

Guest of Honour: Ian Bate (CO, IRLI, 1978-1979)

Price: $75- $80 (includes buffet and wine)

25th April:

Dawn Service:

Congregate: Stamford Plaza foyer: 04:30

Walk to Dawn parade

AGM: 07:00 : 1978-1979)

Breakfast and freshen-up 07:30 - 0930:

ANZAC DAY March: 09:30 - 13:00

Weekend at Leisure

Additional activities

For those who are mad enough they can join me on a commemorative sky jump which will take place at 12:00 hrs. on the 24th at Caboolture Airport.

As with last year we at Flame Lily will be hosting a remembrance weekend if you would like to join in, there is a hut vacant or just camp. Please contact Jimmy on 0403377794 or email at jimmy@flamelilyadventures.com.au.
Appeal to members

As you all aware we have had membership difficulties in the past, and this has affected the number of people in the branch and participation in events.

We hope the difficulties can be put aside and that we again come together in remembrance of our friends and colleagues who left us far too early. We believe it is also time for our bonds as Australians are cemented.

Aside from the above there are also major reasons for us you view ANZAC day 2014 as a significant occasion:

It will be the last time we can come together before we celebrate our Battalion’s 55th birthday; if this is to be the remarkable occasion it deserves to be, I would suggest a concerted effort and maximum participation will allow us to put in place (alongside ANZAC day) a planning group who can commence the planning for the 55th celebrations.

Ian Bate, the penultimate Commanding Officer of the RLI, will be our guest of honour and it would be wonderful for him to reunite with as many members as possible. April 2014 provides the ideal opportunity for this to happen.

We recognize that the distances between and the dispersed nature of the membership presents not only logistical problems but also major cost inhibitors. With this in mind, and acknowledging that we do not have membership fees and a fund to fall back on, we would be grateful if you would consider making a small donation.

An ANZAC day fund could help us subsidize costs for many and help to ensure that everyone who wants to participate can.

If you feel inclined, donations would be most welcome; these can be made to:

Account name: RLI Account
Bank - Australia and New Zealand Banking Group - commonly known as ANZ Bank
BSB No - 014271 (Branch - Strathpine)
Account no - 280427542

May I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.
Another year has come and gone and it would be appropriate for me to give you a summary of progress made to date.

As with all welfare organisations, we have hit a snag in the registration process and are currently submitting our application to register as a Non Profit Organisation (NPO). Once we have this in the bag, we will then be safe from the ever-present tax man who is clamping down on all NPOs and Trusts. Without it, we will be taxed 40% of any money we have in the bank. Not a pretty picture.

**High Court**

During the year we took over the existing Shamwari Trust from the Flame Lily Foundation. Existing Trustees on the old Trust had to resign and new ones submitted. Our present Trustees are:

- Patron: Air Marshal M. McLaren, CLM, has graciously agreed to be our Patron. Air Marshall McLaren as you will all know was Deputy Commander of Combined Operation.
- Chairman: Ian Bate (RLIRA)
- Other Trustees:
  - John Pirrett (BSAP)
  - Charles Campbell (Selous Scouts)
  - Greg Kietzmann (SAS)
  - Stephen Prophet (RhAF)
  - Andy Harris (Rhodesia Regiment)
  - Terry Leaver (RAR)
  - Jan Bekker (Intaf) - Jan Bekker has taken over from Alex Bundock who sadly passed away recently.

Amendments have been made to our Constitution and Deed of Trust and include our objectives which are:-

Provide support for ex servicemen of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Armed Forces. This includes all former units under command of the Zimbabwe/Rhodesia Army, Air Force, British South Africa Police, Internal Affairs and Guard Force.

- Assistance in the provision of accommodation (already tested and proven)
- Assistance in arranging medical treatment.
- Monetary grants to individuals/families in need.
- Assistance to aged and disabled ex servicemen.
- Provision of a counselling service for ex servicemen in need of spiritual or psychological support. A network has been established for ex servicemen with PTSD.
- Assistance in obtaining employment through "The Servicemen," a non-profit organisation formed to cater for unemployed ex servicemen. This has been a huge success story and in its first year of operation has placed in excess of 25 ex servicemen. Congratulations to Steve Prophet, his board and to Cheryl Grover, a true patriot and ball of fire who manages it.
The Shamwari trust (Cont.)
Contributed by Ian Bate

• To raise funds to support anticipated outlay. This has yet to get off the ground subject to all our registrations being in order, however thanks to some generous sponsors we already have R120,000 in the bank. Obviously as time goes on we will need a substantial amount more than this.
• To establish the infrastructure for approval and vetting of application.
• To develop a web site for the Trust. This is nearing completion and thanks to Bill Wiggill and George Dempster for making it happen.

Fund Raising
Sub committees have been formed in Durban and Cape Town to raise funds. This initiative will hopefully generate funds for the future.

Many ideas have been discussed and considered but once again until such time as we are totally legitimate and can offer tax rebates on donations, this has not got off the ground.

Assistance to The Shamwari Trust
Our grateful thanks for their support go to:-
• George Dempster (RLI) and Shirley (Web and use of his office facilities).
• Bruce Harrison, (RhAF) who is a valuable source of knowledge on the intricacies of Trusts and whose input has been invaluable.
• Cheryl Grover (RhAF/ComOps) who has helped me on many occasions with presentations and secretarial support.
• Alan Butcher (RLI) who has been a gem and is our voluntary accountant.
• Ron Wheeldon (RLI), our lawyer, whose support through the legalities is precious and his secretary Ann Edwards who has been great.
• Rob Marsh (RLIRA), Accountant, for his total commitment.
• Tom Douglas (RLI) for his support on secretarial duties.
• The Chairmen of the Regimental Associations who regularly attend our meetings, Bill Wiggill (RLIRA), Pat Armstrong (Selous Scouts) Tom Thomas (Selous Scouts) and Grahame Wilson (SAS). Thank you for your sage advice and support.
• Finally to my fellow Trustees, thanks for being there in what has been a difficult year for us.

My tour of duty has outlasted the year the Constitution demanded, however I have agreed to remain in the Chair until such time as we have completed all the formalities. It has been a frustrating task but nevertheless essential.

May God bless you all.

Sincerely
Ian Bate
FOUND

An interesting post-script to the ‘Once were soldiers’ article was an unexpected encounter (at an ATM, somewhere in the back-of-beyond) of no lesser importance than the Stanley/Livingstone meeting in the 19th century.

Here in the 21st century, who would have thought that Jug Thornton (the only ex-RLI subbie with any money in a Bank) would stumble on Roger Carloni, another ex-subbie, pretending to have money in the bank.

The fact that Roger has been missing since he embarked on a walk about in the Operation Tangent area when Jug was a young lad makes this meeting of some considerable importance. The event was captured for prosperity. Elements of Skyd row, circa 21st century (from Left; Mick Walters, Roger Carloni, Jug Thornton, Neill Story, Rick Van Malsen)

LOST

This should be easy: TRYING TO LOCATE EDDIE

Anne Slabak (nee Owen-Smith) is trying to establish contact with Eddie (she cannot remember his surname) She knew Eddie in Salisbury 1968/69 and visited his family in Gwelo.

If anyone recognizes Eddie - or remembers his surname - please contact Anne by e-mail - anne_s50@hotmail.com (the mail has an underscore (suggest copying and pasting)).