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2014
John Coleshaw
John Duncan
Anton Keown
Eddie Norris
Frank Pretorius
Maz Vico
Steve Walters
Rob Wood
Welcome to the 2014 mid year edition, I do hope this note finds you all well and in good health.

I have had a number of submissions for this edition and I trust that you find the articles both interesting and thought provoking.

Sadly, this will be my last cheetah edition; I have always felt that a publication such as this requires constant re-assessment and, every so often, a good freshening-up. To this end, I have chatted to Bill and we agreed that after 2 ½ years it is indeed time for someone else to take up the reins.

It has been a privilege for me to edit your magazine and I hope that you have enjoyed the material. I pass on my best wishes to my successor and wish him the best for their stewardship of the Cheetah.

But before I go!

You may or may not know that I had the great privilege of attending Milton High School in Bulawayo; and for those who know that school, we had a great rival in almost anything we did; from rugby and cricket to Rhodes scholars to dating the same girls. Inevitably, if my memory serves me well, Milton got the better of Plumtree, with a win ratio that cannot be repeated, without a huge cry of dissent from the assembled mob of Prunitions. But, I am afraid facts are facts.

I thought that the competitive rhetoric would subside after school, but this was not to be the case.

On arriving at the RLI in 1974, I was subjected to a huge onslaught of how the Rhodesian army and, indeed, the RLI owed its stature and prominence to old boys of Plumtree. I have suffered in silence all these years and, since I will no longer be editor when you read this, and rights of reply are likely to be irrelevant to the new editor; I present the Milton case as an article in this newsletter.

Nigel Henson (who, I am told, wishes he had gone to Milton) has written a great story about his exploits in other subaltern’s cars, as well providing an article that was published in the January 1980 edition of the Paratus (SA Army) magazine.

Nigel has also provided a commentary of statistics, which provides fertile ground for some debate.

We have contributions from a few of the regions and I commend Tufty Bate, Ian Buttenshaw and Shaun Ryan who made it to Australia for the ANZAC day parade and celebration.

A New challenge

The last few years we have witnessed that publications of books and articles, and many have contributed and dedicated themselves to writing and assembling some fascinating material, but even after all this I am still left the strong sense of something foreboding.

‘This can’t be all, we have ‘ I asked rhetorically of my old friend Mark Adams a few months ago. Are we all destined for the vaults of history, to be forgotten; our regiment only living in the spirits of those who were there?
From the editors desk

Whilst we hope not, my suspicion is, like all soldiers before us, with the passage of time and as new generations take the place of the old, our history, stories, and anecdotes will inevitably fades from contemporary thought.

Whilst harsh, I believe this is inevitable; things that were and are important to us are less important to succeeding generations. Accepting that our experiences, hopes, fears and dreams are only relevant for a time; I still wonder if we have done all we can to record lessons and experiences, from which, future generations (not just commando’s descendants), can benefit.

I contend that the quest for life’s meaning has been at the centre of human existence for all time, and that in a deeper context, we may have something substantial to offer.

It does seem to me that we have an extraordinary opportunity to convey, in a very real and compelling sense, what it is like to have gone through the experiences we have. To collate the personal psychological effects, and the resultant changes to attitudes, value systems and behaviours brought about by serving in a (civil) war.

A literature survey shows that little is documented of real life experiences by people who have experienced the life we have lived; the upbringing, the war, the loss of one’s country, the change in profession and importantly the loss of friends and comrades; the trauma of events, at such early ages and the associated permanent or long lasting effects. Such material would be invaluable for future study and to people who are interested in the human condition. It also could be extremely rewarding and cathartic for those willing to tell their stories, and personal journeys.

If I may, I would like to cite and example; most, if not all of you, during your service experienced traumatic events, which challenged your thinking and value system, often at a most fundamental level. People with very similar upbringings in Rhodesia with similar values and beliefs, after experiencing the same or similar traumas, came out the other end with dramatically different world views.

Anecdotally, I have seen friends shift from having traditionalist (say Rhodesian Front style) political views to being archconservatives / republicans whilst others have become staunchly liberal. I have friends who emerged with strong faith, elevated levels of spirituality and beliefs in God; whilst on the other hand I have met many agnostics (no beliefs, one way or the other) and fewer, but a still significant number of atheists. Certain people have struggled with civilian life whilst others have thrived. All these transformations provide exceptional insight to the old soldiers’ conditions.

By telling the story of life’s influences before, during and after the RLI; stories and self assessments that would have a relevancy for generations to come; a tribute to those who fought and those who died in service of the RLI.

To this end, I have taken the liberty of setting-up a short questionnaire (links are provided in the relevant section of this publication). Which can be completed anonymously and will only take approximately 2 minutes of your time). This little exercise can be used to determine if people are willing to share and, as a start, illustrate the potential for a movingly relevant publication.
This edition

I have, with the help of a number of contributors, been able to pull together a few articles, which we hope you will enjoy. I am particularly grateful to Nigel Henson, who has put in a big effort in recounting his motoring escapades; a great piece which I recommend to you all.

I have also included a few extracts from the UK Branch communication, which was distributed earlier this year to supplement a few of the stories. My thanks to Neill Story for providing the material

Signing off

As indicated above, this is my last Cheetah as your editor. I have had a wonderful time compiling the stories and I hope that you have enjoyed receiving the publication during my 2½ year tenure.

A new beginning and a new Storey

My old, 1 Commando, mate Neill Story will be taking up the editorial reins and I hope you will give him the support, by way of articles, anecdotes and pictures, you have provided me over the last few years.

I wish you well Neill; if you need any help or advice please don’t hesitate to ask someone else!

I hope to continue contributing and look forward to receiving the new edition in December

With best regards to you all
Greetings to you all.

I am now starting my long overdue retirement after 47 years in Uniform in three different Armies (31 of them here in Oman), and it was fitting that in my last week officially in uniform that I was in Australia for the RLIRA Australian/New Zealand Branch Dinner and ANZAC Day Parade.

This was an outstandingly well-organized event, well done to Jimmy Swan and Richard ‘Granny’ Johnson and their team for their efforts and also to Quentin and Cheryl Fourie for being everywhere taking photos. It was also great to see Ian “Tufty” Bate over from RSA to lead the March. As he had just been fitted with a pace maker two weeks previously, he was accompanied by his wife Alannah to ensure he did not get out of hand at the post parade drinks!

It was quite an emotional weekend, starting with the Commando Parachute Jump organized by our very supportive Honorary Member RSM Bill Cochrane, who also gave a superb presentation at the Dinner with a DVD he had prepared about the RLI. There were a couple of Tandem jumps, that they could not convince either Tufty Bate or I into doing! followed by the main jump, a brief memorial to our fallen and then a Braai, is was a nice start to the weekend.

The Dinner was at the Summit Restaurant overlooking Brisbane and was most memorable, our first Patron Brigadier ‘Digger’ Essex-Clark, was there with his family and gave his normal rousing speech, “Tufty’ Bate also gave an amusing speech citing some funnies that occurred over his years in the RLI. It was a great evening enjoyed by all, with the Raffle being very successful, raising much needed funds for the Branch. The striking thing for me was to see the Australian Branch reunited again and there was a great deal of camaraderie displayed, and it was great to see so many ex Rhodesians who had gone to Australia after leaving Africa, who had now joined the Branch, there were even more evident on the Parade the next day.

The Dawn service by the ANZAC Memorial in the centre of town was packed and difficult to observe but very moving. However, our own private service by the Brisbane River was far more emotional as we remembered not only those who had fallen with the RLI but those that had passed on since the Regiments disbandment. Ian Bate threw a Wreath into the River which poignantly had flowers break away from it as it hit the water, and this was followed by ‘Boerie’ rolls and coffee provided by the Johnson Family.

The main event was the Parade, which was far larger than previous years and our very smart blazer attired and be medalled group, joined by ex members of SAS and Selous Scouts put on a great disciplined display, which seemed to be appreciated by the Governor taking the salute. Digger was in the VIP stand in full RLI regalia and also gave us a salute as we went past. The crowds along the way were continually clapping all contingents as we went past and we got some rousing cheers as we marched past groups of ex Rhodesians along the route. All quite emotional.

It was fairly evident to me from the post parade drinks party that the RLIRA Australian Branch was firmly back together, the war stories were flowing and everyone was having a good time and some unexpected former members heard about it and turned up after the Parade as well, so the membership looks likely to keep growing.
From the Chairman

Apologies for banging on about the Australian Branch event, but it was great to see the Branch back together and flourishing with very good signs of further expansion, particularly now they have affiliated themselves to the regular Australian 2 Commando Regiment in Sydney, where they will be marching next year. Well done Jimmy and Richard.

I failed to get to the RSA Reunion in March but gather it was a great success, and even had two aged Lieutenant Colonels carrying the Colours, that must be a record?

The next important Event is the UK Branch Service at the Trooper Statue on Saturday 6 September, this is the first time for a couple of years that we have had a Service there, so can I urge as many UK members as possible to attend and any members from elsewhere who happen to be in UK at that time, to get there as well. It is hoped to have the Roll of Honour positioned in a new location, just behind the Trooper Statue, so that it is more visible when holding Services there, rather than on the rear of the Plinth where it is now. This will be rededicated at the Service. It will be followed by a Picnic Lunch/Drinks in front of the Trooper by the river (exact details to follow).

All in all, the association continues to prosper and expand which is great. The Museum in Bedford continues to grow and is looking good (I saw it in late May). It is appreciated though, that because of its location that many members abroad cannot visit it. To get over this the latest ExCo Project is to get a professionally produced filmed tour of the Museum that can be seen on a DVD and will also be displayed on our web site. The UK Branch is looking into this at this time, particularly in relation to costs. We hope to have feed back about the progress of this Project in the next Cheetah.

All the best to all our members

May the Saints continue Marching On

Ian Buttenshaw
The association has been particularly busy over the last few months and I trust the following provides you with a glimpse of the activities that have taken place.

I would like to mention the great turnouts we have had at memorial events both in South Africa and Australia in the first quarter of this year. Our Australian chapter is going from strength to strength and we hope that a number of non-Australian’s will take the opportunity to visit the team in Australia and participate in the 2015 ANZAC day parade in Sydney. It promises to be a fine event and marching in tandem with 2 Commando the Australian Regiment will cement a number of bonds and form great friendships.

**Military Veterans (South Africa)**

I have the following notice to SADF veterans from Cheryl Grover of the Servicemen:

Medical benefits are available for those who served in the SA Military at any time. This applies to members who are registered on the South African military veterans’ database and who earn less than R300 000 per annum.

Please check your registration by contacting:

- Robert Mokena: 0127659381; SMS 0768698705 or email robertmakinta@gmail.com
- Edith Mabitsela: 0127652072; SMS 0823839965 or email takalo.mabitsela@webmail.co.za

If the applicant’s status can be confirmed and he/she is registered as a bona fide military veteran he/she can then contact the Chief Directorate Healthcare & Wellness Services who will provide him/her with the necessary documentation. Members can contact:

- Mr Paul Mokoke: 0127659364 or email paul.mokoke@webmail.co.za
- Ms Lindiwe Maluleke: 0127659344; SMS 0764029070 or mkalimaz@gmail.com
- The same principle applies to the other benefits but the means test may differ.
- Kindly refer to the DMV’s website for contact details of all relevant contact persons.
- The website is www.dmv.gov.za.

If eligible people are not registered they can request to be registered by writing a letter to Chief Directorate Beneficiary Support Services (Attention: Lorraine Selokela).

This letter must include their:
- Force number
- A short military biography (i.e. member to indicate whether he/she was permanent/conscript etc and period which he/she served)
- contact details
- NB. Member must then attach a copy of his/her ID Document and Proof of Military Service and fax it to 0865189715 for Lorraine’s attention.
**South African Legion**

The South African Legion, which has been in existence for over 90 years, with affiliates in UK, USA and Australia allows membership for any ex-servicemen.

The legion has and continues to provide support for veterans and has the infrastructure to assist in a number of areas.

Recently I met, along with the presidents of the SAS and Selous Scouts, the chairman of the Legion, Lt. Col Giles with the purpose of forming a Rhodesian Army branch of the Legion.

The Legion is most receptive to this and by the time you read this branch should be established.

At present you can still join the Legion as a single member. The application form is on the RLIRA website (Members Section-Login) and if you complete this and send directly to me at: bw@therli.com or fax to pc on 27+ 086 512 6905

The annual membership fee is R 80.00. There is only one rule for a Legionnaire-“Help one unfortunate Legionnaire each year”. You can get the application at the ‘NEWS’ tab (Members Section)

**Website updates**

Maintaining our website would never be possible without the kind concession of George Dempster and the tireless help of Vongani Nshalati in doing all the hard work of setting up the posts. Thank you both for your dependable support

The Web site continues to perform well as the following statistics attest. What surprises us are the number of new visitors to the site and the number of page views per visit, which averages 6); so it appears the content has relevance.

Unfortunately, returning visitors are relatively low, meaning that we probably lack fresh compelling content. With your help we hope this can be rectified.

Two new Honorary Crows added to website and big congratulations to them both. They are:

- Toni Jean Floyd (Africa)
- Lynette Theron (Africa)

**RLI RA Website statistics (One Month)**

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NEW MEMBERS SIGNING UP - Welcomes

- Andrew Sloan
- Des Geyle
- Gary Grant van der Zandt
- Thomas (Tom) Price
- Hennie Olwage
- Bruce Firkin
- Steven Viviers
- Mark Paxton
- Ian Hendy
- Natasha Gallias
- Jason Saville
- Joao Vieira
- Keith Rogers
- Brian Fetting
- Philip Minnaar
- John Patrick Asher
- Frank Guthrie
- Raymond Monson
- Michael Ronald Stidston
- David Breedon
- Ian Patrick Nicholas
- Patrick Moody
- Fernando Simoes

Vale entries. I am still playing catch up with the Vale entries but these should be completed by the time you read this.

The Africa AGM (Minutes): are posted at http://www.therli.com/A_About_branch_SANews.asp

Galleries (Members Section Only)

The whole of the photo pack for the Anzac Reunion are loaded into the Galleries. In addition, a number of personal photos sent in to me have been uploaded now into the respective unit Gallery. If you have lost your membership login details contact me and I can send them to you.

Billy Wiggill
Without doubt, the topic most followed by all ranks in the Battalion (besides theirs and other’s ladies) was the thorny question of personal vehicular transport, for not only were wheels essential to the RLI man as Cranborne was some distance from the bright lights, but a car of some note was considered essential in pulling the local chicks, and was a source of some considerable status in the unit. Men with upmarket transport were spoken of in hushed tones and held in awe by many of their less fortunate comrades.

Curiously enough, cars owned by Battalion members also had their own social pecking order, for it was always a toss up as to whether the troopers or the subbies owned the worst cars (hardly surprising as they were the most poorly paid); between junior officer and private soldier, an awesome collection of old corks, discarded family transport and cabs rescued from the scrapheap populated the verges behind the commando lines.

Their owners were also a collection of motoring oddities, for some were licenced to drive, some weren’t but could drive, and the balance were men who with total disregard for the whole of Salisbury’s safety who sallied forth of an evening to do battle with other motorists and obstacles who happened to cross their paths.

For the cabs owned by the subbies, there was always welcome relief when the owner began suffering cash flow problems as mess bill time came around.

Higher up the social cab strata came the cabs owned by the corporals and junior unmarried captains, who were more in funds than their lessors. Corporals in particular put up an impressive display, with brand new Renults, Mazdas, and Peugeots finding pride of place, lead by Basil Rushforth (whose family owned a garage on the Hatfield road) taking preeminent position with a Lotus Cortina.

The Majors and Warrant officers and Sergeants tended to be a more conservative motoring population, partly due to their desire to portray a more responsible attitude, and the demands that young families were making on their resources.

When I joined the Battalion in 1965 as the most junior subbie, there were some glorious motoring things to behold;

Peter Walls was the CO and his 2 ic, Billy Conn (a man for making sure all his CO’s officers stayed in line), was a wonderful, but stern man who from time to time issued various edicts that had us rushing to conform.

His first instruction that I was aware of (even though I didn’t own a car ) was that there was a prevalence of individuals speeding in camp, general ignoring the rules of the road and behaving in a manner contrary to good military discipline blah blah blah blah, and so on...... The day after this document was circulated, it was reported by the Orderly Sergeant, early in the morning, that Billy’s car was on it’s roof in the vicinity of the gym roundabout, where the his wife Sally (he had forgotten to put her on the memo’s distribution list ), had entered the circle at a velocity in excess of either her or her vehicle’s ability to negotiate it.
Article: Those men in their motoring machines:
Nigel Henson

In the mid 1960’s the Officers Mess car park was something to behold; Garth Barrett (just back from Sandhurst) had a big black Mk 7 Jag that dwarfed the Staghounds in the MT park.

Bert Sachse had a Triumph TR 3, which he, in a fit of mechanical madness decided to overhaul in the carpports adjacent to the Sargent’s mess. He took it all to pieces, but he lost the manual on how to re-assemble the work of art and so it remained for a number of years.

If one felt like a swift injection of nicotine without having to buy cigarettes, one could do worse than take a trip from 3 Commando to the mess with Spike Powell, who was the proud owner of an evil smelling Mini with a crash gearbox.

Conversely, were one to feel like a spot of upmarket exposure, one only had to request a lift from Barney Bentley (the SAS officers messed in the RLI in those days), a real experience, for Barney, complete with hacking jacket, cavalary twill trousers, paisley tie and a matching handkerchief exuded (in concert with his pomaded hair) all the verve and panache that one could expect from a well bred and educated young military man.

Brian Robbie (SAS) had perhaps the best car (MG 1100) which he drove in either a fit of depression or exuberance, and no picture would be complete without mentioning Al Boyd-Sutherland, a no nonsense great leader who chose, as his wheels, a vicious Ford Zephyr six with mock leopard skin dashboard and rear sill drapes.

However, the concourse of motoring excellence undoubtedly that year went to Leon Jacobs (he took over in mid 1966 from Dave Parker as Adjutant). Being the perfectionist that he was, he owned a wonderful green Borgward which was his pride and joy and which he occasionally took out for a spin. Occasionally was the watchword here, for both Leon and his wife Marlene were extremely conscious of motoring limitations in sanctions hit Rhodesia; it was general knowledge that their annual motoring was never to exceed 500 miles; and according to inside sources, Leon was infinitely flexible in that he stipulated that the 500 miles calculation included weekends but excluded holidays.

In the cost containment era, on one trip to Marandellas and on the advice of Keith Dyer (MTO-who could forget him!), Leon and Marlene night stopped at Jamaica Inn to ensure the Borgward did not overheat.
Article: Those men in their motoring machines:

Nigel Henson

The next crop of officers bought a mixed infusion; Pat Armstrong in a frog-eyed Austin Healy Sprite where he gave a passable impression of Arnold Schwarzenegger in a Noddy car (incidentally, at a later time, this vehicle was unceremoniously left in the middle of a roundabout in Hooters where Armstrong was said to have been under training for vehicle management in adverse conditions), the redoubtable Jerry Strong who contributed to the further lowering of motoring standards by arriving in a two-tone Vauxhall Velox. The vehicle opposite, is in a far better condition than that ever possessed by the said Strong. Fortunately, the car’s life span as a member of the RLI classic car fraternity was cut short as Brucie Snelgar deposited it halfway up a tree in Braeside; this slight mishap, predicated on the firm assumption / authority, that Jerry had given Brucie the permission to use, and destroy, the same.

However, motoring accolades that year went to Ian Bate and his Morris Oxford (this car still plies the streets of Bombay today as a taxi). This motoring absurdity was rendered unique by Tuftie’s children, who when left to their own devices outside the mess and in the car, resorted to ripping down the vehicle’s headlining, which viewed from any angle had onlookers perplexed.

Tufty, never one for competing seriously as stick man was also blissfully unaware that various bits of fluff and cotton waste would attach themselves to various parts of his dress, notably his beret and hose tops.

In all, a memorable year, in which it became accepted practise for any subbie in urgent need of wheels to purloin any vehicle that had the keys in - and a spot of petrol to boot.

The following year, the new subbies brought some new motoring delights, notable amongst which was a Nash Metropolitan owned proudly by Jacobus Cornelius Ignatius (Neil) Kriel.

If you are not familiar with this vehicle, please see opposite, for as motoring creations go, it ranks with the worst.

Neil’s car looked like a cupcake on wheels, and to add the piece de resistance, was painted lime green, with mauve hubcaps, and whitewall tires- it set new heights of bad taste. Neil was posted to 1 Commando, where Bruce Snelgar and I were subbies and this; dear reader is where my

story really begins:
‘One day after morning tea, Neil was lecturing to the commando on fire and movement, or something equally militarily irrelevant when Brucie spied the Nash, complete with keys parked in front of the commando. He winked at me, and with no word passing, slid behind the wheel with myself taking up the passenger seat.

Our first port of call was 2 Commando next door where we drove in cautiously and hooted until we got some re-action. Eventually an annoyed Pat Hill (OC) emerged, as did his CQ Woody Williams, and they indicated we were not welcome. We left, and repeated the same exercise outside Base Group and 3 Commando with the same result, drawing a caustic comment from ‘Classy ‘Lloyd, the main man at that commando, at the time, Then it was onto the open road, around the circle, driving cautiously so as not to attract the attention of little Nickie Fawcett (Adjutant) and big bad Robin (RSM), who it was common cause that when he bawled an order on the RLI square that the whole of Air Force New Serum came to attention.

Past Battalion HQ we went, then sidled into 2 Commando for the second time and stood on the horn. Reaction was more evident this time; Brucie and Nigie having to wheelie out of there as various missiles followed in our wake-then on to Base group and 3 Commando, noting that Rockjaw Kirrane was already writing a report for the RSM (in triplicate) whilst the missile barrage increased in variety and intensity.

Then slowly around the circle (watch out for Batman and Robin, Brucie!), and then a cruise with engine off into 2 Commando lines again. This time there was no need to use the horn, en masse the whole commando appeared with Pat and Woody in the vanguard; over the whole car went two buckets of PVA, tins of rifle oil and the contents of the commando trash cans—“move it Brucie” I remember saying as we lurched into the road.

Visibility was at an all time low, operating the wipers had smeared paint over the windscreen (only one wiper worked) as we set an erratic course for Base Group and 3 Commando. The same uproar awaited us at both locations, vegetable slops from the dining hall, thunder flashes, and the contents of Spike Powell’s ash tray, then a slight correction to clip the hedge around the parade square and we were again on our way ‘steady Brucie, I think I can see big bad Robin looking out of his window’ then on to 1 Commando, home of the brave and foolish.

And then – Brucie and Nigie abandoning ship as an apparition, an enraged buffalo (not officer-like at all) sets course across the parking lot. Neil Kriel in full charge after the defilers of his beloved Metropolitan now resembling a garbage truck, Brucie and Nigie fleeing for their very lives with Cornelius Ignatious breathing hate and venom at every stride!!

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Article: Those men in their motoring machines:
Nigel Henson
Article: Those men in their motoring machines:
Nigel Henson

Notably, Brucie and Nigie managed to outstrip Cornelius, who had abandoned the chase when the Nash came to rest in the ditch at the side of the road.

Whilst, Brucie and Nigie took Urgent Private Affairs leave until the fire in Ignatius ‘breast’ had subsided, they were able to return and give Neil a different version of events, which he apparently, accepted in extremely good grace.

And so dear reader, some highlights of the motoring RLI, I am sure that stories from the Battalion on this subject are long and legion and give great insight into the soul of the greatest unit that ever graced the field of battle.

Of course there must be many more; my trip in Mike Webb’s Rover 2000 that he co-owned with Gonzo and Hutch, the interior of which resembled an opium den; the cars that Dawson and Carpenter drove which proved that the greatest lovers didn’t really need cool cars, just being cool was enough’

I still go carefully in this world, fearing that around the next corner, Cornelius Ignatious will be lying in wait. So too should you, for there are not too many of us left.

Take care. God bless you all.

Editors note:

Taken from the UK’s December 2013 communication

Snippets from RSM Ken Reed a comment about CSM Kirran and Jerry Strong sharing the same model vehicle:

‘Pop’ had an old Vauxhall Cresta the same make & model as Jerry Strong. Jerry arrives at muster one Monday morning fuming. While parked outside Coq D’Or on the Friday evening some b**tard had stolen his rear tail light cover. In those days of sanctions there was no way of replacing it except by stealing one from someone else’s car. All credit to Pop and the old adage of ‘RLI don’t steal from RLI’ he returned the cover to Jerry and went out and found another one.

To Nigel’s wonderful story and for sake of completeness, the following sparkling array of vehicles must be mentioned:

• The beautiful perfectly renovated Citroen Light 15 belonging to Rod Smith;
• Ian Scott’s then Neill Storey’s white (or that is what everyone thought was its colour) Anglia and
• John Cronin’s E Type Jag; the salesman who sold the vehicle, in all honesty and with great integrity, advised John of its exceptional fuel economy and when reading the fuel gauge guaranteed that in England (the country of manufacture) ‘E’ stood for ‘Enough’ and ‘F’ was for ‘Finish’

(Ed)
A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DAVID GLADWELL PARKER ESM

Colonel David Gladwell Parker graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant from Sandhurst Military College in the United Kingdom in 1957. He joined the RLI in 1961 and became 2IC of “A” Company, RLI and served in the Congo crisis. In 1971, the then Major Parker became the OC of 1 Commando. During his tenure as OC of 1 Cdo, the Commando’s nickname, the "Big Red", came in to being. The name emanates from an incident in July 1971 when, as its officer commanding, Major Parker, had ordered daily sessions of physical training at 06:00 every morning. Parker himself despised these parades, and would delay rising each day for as long as he possibly could. One day the men were already formed up when Parker, a physically imposing man, emerged from his quarters wearing a set of bright red pyjamas. "It's the Big Red," remarked Sergeant Bruce Antonowitz. The nickname was initially applied to Parker himself, but gradually evolved to refer to the entirety of 1 Commando.

He was 'loved' by all his troops and widely respected by those within the other Defence Services. Parker was a brilliant tactician and he is credited (with others) with the development of the Fire Force concept (vertical envelopment) that was to prove pivotal to the military fortunes of the Rhodesian Army during the ‘Bush War’.

In May 1974, Parker was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer of the RLI, a post he held until 30 November 1975. Eighteen months later he was promoted to Colonel and Deputy Commander of 3 Brigade. Less than one month later, on 23 December whilst on a pre-Christmas visit to troops in the field, he was killed in a helicopter crash near Cashel, just south Umtali along with three other officers: Major General John Shaw, Captain John Lamb and Captain Ian Robinson. A South African Air Force Alouette III, piloted by Air Sub-Lieutenant Johannes van Rensburg, was flying the four officers from Umtali to Melsetter, with Sergeant Pieter van Rensburg (no relation) also aboard as flight technician. Flying at low altitude, in keeping with standard operational procedure, the helicopter flew into a rusty, long forgotten hawser cable, unmarked on any maps (years before it had been used to pass logs down a steep slope). The aircraft broke up, spun out of control and crashed. All on board were killed except for the pilot, who was seriously injured, losing one of his legs.

Colonel Parker is widely regarded as having been Rhodesia’s finest field commander at the time of his death and there can be no doubting that he was a future General Officer Commanding. His untimely and tragic death robbed the Army and Nation of one of its finest officers.

Russell Fulton
Article: A tribute to Colonel David Parker

Russell Fulton

“I have done this watercolour tribute to “The King” for two reasons:

In the first instance, because I am a proud former RLI soldier and I felt it important to do something to Colonel Parker’s memory. It is also a tribute to all the men who served in the RLI with pride and gallantry and who hold the memory of this outstanding Officer and gentleman with some reverence, and

Secondly, and more importantly, I have done it (without solicitation) for the RLI Regimental Association (Welfare Fund) who do such outstanding work taking care of many of our former brothers-in-arms who are suffering ill-health, have fallen upon hard times or are otherwise in need of assistance. As we have always done, we owe it to the fine traditions of our Regiment to look after our own and this is but a small way in which I may be able to assist. What the RLI RA decides to do with the painting I leave in the competent hands of the RLI RA, CEO Billy Wiggill and his Committee to determine.

The primary focus is on “The King”. I have painted Colonel Parker in black and white simply because I had no colour reference material from which to work. It was my considered opinion that it was too important that his image was captured as accurately as possible and without ‘colourful artistic licence’; to do so would not only possibly be perceived to be inaccurate but disrespectful. The background represents a typical Rhodesian bush scene at sunrise; I have washed this out (subdued it) so as not to detract from the central character. Below centre is an Alouette III helicopter (its fitting being circa 1975) representing the aircraft in which he perished as well as the Fire Force concept that he is largely credited with pioneering? Below this are the RLI Regimental, Commando and Base Group crests that are included simply to lend broader appeal to ALL former members of the RLI.

**MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT RUSSELL HAS DONATED THE ORIGINAL (Destined for the RLI Museum) HE EXPECTS NOR ASKS ANY COMPENSATION. Numbered limited prints will be made for sale/auction/raffle for each branch to raise funds specifically for the welfare of ouens in their regions. Thanks must go to Russell for his magnanimous gesture and kindness. I am positive that a place of pride will be set-aside in the museum for the original and the prints will be just as proudly displayed in our homes and meeting venues. Each regional committee will have to set their own reserves and I will let you all know costs as soon as I have quotes for the prints. Thank you again Russell, a true Saint.

Bill Wiggill
Milton and the RLI: Ties deeper than you know

The ties between Milton School and the RLI were evidenced right from the regiment’s birth. We all know the date and the ancestry, but of course, the RLI was born at Brady Barracks in Bulawayo. Those historians amongst us will also be aware that the Barracks were named after Colonel John Banks Brady, DSO, OBE, ED.

What is, probably not known, however, was that Colonel Brady was the second headmaster of Milton. A school whose character and value system he defined; setting in place a proud military tradition which resulted in the achievements of people such as Col. F. Harvey and Major T E Hendrie who were both awarded a DSO in WW II. The school subsequently, and sadly lost more Old Boys in the two World Wars than any other school in the country.

This resolute soldier was born in Ireland in November 1875, began his military career shortly after leaving Dublin University when, with the outbreak of the South African War in 1899, he enlisted with the 45th Irish ‘Hunt’ Company, the 13th Battalion, of the Imperial Yeomanry.

Arriving in South Africa in 1900, he was subsequently commissioned in the Commander in Chief’s Bodyguard and Kitchener’s Fighting Scouts.

After the war, Brady decided to remain in South Africa to pursue his chosen profession in education, serving as Headmaster of Grey College in Bloemfontein, before becoming a schools inspector. In 1909, he took up the post of Senior Inspector of Schools in Southern Rhodesia, from where he joined the hundreds of Rhodesian volunteers heading for Britain to enlist at the start of World War I in 1914. Commissioned on the Special List as a Lieutenant, he had the distinction of being the first commander of the Rhodesian Platoon of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC), thus starting the long association of Southern Rhodesia with this famous British Regiment.

After a period as a Company Commander with the 2nd Battalion KRRC, Brady was appointed as a General Staff Officer with the 4th Corps and then Brigade Major to the 148 the Irish Brigade, before returning to regimental duty in 1917, becoming Second in Command of the 2nd Battalion KRRC.

Brady commanded the 4th Battalion in the last four months of the war, which was then serving with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine, where he also commanded a battalion. Wounded twice, Brady was appointed a companion of the Distinguished Service Order, awarded the Croix de Guerre, and was mentioned in despatches four times.

Returning to Southern Rhodesia in 1920, he continued to serve both with the Reserve of Officers of the Regular Army, and as the District Commander of the Southern Rhodesia Territorial Force.
In 1924 he was appointed Headmaster at Milton School, where he stamped his authority and insisted on strict discipline, cadet participation and (true to his Irish background) dedication to learning. Upon his retirement in 1937, Brady was promoted to Colonel. He then entered into politics, successfully taking the Bulawayo North seat. With the outbreak of World War II, Brady again put on his uniform, this time as Military Observer and Liaison Officer for Southern Rhodesia to the Middle East Campaign. However, ill health forced him to return home, his service being recognised in June 1943 by the award of the OBE.

Colonel John Banks Brady DSO, OBE, ED, died at the age of 77; his time at Milton, set in motion a series of events that culminated in many old boys serving in the RLI.

Fast-forward some 17 years.

Rather than document the long list of Old Miltonians who served in the RLI, I have managed to locate a few school photographs and provide a sample hereunder; you may like to ‘spot the man’; for those ex Plumtree types please count and be in awe:

1. How many, soon to be, RLI soldiers, can you spot in this Prefects photograph of 1964?
2. This 1963 Prefects photograph shows a person later to become a subaltern and a Commando 2 i.e. Who is he?

3. The 1st XV of 1967 (below) shows a future RLI trooper and then officer; incidentally he also played for the Rhodesian Craven week side in 1966 and would have played in 1967 had there been a Craven week that year!
4. Who was described as being ‘6 foot 2 of Military splendour’ in the Rhodesian Illustrated magazine? Hint: he played first team tennis at Milton, circa 1968-69

5. Of the four subbies who had to replace the Officers Mess floor after a cold night during which they transferred the fire from the lounge to the Pub; two were old Miltonians – any ideas? One can be located in the Swimming Team photograph of 1968; the other played 1st XV rugby and was a Prefect in 1965. This photograph also contains a future RLI NCO
6. A BCR recipient from 2 Commando attended Milton and tormented Hamilton, Cranborne and Churchill with his baseball pitching skill?

7. A leading Milton actor, who was to be expelled for constructing a STILL; producing alcohol for honest distribution amongst the boarders and wound up a subbie in a Commando somewhere. Here he is to be found in the Charter House picture of 1968. Who is he?
8. A prospective troop commander in the Prefects of 1972 photograph?

Answers

Photograph 1:  Ken Reed  Noel ‘Cokes’ Morgan-Davies  Wayne Thompson
Photograph 2:  Mick Hardy
Photograph 3:  Pete Hean

Photograph 5:  Keith ‘Fingers’ Noble  Ian Riley-Hawkins  Trevor Hodgson

Photograph 7:  Ian Scott

Photograph 8:  Ian Macfarlane
The Republic of South Africa's official well-declared policy is one of peaceful coexistence with all its neighbouring states. It also respects legitimately chosen or elected stable governments.

Statue of the legendary RLI trooper. Exceptionally casual in appearance, this man has liquid courage in his veins. His kill-rate of Communist terrorists is unsurpassed.

Fourteen years after UDI, the Zimbabwe Rhodesian Government recently voted itself out of office and once more became part of Her Majesty's Dominions. The country reverted to the name of Rhodesia. Security Forces were ordered to cease operations against the terrorists. The country waits for a new general election. However, in this issue of PARATUS, readers are, once more, taken to the sharp end of the long war against infiltrating Communist terrorists. The name ZIMBABWE RHODESIA is retained for this purpose.

Articles: Col P. Coetzee, SSO SADF Periodicals; Pictures: Mr Peter Winterbotham

"The strategic importance of Zimbabwe Rhodesia can perhaps best be summed up against the background of the threat of Soviet expansionism and imperialism in the African continent as a whole, but more particularly in Southern Africa. Angola and Mozambique are Marxist states. If ZR were also to fall into the hands of Marxists, you have only to look at a map of Southern Africa to see that an almost solid belt of Marxist states would lie across the sub-continent from West to East, cutting off and isolating the other states of Southern Africa, including Namibia/SWA, Botswana, the Republic of South Africa and the smaller independent Black countries—Swaziland and Lesotho."—Genl Magnus Malan, SSA, SD, SM, Chief of the South African Defence Force.

BELOW: RLI's 'The Elephant Trophy' for top-notch line-shooting is on display at HQ. This is the kind of tradition which goes into the making of Regimental esprit de corps.
around, Zimbabwe Rhodesia will be there. Thus goes the saying, thus far never proved wrong.

Equally effective at long range ops and at disrupting communications, 1 RLI has indeed become a household word in Zimbabwe Rhodesia. Switching with smooth alacrity from an airborne rôle, to mechanised attack and to Commando duties, the RLI boasts an outstanding kill-rate.

Their is not the traditional company system: they subdivide into commandos, doing bushstrips of some five weeks at a stretch. Last year they have killed some 450 gooks, (1 Comdo); 350, (2 Comdo); 410 (3 Comdo). The cherry on top belongs to Support Commando, with some 7470 kills. This gives a total pushing 2 0000 enemy slain, for an own loss of some 50 men.

1 RLI, an all-White outfit, leans heavily on National Servicemen who do 21 weeks' training before going into action. "These fellows are every bit as good, if not better, than our fathers who fought in World War II", vouch senior Officers of 1 RLI. Morale is tremendously high. A RLI Trooper simply considers himself that tiny cut above ordinary mortals, and who is to blame him?

Such a Trooper is naturally aggressive, loaded with initiative, as cocky as they come and as tough as training can make them.

South African parents who complain about "over-zealous" training of their sons should visit the 1 RLI "Garden of Pain" outside Salisbury while a new intake of NSM are being put through their paces. Only waiting crocodiles and a wall of flame are absent. Instructors hover around like angels of doom while the young men discover muscles they never thought they had. A small group with back trouble are put through the rigours of every conceivable exercise working arms, legs, stomach, shoulders, neck . . . with the mere exception of the back.

The apprehension of one Joshua Nkomo at returning to a Zimbabwe Rhodesian harbouring the Rhodesian Light Infantry can be well appreciated. "They are causing us grief", he once said by way of masterly understatement.

The Zimbabwe Rhodesian public has taken 1 RLI to their hearts. They know the Commanding Officer usually goes in with the first stick; they also know that the Regiment can call on aircraft bristling with sophisticated weaponry.

Back at base after some five weeks in the bush, the RLI Trooper enjoys the best accommodation in the Zimbabwe Rhodesian Army. Battalion Headquarters reeks of tradition, from the life-sized ball of elephant dung awarded to the individual adjudged to have spun the most improbably yarn of heroism and icy-cold, raw courage (the present CO, LT Col I. R. Bate, once won the award with a hair-raising tale of blood and guts); to the statue of the bush Trooper on the "campus square".

One of the very first glass-walled squash courts in Salisbury was built in the magnificent gymnasium complex of 1 RLI. The upstairs bar provides a splendid view of the sweating players, who have the sole thought that tables are soon to be turned on the onlookers, as their prime consolation.

All these things — and many more — spell TRADITION. Tradition, too, at night after a spell in the bush when the praises of 1 RLI are sung to the haunting tune of "Galway Bay".

HISTORY OF FIRST BATTALION
THE RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

In 1960 it was decided to include a regular European Infantry Battalion in the order of battle of the Army of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Accordingly, No 1 Training Unit was established in Bulawayo to provide a nucleus of recruits and experienced personnel for the formation of this Battalion.

First Battalion The Rhodesian Light Infantry was established officially on 1 February 1961 (a day now recognised as the Regimental birthday). On 19 August of the same year the Battalion moved from Bulawayo to new barracks in Cranborne, Salisbury, now the permanent home of the Regiment. In 1964 the organization and rôle of the Battalion was changed from conventional Infantry to that of a Commando Battalion. The then Commanding Officer, Lt Col G. P. Walls, introduced the wearing of the familiar tórtan green beret which distinguishes the Regiment from other units of the Rhodesian Army.

Colour was presented to the Battalion on 19 June 1965 by Sir Humphrey Gibbs on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second. The Colour is unique amongst all regiments that have served the British Monarch in having a wreath of flame lilies surrounding the Regimental Crest instead of the traditional wreath of roses and thistles.

The Rhodesian Light Infantry is a young regiment both in history and in serving personnel — the Commando commanders are all in their early thirties. This Battalion's involvement in the present security operations, its high terrorist kill-rate and consistently fine soldiering has earned it an outstanding reputation.

The men of 1 RLI are proud of their nick-names: "The Saints" and "The Incredibles". But their true spirit and essential joie de vivre can best be summed up in the words of a senior Officer who, when asked what he would remember about the RLI, replied: "The good humour of the men. Their cheerful willingness to undertake any task. Their determination and enthusiasm to close with the enemy when contact is imminent."

Throughout the years the Battalion has played a leading rôle in all major anti-terrorist operations. In the course of these operations several members of the RLI have earned high awards for Gallantry.

First Battalion The Rhodesian Light Infantry consists of three Commandos and a Support Group. The training programme is both comprehensive and intense, and includes courses on abseiling, basic tracking and boatmanship, in addition to the usual weapon training and reconnaissance procedures.

An integral part of any RLI trooper's routine is his recreation. With excellent sporting facilities within the Cranborne complex, the Rhodesian Light Infantry's all-round sporting record is impressive, while gymnastic displays never fail to draw large audiences.

At work and at play these men, whatever their ranks, have one thing in common — they represent all that is finest in the modern Zimbabwe Rhodesian soldier.

• More about 1 RLI traditions in our next issue.

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What I find most interesting are the stats quoted for Fireforce kills of about 2000 in 1979, this figure obviously given to them by Tufty Bate the CO, and therefore probably the most accurate available. With the passing of time, other numbers crept into the system, clearly dependent on the author’s viewpoint.

When I was cobbling together the piece on Fireforce for “Africa’s Commando’s”, I had a great deal of difficulty (as perhaps is evident!!) in getting any meaningful stats from anywhere, and consequently had to rely on best estimates supported by a number of conversations I had with various people.

What I deduce from these figures makes for interesting conjecture, and I would be keen to see if any readers arrive at the same conclusions that I did. If one takes that in 1979, the enemy numbers in the country began at about 5000, and rose to about 8-9000 before the ceasefire, one can say that the average for the year were about 7000 enemy inside the country. The RLI fireforces accounted for about 2000, with say another 1000 wounded to the extent that they were permanently incapacitated, then it can be said that these forces accounted for about 42% of enemy STRENGTH, (not KILLS) in the year 1979.

What is remarkable about this figure is that hypothetically if the enemy had received no more reinforcements, then they would have been eliminated in another year or so. Credit must go to (besides the Air Force and the RLI) in great measure to the Selous Scouts, and it vindicates the views of Reid-Daly, Robinson and Walsh who were often criticized for their preoccupation with external operations.

Still, hindsight is an exact science, interesting however to carry out some reflection on where we might have been.
Skydde Row or was it Skid Row?
By Editor

I became aware of the existence of ‘Skydde Rowe’ when I first entered the Offers Mess in 1974. Who could not have been aware? There mounted on the Wall was the Skydde Row Charter, a beautifully crafted text (as I understand it, scripted and elegantly presented by Don Price) that detailed the honour, duties and commitments required of a new subaltern on being inducted into this auspicious brotherhood.

For those who have either witnessed or who have themselves been inducted, would attest to the difficulties of reciting the Charter, whilst consuming ever-increasing quantities of alcohol.

This right of passage, for me, illustrated the strong bonds and relationships between the RLI officers. Importantly, whilst the reciting of the induction charter was more about drama and hilarity; the real meaning was provided by the senior Subbie (the OC of such occasions); who in my case was Pete Farndell. I will not forget him taking me aside before the induction and chatting to me about what it meant to be a member of Skydde Row; about the commitment to my fellow officers and the men of the RLI; the standards and behaviours required and loyalty expected by all. His words had as much meaning then as they did to my whole professional and life thereafter.

What a wonderful brotherhood to be inducted into and to be accepted by.

History

Other than for the Charter, the only other documentary evidence I have about Skydde Row was the mention in Geoffrey Bond’s book ‘The Incredibles’ which I have (probably illegally) reproduced below where he states about group:

This latter was formed by several young subalterns, for their own enjoyment and the subsequent bewilderment of visitors.

On occasions the brethren of Skid Row were capable of dressing up in the most outlandish selection of bizarre costumes and it was hard to relate them to the smart green-clad officers whose duty hours showed them as models of regimental decorum.

There was no actual formation of Skid Row as such. The subalterns in the mess were unmarried and inclined to become a trifle bored on occasion. So, like soldiers before them, they drank; harmlessly but in impressive quantities. It was then remarked that they looked like a load of bums from Skid Row and the appellation stuck, to become both an accolade and legend to future subbies. John Peirson was there; Henry Meyer, Lance Taylor, Ian Shepherd, Alastair Boyd-Sutherland, Jimmy Smith-Belton. As impressive a bunch of buccaneers as could be found in any regiment. Although the fame of Skid Row lingered for some time after those worthies left the battalion, its initial glory faded and has become little more than a memory with the passing of the years.
Skydde Row or was it Skid Row?
By Editor

The originals:
In the same book, Geoffrey Bond, also published this photograph of what could well be the instigators of Skid (Skydde) row:

![Photograph of individuals](image)

*How indebted we all (those who followed) are to these illustrious pioneers.*

Whilst I am not the historian that some of my fellow officers are, the Incredibles anecdote seems to me, to have two inaccuracies:

Firstly, the note that the institution faded into obscurity. Clearly this is not true and I offer three pieces of evidence to support the continuance theory:

- The Skydde Row Charter, if indeed drafted by Don Price and signed by the Subbies of the time (which I presume was circa 1969 -1970) proving the brotherhood’s sustained presence post the ‘originals’ gathering
- My own experience in 1974
- A 1980’s order, convening a meeting of the said Skydde Row, apparently in the period during which the regiment was winding down. (This order was included in the UK Branch’s December 2013 Newsletter and I have taken the liberty of re-producing it at the end of this piece, for those who have interest).

Secondly, the spelling of the brotherhood’s title; Skid Row.

- Given the importance of this, the misspelling has given me grave concern; a concern, which I am sure, is shared by the reader! As far as I can remember the spelling (on the Charter) was Skydde Row and given the ‘old English’ style of that text, my natural assumption was that the name was taken from a Dickensian era writer’s prose.
- This spelling (Skydde Row) was also re-produced in the order of 1980, written by someone who I suspect was in the presence of the Charter or who had used the Charter as a reference.

The above led me to a short investigation, which I hope you find interesting...
History of the term:

**Skid row** or **skid road** is a shabby urban area with cheap taverns, dive bars, and dilapidated hotels frequented by, alcoholics, lowlifes, and itinerants. The term *skid road* originally referred to the path along which timber workers skidded logs.

The term originated in the USA and was used frequently in the 18th and 19th centuries to describe normally, homeless people who had succumbed to life’s darker side.

The younger ones amongst us, would know the term well from the 1976 movie ‘Rocky’ when Rocky Balboa, on seeing that his boxing shorts and equipment had been moved from his own locker to a wall hook, exclaimed to his manager “You put my stuff on skid row? I been in that locker six years; you put my stuff in a bag on skid row?”

**Assessment**

Looking at the evidence it seems to me that it entirely plausible that the originals referred to themselves as ‘Skid Row’ taking the term from the USA colloquial description at the time.

It is also likely that the drafters of the Charter had their own view and given the probability of a lack of written reference, relied on the RLI’s preference for an oral conveying of traditions, decided to corrupt the spelling of the term in accord with the style of prose which they were probably taught at Plumtree.

*Can anyone share any light on the Charter, its author, the signatories, and its whereabouts?*

The 1980 ‘Training / Exercise Order is provided on the next pages
Skydde Row or was it Skid Row?
1980 ‘Training Order’ supplied by Neill Storey
Skydde Row or was it Skid Row?

SITUATION
1. **Enemy**. Extremely fluid. Can be recognised by their brown pint size shape and their ability to overpower you when least expected.

2. **Friendly Forces**. Few and far between. Can be recognised for their powers at serving drinks. Commonly referred to as barman. Their loyalty is suspect as they have been known to thrust the en in our direction.

3. **Attas and Bets**
   a. 1 x Express Motorways Bus.
   b. 1 x Officers' Mess Barman.
   c. 3 x Skydde Rowe Treasurer (complete with Skydde Rowe impress).
   d. Various and dubious invited guests (VDIG).

MISSION
4. The members of Skydde Row and their invited guests are to recce, sample and retire intact from the various civilian enemy locations.

EXECUTION
5. **Gen Outline**. Skydde Row and VDIG to RV at Officers' Mess with clandestine tpt and proceed on mission. Mission to be carried out in laid down sequence (See Appendix B).

6. **Detailed Tasks**
   a. **Recce / Treasurer Op**. 2 Lt Engelbrecht, 2 Lt Godwin, Lt Keal.
      i. **Task**. To move into en area as f'd recce / purchase party.
      ii. **Limit of Exploitation**. Bar counter.
   b. **Fire Op**. Lt Col Aust, Maj Webster, RSM Reed.
      i. **Task**. To act as a/salt op should en become restless.
      ii. **Limit of Exploitation**. Salisbury Central Police Station.

/o. Main....
Skydde Row or was it Skid Row?

- Main Op. Remainder of Skydde Rowe and VGIG.
  i. Task. To assist treasure gp in lowering the morale / size of Skydde Rowe imprt.

7. Co-ord Insts
   a. Times
      i. Officers call at 1830 hrs at 1 RLI Offrs' Mess.
      ii. ETD for en loct. 1900 hrs.
      iii. ETA at SP area 2300 hrs.
   b. Action on being overwhelmed by en. Call in fire gp to prop you up. Treasurer gp to immediately supply further drink.
   c. Action on police being called. Retire post haste to bus. Fire gp to remain in situ to smooth things over.
   d. Air. Lts Carpenter and Kagel to refrain from driving the bus as no ac have been auth for this mission.

AIM AND LOC
8. Tpt. By kind courtesy of Express Motorways.
10. Rats. Early dinner available in Mess from 1830 hrs.
11. Med. RMO to provide med pack. Special offers sick pds at 0900 hrs at Camp Hospital. Casevac by quickest means to next pub.

COND AND SIG
13. Sigs. Panic when glass is empt. Look hastily around for barman. Re-order and locate nearest member of treasurer gp.
14. Password
   b. Reply. I am not pissed I'm bloody arseholes.
15. Synchronise watches on New York summer time.
Skydde Row or was it Skid Row?
‘A (potential) new project: Questionnaire’, by Editor

I am not sure, but I think from the feedback I have received, that we probably have come to the end of books conveying the exploits, personalities and stories of the RLI. To some extent I agree with those sentiments, however, as I indicated in the ‘from the editors desk’, do we not have something important to add to the array of material so keenly drafted and presented in books?

In my view, whilst we have ample stories about events, and incidents we have very little on the most important topic of all; the effects, both short and long term, of war on people, their lives, values, perspectives and their condition post the war experience.

I do recognise that I may be walking on thin ice; as psychological effects on the human condition are often relegated by ex-soldiers as somehow being soft and unworthy. I would like to challenge that; surely those who have been affected both positively and negatively have a story to be told?

I am sure that if people were prepared to share the effects on their lives of the soldiering experiences they have had, it would provide a seriously insightful narrative one that many people could learn from.

To gauge interest in sharing, **anonymously**, I have created a short questionnaire which will take only 2 minutes to complete. All I ask is that you take this modest time to answer some 8 questions; your assistance would be most appreciated, as from the responses we would be able to gauge the appetite for collecting the information necessary for such an important contribution.

If you feel inclined, please click on this link and complete the questionnaire.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2FX35CD

I will be able to provide you some feedback in the next edition of the Cheetah and I hope this leads to a more substantial collection of information.

With thanks

Ian
This year saw the 53 anniversary of the forming of the Battalion. Given that it was not really a landmark year i.e. 50th and that the last two celebrations had attracted few members despite the best efforts of the Africa Committee it was decided to run a low-key event this year.

Dickie Fritz MOTH Shell hole was chosen as the site; this has become a very popular venue for members and readily attracts 30 plus members for each prayer meeting.

The celebration took the form of a Memorial Service followed by the normal prayer meeting bring and braai with salads and bread rolls provided and funded from the coffers of the Africa Branch.

In addition to the salads etc., Gary Huxham and Keith Blanshard, both ex 1 Commando, donated a sheep on the spit and there was an R 500 donation for drinks from an anonymous member.

The Memorial Service was held at the MOTH Cenotaph and all the members, some 60 plus marched to the Cenotaph to the rousing tune of the Saints played by the Witwatersrand Rifles Pipe Band who had kindly agreed to play for us.

This was a most moving moment and many members had not marched to the Saints since leaving the Battalion. The marching was not too bad but the timing of halts etc. needed polishing.

There was a toast to the Battalion and reading of the creed by Luis Figueiredo, ex 2 Commando, before the march formed up under the command of CSM Titch Brotherton. The Colour Party comprised former OC’s of 2 Commando, Pat Hill and Tufty Bate

(I understand that they were the smartest of all!!! – see opposite- Editor).
The Association Padre Bill Dodgen led the service.

There was an address by the Association CEO Bill Wiggill Africa Branch and ex 3/1 Cdo Charlie Norris read the roll of honor. A number of wreaths were laid, notably by:

- Ex 1 Commando stalwart Len Beechey laid the wreath on behalf of the Association.
- Bruce Harrison of the Air Force Association laid a wreath on behalf of the Air Force,
- Dave Scales on behalf of SAS
- A number of families and friends.

Mark Taunton- ex 1 Commando was in charge of the flag rising and lowering ceremony during the playing of the last post and reveille.

(Left to right: Dennis Croukamp BCR, Steve Cary, John van Zyl, Maurice Gabriel, Anthony Hunter, Gavin Coutts, Trevor DesFountain, Steve Ingram.)

Thanks to all who attended but special thanks are reserved for Alan Strachan who did the lion's share of the organizing. Lynnette Theron's salads were once again superb and Toni Floyd did an excellent job in persuading members to part with R2 790 in a raffle.

Charlie Norris
In our planning, for this year’s ANZAC day we set out to improve attendance and quality of the event as evidenced in 2012 (Canberra) and 2013 (Brisbane). From all the feedback we certainly achieved that. And we now set our sights on 2015, when Australia celebrates 100 years of ANZAC.

The RLIRA chapter in Australia commemorates our fallen and celebrates ANZAC day with the Australian nation.

The 25th April is the most auspicious of occasions and we were privileged to welcome Brigadier Digger Essex Clark, Lt. Col. Tufty Bate, our chairman Lt. Col. Ian Buttenshaw (all opposite) Shaun Ryan (Chairman of the UK Branch), Craig Bone and Dave Scott-Donelan to Brisbane.

I suspect they have no idea what it meant to us having them here; they added lustre to a fantastic event and acknowledged, by the presence, the resurgent ANZAC branch. We hope they can join us next year.

Anzac day comprised 4 discrete events; a para jump in rememberance of our fallen, the ANZAC formal dinner (held on the night of the 24th April), the dawn service (25th) and the ANZAC parade through the streets of Brisbane (25th April)

Dinner 24th April 2014

61 people attended the event at the Summit Restaurant, Mt Coo-tha; a wonderful occasion where both Ian’s and Digger delivered entertaining speeches.

At 9 p.m. the auction commenced; the proceeds of which covered many of our costs and allowed for a surplus for use next year to cover certain costs for VIP attendance.

Warwick was the Auctioneer; I was the starter and Richard Johnson, the collector the “tom”. I believe all the cash items were sold and all the kind donations found homes. We ended the evening with some oldies music and then back on the bus and home for the early rise to attend the Dawn Services

Dawn service

After attending the main service, we were in the Botanical Gardens on the Brisbane River by 0630 and had a wonderful service, the prayer given by Dave Hodgson (SAS/Scouts) and followed by Lt Col Bate throwing the wreath into the river. This slowly drifted away and 3 broke off, making it very moving to say the least. Simone Johnson and family excelled with boerewors rolls and hot coffee. Of course Cheryl Fourie and all the wives took numerous pictures. a huge effort greatly appreciated by all.
The ANZAC march

We retired to the hotel and all met in the foyer at 0945, final pictures were taken and then all walked to George St where we met and were greeted by the Rhodesians contingent who would march ahead of the RLI.

The long wait took a toll on our bodies, especially Ian Bate, who braved the wait! Finally we joined the parade at number 135. Simone and D’Anne Johnson (who had received a promotion by Mum) carried the banner in camouflage jump suits, followed by our leader Lt Col Bate, directly behind by Lt Col Buttenshaw, to the left Jimmy, followed by Richard and Vince with the colours.

Bobby Graves was left marker and then nine rows deep and 4 across, being the RLI green berets, followed by SAS and Scouts. What a parade!!

The guys were seen as smart, proud, in step, professional and elite. The bystanders who clapped loudly as we passed by noticed this. The crowd recognised elite battle hardened veteran troops!!

Leo Walsh of ABC TV gave us such an introduction, that he was still commentating on the RLI when others were marching by. Again thanks to Bill for the contact. Leo served with the SAS many years ago. The VIPs on the podium, noticed as we saluted to Brig Essex Clark a few seconds prior to passing the Queensland Governor, her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, AC. She, in fact, straightened up and gave us a small respectful nod. It was all very touching.

Thanks to Bev Tinker who is part of the ANZAC committee in Brisbane for arranging for Digger and Sue to be in the VIP stand.

After the march we all met at the designated pub near the Stamford and relaxed, reflected and enjoyed the time together.

In the morning, bright and early, some of us met with Lt Colonels Bate and Buttenshaw and said our thanks and goodbyes.

We thank you all, wives included in the effort you all made in presenting yourselves in dignity for the dinner and march, showing our fellow friends globally and especially our fallen, our sincerity to the cause.

As we speak, the Committee are finalising DVDs, gifts to be sent abroad, letters of thanks and all the necessary finality requirements.
The future and next year

We were extremely pleased to receive a letter from Commanding Officer of the elite 2\textsuperscript{nd} Commando Regiment in Torbruk Lines NSW, Lt Col I D Langford, inviting us to be affiliated and to join them for the 100\textsuperscript{th} ANZAC in Sydney in 2015.

This was all made possible from the introduction by one of our RLI Veterans, Alan Parsons, who left 2 Commando and joined the Scouts. Since the leaving Rhodesia he has been involved in specialised security around the world. It should be no surprise that Alan’s son, Andrew, is now a Captain in 2\textsuperscript{nd} Commando and hence contact was made directly to me.

Captain Heston Russell has been the liaison officer since Andrew has been redeployed in Afghanistan. We will be meeting with our new friends sooner than later, to discuss certain important strategies and also how we can combine celebrations in Sydney 2015, possibly in the march, and hopefully a military display and Para jump a day prior, etc. Whatever you all do, hold onto your seats and look forward to enjoying this exceptional ride!!

Our sincere thanks to the following, without whom this great event would not have been successful:

- Richard, Simone and Dean Johnson; for all their hard work, enthusiasm and unfailing support
- Bill Cochrane, who organised Caboolture Skydive
- Quentin and Cheryl Fourie for the wonderful photos and DVD’s
- Ian Crusty for allowing us the tandems at Caboolture
- Kelly, Management and staff of the Summit Restaurant, who provided a wonderful event
- Warwick Hodgson who excelled as the “Auctioneer”
- Craig Bone’s painting donation
- Colin Ashby for his art work donation
- Ian Bate and family, whose attendance and support is greatly appreciated
- Shaun and Annette Ryan, whose support and attendance is always welcome
As stated in my speech, this committee has had a unanimous request to serve again, taking us through to the 2015 ANZAC in Sydney, which we have accepted,

If there are any full members of this branch who would like to stand and feel they can support us in keeping up standards and progress with our partners abroad, protect and promote our policies, then please present names and positions wanted, before mid May.

Our Treasurer, Richard Johnson will supply a full financial report for this branch by approximately the end of May 2014. We cannot have another Auction in Sydney, but we welcome any donations by members or sponsors, permitting us to keep up the standards met in Brisbane.

There were so many, who could not make ANZAC, be it for reasons of finances, away on business or other issues. We do hope you all speak to the attendees, such as Warwick Hodgson, who has never attended or wanted to be involved in the RLI ANZAC events-for, no particular reason. However he has now been bitten with the bug he is a crusader of note! These gatherings are addictive!

We all deserve some time together to reflect on what we endured and achieved in the past. Our final numbers were, 12 at Caboolture, 23 rooms in the hotel, 40 on the bus, 61 for dinner, and 40 for the RLI/Rhodesian Dawn Service and 38 marched in the parade. Please encourage your friends who served to join our branch asp and for this, just email Jimmy at jimmy@flamelilyadventures.com.au.

There is an annual event held at Flame Lily Adventures and this is Remembrance Weekend. The actual 11th day of Nov falls in the week so we celebrate the weekend prior with a full service, flag raising to the Last Post and a Commando jump at 11 am on Sunday the 9th Nov 2014. Guests arrive on the Friday. We do activities together camping is the favourite and we join up in the evenings for dinner, being pig or lamb on the spit. We also can do tandem Skydives if requested, but they are at another location. Contact Jimmy if you wish to book jimmy@flamelilyadventures.com.au
UK: forthcoming events
By Martyn Hudson

We in the UK trust that this report finds all our colleagues and friends, around the world, well.

Event status

Over the last few months we had had a few events that, unfortunately have not been well attended causing the branch to incur losses and requiring us to dip-into our funds. This, obviously cannot continue and we will have to re-assess our event portfolio and accommodate not only members suggestions but the reality of the economic environment and the disbursed nature of the membership

2014 AGM and Association event

The main event for the Association this year is on Saturday 6th September 2014 to be held at the RLI Statue on the banks of the River Leigh Hatfield House 4 p.m. onwards. The events is planned to include Evening Prayer, Picnic and the AGM.

We have taken on your suggestions and to ensure an enjoyable occasion we have organised entertainment (already done), seating for the band, mini buses, a sound system and a picnic.

The event has to be on pre- sold tickets £20 per person to include all the above.

The Itinerary thus far includes:

- Cash Bar on arrival
- Music by Welwyn Garden City Brass Band
- Service for Evening Prayer led by Rev. Clive Larrett
- Wreath Laying Ceremony
- Followed by picnic during which the AGM will take place.
- Positions for election
- Chairman election

We have arranged for a Shuttle bus to run from the Comet Hotel from 3 p.m. onwards. If we receive sufficient bookings we will attempt to negotiate a deal with the Comet Hotel

As this function will involve wreath laying Regimental blazers, Berets and Ties would be nice it is not obligatory.

Target attendance: 50

To date we have fourteen people have indicted they wish to attend.

We ask that you let me know, before 30 June of your intentions to attend, as if we do not secure at least 50 bookings the event will have to be cancelled and we will have to make alternate plans for the AGM.
Remembrance parade: November 9th 2014 in Bedford

This event will take place in Bedford, as has been customary and we have arranged for a buffet at the North End Club (where we were last year).

**Recommendation**

We do appreciate the financial constraints of many of our members and hence Chairman Shaun Ryan and I would like recommend that if members can only attend a single event then it would be better to attend the function in September rather than the November.

Timings and logistics for the November event will be provided in the September newsletter.

**Museum**

The Museum has acquired a lot of new exhibits that have been kindly donated and is well worth a visit. I must remind you as I no longer work there, a weekend visit is preferable.

Gentle nudge: Please let me know urgently if you are intending to attend the AGM event.

With thanks

Martyn Hudson

Projects Officer

e-mail  maryandmartyn@gmail.com

Mobile  07788788095
Bronzed ferocious Gods: Then and now

OR; as we saw and see ourselves

A Commando’s life