

**THE**

# **CHAMPION**

**SOUVENIR EDITION, OCTOBER 31, 1980**

# CHEETAH

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RLI Association,  
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Causeway.

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# SOUVENIR EDITION

31 OCTOBER, 1980



## COVER PICTURE:

"The Trooper" at Sundown

BY TERRY TANGNEY

## REMOVAL OF THE TROOPER

At 1100 hours on 25 July 1980 the Battalion paraded before the Regimental War Memorial to honour The Fallen for the last time before "The Trooper" was dismantled and moved to a new resting place.

In a simple but moving ceremony CSMs solemnly read the Rolls of Honour. Padre Bill 'Blakeway addressed the Unit and read a final prayer and then, to the mournful skirl of the pipes, the traditional wreaths were laid by the Commanding Officer, Commando Commanders and the President of the Association, Col John Salt.

After the Last Post and Reveille the Battalion, accompanied by the Regimental Colour carried by Lt Bobby

Harrison, marched past "The Trooper" for the last time. A small but interested crowd had gathered under a wintry sky to witness the Unit's farewell to a much respected symbol of sacrifice. Regrettably time precluded a more formal occasion and invitations could not be sent out to ERE and past members of the Battalion.

"The Trooper" has now been moved and is due to be re-erected in the near future. Here ex-members will gather every Regimental Birthday to pay homage to The Fallen. In the meantime the tradition of saluting "The Trooper" continues and notwithstanding the bare plinth RLI soldiers salute as they pass The Holy Ground as a mark of respect to those who gave their lives whilst serving in the Unit.

# SAD FAREWELL



Lt Col J. C. W. Aust, MLM

**But the  
memory  
of the  
'Incredibles'  
will live  
for ever..**

## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

It was not without trepidation that I first put pen to paper in an effort to produce this message for the last edition of our magazine. Indeed my fears were well founded for this must be my fourth or fifth attempt!

To quietly and unemotionally place a Regiment in the files of history is a monstrous thing. For a Regiment of the texture and calibre of the RLI it is an appalling thing. Words serve little purpose at a time like this. They are inadequate, often unconvincing and invariably fall short of the desired result. I am at a loss to introduce a note of levity. We were all good at that and it was always the "RLI way of doing things". Alas today my efforts in that direction would be shallow and meaningless.

It is a God given blessing that mankind forgets quickly for there is little to be gained by moaning over the past. It is sage advice to forget the past and look forward to a brighter and better future. At the same time, if words and backward glances have little value, one should not overlook or shy away from personal memories entirely. These are the real treasures of a vibrant Unit like the RLI. They are

inviolate, stored away forever in a place of great safety. Collectively all our individual memories would undoubtedly unfold into a fairly gripping kaleidoscope of dramatic incident. Here we would nevertheless get a true insight to the RLI; an accurate explanation of who and what we were, and what we achieved. Were it possible, this combined treasure — hold of personal memory would reflect the very thread of human fibre. There would be much laughter, much of the joy of true comradeship, there would regrettably be sadness, quite a lot of it. Courage, much of it hitherto unknown and unrecorded would undoubtedly be present in large measure. I would imagine there would be a great deal of pride but a justified pride made honourable by a surprising lack of arrogance. There would undoubtedly be dark areas, but these, I feel sure, would be eclipsed by the greater more manly virtues which came to light so often.

In nearly twenty years of loyal service our Regiment was touched by the golden brush which paints only the richest things in life, so often have we been warned to avoid the

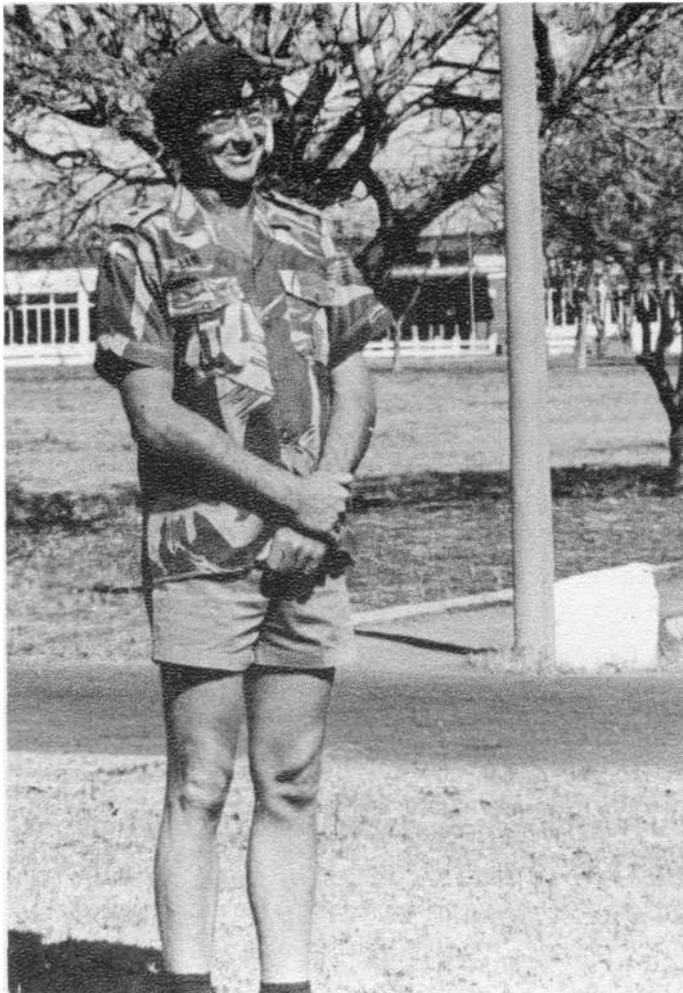
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# SAD FAREWELL

## • FROM PAGE 3

emotional; to avoid clinging to a rapidly fading past. It is not emotional to remember with pride the endeavours of our Unit at a time when success in war meant everything. We are not foolish to remember the times when in great adversity, the RLI trooper revealed what he was really made of and displayed those almost super human qualities which appear only rarely and only on the battlefield. The RLI soldier in his time rose above everything. Very young, often scared, often very brave, a very ordinary youngster, he made himself the most courageous, the finest, most adaptable, most flexible, most complex, incomprehensible, yet simple unaffected, most loving soldier in the world. To me he is a hero. He rose to magnificent heights; his sangfroid was unbelievable at times.

Regrettably these are now all memories and memories only. To our everlasting chagrin it is unlikely that a formal history will ever record the deeds of the RLI. This is a great pity for we filled a vital niche in history albeit for a twinkling of time. We were what history made us and in the end we could not escape history. If we seek a resting place in history we do so without malice or rancour. Our position is clear and always has been. The wheel of evolution turns and in so doing we find that there is no longer a place for a Unit of our make-up and background. It is time for a new birth, new tradition, new pride and we wish the successor to the



Lt-Col Aust... as the Troopies' will always remember him.

RLI everything of the best in this regard.

I am aware that many do not approve of the removal of "The Trooper" and all that sad exercise entailed. I am also aware that many disapprove of what they consider to be the premature demise of the Unit. This is not the place to enlarge on the factors and deductions that led to the various decisions taken by the Association and the Unit. Suffice to say, people must understand that much soul-searching and torment accompanied all our deliberations. There will never, ever be another RLI. Those that follow may look to us and emulate our standards, custom and even tradition. Indeed this would be right. Yet they cannot and will not be the RLI.

My real purpose and the true value of writing this final message must be to record my gratitude to so many people who made the Unit what it was.

Initially I pay homage to those officers and men who served the Unit long before my time and laid the foundation so well. The RLI produced some very fine officers and some very fine soldiers. I am extremely grateful to them and to their families. Special mention must be made of the latter. Wives, families and loved ones played an extremely important part, especially during the war. Their patience and forbearance during those trying years is deserving of the highest praise.

To the Next of Kin of our Fallen I extend my eternal gratitude and sympathy. The Next of Kin have a very special place in the Regiment. They need have no fear for we will never forget. They may take pride in knowing that their loved ones will always be honoured and held in the highest esteem. We owe them a tremendous debt.

I must, on behalf of the Battalion, record my appreciation and gratitude to our Association. They rose to the occasion magnificently at a time when they were needed most. From now on they have an onerous task and I am quite satisfied that under the present leadership they will continue to safeguard our interests to the full.

Finally, but by no means least, I say thank you to the Officers, NCOs, soldiers and Members of the civilian staff who have stood by me so well during these past few months. It has been a trying period, demanding a great deal of understanding and co-operation. I have had nothing but the greatest understanding and closest co-operation from everyone at a time when much of the "glory" has gone. I am particularly proud of their achievements. They have been a magnificent team and would have been supreme during the war. They have behaved in the true RLI tradition and I wish everyone of them well in the future.

It should be well known that the Battalion has had the benefit of some quite extraordinary loyal service from a number of civilian members of the staff. Together they muster over three hundred years of service! I hesitate to mention names but would merely say that I will always be indebted to them for their outstanding loyalty and hard work over so many years.

In conclusion I ask all members to give the Association and all its Branches the utmost support over the coming years. On every Regimental Birthday let us all, whoever we are and wherever we may be, pause for a moment and remember with pride and deep respect those who gave their lives for the Green and Silver. This is the time to polish up personal memory and look back with affection. We must never forget.

May God Bless the RLI.

(J. C. W. AUST), Lt-Col, CO 1 RLI

# Messages from past RLI COs



**Brigadier R. A. Edwards, DSO, MC.**

I am honoured at having been asked to make a contribution to the last issue of "Cheetah".

Looking back on one's service, one is inclined to become nostalgic and sentimental, but fortunately the passing of time always erases the serious side of things and only the more pleasant phases stick out in one's mind.

Like, for example, that momentous Rand Easter Show in 1964 when I took a detachment to Johannesburg. The Silent Drill and Toy Soldiers displays were certainly the highlights of the main arena, and although some of the 'ouens' felt somewhat sheepish appearing in public in those gaudy uniforms, the Jo'burg girls loved them! Literally!

And although the present members of the Regiment will, no doubt, for some time to come, recall the events of the last nine years or so with sad reflections, in time memories will mellow and the more pleasant aspects of life in the Regiment will remain. But we will all, every single one of us, recall with tremendous pride the accomplishments of the finest Regiment of them all — the RLI.

I shall ever remember with the deepest gratitude, the years I spent with the Regiment — some of the finest I had in thirty-one years of soldiering.

May I, therefore say a humble "Thank you" to all those, past and present, who were privileged to wear that coveted cap badge, and who indeed covered it with the glory it bears today.

I am indeed proud to have been one of the 'ouens'.

**Brigadier R. A. EDWARDS, DSO, MC.**

(29 April 1963 — 30 November 1964)

I have been asked to write this for the final edition of the Cheetah Magazine. This I find hard to do. Having been responsible for the formation of the R.L.I. in 1961 and for reviving the Association Newsletter which was subsequently succeeded by The Cheetah, it is more than sad for me to see them both come to an end. However, we live in rapidly changing and challenging times and it is up to all of us to meet this challenge. I was very sorry to see the defeatist attitude adopted by many members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting. The Regiment, over the years, has performed some wonderful and stirring feats of arms and these must never be forgotten. Therefore I believe that it is up to all of us who have been in any way associated with the Regiment to see that we have a very strong Regimental Association which can keep us all in touch with each other, wherever we may be. The future may look uncertain at the present time but I am convinced that if we adopt a positive attitude things will come right in time and we shall reach that light at the end of the tunnel. Good luck to you all wherever you may be!

**Colonel J. S. SALT.**

(1 February 1961—28 April 1963)



Col J. S. Salt

# Messages from past RLI COs

In this brief farewell message, please forgive me if I include a short resume of my actual service with the Regiment.

After serving as Second-in-Command from 1963-65, I returned as Commanding Officer in 1967. I took over a well-trained, highly skilled and efficient unit. Morale was excellent and the troops had a tremendous pride in their Regiment.

My task was made easier by the extreme loyalty of all ranks with a cheerfulness and readiness to accept all tasks — important factors to prove so essential in later years.

I recall Operations NICKEL, BONFIRE, CAULDRON, FLOTILLA, GRIFFIN and EXCESS - which gave the country some three years breathing space until the "War" ahead in 1972. Twelve members of the battalion were decorated for gallantry in the field — a remarkable record for "Peace-time" soldiering— proudly to be multiplied many times over in the period that followed.

Since retiring, I have followed with pride and admiration the activities of our Regiment and the sterling efforts of the Association. You all have been in my thoughts and prayers.

My previous service with the Guards, Gurkhas and KAR, was invaluable experience, but my true and lasting memories will be complete with pride and gratitude for my service with the RLI.

Finally, may I wish all my old friends and colleagues of the Regiment, and all present serving members good luck in the future "You are second to none." God Bless.

**Colonel J. CAINE, DMM.**  
(19 June 1967 — 25 August 1968)



**Col J. Caine, DMM**

To summarise three years (almost to a week) as CO 1RLI in 200 words is impossible. No room for reminiscences on battalion characters, happy days, humour or sadness. Yet they were all there in huge measure. Space allows only a broad, general (no pun intended) description of the strongest memories that will live with me always.

First, the intense pride and confidence of the ouens in all they did, coupled with the fierce loyalty of practically every man in the unit. It was all fine and dandy if we criticised or belittled ourselves but dare any outsider — however well intentioned — say a word against us. What a wonderful family we were.

Secondly, the quality of each individual soldier. As CO, however hard you try you can only really get to know the best and the worst of your soldiers — but what gems the good ones were and how I grew to love the skates who were regular visitors on CO's orders but who so often came up trumps on ops.

Thirdly, the happy knowledge that we did the difficult tasks immediately, guaranteeing a satisfactory conclusion and that the impossible would take just a little longer. It didn't matter what was asked of my lads nothing got them down, and when my own confidence wavered, they pulled up their shorts, tightened their tackie laces and proved time and again that they were the greatest.

No infantry CO could ask for more.

**Maj Genl A. N. O. MACINTYRE, OLM, DCD.**  
(29 June 1970—16 April 1973)



**Maj Genl A. N. O. Macintyre, OLM, DCD**



As a recently retired Officer, it is with great pride that I look back to the time that I was fortunate enough to command our Battalion. To have served in our fine Regiment is one thing. To have commanded it is the greatest honour that can be bestowed.

My time as CO embraced a difficult but exciting period in the Regiment's history. It was difficult due to the fact that the Commando's were only occasionally under my operational command, thus making it harder to ensure that we remained as a battalion and did not degenerate into private armies. It was exciting in that during my tenure we became a parachute unit and were also deployed for the first time on offensive external operations. I defy any other Army in the world to take an ordinary infantry battalion and turn it into an airborne unit overnight with a 100% success rate!

The Green and Silver are certainly unique.

Finally on a personal note, it is with no apologies that I blow my own trumpet. It was a unique honour as CO to welcome my son Michael to the Battalion as a newly commissioned Officer, to parachute with him on his first descent and to present him with his wings. It must also be a record for father and son to have been under fire together lying a few feet apart during an external operation. I was saddened to see however as an old shottist that he tended to snatch the trigger!

I will never forget the RLI and will never cease to be proud of the fact that I once wore the green and silver.

**Brigadier P. S. RICH, DMM.**  
(23 December 1975 to 3 July 1978)

## PAST COMMANDING OFFICERS

Colonel J. S. Salt (Retired)

(1 February 1961 to 28 April 1963)

Brigadier R. A. Edwards, DSO, MC (Retired)

(29 April 1963 to 30 November 1964)

Lt Genl G. P. Walls, GLM, DCD, MBE

(1 December 1964 to 18 June 1967)

Colonel J. Caine, DMM (Retired)

(19 June 1967 to 25 August 1968)

Lt Genl J. S. V Hickman, CLM, MC (Retired)

(26 August 1968 to 28 June 1970)

Maj Genl A. N. O. MacIntyre, OLM, DCD

(29 June 1970 to 16 April 1973)

Lt Col R. W. Southey, DMM (Retired)

(28 May 1973 to 30 April 1974)

Colonel D. G. Parker (Deceased)

(1 May 1974 to 30 November 1975)

Brigadier P. S. Rich, DMM

(23 December 1975 to 3 July 1978)

Lt Col I. R. Bate, MLM

(26 June 1978 to 3 December 1979)

Lt Col J. C. W. Aust, MLM

(4 December 1979 to 31 October 1980)





Lt Col I. R. Bate, MLM



Lt Col R. W. Southey, DMM

**PAST**



Lt Col D. G. Parker (The King)

**COs**



Lt Col G. P. Walls, MBE



Lt Col J. S. V. Hickman, MC

## FROM THE 1 CDO SCRAPBOOK



MEDALS PRESENTATION — BINDURA DECEMBER 1975

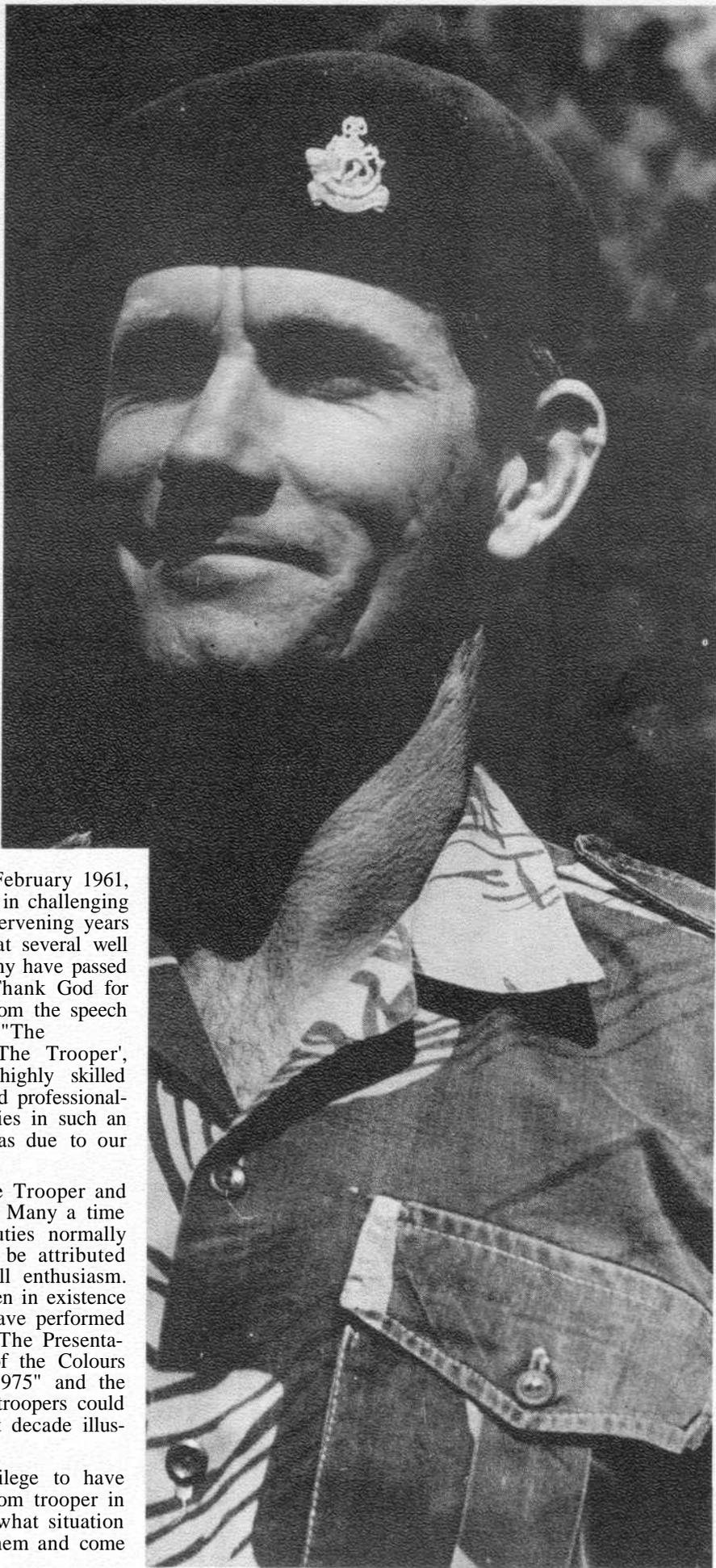
(L to R) : 2 Lt M. R. Moseley, BCR, Sgt P. C. OB. White, BCR, His Excellency The President  
C. W. Dupont, Sgt C. C. Welch, BCR, Maj R. E. H. Lockley MLM.

## *What the Saints go marching on*



## *From Charhons*

# RSMs PAY THEIR TRIBUTES



Since the inception of the Battalion on 1 February 1961, Officers and Senior NCOs have said "We live in challenging times" and I believe that through all the intervening years we have met the challenge. So much so that several well known personalities inside and outside the Army have passed comments like "The Incredible RLI" and "Thank God for the RLI". The following is a quote taken from the speech of Lt Col I. R. Bate, MLM, at the unveiling of "The Trooper". "This Statue to be known as 'The Trooper', represents the courage and endurance of highly skilled men who fight the enemy with dedication and professionalism." That we were able to perform our duties in such an efficient manner and with such dedication was due to our leaders.

The mental and physical attributes of the Trooper and junior leaders were on occasions outstanding. Many a time in battle they were required to perform duties normally done by a Senior NCO or Officer. This can be attributed to the training, professionalism and above all enthusiasm. Throughout the twenty years the RLI has been in existence it has not always been a fighting outfit. We have performed many public parades, to name but a few — "The Presentation of the Colours 1965", "The Trooping of the Colours 1970", "Freedom of the City of Salisbury 1975" and the "Unveiling of The Trooper 1979". That the troopers could swop camo for greens particularly in the last decade illustrates his versatility as an all round soldier.

Finally for me it has been a great privilege to have served with The Rhodesian Light Infantry from trooper in peace time to RSM in war. It didn't matter what situation we were in, we always knew we could lick them and come out with honour.

**RSM K. H. REED**

# The 'Ultimate Plum'



RSM R. O. Tarr

Virtually every young soldier in the initial stages of his career has some form of ambition. He sees himself as eventually being a high ranking officer or, some may even set their sights on being the Army Commander. For me, my sights were set on being an RSM and this is what I in fact constantly worked towards. This ambition was not only realised, but highlighted in September 1965 when I was appointed RSM of the Battalion. Being an RSM was one thing but in my opinion, RSM of the RLI was the ultimate plum. I held the appointment until May 1971. During this, almost six year period, I had the honour to serve under four successive Commanding Officers — Lt Cols Walls, Caine, Hickman and MacIntyre.

To attempt to reminisce and relate all the happenings of that period in this short account would be an impossibility. A book could be written to cover the subject, but I would like to place on record that it was an honour for any man to have served in the Battalion. He can be justly proud to have been part of the tremendous RLI family. The fantastic Regimental life that prevailed, and still prevails, in the Battalion can only be appreciated by those who have had the privilege to serve in the Unit. Morale, loyalty and dedication was always extremely high, from the top down to the most junior trooper. Everything that the Battalion was committed to was done to perfection with incredible enthusiasm. Half measures were never entertained. This is one of the reasons as to why the Battalion produced such high standards and achieved its enviable reputation.

On looking back over the years the following immediately comes to mind and I have no doubt that they will be a reminder to many. The Presentation of Colours Parade in 1965. The achievements of the Battalion Sports Teams, in particular the Athletics Team in the Command Athletics Championships. The fantastic Rugby Teams produced and trained by Ron Reid-Daly in the 1965 to 1970 era and the good records produced by the Boxing Teams over the years. Ceremonial Parades, in particular the Guard of Honour mounted for the raising of the new Rhodesian Flag and the first Trooping of the Colours Parade in 1970. The numerous displays and tattoos put on by the Battalion at show time. The demonstrations the Battalion put on in Salisbury and Bulawayo to commemorate Regimental Day in 1971. I shall never forget how the Regimental March "The Saints" used to bring the best out of "the Ouens" on parade. Even the most tired trooper was inspired.

The Mess life in the WOs and Sgts Mess was fantastic and had to be experienced to be believed. The annual Regimental Balls with the fantastic decors and spreads of food were the envy of many civilians. The tremendously high and efficient standards achieved by the Battalion in operations over a long and arduous period are well known. Three well known quotes sum it all up — "To us they looked like boys but they have shown us how to fight — they have the faces of boys but they fight like lions" and "The Incredible RLI" and "Thank God for the RLI".

Without doubt my service with the RLI will hold the happiest and proudest memories of my career.

RSM R.O.TARR.

(21 September 1965 — 23 May 1971)

# The RLI - 'a salute'

They came from the four corners of the globe to join an elite band of men who were called "The RLI"; "The Incredibles" or "The Saints".

They were said to have the faces of boys who fought like lions. On parade they were steadfast and precise in their green and silver and in battle they were ruthless and courageous and never gave up until the battle was won.

On the playing field they won with delight and lost with dignity. These were the men of The Rhodesian Light Infantry to whom Rhodesians owe so much.

Back to the four corners of the globe they have gone, their task completed and another page of history written. Although you are no longer with us your spirit and example will remain. Your dedication and sacrifices will forever be an inspiration to those you have left behind.

Soldiers of The Rhodesian Light Infantry we salute you.

H. J. SPRINGER, DMM

RSM 1 RLI (August 1971 to December 1978)



RSM H. J. Springer

## THE FIRST RSM

← RSM RON REID-DALY,  
the RLI's first Regimental  
Sergeant Major, who served  
in this key post from  
1 February 1961 to 20 August 1965.

# 'CIVVY STARS'

## A tribute to loyalty

Miss Maria Horodyszcz was born in Poland. With three sisters and a brother she was part of a happy, well-to-do family destined to be tragically destroyed by the inferno of the Second World War. On 31 December 1939 Maria was arrested by the Russian Forces during their "liberation" of Poland and placed in a concentration camp. A period in prison and yet another camp followed until, in November 1941, she was released in the company of other internees as part of the Russian plan to form the new Polish Forces to fight against the Germans. Maria and her sister eventually joined the Polish 2nd Corps under General Anders. General Anders refused to fight under Russian Command and many will remember the sterling service of the Poles in the many and varied theatres of war which followed. Maria and her sister accompanied the Corps through Persia, Iraq, Egypt and Italy. They were present at the battle of Monte Casino where the Polish forces fought with particular distinction.



Miss Horodyszcz, MSM

Tragically the family had long since broken up and been destroyed. Maria's two sisters were killed by the Germans, her brother, a member of the Polish Resistance, died in a Russian prison and her father died in a concentration camp. As a Second Lieutenant decorated for her services in the war, Maria together with her sister moved to Britain with the Free Polish Forces in 1947. In June 1949 Maria emigrated to Southern Rhodesia and on 1 November 1961 she joined the Battalion as a bookkeeper.

Maria Horodyszcz has served the Unit with unstinting loyalty since that date. The glowing remarks on many audit reports bear ample testimony of her efficiency and dedication. Many will remember her generosity, kindness and wry humour hidden behind a cloak of supreme efficiency.

Many an officer has cause to thank her for her experience and wisdom in dealing with the men and their funds. No empty bottle or solitary cent went astray under her eagle eye and she had untold patience when dealing with errant 2ICs of whom there were many.

Maria Horodyszcz was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division) on 11 November 1976. Her enthusiasm, dedication and capacity for sheer hard work have earned her the greatest respect. We are all extremely grateful and wish her every happiness in the future.

Mrs. Esther Brookes was born in Greece. Married in Volos on 21 May 1949, she moved to Southern Rhodesia with her husband, Bert, in 1951. Bert is a well known ex member of the Regiment and a strong Association member.



Mrs. E. Brookes, MSM

After a spell as a clerk/typist at Depot, The Rhodesia Regiment, Esther joined the Unit in November 1961 shortly after it was first formed as No. 1 Training Unit in Brady Barracks, Bulawayo. Serving initially in the old Headquarter Company, she moved to Battalion Headquarters in the latter half of 1961. She has been typing in Battalion Headquarters ever since.

Esther's service has been characterised by total loyalty and love for the Regiment. As a top grade typist she has, on a number of occasions refused promotion to serve on with "her" Battalion. She has on numerous occasions gone out of her way to assist the Regiment in many ways and her efforts have not been confined to typing alone. Her position made her privy to some of the most sensitive secrets, her total reliability in guarding these is worthy of the highest praise.

Esther worked closely with all the COs, 2I/cs and Adjutants of this Unit. She remembers them all and given the opportunity could record a history well worth reading.

Always considerate, many will not forget the well timed cup of coffee first as things were getting beyond a joke, her accurate typing together with an ability to produce completed work exceptionally quickly made her an indispensable part of the Headquarters and the Unit as a whole. Many will remember her kindness and love for all living creatures. Her consideration for others always outshone that rare flash of Greek temper prompted only by the inefficiency she could not abide.

Esther Brookes was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division) on 11 November 1977. Her enthusiasm, dedication and capacity for sheer hard work have earned her the greatest respect. We are all extremely grateful and wish her and Bert every happiness in the future.



The RLI Regimental Association was officially constituted on the 7th March, 1969, its purpose to bring together serving members of the Regiment and former members.

Projects carried out in the formative years were the introduction of a quarterly newsletter "Report from the Association", which achieved its objectives in communicating with past and ERE members. Also popular with serving members was The Troopers Christmas Draw and social functions where many a happy reunion took place.

A proposal to erect a Statue was broached in 1969 and this was implemented in 1979 with the Committee firmly behind the erection of a suitable monument to those troopers who had paid the supreme sacrifice for their Country. Public support was most encouraging and funds raised were also used to refurbish the 1RLI Chapel.

The Association magazine "Cheetah" was introduced in 1978 and has been given excellent support by contributors from the RLI and advertisers. Our sincere thanks are tendered to all those who made this project the success it became.

In recognition of all members who served with the Battalion, a Scroll was designed depicting the various Commando insignia and significant quotations of respect made to the Unit during its active role.

A Trust Fund for members of the Association has been introduced to cater for those in need.

In conclusion, I would like to stress the importance of the maintenance of contact between members especially as they will soon be scattered to all corners of the globe. It is essential that Branches of the Association be formed to enable members to keep in touch.

My sincere thanks are tendered to the Commanding Officers, Commando Commanders, all member of the Battalion and our Committee for the support they have given me during my period as Chairman.

May we all remember.

R. W. WATSON.

By Major (The Rev) Bill Blakeway

"Padre, do you want to go on Fire Force." That question put to me by Lt Col Pat Armstrong, then O.C. of Support Commando, started my understanding and appreciation of what the RLI was all about.

I nearly had a heart attack when I looked at the stick board that evening and saw there in first wave, stop one — Padre! It was quite a serious stick — Cpl 'Dutch' de Klerk, 'Ticky' Millet, 'Buzzard' Dalgerous and yours truly. Fortunately, the only contact we made that day was with 'Buff Beans'. But I shall never forget the almost paralyzing fear as the chopper circled the target area. For me the moment of truth. I have recalled that "heavy war story" because that experience helped me to know something of what the members of the Battalion had to go through every time the siren went off. I don't think it is possible for a Padre to begin to communicate with the Troopie unless he has been frightened with him

My association with the Battalion started during 1974, whilst I was still a T.A. Right from the beginning, to me, there was something "special" about the Unit. It also became clear to me that there was a tremendous pride in the Unit by its members and like all regular army units, it was a "closed shop" to anyone on the outside. I soon realised that I would have to become a regular if I was to stand any hope of being accepted. It was during the first half of 1976 that the Chaplain General said "You are now officially Chaplain to the RLI get on and know them."

It would take far more than this article and would be impossible to recall and record everything I would like to of these last six years. The Padre's Hour for instance. You know that exciting period during the week when most of the ouens catch up on their gonk! I recall a few anxious moments when difficult questions have come up, like . . . "Come on Padre, how come you are talking to us about God when we have to go out and kill?" If



Major (The Rev) Bill Blakeway

**How come you are talking to us about God when we have to go out and kill?**

anyone thinks there is an easy answer to that one — good luck. All I could do was to help the troopie to see that the country had the right to both rule and defend itself, and that the Christian had a moral obligation to be involved in both. I would also like to say that during the whole of my association with the Battalion, I have not come across one man who claimed categorically that he is an atheist. They might not have been Church-goers, but they accepted the fact that there was "someone up there" looking after them.

My trips to the bush to visit the different Commandos — few Chaplains had the privileges that I had in this respect. To be accepted as part of the Unit. I remember incidents like Forbes Border Post with 2 Commando, hot extraction demonstration with 3 Commando — with me hanging from that bar and the chopper circling a couple of hundred feet up — when I could have been back home sitting having tea with the old ladies of the Church! Being one of six sticks, total 24, and being told by the O.C. that 75 to 100 enemy had been sighted — I didn't stop shaking for an hour.

The occasional patrol clinging hopefully to the promises of the Log Enslins and Charlie Warrens of: "Don't worry,

Padre, we will look after you." Another moment that aged me twenty years was when the present O.C. Col Aust was 2 I.C. We were discussing the various para courses and he said: "Do you want to be para-trained?" As I was still stumbling over my answer he picked up the phone, spoke to the para school and asked them if the Padre could get on a course. I sat completely speechless as I heard him say: "Right, thanks, — three weeks' time." Once again, however, what a privilege to be accepted as one who has jumped with the Battalion — even if they were only fun jumps.

There have been the sad times . . . having to go and visit N.O.K. of members of the Battalion and giving them the one message they were dreading.

The happy times at the get-togethers and marriages. The proud moments.

There is no doubt that to me, personally, the supreme moment of pride was on the 1st February, 1979 when the Statue of the Troopie was unveiled. To have been part of that magnificent ceremony will always be the most treasured memory that I will have. And who of those who were there will ever be able to forget the

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# THE RLI'S

By Major C. H. Webster



Major Webster

## THE PADRE REMEMBERS

• FROM PAGE 17

Memorial Service on 12th September, 1979, and the funeral service for Major Bruce Snelgar, held at the foot of the statue. Or that final Wreath-Laying. Possibly there will be those who will read this and say "the Padre's being carried away again." All I know is that those who have served in the Battalion will know exactly what I am saying. They will understand the fierce feeling of pride that the men in the Unit, and its achievement, coupled with the memory of those of their number who did not return from the op area.

As the Padre remembers, he would also like to say "Thank You". Thank you to the men of the green and silver, for your professionalism as soldiers, for your courage, for your loyalty to the cause for which you fought. And I thank you for your personal friendship.

Remember this, we're going to be in that number when the SAINTS GO MARCHING IN!

In 1977 a Mobile Surgical Unit (M.S.U.) first made its appearance on Military Operations. It was the first of a line of eight designed and manufactured in Rhodesia with funds provided by Lions International. The project was a controversial one. Both members of the Medical Profession and laymen voiced opinion for and against the concept.

January 1978, saw the completion of the second M.S.U. and this was immediately put to use by the Rhodesian Light Infantry. It was soon realised that the name M.S.U. was misleading amongst both military and medical personnel and the name was altered to Mobile Resuscitation Unit which described more accurately its role.

The M.R.U. is an airconditioned trailer unit towed by a 4,5 which carries backup equipment. A generator is towed by a 2,5 ambulance and this provides power for good lighting, airconditioning, water geyser, suction apparatus, autoclave, diathermy, refrigeration and the wards. The unit is arranged as a small theatre and contains anaesthetic apparatus. Although surgical procedures can be carried out in this unit the Medical Detachment only carried out absolutely necessary procedures i.e. chest drains, completion of amputations, debridement of wounds, etc.

Side tents provide two four-bank wards for initial assessment and preparing patients for backloading to a Central Hospital. An armoured ambulance was added to the unit to enable the doctor/medics to reach casevac when aircraft could not be used for any reason.

The Medical Detachment of the RLI had good use of its M.R.U. during the war. The unit was deployed on 42 occasions and covered 54,000 km. It moved with JOC HQ to pre-position, usually next to an airfield, for Special Operations or with POC HQ or a Fire Force during routine operations.

The following points became obvious as regards the M.R.U.:

1. It was robust and could move over very adverse roads.
2. It should ideally be operated by a regular crew familiar with siting, setting up and operating the unit. On occasions it was ready to receive and did receive casualties within twenty minutes of arriving at an airfield or base.
3. The unit can be placed next to forward airfields so that aircraft can be made immediately available to casevac patients rearwards to Central Hospitals once the casualties have received their initial resuscitation and been stabilised.
4. Intensive resuscitation and stabilisation of patients is possible in a stable environment with all equipment necessary ready to hand.
5. The morale of the soldier on the ground is raised when he knows he has a good backup system as regards casevac.

The Medical Detachment dealt with many casualties during the two years in which the unit was operated. Three hundred and twenty-five persons passed through the M.R.U. and were grouped as follows:

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# 'LIFESAVER'



Major Webster (left) and Sgt Kreswell attend to a civilian in the MRU.

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Group	Number	Percentage
RLI	65	20,0%
Other Army Units	87	26,7%
B.S.A.P.	34	10,5%
Rh.A.F.	4	1,2%
Home Affairs/G.F.	14	4,3%
S.F.A.	12	3,7%
African civilians	77	23,0%
European civilians	11	3,4%
Guerrillas	21	6,5%

They sustained their injuries as follows:

Cause	Number	Percentage
Mines (AP and Land)	60	18,5%
Contacts (F.F. scenes)	91	28,0%
Ambushes	48	14,8%
Crossfire	37	11,4%
Accidental explosions	4	1,2%
Aircraft crashes (in action)	4	1,2%
Parachuting injuries	4	1,2%
Accidental shootings	24	7,4%
Road Traffic (Accidents)	22	6,8%
Other	31	9,5%

The types of injuries were classified as follows:

Type	Number	Percentage
Multiple	24	7,4%
Orthopaedic	100	30,8%
Head	11	3,4%
Chest	11	3,4%
Abdomen	11	3,4%
Burns	16	4,9%
Superficial	127	39,1%
Medivacs	17	5,2%
Other (E.M.T. etc.)	8	2,5%

Of the three hundred and twenty-five persons who have been casevaced through or from the M.R.U. two died en route to the M.R.U., two died on arrival at the M.R.U. and two died between the M.R.U. and a central hospital. Three of these cases were multiple injuries, one was a G.S.W. to thigh with femoral artery severed and two were G.S.W.'s through the base of the skull. This is a 1,8% death rate which perhaps emphasises the value of a unit such as occasions where patients would not have survived a long trip to a hospital. Sometimes our M.R.U. in RLI was close enough to a Fire Force contact to see or hear the helicopters in the distance.

On these occasions we received, or were able to get to, critically injured patients within 7-10 minutes of injury.

In conclusion it could safely be said that the RLI M.R.U. more than paid for itself as a life-saver and as a moral booster.

# CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS...

## 1. HISTORY

In 1960 it was decided to include for the first time a Regular European Battalion in the Army order of battle and as a result No 1 Training Unit was established in Bulawayo tasked not only with forming the Battalion but also a Special Air Service and a Reconnaissance Squadron.

The Battalion was officially formed on the 1st February 1961. This day is now recognised as the Regimental Birthday.

## 2. TITLE

The Regiment was officially christened First Battalion The Rhodesian Light Infantry. The then Commanding Officer **Lieutenant Colonel J. S. Salt** opposed this and by usage this has changed to First Battalion The Rhodesian Light Infantry.

## 3. MOVE TO BARRACKS

In April 1961 the Battalion moved from Bulawayo to a new barracks in the Cranborne suburb of Salisbury.

Cranborne Barracks costing some one million pounds in 1960/61, remains one of the showpieces of the Rhodesian Army and overseas experts have commented that it is one of the finest barracks of its type in the world.

## 4. CHANGE OF ROLE

In November 1964 the organisation and role of the Battalion was changed from a conventional infantry unit to a Commando Battalion.

This has given the Unit real mobility and far greater ability to fight conventional and counter insurgency warfare in Rhodesian terrain.

Likewise, requiring initiative, a sense of adventure and a willingness to tackle any task, the Commando image and training is more in keeping with the character of the young Rhodesian today.

On becoming a Commando Battalion, the then Commanding Officer Lt. Col. G. P. Walls, M.B.E. introduced the wearing of the familiar tartan green beret with ceremonial uniform, which when on parade, distinguishes the Regiment from other units of the Rhodesia Army.

## 5. THE COLOURS

On the 19th June 1965 the First Battalion The Rhodesian Light Infantry received their colours on a full ceremonial parade from the then Governor of Rhodesia, His Excellency Sir Humphrey Gibbs, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.

A dedication ceremony and drum head ceremony was held, conducted by Chaplains of the Rhodesian Corps of Chaplains.

The Colours were approved by Her Majesty The Queen on 15th July 1963, and the original drawings of the colours, produced by the College of Arms and bearing the signature of Queen Elizabeth II, hang in the office of the Commanding Officer.

The Queen's Colour bears the Royal Crown, and the inscription "The Rhodesian Light Infantry" on the traditional background of the Union Jack.

The Regimental Colour consists of the Regimental badge surrounded by the words "The Rhodesian Light Infantry" and a laurel wreath of flame lilies surmounted by the Royal Crown on a green background.

The Colours are housed in the Silver Room of the Officers Mess. They are only removed for Ceremonial Parades and formal Mess functions.

The Colours are to be handled by Officers so appointed by the Adjutant, and are not to be handled by any other person. This rule is waived during Mess functions in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess when the Commanding Officer gives authority to the Regimental Sergeant Major for the Colours to be transferred from the Officers Mess for display purposes.

The Regimental Sergeant Major is then responsible for organising a proper escort party to collect and return the Colours.

After a Ceremonial Parade, the Colour Party march to the main entrance of the Officers Mess. Once the subalterns have returned the Colours to the Silver Room, the Mess Sergeant will bring to the Colour Party a silver tray bearing a decanter of sherry and five glasses. Each member of the Colour Party receives a glass of sherry before dismissal.

The Adjutant and Regimental Sergeant Major are responsible for the selection of the Colour Party.

The escort consisting of a Warrant Officer and two Colour Sergeants or Sergeants will be nominated by the Regimental Sergeant Major.

In 1966 a tradition was commenced whereby the Regimental Sergeant Major, in the evening after a ceremonial parade, when the Colours have been paraded, sends from the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess, liquid refreshment for the Ensign or Ensigns being in the form of congratulations on their expected high standard of drill on that day's parade.

## 6. REGIMENTAL MARCHES

### a. QUICK MARCH "THE SAINTS"

On the formation of No. 1 Training Unit (the forerunner of the present Regiment) a considerable number of recruits originated from the United Kingdom. One member of the Unit at this time was 1705 L/Cpl MARTIN, D. M., a previous member of a Highland Regiment. On route marches L/Cpl Martin played his bagpipes and a tune that became very popular was the "SAINTS". Bandmaster Lewis of The Rhodesian African Rifles, scored the tune and it was played at passing out parades of the new recruits.

Army Headquarters offered a 50 pound prize to the Bandmasters of the Federation for a suitable Regimental March. By this stage "THE SAINTS" had been unofficially accepted by members of the Unit as the Regimental March. Owing to the opposition by the Unit to any other march being accepted, "THE SAINTS" was officially declared the Regimental March of the First Battalion, The Rhodesian Light Infantry.

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b. **SLOW MARCH " THE RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY"**

This tune was specially written for the presentation of the Colours by Captain F. SUTTON of the Rhodesian Corps of Signals Band. The first occasion it was played was the ceremonial parade held on 19th June 1965, for the Presentation of the Colours.

In 1968 The Prime Minister of Rhodesia The Hon. I. D. SMITH attended the Annual Regimental Sundowner and proposed the Toast to the Regiment in which he proposed the health of the "INCREDIBLE RLI". This remark was much publicised in the local press and Capt. F. Sutton requested that his composition be renamed "THE INCREDIBLES" and as such it is known today.

7. **REGIMENTAL DAY**

The Official "BIRTHDAY" of the Regiment was the 1st February 1961 which was the date of the formation of First Battalion, The Rhodesian Light Infantry. Each year, on or about the 1st February, the Regimental Day is celebrated.

8. **REGIMENTAL MOTTO**

No motto has yet been adopted by the Regiment to date. The following suggestion was given by Capt. R. F. Reid-Daly, M.B.E., 1 RLI on 4 November 1969, and is preserved for possible future use:

"On the 18th March 1968 during OPERATION CAULDRON No. 13 Troop made contact with a large group of the enemy and were pinned down in the subsequent fire fight. A platoon from E Company R.A.R. were in support at this time and P.W.O. HEROD was wounded in the engagement.

Air support was called for, but in the bombing several of the security forces were wounded, amongst them 2341 Sgt. BAKER, T. J.

These personnel including P.W.O. Herod were evacuated, and later Sgt. Baker went to see P.W.O. Herod, who had this to say of our chaps.

"We in the R.A.R. used to laugh at your soldiers for to us they looked like boys — but you have shown us how to fight — they have the faces of boys but they fight like lions."

9. **HOLY GROUND**

The large circle in front of Battalion Headquarters has by tradition, been christened "THE HOLY GROUND".

On the original plans of the barracks an open air pulpit was designed in the centre of the circle for Battalion Church parades. This was later dispensed with due to lack of funds.

On the appointment of Lt. Col. R. EDWARDS, D.S.O., M.C., as Commanding Officer he, accompanied by the then R.S.M. WO1 R. F. REID-DALY, M.B.E., stepped out to the centre of the circle and pronounced the area "unholy". Paths were then constructed across the circle.

In keeping with the original concept of "HOLY GROUND" no bicycle or wheeled transport is to be ridden or driven across it and the paths are to be strictly adhered to.

10. **TRIANGULAR NIGHT**

To celebrate the anniversary of the UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, the Corporals Club invite the Officers Mess and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess to a Triangular Night on or about the 11th November each year.

THE TRIANGULAR NIGHT originated at Kariba on 11th November 1965, when the Battalion was deployed as a precautionary measure just prior to the assumption of independence.



By tradition, the Commanding Officer will toast the "REGIMENT" and then "RHODESIA" and will be followed by the R.S.M. leading the singing of the "SAINTS".

As no reciprocal entertainment can be given to the Corporals of the Regiment, the cost of the function is evenly divided amongst the three messes.

11. **CHRISTMAS**

a. **CHRISTMAS MORNING:** An officer from each Sub-Unit is to be appointed by the Commanding Officer to dispense the traditional "GUN FIRE" ie rum and coffee to all troops in bed at 0700 hours on Christmas morning.

Preferably as many officers and NCOs should attend this gesture, but it is essential that at least one officer and one NCO are detailed.

The rum is to be purchased from Sub-Unit funds.

b. **DUTIES: CHRISTMAS DAY:** The Adj. and ORQMS are to fulfil the duties of Orderly Officer and Orderly Sergeant on Christmas Day and are to supervise the "GUN FIRE".

c. **TROOPS CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** As near as possible to Christmas the Troops Christmas Lunch is held in the Main Dining Hall.

A V.I.P. guest is invited to propose the toast to the Regiment and Officers and NCOs then commence the time-honoured tradition of serving Christmas Lunch to all ranks below Sergeant.

On completion of the lunch, the Officers and NCOs are called forward one by one to drink a pint of beer to the loud accompaniment of crashing cutlery on tables.

The V.I.P.s are escorted by the Officers and NCOs to the Corporals Dining Room for a buffet lunch.

Over the years a practice of the R.S.M. opening his Mess to all "Servers" at the Christmas Lunch has become traditional.

12. **TROPHIES**

The Inter-Commando Rugby Trophy was "liberated" by the then 2IC A Company Captain D. G. PARKER from the KATANGESE in 1961 when the Battalion was deployed on the Northern Rhodesia/Katanga border in the Kipushi Area.

13. **"THE TROOPER"**

The Regimental War Memorial the first of its kind in Rhodesia depicts a typical RLI Trooper dressed in traditional RLI "bush kit". The figure faces North and is situated in the centre of the "Holy Ground".

The Commanding Officer at the time Lt Col I. R. Bate, MLM, decreed that:

a. The memorial would be called "The Trooper".

b. The Trooper will be saluted by all Officers and Men of the Regiment who pass him.

c. Representatives of the Unit and its Association will on the 1st February each year lay wreaths at the foot of The Trooper in memory of our comrades who have given their lives for their Country.

d. The ground immediately surrounding The Trooper is "Holy Ground", declared by Lt Col I. R. Bate, MLM, RSM K. H. Reed on 12th March 1979.

The last Parade and Wreath Laying was performed by the Regiment on 25th July 1980 and on the 28th July 1980 "The Trooper" was removed for safe keeping.

# THOUGHTS OF A TROOPIE

*Ten years old and four feet high,  
History and UDI.*

*"Today, we've struck a blow," said he  
"For Justice and Christianity."*

*For Principle we've made a stand,  
Courageous people, splendid land.*

*Civilised, we stand or fall,  
God save the Queen, God Bless you all.*

*And like the years, good friends have gone,  
David and Richard, Mike and John.*

*Crash and ambush, mine and mortar,  
Cold, heat, dust and water.*

*Freckled David, laughing Paul,  
And Pete my bravest friend of all.*

*Write their names on Rolls of Honour,  
Scripted bold in golden splendour.*

*For us will be no victory day;  
The dogs of war have gone astray.*

*Now Principle becomes Surrender,  
Expediency the legal tender.*

*Is Justice just for those who shout?  
Is this what Christ is all about?*

*Will someone tell us why we fight?  
What once was Wrong is now what's Right?*

*Where am I going — where have I been?  
Somewhere ...nowhere ...in between?*

*Years of waste, and so I cried,  
The day my good friend Johnny died.*



# *The Very Big Red Champions*



Major I. Buttenshaw — OC 1 Commando

In the days before Operation Hurricane units would do Border Control duties in their respective Brigade areas. After several years this duty became boring, to say the least. In order to give everyone a change of scenery and the chance to operate in other parts of the country every so often sub-units would do a tour of duty in another Brigade's area. This was known as "Op Swop".

In July 1971 the Commando was on an Op Swop deployment in the 1 Brigade area with its headquarters at the New Deka Base Camp. The O.C., Major D. G. Parker, ordered that there would be P.T. at 0600 hours every morning for everyone on the base. The O.C. himself used to dread these parades and used to delay getting out of bed until the last possible moment. One particular morning he was running a little late and the troops had formed up a short distance from his room before the O.C. had arisen. A short while later this very big man appeared before the men wearing a pair of full length bright red pyjamas. This sight prompted Sgt Bruce Antonowitz, to say, "It's the Big Red".

The OC was commonly referred to as "The Big Red" in a personal capacity. Gradually the name referred to the Commando as a whole and in time Assegai notes were written under this heading.

Major Parker's successor, Major A. K. Boyd-Sutherland did much to ensure that the Commando retained the name of "The Big Red". Thus the Commando has a very real and tangible reminder of a truly great man . . . the late Col David Parker ex OC of the Commando and CO of the Battalion.

## ONE COMMANDO DAY: 24 OCTOBER

In July 1975 the Commanding Officer Lt Col D. G. Parker ("The King") approved a request from OC 1 Commando to have 24 October officially adopted as 1 Commando Day.

Over the period 16 October to 2 November 1973 the Commando was deployed on external operations in Mozambique. The overall aim was to locate and destroy the enemy and their base camps, the primary target was Securanza. On 24 October 1973 a small group of 1 Commando located this camp, and as a result 26 of the enemy/recruits were killed and one captured. Our Commando suffered one fatal casualty - that of Rfn Casal. In these actions Sgt P. I. MacNeilage won one of the first Silver Crosses of Rhodesia to be awarded for gallantry and leadership in action. Cpl Bartlett and L/Cpl van der Zandt both won

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THE GIRL FRIDAYS OF GATOOMA WHO ADOPTED 1 COMMANDO IN LATE 1973, AT THE GATOOMA SHOW 1977 WITH THE THEN, OC MAJOR R. M. MATKOVITCH.

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Military Forces Commendations.

In it is now traditional for the Commando to adopt Sunday Routine on these days and for the members to be excused all duties. In addition the Annual Commando Dance/Party will be held on or as close to this date as possible.

#### THE COMMANDO BAR—"THE 28TH"

On 28 February 1976 a composite troop of 18 members of 1 Commando commenced a follow up at 0800 hours at the eastern point of the Chibara Hills heading west, Corporals Cookson and Hosking were tracking. A National Parks Game Tracker by the name of Smith joined them later. Around lunchtime the tracks split in two heading north towards the Mavoradona Mountains. Cookson and Hosking went on one set of spoor and the Parks Tracker on the other. Hosking and Cookson eventually relocated the main spoor and called the Call sign up to join them.

At 1430 hours the Troop with the trackers ahead of them walked into an ambush. In the initial burst of enemy fire Corporal Cookson was killed, and Corporal Hosking seriously wounded. Lt Paul Morpuss was also wounded. The 1 Commando Troop returned the fire and the enemy withdrew enabling Hosking and Morpuss to be casevaced.

A sweep was organised and a further five contacts ensued between 1430 hours and last light. During these subsequent contacts Sgt White BCR, Trooper Diedricks and the Park's Tracker (Smith) were killed. Troopers Dippenaar and Wilkinson were also wounded. At the end of the day 1 Commando had lost 3 dead plus the attached tracker and had three members wounded, accounting for 19 of the enemy killed and 1 captured.

Consequently in memory of those members of the Commando killed on 28 February 1976 the Commando Bar has been duly named "The 28th". At the same time the ouens composed a song in memory of those who fell.

#### "THE 28TH"

Now here is a story, that I must tell you,  
Of a boy who was taken from home,  
To fight for his drink and his freedom,  
And also his loved ones at home.

He was sent to the North-Eastern Border  
Where most of the fighting was done  
It was there that the RLI soldier was shot  
By a Terrorist gun.

As he raised himself up on his elbows  
And the blood from his wounds,  
It ran red.

Then he turned to his comrades beside him  
And these are the words that he said,  
Won't you bury me high on a mountain  
Beneath the cross that stands facing  
The Sun.

So we buried him high on the mountain  
Beneath the cross that stands facing  
The Sun.

And now that the Contact is all over  
His berret lying down by his feet  
For his comrades will never forget him  
On the day of the "28TH".

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## THE GATOOMA ROOM

In 1976 along with the opening of the Pub — "The 28th" the TV lounge was redecorated and made a "mini" Commando Museum. It was called the Gatooma Room because of the Commando's affiliation with Gatooma.

In late 1973 under the auspices of the Gatooma "Girl Fridays" led by Mrs. Ena Harrison, the Commando had been adopted by Gatooma. Throughout the war their constant supply of goodies and organisation of trips to Gatooma was very much appreciated by the Commando, and in their honour the Commando TV Lounge was named the "Gatooma Room".

The Commando made their last visit to Gatooma on 19 July 1980 and were exceptionally well entertained by the GirlFridays, Rotary Club, Municipality and the MOTHS. To commemorate our last visit to Gatooma and show our appreciation for all the people of Gatooma's efforts for us, the Commando presented, for safe keeping, the Bush Flag that had been flown at all our Bush/Operational Bases since 1976.

## "A LOOK TO THE PAST"

With the war over and reminiscences very much the order of the day, it is probably appropriate to recall 1 Commando's (then A Coy) first operational deployment way back in the early 60's. The story is told by the late Major R. J. Davie:

"I commanded the first 3 Platoon. Captain "Digger" Essex-Clarke was our Company Commander. Captain Dave Parker our 2 IC, Lt Brian Barrett-Hamilton commanded 2 Platoon and 2 Lt Harry Harvey was 1 Platoon Commander. WO2 "Crash" Hannoway was CSM.

My Platoon (3 P1) was ordered to Kipushi on the Congo Border. President Moise Tshombe's two "get away" cars were parked in the Platoon area. A big, black Buick and another magnificent white American car. He lived just across the border cut-line about 500 yards away. We could see his house.

There was an airstrip half in the Congo and half in Northern Rhodesia, about a quarter of a mile from our position. Tshombe used to fly out from there, occasionally to talk to Sir Roy Welensky. The Presidential limousine was always preceded and followed by escort vehicles. They were open sided military ± 2 Ton. Usually they each carried about 12 Gendarmes in washed out blue uniforms, festooned with grenades and packing Mauser's and FN's. These convoys passed about 100 yards in front of the platoon position.

One afternoon, when I was away at Company HQ on the Kafue River, Tshombe stopped and came to visit the platoon. I had many "hard core" Afrikaners in my platoon then. However according to what I was told on my return the whole Platoon voluntarily lined up and came to attention as Tshombe shook their hands. I believe they also presented arms for the President.

He (Tshombe) was very kind — the troops liked him and seemed to feel he was a "White African". He presented a very large Katangese flag to the Platoon. It was autographed in the bottom left hand corner. Pte Stephenson kept it and this flag was displayed on the wall of the "Winged Stagger" after Stephenson had joined the SAS. Incidentally, Lt Col John Salt flew into the airstrip one afternoon.

We had a piper in our platoon and he stood on top of our "bunker" antheap and played 'When the Saints go Marching In' as the Colonel arrived and the guard presented Arms. We were very formal on operations in those days. The Colonel was deeply touched. There were tears in his eyes — literally. In the heat and dust of that



Lt-Col D. G. "The King" Parker ... the "Big Red" founder.

(then) outpost of the British Empire it might have seemed incongruous; Scottish (R.L.I.) Piper, American tune and a gnarled old Rhodesian Colonel. But the gesture was sincere and the Colonel was too.

There is a funny sequel to it. The Piper, amongst other escapades, deserted to join the Mercenaries. Digger (the OC) had been offered £20 000 sterling if the Rifle Company went across, another £20 000 if the mortars went across from Kafue, £2 000 for each Officer and £260 per month for each soldier). The Piper left a "deserters/suicide" note on his neatly packed kit. In this note he bequeathed his bagpipes to none other than L/Cpl van Rensburg C.W. Everyone laughed when this was given in evidence at his subsequent Court Martial in Ndola.

The above is a far cry from the Operations the serving members have been used to in the recent years. However the tranquil air of OPS as indicated from the Congo days still continued on our Border Control Commitments up to the late 60's, with the exception of the odd 3-4 week operation.

Continuing our look to the past, it is pertinent here to take a look at the first RLI Contact which took place back in 1966. The story is told by Lt Col T. G. Desfontain.

HQ 1 Cdo was based at Makuti with 1 Tp as reserve and the remaining Tps on border control. There was no op on at all and Int (SB) had no knowledge of any crossing. Just normal border control ops.

Capt Dick Lockley was acting OC as Major Peter Rich was attending some rifle shoot or another (Presidents Medal?)

Dick Lockley was bored and besides which I was constantly beating him at cards so he decided to send me out on a night patrol (!) — I ask you —

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I was to take six men from my Tp (If I could find that many sober) and patrol from the old Nyakasanga Bridge down the old Nyakasanga road until we either got lost or we dropped from exhaustion.

Bravely and innocently we set off. Cards, french letters, passports, 22 days rations each and a couple of rounds per weapon completed our preparations. We debussed at the old Nyakasanga Bridge where 2 Lt Garth Barrett's Tp was, theoretically, on ambush. They were all asleep. Feeling that our back-up was really secure we tottered off in something resembling file formation down the road.

We moved very slowly because none of us could think very fast. We stopped every 200 yards or so to "look and listen". We looked dreadful so we kept on moving.

At 2245, about 3 miles from our debuss point, we approached a large baobab tree on the left side of the road. Barely had the words "Dick (Lockley) you're a Prick" passed my lips for the 92nd time when I saw a dark mass of figures in front of me. They were about 20 yards in front of me and partly obscured by the baobab tree. We went to ground on either side of the road and waited. Their leader shone a torch at me and I saw, vaguely, and heard, terrifyingly, rifles being removed from shoulders.

Knowing there were no other SF in the area I concluded they could only be the enemy or Game Rangers. Thinking they were Game Rangers, we hated Game Rangers, I opened fire.

A fairly mean fire fight took place with their green tracer going over our heads. On the Very light being fired (can you believe it?) the enemy ran into the thick Jesse on the side of the road.

Leaving Marsh and Foulds on the right side of the road to give us covering fire, I took the rest of the patrol in extended line searching the area between the road and the Jesse bush. The enemy commander had hidden behind the baobab tree and at about 10 yards opened fire with his AK. Boddington was hit in the arm and with great bravery and presence of mind we took cover amid shouts of "Dick you're a prick!" I shouted to Marsh to fire around the baobab tree and, when he stopped, we ran up. We found the leader, one other body, 2 x SKS rifles, an AK, a Bamboo Bazooka and six packs. I also stole a Tokarev pistol (subsequently returned to SB so that an SM man could have drinks on it for the rest of the war) a Tokarev holster and £42 cash.

Having cleaned the area we returned to Barretts camp, woke up his ambush, told our war story and returned to Makuti camp. It was there that we told Dick Lockley that we hated him, hated SB and Game Rangers.

Early the following morning Lt Tom Douglas and his troop followed up tracks of three while my troop followed separate tracks of a further three. Lt Tom Douglas found one of the enemy left for dead, with a bullet through the mouth. The impediment in his mouth made him sound like a cross between P. K. van der Byl and an Irish Grit. He was recovered to Kariba. The remaining five enemy were picked up at Kariba Township by SB within a week. This was only because SB were all on R & R in the Township at the time.

As a result of this contact — the first — the following points of interest arose:-

a. Because there was no 'State of Emergency' at the time the BSAP did not know how to go about prosecuting the captured enemy.

I as the Tp Comd, was subpoenaed for murder and had to give evidence in Court to defend myself. This has got to be a first!

b. We received shotguns, veld-schoen boots and camouflage denims shortly afterwards. Lt Col Walls was

CO and the contact report and observations gave him the necessary "pull" to get these items off the production line.



## Commando Notes....

What more can we say in this edition other than 'Champion Commando'. With Mrs. Janet Smith having just presented us with the trophy, there is not an awful lot more to be written, is there?

Throughout the Champion Commando Competitions the pace proved to be long, hotly contested and at times far too close. However, the Big Red finally surged ahead to a convincing win.

Once again there have been numerous changes in the commando since our last contributions. Lt. Rick van Malsen BCR (Mrs. 'H's favourite little twice) has left the bottle to go and count out extras up at Bn H.Q. Rick has recently taken over from John Dixon as Adjutant. Well done Rick — (for having a haircut that is).

C.S.M. Studley Edwards has after much dedication left us for civvy street, 'Wankie we believe', to sort out a little unfinished work. Good luck C.S.M. and please take note of the difference in distance if a hot extraction is required.

### Promotions

Congratulations to our new 2 I/C Capt Alan Gingles on his recent promotion. Alan is now busy learning the intricacies of the pocket calculator, and trying desperately to make friends with M H with a little help from Dale Carnegie's "How to win friends and influence people" and the odd box of chocolates.

Dave Hosking (Pegleg) has recently been promoted to WO2 and can be viewed gloating in the C.S.M.'s office. Well done Dave, you can put the 'loud hailer' away now.

Big 'um' Red Kerr is now wearing C/Sgt stripes and is busy learning how to write in the CQ store — keep at it Red, you're doing a great job.

### Miscellaneous

The Cdo deployments over the election period were a trying time for everyone, and throughout the days of dramatic changes the command carried its difficult task with efficiency and tact.

At Lake Mac the Big Red decided to teach the Battalion the 'proper' way to control a riot. The method was quite simple, we split each commando into the good and the bad guys and then encouraged them to beat the living daylights out of each other and conveniently as each faction finally closed in for the kill the Airforce

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**ABOVE: Mrs. Janet Smith and the CO of RLI, Lt-Col Aust, at the presentation of trophies for the Inter-Commando Sporting and Military events.**

• FROM PAGE 26

was at hand to pelt everyone with teargas. Thus the Battalion is now qualified to control any sudden influx of Irish tourists.

Prior to the Battalion exercise, each commando had an opportunity to brush up on their own skills. Our training began with Norris and Grant leading half the Commando to its first objective with the OC complaining bitterly of the distance being covered. No one dared comment that he in fact was responsible for writing the blue, the pink and the white.

To complete the Commando's re-thinking the OC introduced a lengthy initiative exercise which resulted in 2 Lt Grant being the first officer ever to spend the night locked up in the Guardroom!

The training culminated with all commandos being deployed in the Kariba area. The Colonel introduced a new idea in Battalion training. All were required to complete an SAS selection before being permitted to proceed to phase two of his scheme. One Commando's task was to enter the hostile environment of Kariba town and seize from the local militia one pair of lady's panties, the name of the prettiest girl in Kariba, conduct an interview with the local Mayor and produce two Crayfish from the lake.

Under the astute leadership of Lt Norris, elements of one commando succeeded in sinking a boat worth \$40 000 (someone's pride and joy). We then moved on to a lengthy period of preparation for the Commando Championships. (The Big Red did win.)

#### **Cowboy Party**

We had a most successful Western party with all dressed as Rivermen, Dudes and gamblers. The African band (hearts and minds campaign!) played extremely well until the local town drunk smashed their equipment. After the festivities Billy the Kid staged a daring robbery by which he succeeded in acquiring one commando's bar stock — Well done and thanks Billy.

**BELOW: A hug from The Big Red ... CSM Hosking does the honours after receiving the Dave Parker Cup for A & Q.**



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# TROOP NOTES

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## 1 TROOP

Congratulations on promotion to Sgt. Hulley-Miller who now spends much time in and out of the RSM's office up at "Space HQ", also to Cpl "Cling" Burgess and L/Cpl Blanchard who moved to 3 troop just before leaving for civvy street. It was with great reluctance that the troop parted with Sammy Tombe and his radio after three years of faithful service from both. L/Cpl Robertson has also now decided to give civvy street a bash, cheers Legs and good luck. We can't really say farewell to 2 Lt (alias "Cpl") Walters, as he spends more time selling tyres around the commando than he does at work. It has also been heard in passing that he is returning later on in the year to work on the OC's ulcer. On a more serious note however, cheers Steve and thanks for much dedication to the troop.

The troop welcomes "ex lover" Lt Charlie Norris, who besides forgetting to come to work on occasions, refuses to have a haircut for fear of fitting the senior NCO image. We have also been inundated with national servicemen recently and on a closing note must welcome 167 and 168.

## 2 TROOP

With the departure of the "Mad Irishman" Lt Gingles to be 2IC, Cpl Tim Lynam to become a Curio Salesman, L/Cpl "Fats" Norton and Tpr Dave Segan to countries afar and L/Cpl Pittaway to civvy street, the troop has been swamped by National Servicemen. L/Cpl Dave Barr now being the only surviving regular.

The "New" 2 Troop under 2 Lt Keith "The Runner" Engelbrecht and L/Cpl Barr's guidance is getting off to a racing start. Dave Barr having set a fine example by putting in a touch of extra training. The Troopies have followed suit by being involved in the Inter-Commando Sports.

Finally, farewell to all those members of 165 and 166 who have left us — Good Luck in Civvy Street; and a welcome to those members of 167 and 168 as well as those members who saw the light and transferred from Guard Force.

## 3 TROOP

The troop has seen many new faces since the last time of writing, with 164, 165 and 166 leaving us. We welcome 167, and see how long it is before they get stood down too. The troop still hasn't been able to get rid of the four Regulars; 2 Lt Grant, Sgt "Blondie" Leatham, L/Cpl Olivier and Tpr Hansen. We hope there are no hard feelings in the remainder of the commando after the inter-troop competition, but you guys must get your priorities right. As champion Troop we object to these first name terms!

After Wankie the troop has had a problem getting things together with the crows, but our ex 3 troop members are going the whole hog — congratulations to Frazee, who we hear is getting married. We've said cheers to Rex Harding and L/Cpl Frazer since the last time of writing — as well as welcome and farewell to L/Cpl Blanchard who saw the light and joined 3 Troop.

The new intake have been suitably initiated under the guidance of Sgt "Fingers" at the recent Gatooma visit; some having received their first battle scars in the heavy flak. Namely Hux — well, don't worry it's an improvement.

On a serious note, it's cheers from the champion Troop — and good luck to all those ex 3 Troop members who will be in civvies in the near future.

## 4 TROOP (F TROOP)

The mighty, mighty 4 Troop has been striving for a new image of late, mostly improvements, getting rid of deadwood and replacing it with new blood. Thus we bid a teary-eyed goodbye to the likes of 2 Lt Wehlburg, now making a living, cruising the streets of Jo'burg on a shiny new Triumph motor-cycle, waving and making goo-goo eyes at the dollbybirds and driving into lamp-posts and kerbs. Which makes room for 2Lt Pelda (The Baron) who hails from Switzerland and seems to specialise in courses and advanced courses and general absenteeism. Hope to see you again soon, Sir.

Cheers also to Sgt Paul Le Compt who leaves us with some of his eyes and anything else he didn't get caught with at the gate. Good luck Sarge, remember white is right. Also away (finally) is Cpl Tom High (Cherevous) fondly remembered for his bright-eyed alertness and iron-willed tee totalling. Rumour has it that it was Cpl High's motorcycle seen executing clandestine drill manoeuvres on the parade square during the last commando party. (Not bad Tom, but the salute to the right was a bit off.)

Al Strachan we all miss, mostly because his lovely untouchable sisters no longer grace our parties. Of course we miss you as well Al. Hope your new job works out and you sell lots of ice-cream. Of course we daren't forget (though we'd love to) Mike Brakespear, now rumoured to be doing musical screen tests for a guest spot in the Muppet Show, and a final farewell to Basil (Heavy) Marillier who looks to be the next Great White hope in the town of Gutu's bid for a new contender in the overweight division.

Hello to 167 and 168 who try hard and carry the old fools well (L/Cpl Robinson and L/Cpl Kropp — "lost in Africa Kropp" and Ken Morgan — still won't leave). Sean Wyatts (The Ski-Doo Kid) has finally left for better hunting in R.S.A.

So we welcome Baby Bok (Scrungy) Holloway who couldn't build a kia behind the Commando block to make himself more at home, so has to be happy with fires in the dustbin and pre-cooked mealies from the batmen. And Pietie (Goofball) Martin who it's rumoured subsidises his meagre income pressing his own pills and passing them off as smarties to L/Cpl Goofy Robb.

Welcome to G ... G ... G ... Gilly Gilmour (don't get excited Gilly) and Chris (Ingrid) Ashworth, who spends all his time over the fence (shaping we are told — nose and all!). Also Orgy Fleiner — he loves them and leaves them . . . the same colour as when he met them. Not to forget Vic Morrow Davies (10 years in 'Nam without a scratch!!) who leads every charge in The Showers and Steve (Scrungy) Barrie who rivals The Hells Angels as the nearest mother on his Moto Guzzi (Chop it, Steve, and chrome it and sell it — FAST!!). A special welcome to Barrie (Reaction Man) Crago who, Thank God, has provided our parties with a new, beautiful (and equally untouchable) sister. But we'll all keep trying. And last but not least (he'd like us all to believe) is Les (fists) Garrat who single handedly, most mornings, removes doggy-doo from the floors of the Gatooma room and seems to be aiming for an illustrious career as a janitor (if he ever sorts out which end of the broom sweeps).

THAT'S 4 TROOP.

# 1 COMMANDO OCs AND CSMs

## Officers Commanding

### A Coy

Maj J\_ Essex-Clark

Maj A. L. C. McLean

### 1 Cdo

Maj A. B. Campling

Maj P. S. Rich, DMM

Maj T. M. Davidson

Maj A. G. Micklesfield

Maj J. C. P. McVey

Maj D. G. Parker

Maj. A. K. Boyd-  
Sutherland

Maj R. E. H. Lockley, MLM

Maj R. M. Matkovich

Maj M. M. C. Jaabeck,  
DMM

Maj. F. R. Watts MLM

Maj P. V. Farndell

Maj I. Buttenshaw

## CSMS

### A Coy

WO2 Lachenicht, S.

WO2 Hannoway, R.

### 1 Cdo

WO2 King, S. V.

WO2 Cooper, P. J.

WO2 Tarr, R. O.

WO2 Mould, M.

WO2 Springer, H. J.

WO2 Quixley, Q. W.

WO2 Jameson, J. A.

WO2 Pelser, A. L.

WO2 Antonevitch, B. V.

WO2 Liversedge, D. G.

WO2 Howard, R. L.

WO2 Stokes, D. M.

WO2 De La Rue, E. J.

WO2 Edwards, A. F. S.

WO2 Hosking, D. B.



## THE RLI SCROLL

The idea of introducing a scroll can be attributed to Captain John Dixon. As Adjutant of the Unit he suggested that members and ex members of the Regiment deserved a certificate of sorts certifying that they had given good service and had played their part in making the RLI what it was. The CO and RSM were in total agreement and sub-units were invited to contribute ideas on the format of the certificate.

A number of suggestions were studied but for one reason or another were found to be unsatisfactory. In discussion it was eventually decided to produce a simple scroll certifying that the recipient had served in the Unit with distinction. In an effort to mirror the Unit's efficiency and pride it was further decided to incorporate three quotations which have earned a place of honour in the Regimental Traditions Book.

... "They have the faces of boys but they fight like lions." These are the words of Platoon Warrant Officer Herod, 1 RAR, who was referring to the men of the RLI after being in action with elements of the Battalion in the Zambezi Valley on 18 March 1968.

... "The Incredible Rhodesian Light Infantry." The Hon I. D. Smith toasted the Regiment thus on 1 February 1968. This now famous phrase gave birth to the Unit's unofficial nickname, "The Incredibles".

... "Thank God for the Rhodesian Light Infantry." Lt Gen Peter Walls, who commanded the Battalion from 1 December 1964 to 18 June 1967 expressed pride in the Unit by using these words on the Regimental Birthday 1 February, 1975.

John Dixon, an artist of considerable talent, undertook to draw up a test copy for study by the CO. In no time at all he produced the handsome scroll which is now a proud possession of so many members and ex members of the

Regiment. Each copy has been numbered and John Dixon retains the original, number 1. Number 2 was awarded to the CO and number 3 to the RSM. A scroll has been sent to the Next of Kin of the Fallen and a scroll has also been awarded to the civilian ladies of the Unit (in recognition of their work).

## NEW COLOURS

The design for the New Colours for the 1RLI were approved by His Excellency, The President of Rhodesia, The Hon C. W. Dupont, GCLM, ID, during early 1971. They were scheduled to be presented to the Battalion in late 1972/early 1973. As no money was forthcoming from Government for their manufacture, the Battalion decided to go ahead and produce them themselves. To this end Mrs. Mealing was given the job of producing them. She completed them in July this year and they were displayed for the first time to the Battalion on 8 August 1980.

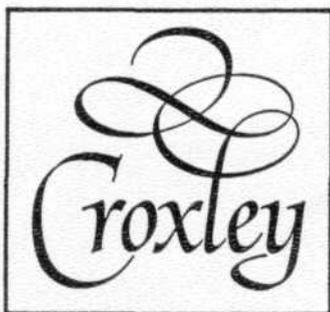
These will never be official colours as they have never been consecrated or, officially presented. However they will hang with other Battalion mementos in the New Museum.

## QUEEN'S COLOURS

On 15 July 1963 The Colours were approved by Her Majesty the Queen from drawings produced by the College of Arms, London. The Colours were presented on behalf of the Queen to the Regiment on 19 June 1965 by His excellency the Governor of Rhodesia, Sir Humphrey Gibbs, KCMG, OBE.

The Colours of the RLI are 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 Queen's Colour has not been carried at any Parade since 1 April 1970 following the declaration of the Republic of Rhodesia.



(DRG) Dickinson Robinson Group Product.

*The Rhodesian Light Infantry*  
**QUEEN'S COLOUR.**



*College of Arms*  
 15 July, 1963

*Anthony R. Dwyer*  
*Inspector of Regimental Colours*

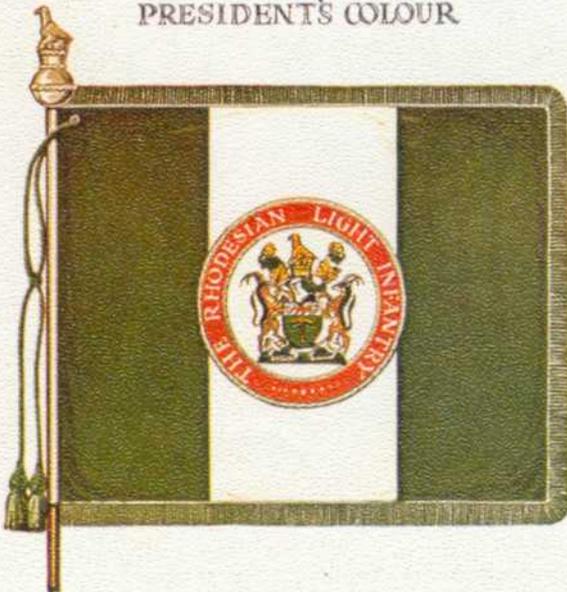
*The Rhodesian Light Infantry*  
 Regimental Colour



*College of Arms*  
 15 July, 1963

*Anthony R. Dwyer*  
*Inspector of Regimental Colours*

*The Rhodesian Light Infantry*  
**PRESIDENT'S COLOUR**



*Colonel Dwyer*

*The Rhodesian Light Infantry*  
 Regimental Colour



*Colonel Dwyer*



The 1st Battalion The Rhodesian Light Infantry  
formed on 1st February 1961



".....to us they looked like boys - but you have  
shown us how to fight - they have the faces of  
boys but they fight like lions....."



"The Incredible Rhodesian Light Infantry"

"Thank God for the Rhodesian Light Infantry"



This is to certify that

**SPECIMEN**

served with distinction in the 1st Battalion  
The Rhodesian Light Infantry



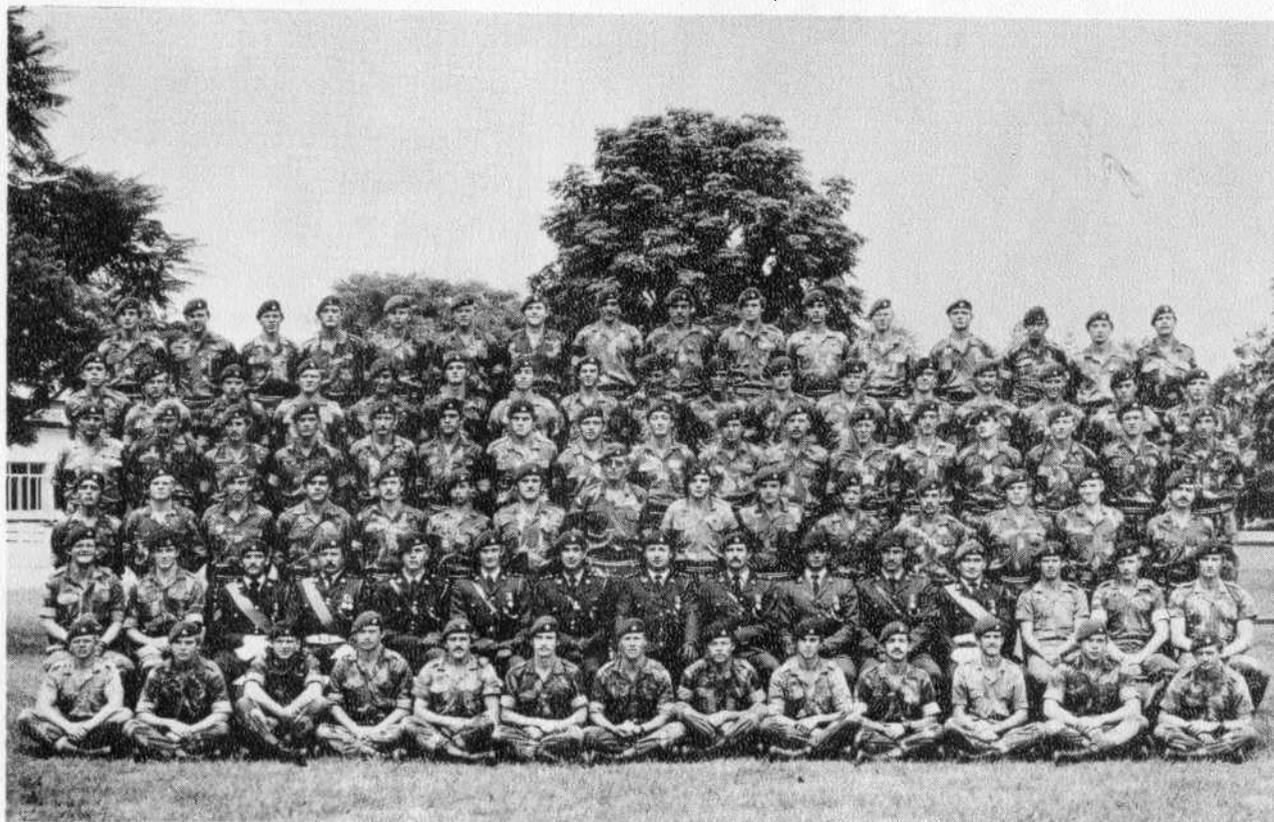
Lest we forget





1st BATTALION THE RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

## 2 COMMANDO, 1980



*Back row:* Tpr Robertson, Tpr Stratford, Tpr Shelton, Tpr De Kock, Tpr Falconer, Tpr Westwood, Tpr Cauvin, Tpr Langham, Tpr Kietzman, Tpr Murray, Tpr Devenish, Tpr Ferguson, Tpr Joubert, Tpr Hutton, Tpr Burgess, Tpr Pemberton.

*Third row, standing:* Tpr Burke, Tpr Groenwald, Tpr Lamb, Tpr Brown, Tpr Arslan, Tpr Mossop, Tpr Crow, Tpr Tarr, Tpr Stephenson, Tpr Albasini, Tpr Jennings, Tpr Carl, Tpr Hodgson, Tpr Morgan, Tpr Scrivner, Tpr Lazell, Tpr Woodhouse.

*Second row, standing:* Tpr Brassen, Tpr Metcalf, Tpr La Coste, Tpr Reichert, Tpr Beck, Tpr Baldwin, Tpr Paton, Tpr Atkinson, Tpr Stenphenson, Tpr Ullrich, Tpr Burdette, Tpr Dettmer, Tpr Young, Tpr Miller, Tpr Tapsell, Tpr Duplooy, Tpr Rodrigus.

*First row, standing:* Tpr Light, Tpr Tulloch, Tpr Linsell, Tpr Kruger, Tpr Walsh, L/Cpl Van Zyl, L/Cpl Figueredo, L/Cpl Foreman, L/Cpl Behrmann, Tpr Hall, Tpr Wilkins, Tpr Ascough, Tpr Van Rensburg, Rct Winson, Tpr Otton.

*Seated:* L/Cpl Shipton, Cpl Svec, Sgt A.M. Braunswick, WO II D.R. Firth, 2Lt R.W. Godwin, Lt A.J.O. MacIntyre, Capt I. Shepard, Capt A.B. Shaw, 2Lt R.A. McLennan, Lt R.E.C. Forbes, 2Lt B.W. Peck, C/Sgt P.J.D. Uys, Cpl Perkins, Cpl Van Den Bosch, L/Cpl Tapsell.

*Front row:* Tpr Mason, Tpr Crnkovic, Tpr Voigt, Tpr Williams, Tpr Silva, Tpr Adams, Tpr Kelly, Tpr Gurr, Tpr Frangoulis, Tpr Marques, Tpr Roy, Tpr White, Tpr Herdon.

*Absent:* Maj P.A.D. Hean, Tpr Wilsenach, Tpr Seaward, Tpr Mylrea, Sgt Clayton M.G., L/Cpl Patterson E., Cpl Dos Santos.



Maj A. Shaw, OC 2 Commando

# THE LAST CONTACT

It was a cold overcast day. By 1815 the morning routine was over.

At 0930 the siren began to wail. Major P. A. D. Hean gave his briefing. Somewhere in the North of the Bakasa TTL there had been a contact. C/S 31 (of Engineers) was pinned down by 100 enemy and they could not move. Stops 1, 2, 3, 4 took off straight away. Stop 5 was delayed because their chopper had engine trouble.

So with Major Hean in the K Kar we flew to the scene. No contact was made and after six hours of sweeping and following spoor the Commando called it a day.

Maj Hean headed back to Mangula with Stops 4 and 5 whilst Stops 1, 2, 3 were left on the ground to await uplift. The choppers arrived and Stops 1, 2 and 3 were uplifted.

Whilst routing back to Mangula Sgt Clayton, Stop 2 was looking out of his helicopter and to his surprise he saw approximately 10-18 of the enemy sitting in a kraal. Sgt Clayton indicated to the pilot who immediately went into an orbit, the enemy bombshelled. Sgt Clayton was dropped near the kraal. Stop 3 (Cpl Shipton) was dropped in a gully to the south and Stop 1 (Lt Macintyre) was dropped in a gully to the east.

On being dropped Sgt Clayton immediately swept through the kraal from west to east and killed two in some thick bush. He then swept down a gully which ran south east. The K Kar with Major Hean then returned. Stop 1 (Lt Macintyre) was told to sweep up into the kraal. On the way up and just outside the kraal Stop 1 killed one enemy. Stop 1 then instituted a search of the surrounding area and a substantial amount of ammunition was found in the area of the kraal.

At this stage Stops 4 and 5 (L/Cpls Tapsell and Van

Zyl) were dropped and joined Stop 1. Stops 4 and 5 swept west into some thick bush, the result - Stop 5 killed two of the enemy just outside the kraal, a short way further on Stop 4 killed another and then 20 seconds later Stop 4 scored its second success of the day.

The K Kar spotted a man running into a hut and fired into the roof of the rondavel setting it alight, one more dead and another weapon recovered (rather burnt).

Stop 1 in the meantime had another contact with two of the enemy, killed them both after a bit of a joust.

Stop 2 then swept up to join Stop 1, 4, 5 at the kraal and then a final sweep was made down the gully to the south towards Stop 3. One more was killed by Stop 1.

The final tally: 11 enemy killed, 9 AKs and two SKs recovered, and all done in one-and-a-half hours.

## COMMANDO NOTES

### HQ

In the past four months major promotion and appointments have taken place in the Commando.

Most notably in the HQ element.

Major Shaw has now taken over the appointment of OC of the Commando in place of Major Hean.

Captain Macintyre is appointed Commando 2IC and WO2 Uys is CSM of the Commando due to the resignation of CSM Dave Firth in April.

Congratulations to Major Shaw, Captain Macintyre and CSM Uys on their promotions.

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Good luck to Major Hean and GSM Firth and we wish them well in their endeavours in civvy street.

HQ has expanded rapidly in a short time due to the arrival of C/Sgt Pearson as CQ and Tpr Smith, G. D. as CQ assistant due to C/Sgt Pearson's "blunt personality" the GQ stores were immaculate in no time at all.

New arrivals are Trp Dredge and Trp Mathieu (deputy dog) whose claim to fame is that he holds the Commando's record for the number of times any man has gone AWOL during one month.

Trp Walsh was attached to HQ from 6TP and became the Commando's canteen manager "Parabottle".

Special mention and commendation goes to Tpr Booth who with unstinting devotion to duty walked side by side with the OC during the Battalion exercise held in June this year.

The 2IC is now known as Captain "Straight away" MacIntyre and the OC as Major "Well . . . on that one" Shaw.

## 6 TROOP

Since the last Cheetah was issued, 6 Troop, like the whole Commando, has changed drastically. The few remaining regulars in the troop surely miss the witticism of Lt MacIntyre — now promoted to Captain — who has left the troop to take up the appointment of the Commando 2IC, or the singing of Sgt Van den Bosch at 0600 hours every hungover morning, who has left the Army and defected to racist South Africa to carry on his trade as an electrician in his home town. These last few months have seen the departure of 165 NS, the 163 "six-month wonders" and many regulars. But thanks to the arrival of 167 NS, the troop has more or less kept up its strength. Also a warm welcome to Lt Wiggle and Cpl Pearson, who were both formerly from Training Troop, with Lt Wiggle fresh from a School of Infantry POC course. We sincerely hope their stay with us will be a pleasant one, if not, then an interesting one.

## 7 TROOP

First of all the troop would like to extend its congratulations to their new troop commander, 2 Lt Godwin, who has just joined the last troop in the Commando. Welcome LCpl Lazell as our new troop 'Sergeant who has now found greener pastures in 7 Troop, we hope his stay is a pleasant one. We welcome 167 and hope they live up to 7 troop rigorous standards; enter the bar first and leave it last. In this aspect many have shone.

Congratulations to all the steely eyed paratroopers; bad luck Piët de Kock on hurting yourself on your night jump, happy limping.

It is with regret we say goodbye to all the 165 ouens and all the old timers L/Cpl Tapsell, Tprs Mahn, Wilkens, Kelly, Hutton, who served the troop so well; good luck in civvy street gents. We also wish Impi Katzman well, and it is great to see him out of hospital, hope we will see you at the Commando some time.

Note 6, 8 and 10 troops that 7 Troop excelled in the Commando during the recent competition; having seven members in the drill squad, five in the cross country team, six out of eight in the tug-o-war team and all the heavies who represented the Commando at rugby. Finally to Trevor Nelson, who ran so well in the approach march after being press ganged the day before, well done. It is obvious we are the hardest working troop, even with Ed sleeping through most of his barrack room duties.

Last, but not least, to our oldest member of the Troop, Henry Crowe, please we beg you to stop beating up civilians and to cease forthwith head butting the railings.

## 8 TROOP

From the time the last edition of the Cheetah, there has been a complete change over of personnel in the troop. First we welcome the new troop boss 2 Lt Rob McLennan, fresh from Hooters, the acting Troop Sarge L/Cpl Kiwi Voight, who saw the light and left 10 troop to join us and last but not least all the new 167 and 168 troopies, far too numerous to mention, welcome to 8 troop.

We say cheers to the following regulars, who have left the troop in the last few months: L/Cpls Traun, Van Zyl and Murray, and Troopers Brauren, Metcalf, Paton and Van der Merwe, good luck wherever you may be. We won't forget to say cheers to the 165 troopies nor the TA members who were with us over the elections, thanks for your time, ouens.

Once again 8 Troop proved they were the backbone of the Commando by yet again winning the inter-troop competition comfortably. We've also got the most para trained men in the Commando, nearly three quarters of the troop. Congratulations to the new meatbombs, Mr McLennan, Troopers Page, Gowans, Guttridge, Dickenson, Bremner, Waring and Dugmore. The exercises to Inyanga and Kariba proved that we could all be reasonable soldiers, with a bit of time and patience. Well done to all those 8 Troop troopies who took part in the inter-commando championships, pity the rest of the Commando let us down.

All that's left to say is that the 2IC is chuffed with 8 Troop, if it wasn't for us the bar profits wouldn't look so good, CHEERS!

## 10 TROOP

To start off with we would like to say cheers to the following members of the elite, who could not fight the call of civvy street any more: Lt Fabes Forbes, L/Cpl James Behman, Tprs Mylroe, Crincovic, Young, Morgan, Falconer, Hall and Cpl Mike Shipton who went on "leave" to Slopeland and never returned. We wish you the best of luck for the future.

Welcome to the following lucky members from Intakes 167 and 168 who joined us over the last couple of months: Tprs Ingram, Levino, King, Low-Smith, Kristionson, Dickens, Van der Heyde, Horner, Leid and Nicolle.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish L/Cpl Jimmy Devenish and Roslyn best of luck on their engagement.

During the last Intertroop championships 10 Troop set a new record by coming last once again. We'll drink to that! Never fear fans it is not the end of the world.

We showed our fighting spirit at Inyanga on the endurance march by completing the whole march with only one casavac who shall remain nameless.

Tpr Dallas Falconer had a serious mishap halfway up World's View and had to leave a certain item of underwear behind. Maybe next time you will put your sterilizing tablets in your water.

Rumour has it that Steve Ingram has found his dream chick. According to the rumour she is Priscilla or better known as Miss Piggy junior. Oh well you know that old saying: "Love is Blind".

## INTER COMMANDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

After five weeks of blood, sweat, swearing, cursing, training and drinking The Big Blue finally managed a fourth place. The fact, three other commandos just pipped us and we didn't pip anyone, the truth of the matter is that we enjoyed ourselves, the commando spirit has never been so high, the commando sales of spirit has never been so high. Never before in the history of Championships has 2 Commando looked so good!

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At this stage it is time to congratulate our volley ball team which under Captain Macintyre won the volley ball competition after a Herculean effort. The final game between 2 and 3 commandos with the score level at one all in games and 2 Commando 7-13 down looked impossible and then Ed Eckard, Paul Harley and the rest of the team pulled thumb out of bum and came back to win 15-14 and the Inter Commando Volley Ball trophy. Next came the Inter Commando 'Drill competition and "Big Lou" Thackway was briefed to entertain the examiners in the Bar. This

he did so well that even after Horner who was obviously thinking about sitting in the corner with a pie, decided that he wanted to be the right hand marker regardless of the fact that he was in the middle of the squad, the judges still gave us the competition. Congratulations "ouens".

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate 2Lt Roy Goodwin's rugby team on getting so close to the rest of the Commandos, WELL DONE CHAPS all is not lost we are still the best Commando in the Battalion.

Congratulations to the Little Pink on winning the championships, as much as I hate to say it, you deserved it.

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BULAWAYO

# "THE TROOPIE"

*He stood erect and proud,  
Was unveiled before the crowd,  
Representing what could not be said,  
A memorial to the brave and dead.*

*A symbol of courage for all to see,  
A salute to soldiers whose souls fly free,  
The pride of the Rhodesian Light Infantry,  
The man of bronze, the immortal "Troopie".*

*He weathered sun and wind and rain,  
He suffered not, he felt no pain,  
Standing at ease and looking ahead,  
He saw not the tears we shed.*

*A symbol of courage for all to see,  
A salute to soldiers whose souls fly free,  
The pride of the Rhodesian Light Infantry,  
The man of bronze, the immortal "Troopie".*

*Where he stood is now an empty space,  
Nothing else could ever take his place,  
Yet he lives on in each and every heart,  
In the lives of which he was a part.*

*Gone is the symbol of courage for all to see,  
A salute to soldiers whose souls fly free,  
Gone is the pride of the Rhodesian Light Infantry,  
Gone is the man of bronze, the immortal "Troopie".*

by Mrs. Jenny Ayling.

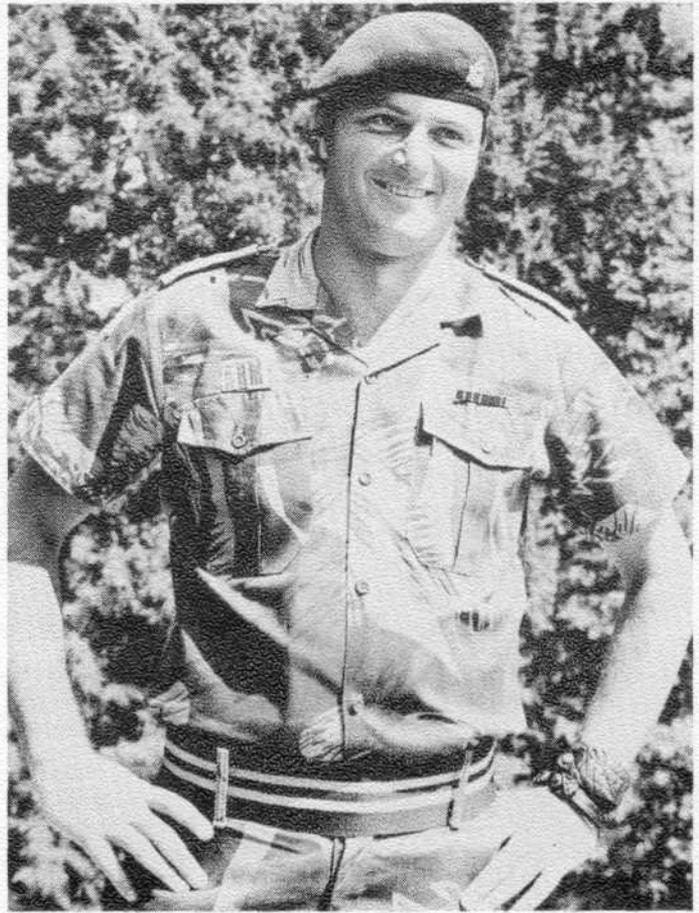
"LOVERS"

3

COMMANDO

# LAST OF THE

# 'GREAT LOVERS'



Major Don Price, BCR, OC 3 Commando.

Well, the closing is drawing nigh and it wouldn't really be right to close the "book" without giving a brief run-down on how it all looked at the end — sketch of the LAST LOVERS and possibly a few laughs on them!

The present OC Major Don Price moves into 2 IC of the Battalion for his last month having served exactly one year with the "lovers". His berth is taken up by Captain Rick Passaportis who joined us during the closing stages of the Inter-Commando Competition and who, very aptly, acquitted himself in the athletics and the rugby.

As Commando 2 IC we find Captain Bobby Harrison who, just to show that there was no hard feelings about the Admin trophy took the Best Subbie award — great stuff Bob.

We can't, of course, forget "Skydde Rowe"! Lt Arthur Kegal who joined us as a TA and then saw the light was an instant success as a "lover". His smoothness and charm of the fairer sex (great in number) reminded some of us of the Dawson's and Snelgars or maybe it was the greatest lover of them all — Hugh Rowley! Arthur, however does not only excell in that type of sport, but has shown he is in a class of his own by winning for the last time the "Sportsman of the Year" award.

— An ex-OC made the strong comment that he was chuffed as although we didn't win the Champion Cdo (again) we quite definitely had more trophies than anyone else!

Lt Rod Ellison, a new-comer, with a strange accent has taken over "Legs Eleven".

2Lt "Boerie" Hume now graduated from MAG gunner to Tp Commander follows Arthur closely and with a name like "Boerie" doesn't do too badly off the scraps. Apparently BOAC scratched her way past him back to Pongolia!! Careful Boerie, as that airline lands in many places! (Rumour has it he's changing his name shortly to Vienna!)

Our CSM is WO2 Mervyn Bramwell (an escaped Bird) who has gone from strength to strength — when the Cdo won the inter-Cdo rugby competition, Mervyn who was so excited and also, by the way, a little oiled ran across and gave the Boss a warm "smacker" of a kiss, just to show how chuffed he was!

The CQ post is filled by Sgt Dipped-de-doo-da, Basil, the peep Dippenaar who, although he doesn't know too much about it, in the normal Basil fashion is hanging it in and looking after the show with little notices pinned on the Board for the Troopies like "lawn-drie Thursdays!"

The Sgts are varied in shape and size and range from the heavies with their BCR's Sgt Charlie Warren and Sgt "Flex" Theo Nel to Sgt Tom Argyle (our most competent

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

# ' LOVERS' SAY FAREWELL

• FROM PAGE 39

mechanic) to Sgt Frankie Neave, fresh back from his leave in the UK.

The Cpls are few and far between, but run as follows:

Cpl Clark, K. D. (KD); Cpl Holmes, N.A. (Budgie); Cpl Oosthuizen, K. C. (Oujo); Cpl Orylski, M. J. (Miss Piggie); L/Cpl Chadwick, D. F. G. (Dallas); L/Cpl Wanliss, B. (Mad Dog); L/Cpl Kotze, T. J. (KOTZ); L/Cpl Dabbs, P. H. D. (Paul); L/Cpl Gates, F. P. (Fred).

Finally the "ouens" in alphabetical order:

Troopers: Ball, A. E.; Brindley, A.; Buswell, A.; De Lange, D.; Ferreira, J.; Grobber, P.; Hardwich, W.; McEwan, D.; Ruppig, H.; Hogan, R.; Holtzhausen, J. Nashers Abrey, C.; Aitken, M.; Bennet, S.; Bowker, S.; Cannon, R.; Cunningham, M.; Dyshmanitch, V.; Emmerson, C.; Goelst, W.; Grey, R.; Hart, C.; Hobbs, C.; Hughes, E.; Kileff, A.; Koen, L.; Longhurst, D.; Oberholzer, J.; Partridge, J.; Partridge, M.; Reid, T.; Seager, R.; Searson, T.; Smit, E.; Stopforth, M.; Storry, P.; Swanepoel, K.; Watson, L.; Webster, C.; Wood, P.

The "lads", as the "ouens" of the lovers have always, since Al Tourle's day, been referred to, are a great bunch and I guess always have been. They have maintained the highest morale to the end and are by far the happiest and most loyal of the hoods.

In closing it would only be right to share with you the words of L/Cpl Butch Fourie's song, the "Lovers Lament".

## LOVERS LAMENT

(Sung to the Mull of Kintyre)

Far have I travelled,  
On land and through sky,  
Dark are the mountains the valleys are green  
And oh our colours fly higher than high,  
We are the men of the R.L.I.

### CHORUS

R.L.I. You fought for your country,  
To see them survive was all that was needed,  
Oh R.L.I.  
Now one lay wounded,  
He's so far from home,  
And all the Troopies they pray for his soul,  
And as life leaves him,  
He sees a heavenly choir,  
Then they carry him back to R.L.I.

### CHORUS

R.L.I. You fought for your country,  
To see them survive was all that was needed,  
Oh R.L.I.  
Now as they give your country away,  
Fear not my brother, there will come one more day,  
When we'll be called to give our last fight,  
For we are men of the green and white.

### CHORUS

R.L.I. You fought for your country,  
To see them survive was all that was needed,  
Oh R.L.I.

To all those who have given loyal service to the Lovers and the Battalion, a very many thanks and good luck to you all in your new ventures, wherever you may go.



## THE FLAGS OF 3 COMMANDO

### The Commando Flag.

The current 3 Commando flag as shown in the drawing is a rampant yellow banana on a green background with the number 3 superimposed over it. The Green has always been the Commando colour and as such has been representative of the many years the Commando has spent on operations in the bush. Green, as one of the many colours found in the Zambezi Valley and other parts of the country is a reminder to all that the dreaded "Lovers" are also very much a force to be reckoned with and symbolises the veld. In addition, all 3 Commando sporting teams have worn the green jerseys and the "green machine" has on many occasions overwhelmed all before it, and won the champion sporting trophy more than any other sub unit. The number 3 on the flag is self-explanatory but the banana needs a bit more of an explanation. During operation Cauldron in 1968 the Commando had at that stage no flag. It was during this period that the O.C., Major Hugh Rowley, decided to introduce such an emblem. The Commando at that stage had seen no action and was somewhat lacking on the "kill rate" chart. Nicknamed "the lovers" (mainly through the reputation of the O.C.), much in demand from the Salisbury "crows", the 2 I.C., Captain Spike Powell and Lieutenant Chris Pearce, decided that a banana might fit the bill! Thus, Captain Spike Powell's wife, Beth, made the first 3 Commando Flag, and the "lovers" became reality. Needless to say, after Operation Cauldron, the Commando came away with the highest kill rate and became the champion commando shortly afterwards. The flag fluttered outside the commando block to the envy of all!

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## 11 TROOP FLAG

Once the Commando Flag came into existence, it was now the troops who decided to make their own. 11 Troop or "Legs Eleven" as they are called, have as their flag a pair of feminine legs, depicted on a green background. This flag was invented during the age of the mini-skirt, and the O.C. of the Troop, Lieutenant John Dawson, lived up to the 3 Commando motto "the lovers", when his favourite weekend pastime in Salisbury was to park in the busy centre and scrutinise the limbs of the fairer sex, as they passed by.



## 12 TROOP FLAG

12 Troop captured the first of the 'Russian flags', found inside the country in 1968. This prize was immediately turned into the Troop Flag and has remained so ever since.



## 13 TROOP FLAG

The first Canberra bombing in support of ground forces on Operation Cauldron took place when 13 Troop contacted a large group of the enemy in the Zambezi Valley and air support was called for. The Canberra bombing run, with due respect to the Blues was "off target as usual", and many of the bombs landed in and amongst 13 Troop on the ground. Fortunately no serious casualties were taken, but the bombs depicted on the Troop Flag are a reminder to all of the incident and in particular to 5 Squadron!



## 14 TROOP FLAG

Always the naughty boys of the Commando, the troop had during the time of the "flag craze" a most notorious poacher as their O.C. For his sake he shall remain nameless. In every instance, 14 Troop just managed to avoid being caught, even though they arrived back in Salisbury with half the kudo population's horns tied to their vehicles. Thus the poachers were given their name and the flag tells the rest.



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Below is a short critique of the officers who have commanded 3 Commando since the inception of the Battalion as a Commando Unit.

### Major B. Conn, M.L.M. 1.1.194-30.1.1964

Major Conn continued as the Officer Commanding 3 Commando from the days when the Battalion was still made up of rifle companies. D Company which Major Conn was Commanding became known as 3 Commando and he saw its inception before moving on as 2 ic of the (Battalion at the end of January 1964.

### Major H. St. J. Rowley, M.L.M. 1.2.1964 - 31.3.1968

Major Rowley assumed command of 3 Commando as a captain. He commanded the sub-unit through its first major operation, that of Operation Cauldron. In addition the Commando twice won the Commando championship, and became known as the "Lovers".

### Major R. Southey. 1.4.1968 - 1.9.1968

During Major Southey's short tour as the O.C, the Commando were involved in both Operations Griffin and Excess, during which time the sub-unit accounted for the vast majority of enemy killed.

### Major G. A. Lloyd. 2.9.1968-1.2.1970

During Major Lloyd's period in the Commando no operations of any magnitude were launched by the enemy, and the Commando spent the majority of its time on border control operations.

### Major B. Barrett-Hamilton. 2.2.1970-28.2.1971

The period that Major Barrett-Hamilton assumed office saw the Commando still deployed on extensive border control operations, and training, which was to prove of great benefit later on.

### Major R. E. M. Tarr. 1.3.1971 -31.3.1973

This period saw the Commando being launched into Operation Hurricane, when the enemy pursued a new tactic, and attacked the de Borchgrave homestead in the Centenary farming area on 23.12.1972.

### Major D. Lambert. 15.4.1973 - 31.5.1976

The Commando took part in nearly all the major operations within the country during this period and achieved a tremendous kill rate. The fire-force concept came into being, in which 3 Commando played an important role, and were deployed at various stages throughout the country.

### Major J. T. Strong, M.L.M., B.C.R. 1.6.1976 - 25.12.1977

The Commando continued during this period playing its role in the fire-force, and the first parachutists were trained at New Sarum. This proved a great draw, and by the end of 1977 all personnel had been trained, in addition the Commando became champion Commando once more.

### Major I. Buttenshaw. 26.12.1977 - 30.4.1978

Unfortunately Major Buttenshaw only commanded for a short while, due to an injury sustained whilst on parachute training. In the meantime the Commando were still deployed continuously on operations.

### Major B. M. Snelgar, S.C.R. 1.5.1978-5.9.1979

During Major Snelgar's period the Commando continued to achieve a very high degree of professionalism and achieved major successes on operations. Major Bruce Snelgar was tragically killed in an aircraft accident on 5th September 1979, and was posthumously awarded the S.C.R.

### Major D. H. Price, B.C.R. 7.9.1979-30.8.1980

This period saw the cessation of hostilities and the Commando returned to barracks after a long and arduous war, having been deployed continuously on operations and border control since 1966. The Commando won the Champion Sporting Commando award in August 1980.

### Captain R. J. A. Passaportis, B.C.R. 30.8.1980-30.9.1980

This period saw the closing down of the Battalion ending off with dining-in nights, parties and finally a parade.

FLASHBACK!



I sat at the dreaded desk and wondered about two things, first, does the country know what it owes to the RLI and secondly, what will be the verdict of history on our Regiment? My answer to the first question is "I doubt it". Sure, they know that where the going is toughest that's where you'll find the RLI, but perhaps they don't understand fully what that means. However, in regard to the second question I'd say, "One day they will know what they owe the RLI" — for my bet is that history will say that the RLI trooper was the equal, if not the peer, of the British "para", the American "marine", the German "stormtrooper", or Napoleon's "Imperial Guard". I will always be proud to say, "I was one of them Ouens".

... An extract from a Christmas message published in Cheetah last year from Major General A. N. O. Macintyre, OLM, DCD.



# THE

# 'YOUNG



Major M. Wake of Support Commando

# ELITE'

Support Commando is the "youngest" Commando in the Battalion and was officially formed on the 6th January 1976 when Support Group was expanded to a full size Commando.

The Commando now consists of a Headquarters and four Troops: namely The 81 mm Mortar Troop, The Assault Pioneer Troop, The Reconnaissance Troop and The Anti Tank Troop.

The Commando is directly responsible to the Commanding Officer for providing the Battalion with supporting fire and specialist resources in both Classical War and COIN. However, during COIN operations it normally fulfils the roles of a standard Infantry Commando.

On the break-up of the Central Africa Federation in December 1963, the Battalion Support Weapons and Specialist Platoons were all operating as independent Platoons, under command of Headquarter Company (now Base Group). During 1964 the Rhodesian Light Infantry was reformed as a Commando Battalion, and as a result it was decided to group the Support Weapons into one Group. Consequently on 1 January 1965 Support Group was officially formed under Captain Tony Stephens as the OC, with Colour Sergeant Henry Birkett, who had been the driving force behind forming the original Mortar Platoon, as Group C Sgt (Support Groups equivalent at that time to a CSM).

Support Group comprised two troops, the Reconnaissance Troop and Mortar Troop. The Reconnaissance Troop consisted of 9 Ferret Scout Cars that had originated from the Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment (Selous Scouts) which had been disbanded on 14 December 1963. At that time 4 cars were sent to 1 RLI, 4 to 1 RAR and the remaining 2

to Army Workshops. On the formation of Support Group 1 RAR sent their 4 to RLI which arrived at the end of January 1965 and Army Workshops gave up one, giving Support Group two sections of 4 Ferrets plus 1 for the Troop Commander. Whilst the Recce Troop started to sort out their Ferrets, which were in a poor state of repair after a year of neglect, the Mortar Troop commenced their training. The Mortar Troop of Federation days had virtually collapsed at the break-up, so on 17 February 1965, the then Commanding Officer, Lt Col. G. P. Walls, MBE allocated 25 troops of all ranks to Mortar Troop and sent them to the School of Infantry to train. Lt D. Pullar who was then at the School was officially posted to Support Group as 2IC Mortar Group Commander, and tasked with training these troops. The Mortar Course finished on 15 April 1965 and the personnel returned to Salisbury. Thus, by the end of April 1965 Support Group properly became a united entity rather than two separate troops. The organisation at that stage was as follows:

- a. **Headquarters**  
 OC (Recce TpComd).  
 2IC (Mortar Troop Comd).  
 Group Colour Sergeant (CQMS).  
 3 x Clerks (Storemen).
- b. **Recce Troop**  
 2 x Sgts.  
 8 x Cpls.  
 12 x L Cpls/Tprs.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

c. **Mortar Troop**

3 x Sgts.

6 x Cpls.

24 x L Cpl/Tprs.

During 1965 Support Group asked to be issued Staghound Armoured Cars for interest training, a request that was refused. However, on 9 November 1965, OC Support Group was summoned to the CO, who had Army HQ on the line asking how many trained Staghound personnel in Support Group. At that time there were two, Capt Stephens and Sgt Tony Riley plus the 2IC Base Group Capt Peter Jackson. As UDI was pending, members of Recce Troop underwent a couple of hours of crash Staghound Training. The Staghounds at this stage had already been condemned and all the Radio Equipment, leads etc. had been cut-out with bolt cutters, just to add to the problems. Eventually the bulk of Recce Troop with two Staghounds, driven by Capt Stephens and Sg. Riley set course for Kariba at 2200 hours on 9 November 1965 with orders to be at Kariba by 0530 hours on 10 November. Their task was to escort Air Force and Radio vehicles which were continually breaking down. This was further aggravated by the fact that all the brake linkage on the OC's Staghound collapsed. Holding 14 tons of Armoured Car on the road ceased to be a joke, consequently Tpr Paddy Ryan became the OC's braking system and sat the whole journey on the back of the Staghound armed with two chunks of concrete which he placed behind the wheels every time the convoy stopped. The Staghound saga did not end here, the Staghounds were issued with 6 rounds of solid AP shot each, the ammo boxes that these came in were marked "FORT WORTH TEXAS, 1941".

Shortly after UDI it was decided to test the Gun on Kariba Range. The gun fired alright but the breach protector sheared off through metal fatigue. This was probably the last 37 mm round fired in Rhodesia. On the return to Salisbury Support Group kept 5 Staghounds, as an additional troop until early 1966 when they were handed back to Army HQ.

Support Group continued on a two Troop organisation, participating in most of the major operations, until 1972 when Tracking Troop was incorporated as part of the Group. Tracking Troop was originally formed as an independent troop towards the end of 1971. It was administratively controlled by Base Group, and had tracker teams attached to the various Commandos for operations. This arrangement proved unsatisfactory and in June 1972 Tracking Troop became an integral part of Support Group forming the third troop.

In October 1972 the Battalion received the first consignment of 60mm Hotchkiss Brandt Mortars, which were intended to become the Infantry Commando's Mortar Sections. However, because of the lack of mortar training in the Commandos they were eventually given to Support Group. Following the arrival of more mortars a 60 mm Mortar Troop was formed in mid 1974, although through lack of personnel this broke up and when required the 60 mm mortars were manned by personnel from the 81 mm Mortar Troop.

With the reformation of the Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment in 1973, Recce Troop, who were at the time deployed operationally with their Ferret Scout Cars, started to lose personnel and eventually their Ferrets to the new unit. The Ferret Scout Cars were gradually withdrawn, as they were released from operations, commencing in November 1973, the last car leaving Support Group on 22 January 1974. The remaining personnel in Recce Troop were absorbed into the Mortar and Tracking Troops and Recce Troop officially disbanded.



Support Group by mid 1975 had two Troops, namely a Combined 81 /60 mm Mortar Troop and a Tracking Troop, which for COIN Operations were broken down into three callsigns, 81, 82 and 83. It was at this time that Major Pat Armstrong came onto the scene, and commenced agitation to have Support Group reformed as a proper Support Commando. His efforts were finally rewarded and Support Commando was eventually officially formed on 6 January 1976. Army HQ signal G 19 dated 060840B Jan was the official authorisation of this.

Being now a fully fledged Support Commando, internal reorganisation took place. The 81 mm and 60 mm Mortars split and became two separate troops. The Tracking Troop was renamed Reconnaissance Troop, and given extra roles in addition to just purely tracking. Towards the end of 1976 an Anti-Tank Troop was formed in anticipation of the arrival of the new anti-tank weapons. Until the first of the new anti-tank weapons arrived in April 1977, the Anti-Tank Troop was equipped with 3,5 (88 mm) Rocket Launchers, although they underwent training courses on the new weapon.

In January/February 1977 it was decided that as the 60 mm Mortars were primarily a Commando Support Weapon they should be returned to the Commandos. This was duly done, the Commandos providing the personnel and Support Commando continuing to provide the training. This move threw up 60 mm Mortar Troop personnel who now had no weapons to operate with. Thus in February 1977 an Assault Pioneer Troop was formed to add an additional Support Troop to the Battalion. This new Troop underwent Combat Engineer Training and was eventually operationally effective in September 1977. Consequently by the end of 1977, Support Commando comprised the following:

- a. Mortar Troop.
- b. Assault Pioneer Troop.
- c. Reconnaissance Troop.
- d. Anti-Tank Troop.
- e. 60 mm Mortar Troop (which is split up and attached a section to each Commando).

During 1977 the RLI became an Airborne Commando Battalion, and Parachute Training commenced. Support Commando's first 24 men were trained in March 1977 as Parachutists. Also during late 1977 three 60 mm Mortars were given back to Support Commando for use on COIN operations. These are manned by members of the Mortar Troop when required.

## THE TROOPS

### MORTAR TROOP

The Troop is equipped with 81 mm Long Barrel Mortars, and comprises Three Sections of two mortars each. Each section consists of a Section Commander (Sergeant), a Section 2IC (Corporal), a Section NCO (Corporal), 6 Mortar Numbers and 2 drivers. The Troop is commanded by a Lieutenant or 2nd Lieutenant with a Colour Sergeant as the Troop Second in Command.

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The present Troop originated from the 3 inch Mortar Platoon, which started its Mortar Training under 2 Lt R. J. Davie and Sgt Harry Birkett in March 1961. On completion of its training in May 1961, it officially became recognised as the Battalion's Mortar Platoon. The Mortar Platoon changed its name to Mortar Troop when the Battalion changed its role to a Commando Battalion in 1964 and was incorporated as part of Support Group. Its original 3 inch Mortars were changed for 81 mm Short Barrel just prior to the break-up of the Federation which in turn were changed for 81 mm Mortar Long Barrel in early 1968.

#### ASSAULT PIONEER TROOP

The Assault Pioneer Troop is designed to provide the Battalion with a Combat Engineering capability, in the form of demolitions, booby traps, mine lifting and laying etc. The Troop is presently organised into a Headquarters and Three Sections, and is commanded by a Lieutenant or 2nd Lieutenant with a WO 2 as 2IC.

The Assault Pioneer Troop is the newest Troop in the Commando, formed in February 1977, as the concept of having Assault Pioneer Troops/Platoons as an integral part of a Battalion fell away with the break-up of Federation in December 1963. The RLI last had an Assault Pioneer Platoon between 1961 and 1963. The Platoon was formed in No 1 Training Unit in Bulawayo, in January 1961 and was then commanded by Cpl Tony Poole. It was used in those days for demonstration trench digging etc. Its First Platoon Commander was WO 2 Dougie Baalf. The Platoon was disbanded in December 1963.

#### RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

The Reconnaissance Troop is organised to fulfil two functions. In Classical War it provides the CO with his own Recce capability, separate from any Army/Brigade Recce effort. In COIN it is organised to provide the Battalion with both Trackers and Recce Teams. It has also members trained as Snipers.

The present Recce Troop has originated from two Troops. The original Recce Troop formed in 1965 was equipped with nine Ferret Scout Cars which were handed over to the Rhodesian Armour Car Regiment in 1974. Consequently this Troop then ceased to exist, the members of it being absorbed into Mortar and Tracking Troops. Tracking Troop, who absorbed the bulk of the former Recce Troop personnel was renamed the Reconnaissance Troop, when Support Group became a fully fledged Commando in January 1976. The reason for this renaming was that additional Recce roles were given to Tracking Troop thus making it more of a Recce Troop than a Specialist Tracking Troop.

#### ANTI-TANK TROOP

The Anti-Tank Troop comprises a Headquarters and 3 Sections, each with two anti-tank guns. The Troop is commanded by a Captain with a WO 2 as 2IC and each section is commanded by a Sergeant.

The Anti-Tank Troop was formed in late 1976 by Maj Armstrong in anticipation of the arrival of the new Anti-Tank Weapons. It was initially equipped with 3,5 (88 mm) Rocket Launchers. However, until the arrival of the new anti-tank guns the members of the Troop attended courses so that on arrival of the guns the Troop was prepared for them.

The first two guns arrived in April 1977 and the remaining four in September 1977. The Troop is therefore now fully equipped with six guns on specially modified Rodef 25 vehicles.

#### THE COMMANDO FLAG

From the inception of Support Group in January 1965, until its deployment on Op SABLE, no flag had been in existence. The idea of a flag was first discussed on Op SABLE between the then OC, Capt Ron Reid-Daly, Lt

Steve Carey (not Sp Gp then, but an ex-member), Lt Ian Buttenshaw (the 2IC), Charlie Krause and Frank Ricardo.

In 1973 whilst on Op Hurricane, it was decided that the flag would be an eagle, symbolising the recce element of the sub-unit (Ferrets were then being used), holding in its claws a mortar bomb. Below the eagle would be the words "The Elite" as an indication of the Specialist Roles the Commando was called upon to carry out.

It was at this time that Capt Reid-Daly relinquished command of Support Group to Capt Graham Noble, who then instructed Lt Ian Buttenshaw to have a flag made. Lt Ian Buttenshaw tasked his girl friend's sister Anne Martyn, with making the first flag; a German Eagle in Black on a White background which was duly presented to Support Group on his posting. The flag was raised the same day by Capt Noble on the Base Group flag post, much to the displeasure of CSM "Rockjaw" Kirrane.

This flag remained in Support Group until mid-1975 when Maj Pat Armstrong assumed command. His enquiries as to its whereabouts, after his takeover, resulted in months of fruitless search. As a result, in January 1976, a new flag was ordered when Support Group became Support Commando. The Commando was given Yellow as its colour, and the QM ordered a flag through Army HQ. As Army HQ had not produced the flag one year after the order had been placed, the Commando purchased its own in January 1977, and the Commando Badge was dyed on. The flag as it is today is made up of a Black Eagle on a yellow background, holding in one talon an 81 Mortar Bomb and in the other a telescope, symbolising the Recce Role. The Eagle having been adopted as the Commando emblem, as opposed to the Recce Troop one.

The original Support Group Flag was eventually located and now hangs in the Foyer of the Support Commando Pub.

#### THE COMMANDO MASCOT

Until January 1976 Support Commando had no mascot. In that month Colonel T. M. Davidson then Deputy Commander 2 Brigade at Bindura presented the Commando with a Wahlberg Eagle as a Mascot. The Eagle was in keeping with the Commando Flag whose main motif is an Eagle. This Eagle was never given a name, and was unfortunately lost by Capt Pete Fardell at Grand Reef in April 1976.

Having lost the Eagle, Capt Fardell was tasked with replacing it. In August 1976 he duly acquired an African Hawk Eagle chick from the Guinea Fowl Area which was adopted as the Official Commando Mascot and duly named "HENRY", and Henry abused the trust of his keeper L/Cpl Andre Macdonald, and escaped, October 1979.

#### THE COMMANDO PUB

With the pending transformation of Support Group into Support Commando, Support Group became a separate administrative entity, and in December 1975 moved out of Base Group into a "tin hut" as its Headquarters behind Base Group Block. At the same time half of the Base Group Block was bricked off, making Support Group completely separate from Base Group.

To give the Commando its own integral Drinking/Recreational facilities it was decided to build a Bar and Lounge in two of the bottom floor Barrack Rooms. This was started in February 1976 and thanks to the sterling efforts of Pat Armstrong was completed in late September 1976. It was officially opened in October 1976 and comprises a Bar, Lounge, Verandah and a Foyer which houses the Commando Photos, Trophies etc.

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# COMMANDO NOTES

## • FROM PAGE 45

### OFFICERS COMMANDING

(Up to July 1980)

#### SUPPORT GROUP

Capt A. P. Stephens	January 1965 to March 1968
Capt W. B. Rookan-Smith	March 1968 to November 1969
Capt R. F. Reid-Daly,	November 1969 to May 1973
DMM, MBE	
Capt G. J. T. Noble	May 1973 to November 1974
Capt N. B. Morgan-Davies	November 1974 to June 1975
Maj P. W. Armstrong	June 1975 to January 1976

#### SUPPORT COMMANDO

Maj P. W. Armstrong,	January 1976 to May 1977
OLM	
Maj N. D. Henson	May 1977 to November 1979
OLM	
Maj P. V. Farndell	December 1979-April 1980
Maj M. C. Wake	May 1980

### SECONDS-IN-COMMAND

(Up to July 1980)

#### SUPPORT GROUP

Lt D. I. Pullar	February 1965 to August 1967
Lt I. R. Bate	August 1967 to January 1968
Lt J. D. Des Fountain	February 1968 to August 1969
Lt P. H. S. Mincher	August 1969 to July 1970
Lt S. C. Cary	July 1970 to May 1972
Lt I. Buttenshaw	May 1972 to July 1973
Lt K. C. Noble	July 1973 to January 1974
Lt P. V. Farndell	January 1974 to June 1975
Capt N. B. Morgan-Davies	June 1975 to August 1975
Capt P. V. Farndell	August 1975 to January 1976

### SUPPORT COMMANDO

Capt P. V. Farndell	January 1976 to September 1977
Capt I. Buttenshaw	September 1977 to December 1977
Lt A. B. Shaw	January 1978 to February 1979
Lt V. Prinsloo	February 1979 to July 1979
Capt G. D. B. Murdoch	August 1980
BCR	

### COMMANDO SERGEANT MAJORS

(Up to July 1980)

#### SUPPORT GROUP

WO 2 Pretorius, J. A.	October 1972 to April 1975
WO 2 Payne, P. C. A.	April 1975 to January 1976

#### SUPPORT COMMANDO

WO 2 Payne, P. C. A.	January 1976 to April 1978
WO 2 Enslin, G. N.,	April 1978 to April 1980
DMM	
WO 2 Croucamp, D. W.,	May 1980 to June 1980
BCR	
WO 2 Naested, J.	July 1980

### Welcomes

We welcomed Major Martin Wake from Kariba as OC in May. The increase in Bar takings generally and Tequila and Lemon in particular, is purely coincidental. Ex mortars, ex anti-tanks, shooting King WO2 John Naested is back — as CSM. Lt Mike Roussow is also back, commissioned and in-charge of the mortars C/Sgt Dutch de Klerk, another refugee is back as CQMS and L/Cpl Dave Gaston is our new long suffering Commando clerk. We also welcome large numbers of the last two intakes.

### Farewells

Too numerous to mention all—except in the little made Troop Commanders notes. HQ personnel moving on include two CSMs—Log Enslin and Dennis Croukamp, BCR. Mices Moore (ex Arms Storeman—some claim he just moved his store elsewhere and it's business as usual) left bird, car and debts in a pub (back in a moment dear) and hasn't been seen since. Sgt Wayne McGregor is still paying out troopies elsewhere. He hasn't recouped from running into the 2IC at breakfast—remotest Transkei. Major Farndell is selling trucks in Natal. Chris Myers, ex CQMS is growing veg for the masses. Dronkie Theron is somewhere in Apartheid South Africa.

Congrats to ex CSM Log Enslin on his marriage to Audrey and the 2IC to Anne.

### Events

Since the ceasefire a certain amount of lifestyle adjustment has taken place eased by some entertaining manoeuvres and the Champion Commando extravaganza—first (but equal) Champion Military Commando again.

### MORTAR TROOP

First of all Mortar Troop would like to say welcome to our new troop officer, Lt Mike Roussow. "Dad" congratulations on your promotion.

We'd also like to say hello and goodbye!! to our new regular foreigners. C/Sgt Mathews and Tprs De Jong, Gilmour and Mallon who defected to the west after a short stay.

Also hello to 167 most of whom are still here at the time of writing.

Well done to the other troops of Support Commando on their energetic participation in the Cdo Sports. Also thanks to One Commando for their donations to our troop drinking.

Congratulations to L/Cpls Dickens, Reed and Sligo on their recent promotions.

### Troop News. November Tango Romeo.

Everyone had a thoroughly relaxing holiday during the Battalion exercise at Kariba. We enjoyed our booze cruise whilst the other Commandos were removed to be on some sort of nature ramble through the Matusadona Mountains.

Also enjoyed our (realistic) shoot during the Battalion attack on an enemy camp — "take cover". Would also like to send get well greetings to those concerned in 3 Cdo. (Mortar Troop 3; 3 Cdo Nil.)

We'd like to welcome back Tpr Macrae after his stay in RP's, also farewell to Tpr Joubert—the first RP to make a successful break from the Box.

## ANTI TANK TROOP

Well as with everyone else 73 has taken a blow and said cheers to many a good member, too numerous to mention but I'd like to say thanks to Bob Beech, Nick Eatwell and Bindy Chilvers for their support to the troop before becoming (povos). For all you others may you find what turns you on and good luck.

"Cousin It" has now graduated from living in chimneys to taking up abode in 106 Barrels so watch the back blast for a mobile dayglow patch. Enjoy your leave. Pops Walsh having successfully wrecked a 2,5 is now hobbling around with a malignant glare in his eyes waiting to catch the next 2,5 with intent.

Dan Herrington declared his own private war with smoke grenades. Ask him about it and you too could be dragged away by the MPs.

"Dwings" our one and only was last seen eating all the paper work in the hogs store before leaving the Army to try and dig a gold mine.

For all you guys who went AWOL we didn't need you anyway. May your B . . . Burst.

Van, hope you are enjoying your stay in the Box, ever thought of asking to move in permanently now that you have been there so often?

## RECCE TROOP

Who is there behind the door? It's 74!

Well the time has come to take the lid off the Recce Troop activities and let everyone in on a few of our trade secrets.

Having suitably conned everyone in the Battalion into believing that Recce Troop were hard at work in the months leading up to the . . . ("ssh!—you know what!"). We have now spent the time since trying to convince people that we still exist — which we don't. Well now you know.

Yes, the last few months have seen the dreaded run-out disease take its toll on the "heavies". We bade a fond farewell to a large number of our elite team namely: WO2 Croucamp, BCR — to whom we wish the best of luck, "keep on tracking"; Sgts Hodgson, BCR and Hutchinson — looking forward to seeing you on your next external!; Cpls Gribbin, Klose and more recently Firkin (of Woody's and Bruce's second-hand car firm fame) — all the best, many thanks; Cpl Parker — a special mention, hoping he will get us a job in the States; and Troopers Beast Basson (last seen heading for that great freak show in the sky or Amsterdam or somewhere), Paddy Windrum, who went mad so we shot him, Andy Ingram, Frenchy "what is thees sheet?" Tarquin and Dean Shelley, our local rep in that suicide battalion, in you know where (a clue — somewhere north of Antarctica and south of the Med.). Let us not forget Bob Kejjk who is on a long tour, long range recce task in Canada, and although long overdue promises to be back — don't hold your breath.

On a happier note the Troop welcomed Sgt Braunswick from 2 Cdo, who was due to take over 3 section — nevermind Tony it's not your fault, no need to change your deodorant. Also congratulations to Troopers Lamb, Faasen and Gaudet on becoming Lance Jacks — it was one way of solving my Troopie problem — promoting all of them!

Also on the credit side — Neil Faasen has finally qualified as a steely-eyed paratrooper and Steve Liversedge (our very own sperm whale), has qualified as a class three diver. I left the farewells to Steve until now so that I didn't lower the tone of these notes too much by mentioning him twice, anyway cheers Steve all the best, here's hoping our comms with the QM are still as good!

Anyway, enough's enough, must end before I burst into tears, take the gap or run out of paper, whichever comes first.

## ASSAULT PIONEER TROOP

Live in the dive with 75.

Once again we extend our greetings to those lesser

"plebs" who serve in other troops and sundry organisations.

Since the last issue peace has broken out and our finely honed killer instincts have been channelled into other slightly less salubrious pursuits.

In early May we welcomed elements of Intake 167 and sent some of them on an Assault/ Pioneer course where they allegedly proceeded, in true RLI fashion, to borrow, on a more or less permanent basis, most of 2 Bde Engrs UET. Wide eyed with innocence all of the course members disclaim any knowledge of this attempt at grand larceny — naturally!

In early June after much snivelling and whining we managed to get a diving course off the ground (or should it be in the water?). Bearing in mind that the weather was cold enough to freeze the nuts off a Peruvian Llama and despite the fact that we coated our blue bodies with whale blubber and evicted the polar bears from the pool only five out of 20 survived the course. They will now be going on to do the Advanced underwater knife-fighting, karate and tea-brewing course. Our thanks go to Inspector Donaldson (BSAP) and his assistants for running the course.

Other sundry events in the life of the troop:

a. The Troop Commander has been banned from making any "loud noises/bangs/detonations of junior nuclear war-heads" within a 5 km radius of the OC and his dog.

b. We welcomed 168 to the troop and are glad to see they all had the good taste to come to this outfit rather than the pea-shooters or drop-short shurangos.

c. Cpl Smith and Tprs Simion, Howden, McGlinchey, Edwards and Hemmings went AWOL, virtually en masse, having hired a mini-bus in which they weaved their way to Beitbridge. Our thanks go to them for leaving more money in the coffers for the rest of us but could I please have my troop store back! Also missing is L/Cpl Freel who went AWOL somewhere between Training Troop and Support Commando — we haven't bothered to send out a search party.

d. Congratulations go to L/Cpl Grant on attaining executive status in the Commando.

Along with everyone else we have the unpleasant duty of saying cheers to a number of exceptionally good members.

a. C/Sgt Stew Taylor (alias the Mad Bomber or Kachasu King). We wish him all the best in his future employment assuming he finds one, and are already missing his services, and half the troop explosives.

b. Cpl "Nude-Nut" Meyer who decided Army pay was not sufficient to sustain his alcohol requirements and so has gone to "sunnier climes". So Nude was a troop stalwart both socially and on ops. We'll miss his presence and shiny bald patch a lot.

c. L/Cpl Dave "The Pervert" Jeffries. Thanks for your tune and hard work. By the way the new boys (lovely aren't they Dave?) are chuffed they can now shower safely and even drop the soap without worrying.

d. Cpl John "Le Pouffe" Caffin. Cheers Frenchie, we hope you'll enjoy your new job and are pleased that there's not so much competition for the rest of us "smooth ouens" any more.

e. L/Cpl Rob Follett-Smith, who has gone to practice his golf somewhere. Long may your swing improve and keep your balls out of the rough stuff.

f. We also say cheers to a sundry mob of perverts, coke-snorters, ugly-pill eaters, murderers, rapists, idiots and moronic barbarians, namely Titch Morgan, Ryks, Robby Roy Terestone, Tony Tydings and "Harold" Wilson. Thanks we'll miss the somewhat different "tone" you lent the establishment.

As this is the last edition of Cheetah, I would like to thank all those men (Regulars, NS and TA) too numerous to mention by name, who passed through the troop during my time here for their time and efforts. I certainly enjoyed myself and it was mainly due to the tremendous spirit and high calibre of the guys who served there that the troop was, and still is, the best in the Commandos.

---

# *The RWS of the RLI*



**Back Row:** L/Cpl J. Mclver (Signals Troop); C/Sgt J. Kinnear (Camp Hospital); L/Cpl K. Puzey (QM Stores).

**Sitting:** Sgt D. Taylor (Regimental Accounts); Sgt J. Maidment (Signals Troop).

# A SOUND BASE FOR A CRACK BATTALION



Major C. de Vries, OC Base Group

The praises of the RLI will be sounded for a long time to come. No doubt there will be fierce argument as to the superiority of each Commando in battle, in competition and in drinking ability. It is probable, however, that few will remember the vital contribution made to the Battalion by the least glamorous element—Base Group. It is worth noting that the amazing success of the RLI would not have been possible without the cohesive and administrative abilities of the members of this back-up Commando.

Base Group has come a long way from those early days when its responsibilities of MT, Hospital, Administration, Welfare, Signals, Camp Routine and meals fell under the umbrella of Support Group. When the support element was detached to form a new Commando, the elements above were combined with Battalion Headquarters under the administrative umbrella of Base Group, which then grew into the largest of any of the Battalion elements, with its own characteristics and quirks.

The job of running a unit such as Base Group, without major hitches, could never be described as simple. When one considers that the majority of its members were not willing volunteers and were likely to need a fair amount of "settling-in" time to adjust to the rather different way of life to that in any of the conventional Commandos, the enormity of the task may be appreciated. To this end much credit must be given to the late Major N. E. Powell, MBE who himself became something of a legend during his incumbence as OC Base Group. His example, wit and temperament helped him to steer Base Group through many difficulties and served to mould the unit into an efficient arm of the Battalion. Major "Spike" will be remembered long after Base Group has been forgotten.

The spirit engendered within Base Group was highlighted by the decision to put the sub-unit on a money-making footing! This prompted the purchase of custom-made T-shirts, mugs and plaques for re-sale. Unfortunately this same spirit was evident in some cases where certain of these items disappeared! Nevertheless, a remark made by past CO, then, Lt Col Peter Rich, summed up, the attitudes of Base Group members— "A fine Battalion, spoilt only by the Commandos". This impression has been preserved on a T-shirt, if any RLI T-shirt can be preserved! and has been the cause of a fair amount of inter-unit rivalry, possibly a case of the truth hurting . . .

When the Battalion flag is lowered for the last time, all past differences will be forgotten; the question of superiority will no longer be as important to members, past and present, of Base Group or any of the Commandos. There will only be a great sadness and one important thought— we all belong to the RLI and that is more important than anything else. I wonder if any other unit can be so rightly proud.

## BASE GROUP NOTES

It is that time of the year again when we at Base Group are given a chance to establish ourselves firmly in literary circles, with a mind warping account, of the horrific Base Group occurrences, that the commandos could never match.

Having whetted the appetite of our more literate reader with that totally ridiculous introductory paragraph, we now get down to a far more mundane topic, namely Base Group personalities.

Major De Vries is holding "counselling" sessions at 10.30 every week, with monotonous regularity, his "problem children" never fail to come away from one of these sessions well chastised, sadder and wiser. Unfortunately this condition soon wears off and another session is usually called for, with some members, no names mentioned, this state of affairs becomes almost a weekly routine. The little darlings will never learn. Major de Vries however seems to take it all in his stride and copes admirably with the problem.

With such qualities of leadership, that are an inspiration to all, it is no wonder that Capt Don Atkinson can justifiably shine in reflected glory. It is said that behind every successful man there are two alsatian dogs, this is surely true in Don's case; one can visit Don at any time of day and be assured of sitting in a chair, festooned with dog hair on top of a cheap kaffir blanket, equally festooned with dog hair, surrounded by two huge dodgy looking hounds and fearfully inhaling deeply the pleasant aroma of half decayed meat and dog saliva, if you value your jugular it is wise not to be too antagonistic in Don's presence, Don can often be seen on dark evenings scouring Braeside with his huge hounds looking for small children and small animals to exercise his dogs' jaws on.

WO2 Lou Thackwray, that impeccable military machine, is finally, thank God, leaving us, it appears that

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

Lou is tired of the "tame" bars around here. Recently a farewell was held for Lou, unlimited booze, beautiful girls, hundreds of fans, it was a huge success, Lou didn't come, he was patronising a seedy bar in Gwelo at the time. We will all be sorry to see you go Lou, particularly the poor blokes in DB they were hoping you would be around when they came back. Don't forget to leave a forwarding address, so we all know where not to go. We hope your wife is good to you and the beer is better.

Having recently broken off his second consecutive engagement C/Sgt Van der Westhuizen is now on the lookout for any available RWS member willing and able to fill the very demanding position of fiance to C/Sgt CQMS Base Gp, to qualify for this extremely dangerous position, prospective applicants should be single, however previous experience is a must, and should be willing to work unusual hours. Applications are to be made in quadruplicate and are to be forwarded to reach CQMS Base Group before next payday.

Our present Orderly Room staff are both miserable incompetents and deserve no mention whatsoever, our Arms Storeman is AWOL and manages his job in a far more competent manner. Seriously though Troopers Rawston, Sonnekus and Thomas are all doing a sterling job, going all out to procure "JONGWE" medals for them.

It will have become apparent by now, even to our thickest member, that Training Troop, having completed training the men of Intake 167, has "disbanded" and have been incorporated into Base Group. Sgt Ernie Botha is steadfastly hanging it in there with four not-so-willing troopies.

In a more serious vein the OC, Officers, NCOs and men of Base Group wish the rest of the Battalion happiness and a sound future.

As per the CO's instructions Sigs Tp is still HANGING IT IN, HANGING IT IN, HANGING IT IN, HANGING IT IN . . .

Unfortunately the previous RSO stole the limelight, publishing the Troop history, so a mere token appearance is forth COMING.

To make it worse, the Elections resulted in the loss of 60% of the Tp, including Sgt Gillmore, Cpl Van Wyk and other potential "War Heroes". This has not stopped us from hanging it in, with the arrival of SPEEDO KNOBEL and the new intake 167/Guard Force.

With the arrival of the new RSO, a 100% stock check was carried out not once but twice a week without much joy being seen through the cloud of hasty dust left by the old RSO.

Congratulations must go to SPEEDO on gaining his second shiny little pip, "SLUT" SLATER on gaining his NODDY BADGE, "BEANO" MAIDMENT who has put on more WEIGHT since getting her 3rd stripe and "Jenny Mac" who has started chasing "the Boys" since gaining her 1st stripe. Our CB fanatic Packy took over the Troop Store much to his horror but is making a fortune on the "BLACK MARKET" under the beady eye of Cpl Torok who returns to prowl in our area, complete with scars and tatoos.

Morale was very high on the last bush deployment due to the lads being able to get in a bit of fishing with the absence of the dreaded 60 ft Mast. In fact things went extremely well with the RSO cuffing it back in bright lights on para-courses.

The new Sigs Tp building, situated near the radio room, though cleaner and a little more organised has not done much for troop morale, as now the ouens are further away from their pits, and are now suffering from "SUN SPOTS".

Here we say farewell to the Tp 2IC WO2 Slater and L/Cpl Johnson, both of whom leave us in September despite pleas and bribes they kept the money. We wish them good luck in CIVVY STREET, and hope the "Bucks come pouring in".

A final cheers from Sigs to CSM L. R. Thackwray (Lou) who leaves Base Group wallowing in the hands of WO2 Slater. Good Luck "Big Lou".

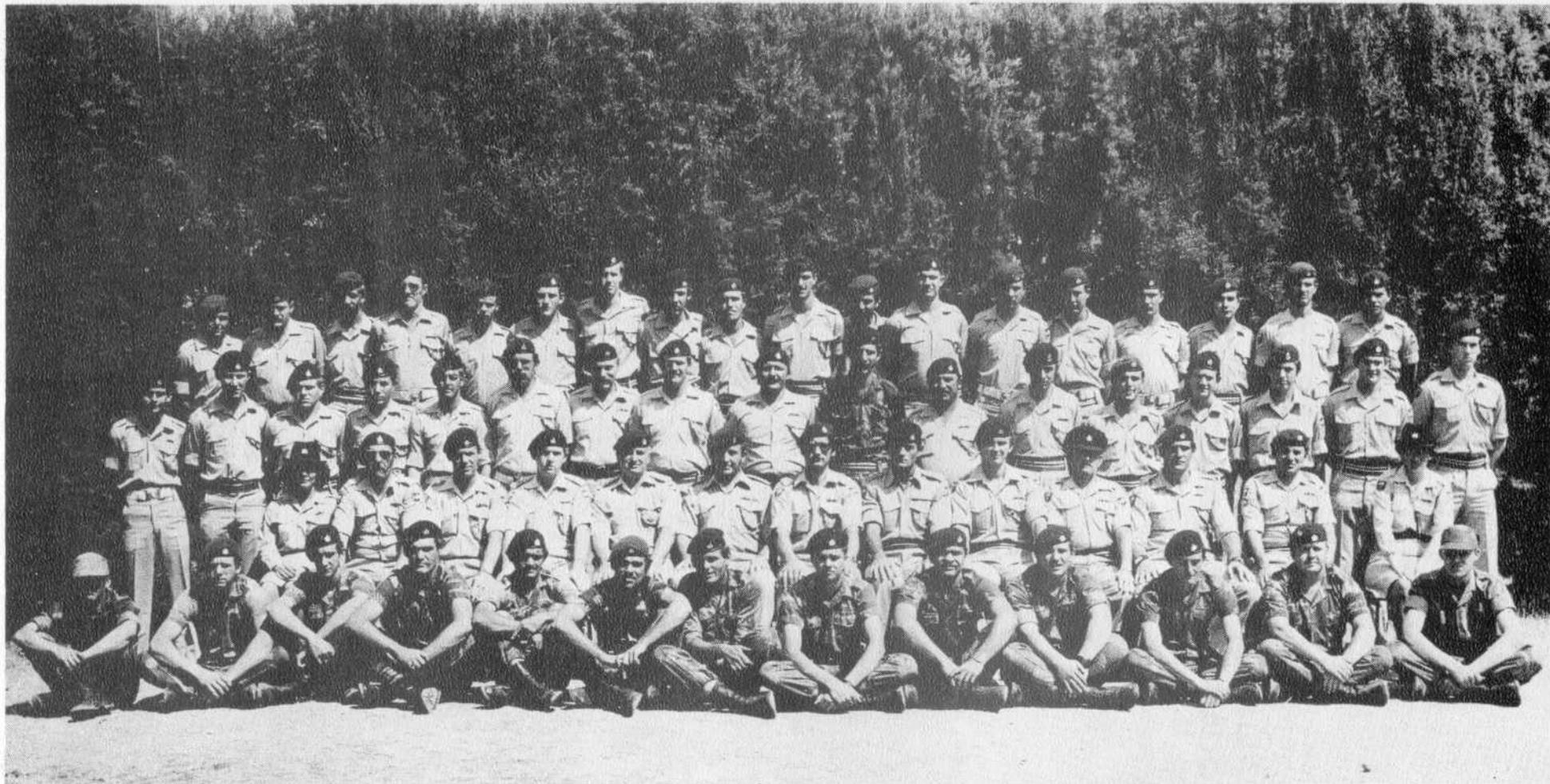
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## BASE GROUP



BACK ROW: Tpr Buckley, S. A.; Cpl Velloen, V.; L/Cpl Bronkhurst, P.; L/cpl Wrathal, J. P. T.; Tpr Drummond, C.; Tpr Millard, P. W.; Tpr Wilson, R. G.; Tpr Sonnekus, P. C.; Tpr Bayes, K.; Tpr Rawstorne, H.; Tpr Werth, K. E.; Tpr Flanagan, G.; Tpr Marson, D.; Tpr Bates, R.; Tpr Bauer, G. J.; L/Cpl Paxton, M.; L/Cpl Morgan, M.; Tpr Davids, I.

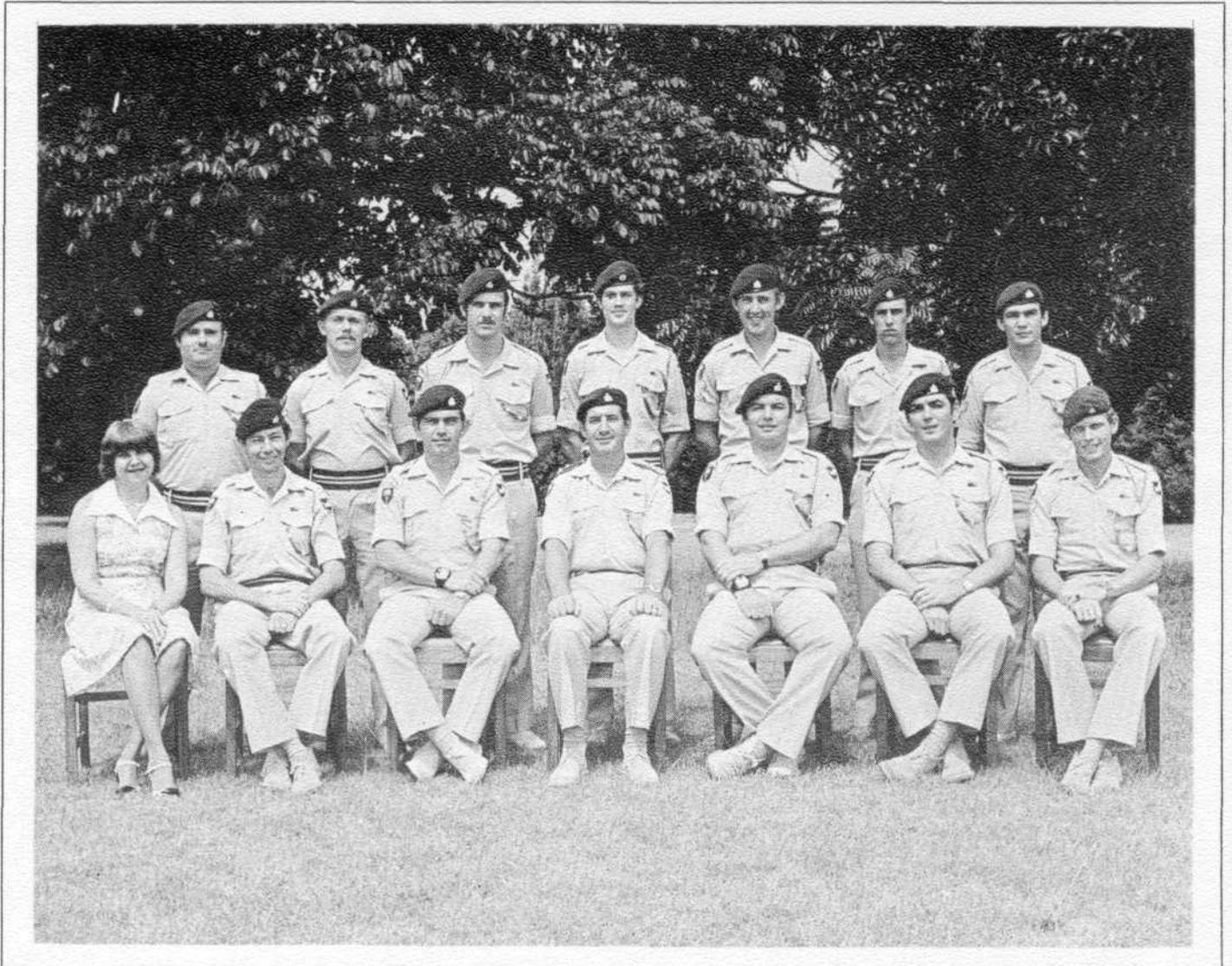
MIDDLE ROW: Tpr Dean, A. N.; L/Cpl Sonnekus, D. A.; Cpl Hjul, G. D. H.; L/Cpl Breese, P. B.; Tpr McMaster, R. C.; L/Cpl Cloete, P.; Sgt Smith, A. D.; Sgt Hawtrey, R. G.; C/Sgt van der Westhuizen, J.; Sgt Greebe, R. C.; Sgt Botha, E.; Sgt Turner, C. E.; L/Cpl Johnson, G.; Tpr Blackbeard, R.; Cpl Strivens, D.; Tpr George, A. L.; Tpr Baillie, J.

SEATED: Cpl Odendaal, R.; WO2 Bardell, M.; WO2 Slater, M.; Lt G. J. A. Coutts; Capt D. P. Atkinson; Maj C. H. Webster; Maj C. L. de Vries; Capt M. R. Longuet-Higgins; Lt P. B. Knobel; WO1 T. E. Serfontein; WO2 Authers, B. D.; S/Sgt Mantia, F. M.; L/Cpl McIver, J. A. G.

FRONT ROW: Tpr Griffiths, L. R.; Tpr Bushell, N.; Tpr Rose, P.; Tpr Claasens, D.; Tpr Meintjies, P. J.; Tpr Hoarau, D.; Tpr Reynolds, D.; Tpr Faaff, D.; L/Cpl Bothma, M. C. H.; Tpr Thomas, D.; L/Cpl Barron, K.; Cpl Robinson, I.L.; Tpr van Loggenburg, W.;



## 1ST BATTALION THE RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY QUARTERMASTER'S STORE 1980



SALISBURY

C. G. S. MACPHERSON & CO.

**Standing :**

Cpl. SAWYER, A., Cpl. REYNOLDS, M. J., L/Cpl. GRACE, K. B., Sgt. HAYES, F., L/Cpl. HIGH, A., Tpr. GIFFORD, A., Sgt. LOTTERING, E.

**Seated :**

Mrs. A. F. HARRISON, Sgt. RAS, C. J., W.O. 2 AYLING, R.C.J. (RQMS) Lt. D. G. LIVERSEDGE (QM), W.O. 2 LEWIS, R. B. (RQMS), Sgt. FRIER, M. R. Sgt. LUCAS, K. W.

# 'Q' FORCE . . .

This being our first, and sadly the last, contribution to the Cheetah, we feel compelled to allow the Battalion a brief glimpse at what we, in the "Q" Stores, are faced with in every day to day hassles/routines. Hence we have headed our first chapter thus:

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF:

### The Quarter Master (Lt D. G. Liversedge)

1. Complaints Department - "Good morning" "Oh, hello Mrs.....", "No sorry Mrs....." "Well you see Mrs....." "Oh, you mean their dogs....." "Well, it's not really my department Mrs....." "Can you phone the R.S.M., Mrs....." "Okay, we will see what we can do. Bye."
2. "Hello Sir", "No, Sir, we don't issue Jet Master's (Fire Places Portable)", "No, Sir, not even for the CO's caravan, Sir".
3. "Hello Mrs....." "Sorry, what was that about the noise in the flats?" "Oh, you mean at 0330 Hrs" "Well, it's not really our department." "Who did you say you saw streaking along the corridors?" "Oh, well, I'll see if I can sort it out....."
4. "Hello"....."No, Cpl, we don't issue ribbon and wrapping paper" .....

So, you see, if "The People" would only channel their Doggy/Marriage/Personal/Drinking problems to the right man, the QM would not be going prematurely grey, nor would he be indenting for a set of "Straps Shoulder World Carrying", for the use of, either.

Seriously though, the QM handles the above minor hassles as well as he handles the "Q" for the Battalion. The Commandos can vouch for that.

### The RQMS (WO2 Lewis R.B.)

- 1a. Looks hassled/overworked
- 1b. Isn't really
- 2a. Looks confused
- 2b. Is completely
3. In Tray — Piled high
4. Waste Paper Basket — overflowing
5. Out Tray — empty

### The "Q" Storemen (Workers)

CSgt C. Ras; Sgt's Hayes, Frier, Lucas, Lottering; Cpl's McKeith, Reynolds; Tpr Pickard:

1. Handle all queries with confidence and willingness.
2. Collect and issue stores promptly and efficiently.
3. Never "winge" about duties, or overtime for audit checks.
4. On constant lookout for "Ill Doers" (carry over from the recent "Are you a Waster" campaign).
5. Get the job done; are the backbone of "Q" set up.

## FAREWELLS

We have recently said Goodbye to the following:

### WO2 Reg Ayling — (RQMS until 1st May 1980)

Reg put in a lot of hard work during his stay as the RQ, and the Quartermaster and staff would like to record their appreciation for the good work done. We wish him well in the land of "Mines" and "Mine Dumps".

### Mrs. Ann Harrison (Typist-Mother)

Without her, the QM Stores would not have functioned at its high standard. And that is a fact. Ann has always worked with such cheerfulness, that it has been a pleasure to have her as one of the Team. We once again record our appreciation, and wish her and Ralph the very best in South Africa.

### Sgt Mike Frier (New Clothing Storeman)

Mike has maintained a standard that has been both a pride unto himself and the QM. He, in his time, has been a credit to the Team. Cheers Mike, and good luck with the Canning Industry.

### Sgt Tom Sawyer (Part Worn Clothing Storeman)

We wish Tom all the best as the Arms Storeman for Support Commando and thank him for all his hard work during his stay with us. A loss to us, but a gain to Support Commando. Cheers Tom, keep up the good work shown here.

### LCpl's Adrian High, Kevin Grace and Tpr Piccy Gifford (Storemen Assistants)

Our thanks blokes for your creditable service and best wishes in Civvi Street.

## WELCOME

We welcome to the "Best Team":

Cpl Wave McKeith - Part Worn

LCpl Karen Puzey - Typist

Tpr Junior Pickard - Expendables

May your stay with us be pleasant and rewarding.

## MARRIAGE

Congratulations to Sgt Jock Hayes and his lovely wife Trish. May the future be bright and full, and all your troubles be small ones.

## TRIBUTE

The Quartermaster and RQ would like to pay tribute to the wives of the "Q" staff, who in the past have put up with the absence of their husbands, who have either been deployed on Ops, or have done extra duties, and in some cases spent several weekends preparing for Audits. Thank you all for accepting with grace the unavoidable absence of your husbands.

## HEARD IN PASSING

1. RQ for Tpr Gifford: Piccy, confirm you are jacked up with Battalion Traditions and Personalities.  
Gifford: Yes, Sir.  
RQ (after several questions on Traditions): Piccy, who is the Battalion Mascot?  
Gifford (after some serious thought): The R.S.M. Sir.
2. Chris Ras is on first name terms with 2 i/c Base Group. Although the Base Group 2 i/c objects most strongly to being called "Betty", Chris will persist. (See Chris for the full story).

## TRUE OR FALSE

1. The QM pranged his car twice in one month.
2. Ken Lucas comes to work with bleary red eyes and goes through 500 Panadol tablets in one month - because he is overworked ! !
3. The QM staff were issued their Independence Medal's before anyone else.
4. The QM is an arm of Base Group.
5. The QM staff are going to get the new G.S.M. before anyone else.

## CONCLUSION

We conclude our notes by wishing all those members who are leaving the Battalion. Good luck and good hunting.

We also congratulate 1 Commando on being Champion Commando. Well done!

# HONOURS and AWARDS

Number	Rank	Surname and Initials	Date	Sub-unit
<b>SCR</b>				
724115	Sgt	McNEILAGE, P. I. ....	13. 9.74	1 Cdo
727700	Sgt	McKELVIE, J. ....	29. 7.77	Sp Cdo
727860	T/Cpl	PHILLIPS, R. N. ...	19. 5.78	Sp Cdo
780673	Maj	B. M. SNELGAR ...	7.12.79	3 Cdo
<b>OLM (Combatant)</b>				
780636	T/Maj	P. W. ARMSTRONG ....	23. 9.77	Sp Cdo
780689	Maj	N. D. HENSON ....	30. 4.80	Sp Cdo
<b>MLM</b>				
780276	Maj	H. St. J. ROWLEY ....	12. 7.71	3 Cdo
<b>MLM (Combatant)</b>				
780525	Maj	J. C. W. AUST ....	26. 9.75	2 Cdo
780509	Maj	R. E. H. LOCKLEY ....	26. 9.75	1 Cdo
780527	Maj	D. R. LAMBERT ...	15.10.76	3 Cdo
780658	T/Maj	J. T. STRONG, BCR ....	14. 4.78	3 Cdo
780756	T/Maj	F. R. WATTS ....	7.12.79	1 Cdo
780138	T/Maj	C. H. WEBSTER (RMO) ...	30. 4.80	BG
<b>BCR</b>				
780588	Lt	A. G. SACHSE ....	23.10.70	3 Cdo
780634	Lt	N. G. C. FAWCETT ....	23.10.70	1 Cdo
780637	Lt	C. J. PEARCE ....	23.10.70	3 Cdo
780658	Lt	J. T. STRONG ....	23.10.70	3 Cdo
780768	Lt	A. K. TOURLE ....	23.10.70	3 Cdo
723507	Cpl	CROUKAMP, D. E. W. ....	23.10.70	3 Cdo
723858	Cpl	JOHNSTONE, K. R. ....	23.10.70	3 Cdo
723666	Cpl	KORB, R. R. ....	23.10.70	3 Cdo
723694	L/Cpl	LAHEE, T. S. ....	23.10.70	3 Cdo
780884	2Lt	R. J. A. PASSAPORTIS ....	13. 9.74	1 Cdo
726084	Sgt	FOUCHE, E. G. ....	13. 9.74	2 Cdo
780838	Lt	C. B. WILLIS ....	26. 9.75	3 Cdo
780889	2Lt	M. R. MOSELEY ...	26. 9.75	1 Cdo
725494	Sgt	WHITE, P. C. O. ...	26. 9.75	1 Cdo
725324	Cpl	WELSH, C. C. S. ....	26. 9.75	1 Cdo
780929	Lt	N. J. THERON ....	15.10.76	2 Cdo
724678	Sgt	KERR, M. D. ....	15.10.76	Sp Cdo
99295	Tpr	DE BEER, D. J. ....	15.10.76	1 Cdo
726202	Cpl	RIEKERT, D. J. ....	15.10.76	1 Cdo
V2567	Lt	D. A. SAMUELS ...	27. 7.77	2 Cdo
781031	2Lt	G. D. B. MURDOCH ...	29. 7.77	2 Cdo
725748	L/Cpl	FOURIE, J. ....	29. 7.77	Sp Cdo
727598	Tpr	HYDE, J. B. ...	29. 7.77	Sp Cdo

Number	Rank	Surname and Initials	Date	Sub-unit
<b>BCR — continued</b>				
727990	L/Cpl	WATSON, M. W. ....	23. 9.77	Sp Cdo
725082	Cpl	HODGSON, T. G. ....	23. 9.77	2 Cdo
780998	Lt	R. J. SMITH ...	31. 3.78	3 Cdo
780883	Lt	J. M. ADAMS ....	31. 3.78	3 Cdo
724703	Sgt	TAYLOR, D. B. ....	31. 3.78	3 Cdo
728900	L/Cpl	GALLOWAY, G. M. ....	31. 3.78	3 Cdo
781045	Lt	R. J. VAN MALSEN ....	13. 4.79	1 Cdo
725044	Cpl	KIRKPATRICK, P. ....	13. 4.79	1 Cdo
726942	Cpl	VAN NIEKERK, H. J. ....	13. 4.79	1 Cdo
728272	Cpl	MACLOUGHLIN, N. K. ....	8. 6.79	Sp Cdo
727997	Cpl	BINION, P. M. ....	4. 8.79	Sp Cdo
V3945	2Lt	D. C. ROSENFELS ....	4. 9.79	3 Cdo
727785	Tpr	TRAYNOR, Z. R. ...	4. 9.79	Sp Cdo
726102	Sgt	KERR, E. J. R. ....	30.11.79	1 Cdo
729624	Cpl	HARDING, R. J. A. ....	30.11.79	1 Cdo
728323	Cpl	GIBSON, A. R. ....	30.11.79	3 Cdo
728703	Cpl	KIDD, B. R. ....	7.12.79	3 Cdo
781335	Lt	S. J. CARPENTER ....	30. 4.80	Sp Cdo
726707	Sgt	WARREN, C. E. ....	30. 4.80	3 Cdo
<b>DCD</b>				
780534	Maj	G. WALSH (QM) ....	11.11.76	Bn HQ
<b>DMM</b>				
780592	Capt	R. F. REID-DALY, MBE ....	12. 7.71	Bn HQ
720854	WO1 (RSM)	R. O. TARR ...	11.11.71	Bn HQ
780243	Lt Col	R. W. SOUTHEY ....	11.11.74	Bn HQ
780767	Capt	A. C. DACE ....	11.11.76	Bn HQ
723964	C/Sgt	NORMAN, J. F. A. ....	15. 9.78	3 Cdo
780692	Capt	P. J. COOPER ....	11.11.78	Trg Tp
721362	WO1 (RSM)	H. J. PRINGER ....	11.11.78	Bn HQ
721525	WO1	L. MONSON ....	13. 4.79	Bn HQ
724876	WO2	G. N. ENSLIN ....	13. 4.79	Sp Cdo
<b>MFC (Operationaal)</b>				
781079	Lt	J. R. CRONIN ....	31. 3.78	3 Cdo
728022	Cpl	S. B. MAZELLA ....	31. 3.78	Sp Cdo
725537	L/Cpl	HODGSON, P. J. ....	31. 3.78	3 Cdo
121020	Tpr	LEWIS, K. L. ....	13.10.78	1 Cdo
723339	WO2	MILLER, D. M. ....	11.11.78	2 Cdo
781086	Lt	N. J. R. STOREY ...	13. 4.79	1 Cdo
725592	A/C Sgt	KRUGER, T. ....	13. 4.79	Sp Cdo
727729	Sgt	BRAMWELL, M. R. ....	13. 4.79	1 Cdo
727060	Sgt	LIVERICK, J. ....	13. 4.79	Sp Cdo
727464	T/Sgt	BROWN, A. F. ....	13. 4.79	3 Cdo

Number	Rank	Surname and Initials	Date	Sub-unit
<b>MFC (Operational) --- continued</b>				
781064	Lt	G. S. THORNTON	25. 5.79	3 Cdo
728873	Tpr	SMITH, R. G.	25. 5.79	3 Cdo
781241	2Lt	D. C. GREENHALGH	25. 5.79	3 Cdo
82929	Sgt	STEYN, J. G. F.	25. 5.79	3 Cdo
729681	Tpr	GRACE, K. B.	25. 5.79	3 Cdo
729571	Cpl	ROSSOUW, M. M.	14. 9.79	Sp Cdo
727968	Tpr	McIVER, I. G.	14. 9.79	Sp Cdo
	Cpl	ROGERS, C. W.	14. 9.79	Sp Cdo
780673	2Lt	B. M. SNELGAR	23.10.70	1 Cdo
723979	L/Cpl	SHERWIN, A.	23.10.70	3 Cdo
723703	Tpr	BOYD MONK, M. C.	23.10.70	1 Cdo
724039	Tpr	SMITH, H. L.	23.10.70	1 Cdo
780117	Lt Col	J. S. V. HICKMAN, MC	12. 7.71	Bn HQ
780245	Maj	R. W. SOUTHEY	12. 7.71	3 Cdo
724932	A/Sgt	SMITH, D. W.	30.11.73	3 Cdo
724334	Cpl	BARTLETT, K. M.	13. 9.74	3 Cdo
725082	Cpl	HODGSON, T. G.	13. 9.74	2 Cdo
724682	L/Cpl	VAN DER ZANDT, D. J.	13. 9.74	1 Cdo
780840	Lt	T. G. BAX	26. 9.75	3 Cdo
780836	Lt	G. C. KRIEL	26. 9.75	2 Cdo
724988	Cpl	GALLIAS, M. G.	26. 9.75	Sp Cdo
725694	Cpl	ROSE, I. E.	26. 9.75	Sp Cdo
725602	Cpl	SCHOTS, J. P.	26. 9.75	2 Cdo
725305	Cpl	BODEN, R. V.	26. 9.75	Sp Cdo
780565	Maj	R. M. MATKOVICH	15.10.76	1 Cdo
780757	T/Capt	C. W. DONALD	15.10.76	3 Cdo
727059	Tpr	DALY, K. J.	15.10.76	1 Cdo
36809	Tpr	TOMLINSON, D. N. S.	15.10.76	2 Cdo
726594	L/Cpl	BEECH, R. T.	29. 7.77	Sp Cdo
726869	Tpr	GARNETT, P. M.	29. 7.77	3 Cdo
781288	Lt	M. F. WEBB	23. 9.77	Sp Cdo
727715	A/L Cpl	SWAN, J. W.	23. 9.77	2 Cdo
781057	Capt	P. V. FARNDELL	31. 3.78	Sp Cdo
<b>MFC (Non-Operational)</b>				
724629	Tpr	PITMAN, P. D.	23.10.70	3 Cdo
723555	Tpr	VOSS, K. L.	12. 7.71	
780692	Maj	P. J. COOPER	11.11.73	Trg Tp
724156	Cpl	VAN TONDER, A. H. A.	11.11.75	1 Cdo
726654	Cpl	HUDSON, M. A.	15. 9.78	3 Cdo
722097	WO2	FRAZER, D. J.	11.11.78	3 Cdo
722777	WO2	PAYNE, P. C. A.	13. 4.79	Sp Cdo
726567	S/Sgt	ROODT, R. D.	7.12.79	Bn HQ
<b>MSM</b>				
		Miss M. HORODYSZCZ	11.11.76	Bn HQ
		Mrs. E. BROOKES	11.11.77	Bn HQ

# LEST WE FORGET

## ROLL OF HONOUR

### 1ST BN, THE RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

#### KILLED IN ACTION

4208	Tpr	RIDGE, E. N. F.	18 March 1968
4298	Tpr	BINKS, R. A.	26 March 1968
4241	Tpr	WESSELS, C. D.	26 March 1968
3841	Tpr	THORNLEY, M. E.	10 April 1968
4099	Tpr	BRADING, A. T.	22 January 1970
3108	Tpr	MEYER, G. D.	27 April 1971
4522	Cpl	WENTZEL, T. H. C.	27 April 1971
4013	L/Cpl	MOORECROFT, L. W. H.	28 April 1971
4533	Cpl	MOORE, N. D. R.	29 December 1972
4297	Tpr	DONEGAN, K. A.	18 September 1973
PR78524	Rfn	CASAL, C. A. De A.	24 October 1973
6353	Tpr	VAN STADEN, J. J.	15 March 1974
6250	L/Cpl	LORD, C. P.	19 September 1974
6041	Tpr	AVES, M. A.	31 October 1974
781001	2Lt	N. D. STEANE	2 April 1975
726212	Cpl	DE BEER, M. J.	19 July 1975
725702	Cpl	COEY, J. A.	19 July 1975
103738	Rfn	POTGIETER, E.	19 July 1975
726606	L/Cpl	PFEIL, H. G.	20 August 1975
100097	Rfn	PARKIN, G. J.	24 February 1976
725494	Sgt	WHITE, P. C. O., BCR	28 February 1976
726854	L/Cpl	COOKSON, D. J.	28 February 1976
727333	Tpr	DIEDRICKS, C.	28 February 1976
727215	Tpr	HOPE, R. J.	11 October 1976
107059	Rfn	FANNER, G. R.	31 October 1976
726724	L/Cpl	LAMB, M. C.	7 November 1976
728075	Tpr	DA COSTA, F. D.	15 November 1976
725437	Cpl	LOCKE, K. P.	6 December 1976
725132	Cpl	ALEXANDER, R. E.	16 December 1976
727379	Tpr	MacKENZIE, D. G.	1 February 1977
94232	Rfn	VAUGHAN, A. E.	17 February 1977
728340	Tpr	WARNICK, E. S. L.	9 April 1977
727392	Tpr	MACDONALD, E. A. G.	15 May 1977
728197	Tpr	CLARKE, G. W.	15 May 1977
727562	Tpr	EDMUNDS, C. J.	30 May 1977
107452	Rfn	BARCLAY, D. I. F.	7 July 1977
727613	Tpr	TURKINGTON, G.	16 August 1977
726518	Cpl	O'DRISCOL, A. G.	23 August 1977
726869	L/Cpl	GARNETT, P. M.	4 October 1977
100055	Rfn	BETTS, M. D.	13 December 1977
725838	Cpl	TRAVERS, R. J.	18 December 1977
781130	Lt	P. M. COURTNEY	24 December 1977
727999	Tpr	QUINN, G. D.	30 December 1977
728333	Tpr	LE VIEUX, S.	7 February 1978
729674	Tpr	ELLIS, M. D.	3 March 1978
728515	Tpr	BATTAGLIA, F. P.	6 March 1978
111392	Rfn	ZIETMAN, A. I.	11 May 1978
781236	2Lt	F. G. FALZOI	12 June 1978
729601	Tpr	BOTES, A. J.	22 June 1978
727588	Sgt	MARNEWECK, J. C.	8 August 1978

# LEST WE FORGET

## ROLL OF HONOUR

### 1ST BN, THE RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

#### KILLED IN ACTION

728864	Tpr	CLARK, S. J.	28 August 1978
728721	Tpr	BYRNE, J. P.	26 October 1978
113664	Tpr	MILLAR, A. J.	26 November 1978
782577	Tpr	LITTLE, B. W.	5 January 1979
V3945	2Lt	D. C. ROSENFELS	8 February 1979
727896	L/Cpl	OVERBEEK, M.	4 April 1979
729659	Tpr	MOORE, M. A.	17 April 1979
726942	Cpl	VAN NIEKERK, N. J.	18 April 1979
122175	Tpr	GILDENHUYS, R. O.	18 April 1979
729752	Tpr	POOLE, R. F.	19 April 1979
730180	Tpr	STANLEY, A. J.	20 April 1979
728586	Tpr	MUIR, D. S.	12 May 1979
730045	Tpr	CHANCE, M. J.	15 May 1979
730053	Tpr	MYBURGH, K. H.	16 May 1979
728892	Tpr	LANG, C. F.	4 June 1979
123360	Cpl	RICE, P. O.	4 June 1979
726466	L/Cpl	NEL, E. F.	4 June 1979
126683	Tpr	FRANCIS, R.	10 June 1979
729874	Tpr	ELSAESSER, W. E.	16 July 1979
125542	Tpr	McKEND, B. J.	16 July 1979
727941	A/Sgt	McCALL, H. J.	16 July 1979
729803	Tpr	DWYER, S. M.	16 July 1979
124307	Tpr	BRIEL, J. A.	6 September 1979
730092	Tpr	COLEMAN, A. J.	6 September 1979
123929	Tpr	CROW, J. M.	6 September 1979
119928	Tpr	ENSLIN, B. L.	6 September 1979
729689	Cpl	FRY, G. H.	6 September 1979
729937	Tpr	KING, S. E.	6 September 1979
123027	Tpr	NEASHAM, C. G.	6 September 1979
730099	Tpr	PROSSER, D. R.	6 September 1979
780949	Capt	J. M. DU PLOOY	6 September 1979
728831	Tpr	FURNESS, H. L. H.	14 October 1979
123471	Tpr	HOUGHTON, A. P.	21 October 1979
124298	Tpr	GREYVESTEYN, A. W.	15 December 1979

#### MEMBERS WHO DIED ON OPERATIONS

2634	Pte	DE HAAS, R.	21 September 1961
3684	Cpl	EGGLESTON, P. B.	15 February 1966
3079	L/Cpl	KORB, J. G.	15 November 1966
0635	2Lt	C. VILJOEN	28 February 1968
2201	Sgt	CARY, J. B.	29 January 1969
3248	Tpr	JOHNSTON, A. T.	13 May 1969
3187	Sgt	REYNOLDS, K.	12 February 1970
5052	Tpr	VISSER, B.	11 May 1971
5507	Tpr	YUNCKER, K. G.	29 September 1972

# LEST WE FORGET

## ROLL OF HONOUR

### 1ST BN, THE RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

#### MEMBERS WHO DIED ON OPERATIONS

5424	Tpr	CLINTON, Y.	8 May 1973
5271	Tpr	STOCKHIL-GILL, R. V.	27 October 1974
728920	Tpr	MCIVER, A. J.	1 January 1979
781339	2Lt	J. W. WALTER	27 May 1979
780673	Maj	B. M. SNELGAR	26 September 1979

#### BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

0420	2Lt	J. F. GILFILLAN	5 January 1961
2289	Cpl	HIGGINS, G. S. B.	2 August 1961
2157	Pte	TIMM, M. M.	30 August 1961
3345	Tpr	BAILEY, G. R.	29 October 1966
3699	Tpr	MAUGUE, F. J. J.	31 December 1966
3313	L/Cpl	SIMONS, V. J.	1 March 1968
3590	Tpr	VAN DER HEEVER, J. E.	30 April 1968
3843	Tpr	JOHNSTON, N. D.	23 December 1968
2543	C/Sgt	FERREIRA, W. R.	11 November 1969
4309	Tpr	ASHMEAD, P. R.	6 June 1970
4876	L/Cpl	KERSWELL, A. J.	30 June 1971
5184	Rct	COSTHUIZEN, M. P.	1 July 1971
4986	Tpr	SMITH, G. F.	3 March 1972
780768	Lt	A. K. TOURLE, BCR	9 April 1972
780583	Capt	G. P. ENGELA	26 July 1972
5325	L/Cpl	BREDENCAMP, L. J.	16 December 1972
2116	RSM	H. BIRKETT	23 March 1973
4413	Tpr	ROBINSON, L. A.	24 March 1974
7090	Rct	WRIGHT, V. W.	8 June 1975
726588	Tpr	BRNJAC, B. M.	19 January 1977
S9215	Rfn	VAN WYK, D. P.	26 March 1977
726911	L/Cpl	MAGUIRE, R. E.	14 May 1977
726110	Cpl	DU PREEZ, T. J.	14 September 1977
727147	Tpr	DE CAMPOS, M. F. D. C.	14 September 1977
114822	Rfn	McCORMICK, I. R.	25 September 1977
728565	Tpr	GRIFFIN, C. W.	7 October 1977
728002	L/Cpl	HARMER, A. M.	14 October 1977
726967	Tpr	CAMACHO, A. G.	12 January 1978
727336	Tpr	GODDING, R. J.	22 March 1978
728676	Tpr	KOELLNER, R.	28 June 1979
7255179	Sgt	LE ROUX, B. T.	26 August 1979
124614	Tpr	BRANDT, G.	5 December 1979

# Inter-Commando Championship 1980 – Results

		MILITARY EVENTS								SPORTING EVENTS								OVERALL PTS. (ME & Sport)	OVERALL POSITION
		APPROACH MARCH	SHOOTING	ASSAULT COURSE	DRILL	PARACHUTING	Q and A	OVERALL PTS.	POSITION	RUGBY	ATHLETICS	CROSS-COUNTRY	FOOTBALL	VOLLEY BALL	TUG-OF-WAR	OVERALL PT.	POSITION		
SP CDO	Posn.	2=	1	2	2=	2	2	38	1=	4	4	2	3=	3	4	10	4	48	2
	Pts.	6	8	6	6	6	6			1	1	3	2	2	1				
1 CDO	Posn.	1	3	3	2=	1	1	38	1=	3	3	1	1=	4	3	15	3	53	1
	Pts.	8	4	4	6	8	8			2	2	4	4	1	2				
2 CDO	Posn.	2=	4	4	1	3	3	26	3	2	2	4	3=	1	2	16	2	42	4
	Pts.	6	2	2	8	4	4			3	3	1	2	4	3				
3 CDO	Posn.	4	2	1	4	4	4	22	4	1	1	3	1=	2	1	21	1	43	3
	Pts.	2	6	8	2	2	2			4	4	2	4	3	4				

# Inter-Commando Championship 1980 – Results

TROPHY	EVENT	WINNER
<b>SPORTING EVENTS</b>		
The Schewepes Trophy .....	Football .....	3 Commando and 1 Commando (Tie)
The Sports Centre Trophy .....	Rugby .....	3 Commando
The 1 Commando Trophy .....	Tug-O-War .....	3 Commando
The Border Trophy .....	Cross Country .....	1 Commando
The Support Commando Trophy .....	Volley Ball .....	2 Commando
The Moore Trophy .....	Athletics .....	3 Commando
The Rothmans Cup .....	Champion Sporting Commando .....	3 Commando
<b>MILITARY EVENTS</b>		
The Wessels Trophy .....	Approach March .....	1 Commando
The Base Group Shield .....	Parachuting .....	1 Commando
The Officers' Mess Trophy .....	hooting .....	Support Commando
The RLI Inter Commando Drill Shield .....	Drill .....	2 Commando
The Mike Thornley Trophy .....	Assault Course .....	3 Commando
The 'Dave Parker Cup .....	Admin and Q Inspection .....	1 Commando
The John Dawson Cup .....	For Falling Plates .....	1 Commando
The Jack Caine Trophy .....	Champion Commando for Military Events .....	1 and Support Commando (Tie)
The Holland Africa Trophy .....	Champion Commando .....	1 Commando
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
The Hugh Rowley Trophy .....	Most Improved Rugby Player .....	L/Cpl George Penny
The Charl Viljoen Trophy .....	Best Subaltern .....	Lt (now A/Capt) R. Harrison
The McKeever Trophy .....	Sportsman of the Year .....	Lt Arthur Kegal

# AN ODE TO THE R.L.I.

*Sad, yet peaceful, dusty and hot,  
The rustling of leaves, on msasa trees,  
The glitter of brass, with names etched in black,  
A haze of white stones, simply standing at ease.  
Muffled voices, afloat in the air,  
Sounding persistent, their bodies unseen.  
In unison, murmuring, "we died not in vain.  
Man knows life's story, only till death,  
We who have fallen, now know the rest,  
Honour our going, deep in the heart,  
Remember the wounded, they played a great part."  
The voices receded neath indigenous trees,  
The ground then camouflaged, in shadows of leaves.  
An ominous silence, clung all around,  
From clouds in the heavens, to the dust on the ground.  
Boots now are silent, many lives just a dream,  
Hallowed their uniforms, white, silver and green.*

by Vera Phillips Mealing



**1st BATTALION, THE RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY  
OFFICER'S MESS  
1980**



SALISBURY

C. G. S. MACPHERSON

2/Lt A. BALSON, 2/Lt R. M. M. HARRISON, 2/Lt N. R. SMEE, 2/Lt R. B. RESS, Lt A. J. O. MacINTYRE, 2/Lt S. T. WALTERS, 2/Lt S. J. CARPENTER, 2/Lt R. W. GODWIN, 2/Lt R. W. PECK, 2/Lt R. A. McLENNAN, Lt R. E. C. FORBES, 2/Lt G. J. A. COUTTS, 2/Lt E. R. G. PELDA, 2/Lt W. M. GRANT.

Lt A. GINGLES, Lt A. REGAL, Capt. I. SHEPHERD, Lt D. C. GREENHALGH MFC OP, Capt. M. A. G. JACK, Capt. B. STREAK, Lt R. J. VAN MALSEN BCR, 2/Lt W. M. HUME, Capt. G. D. MURDOCH BCR, Capt. A. B. SHAW, Capt. R. P. MILLS, Lt D. G. LIVERSEDGE, Lt R. Q. GRAVES, Capt. D. P. ATRINSON, Lt D. M. EVANS.

Capt. M. R. LONGUET-HIGGINS DMM, Maj. C. W. A. BLAKEWAY, Maj. P. J. COOPER DMM, Maj. P. V. FARDELL, Maj. D. H. PRICE, BCR, Maj. P. H. S. MINCHER (21/C), Lt. Col. J. C. W. Aust MLM (CO), Maj. I. BUTTENSCHAW, Maj. P. A. D. HEAN, Maj. C. L. de VRIES, Maj. C. H. WEBSTER, Capt. J. N. DIXON (Adj.), Capt. R. L. SOUTTER.



**1st BATTALION, THE RHODESIAN LIGHT INFANTRY  
WO'S AND SGT'S MESS  
MARCH 1980**



SALISBURY

C. G. S. MACPHERSON

Rear Rank : Sgt. GEORGANTIS, G. Sgt. DEMPSTER, G. S., S/Sgt. ROUDT, R. D. MFC, Sgt. CRESSWELL, D. M., Sgt. HAWTREY, V. G., Sgt. HUTCHINSON, R. L., Sgt. DIPPENAAR, G. W., Sgt. HAYES, F. C., Sgt. SAVILLE, A. J., Sgt. MANTIA, F. M., Sgt. FEARNHOUGH, G., Sgt. HODGSON, P. J. MFC OP, Sgt. WARNER, A. R.

Third Rank : Sgt. MOODIE, B. D., Sgt. KERR, E. J. B. BCR, Sgt. MOORE, R. D. J., Sgt. GIBBONS, S. G., Sgt. VAN DER HEEVER, A. C., C/Sgt. SLATER, Sgt. M. J. McMURRAY, T., C/Sgt. NAESTEDT, J. V., Sgt. GREEBE, R., Sgt. ARGYLE, T., Sgt. TRIGG, P., Sgt. FRIER, M. E.

2nd Rank : S/Sgt. CRAWFORD, J., Sgt. Nel, T. O. BCR, Sgt. LOTTERING, E. J., C/Sgt. TAYLOR, S. R., S/Sgt. ELLIOTT, G. P., Sgt. BRAUNSWICK, A. M., Sgt. HURLBATT, M. J., Sgt. DE KLERK, T. G., Sgt. THERON, P. A., Sgt. LE COMPTE, F. T., C/Sgt. PIERT, M., Sgt. MCGREGOR, W. M., Sgt. Sgt. HODGSON, T. G. BCR, Sgt. WARREN, G. E., Sgt. LUCAS, K.

1st Rank : Sgt. KINNEAR, J., C/Sgt. HOSKING, D. B., C/Sgt. MATHEWS, R. Q., Sgt. ELDER, S., Sgt. LEATHEM, K., C/Sgt. AUTHERS, E. D., C/Sgt. CLIFF, A. S., Lt. Lt. R. J. VAN MALSEN, W.O. 2 AYLING, R. C. J., 2 Lt. W. M. HUME, C/Sgt. UYS, P. J. D., Sgt. MYERS, C. R., Sgt. GILLMORE, G. F. C., Sgt. RAS, C., Sgt. JORDAAN, D., S/Sgt. DENT, P., Sgt. TAYOR, D.

Seated : W.O. 1 L. Nel (RkASC), W.O. 2 PHILIPS, L. (Trg. Tp), W.O. 2 CROUKAMP, D. E. W. BCR (Sp Cde), W.O. 2 BROTHERTON, P. M. (Trg. Tp), W.O. 2 ENSLIN, G. N. DMM (Sp Cde), W.O. 2 FIRTH, D. R. (2 Cde), W.O. 1 MONSON DMM (PTI), RSM K. H. REED, Lt. Col. J. C. W. Aust MLM (Commanding Officer), Capt. J. N. DIXON (Adj.), W.O. 2 THACKWRAY, L. (B Sp), W.O. 1 T. E. SERPONTAIN (ORQMS), W.O. 2 BRAMWELL, M. R. MFC OP (3 Cde), W.O. 2 BEATTIE, A. G. (RdAMC), W.O. 2 LEWIS, R. B. (RQMS), W.O. 2 SCOTT, E. (PTI), Sgt. McMASTER, A. V.



1st Battalion - The Rhodesian Light Infantry



