



NEWS FROM CENTRAL

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Comment

Continuing with the theme of the old Victoria District, which I touched on in my last Newsletter, I speculated there as to why the Police Station at Chilimanzi was established where it was. To this end, I contacted 4413 Dickie Cox, who was Member in Charge Chilimanzi when I first arrived in Fort Victoria, and put the question to him. He replied as follows: -

“As you may know, the married quarters were originally a court house, and it was when this function ceased that I believe the Police Station was created. This was probably done for logistical reasons – close to the railhead at Chatsworth, situated on the main road, and because of the expanding farming and mining area of Felixburg. The large area would have been an extra burden for Gutu, Umvuma and Fort Victoria.”

It is highly likely that the availability of an unused courthouse persuaded the powers that be that the police station should be sited there, thus saving a few pounds in construction costs. This would accord with the parsimonious administration of the Force when there was nothing to threaten the security of the country.

One of the characters of the South Eastern Lowveld was 2428 Joseph “Tommy” Blake Thompson who ran the Shabani Mine Recruiting Depot at Marhumbini at the junction of the Sabi and Lundi rivers in the 1950s. He was always extremely pleased to see visiting police patrols and welcomed them most hospitably. Conversely, he was always made welcome at the Nuanetsi Police Camp when he passed through en route to Shabani or to places further afield, where he generally spent the night.

The late 5923 Tony Seward compiled a Station History of the Vila Salazar Police Station whilst he was stationed there, and devotes a chapter to Blake Thompson. He wrote to the Mine Manager of Shabani Mine, by the name of Gordon (No 3244 ex Trooper Louis Reginald Gordon), asking for information about Blake Thompson. He received the following information from Gordon: -

“Joseph Blake Thompson was born on the 28th April 1886 – I think in England. He studied medicine after leaving school and attended the Sorbonne in Paris, but did not qualify as a doctor.

I first knew him as a Medical Sergeant Major in the BSA Police Depot in 1931. He was then a short, wiry, sandy haired man of 50. I was in hospital with a plague of boils, caused by constant contact saddle and recruits anatomy, and he took a rather sadistic delight in squeezing them. I remember being disgusted t having to share the Trooper’s Ward with several men from Outstations suffering from VD. Blake Thompson’s only concession was to make the “unclean lepers” as he called them use a separate lavatory.

I did not see him again until 1955 when he was taken on by Shabani Mine as a Recruiting Officer down at Marhumbini. At that time there was a general shortage of mine labour, mainly because local tribesmen did not like going underground. Tommy's job was to recruit Shanganes from PEA (Mocambique) who only had to walk across the border, a mile away, to be signed on. His Depot was on the south bank of the Lundi River about 2.5 miles from its confluence with the Sabi, and about 2 miles away from a Mission Station (The Assemblies of God Mission) up on the Escarpment. His house was built on a small hill about 200 yards from the river. He operated there from March 1955 until December 1960. He was the most suitable man as he was prepared to live as a hermit with very infrequent visits from Europeans.

His medical training was very useful as he examined all recruits (Even to the extent of seeing that their hats were on straight) and acted as an unofficial doctor to the locals for miles around.

He was somewhat eccentric and the local tribesmen, and even his own recruiting runners, regarded him as being well "round the bend". I visited him once with a man named Cleaver from Shabani. We were quite amazed to witness a Flag Raising ceremony and Retreat every morning and evening. The Guard consisted of about five or six runners with a Compound Police Corporal in charge. Blake Thompson himself shouted the orders, dressed in a vest, khaki pants and stable hat, standing stiffly to attention, with a stick under his arm. I am quite sure that in his imagination he wore a string of decorations and shining brass, and that each "ragged arsed" guard was a Coldstreamer in Bearskin and Scarlet Tunic. He told us it was good for morale and prestige to maintain some semblance of pageantry in "These outposts of the Empire".

We had a twenty seat recruiting bus which we used to run from Shabani via Rutenga and Malvernia to Marhumbini. The last fifty miles twisted in and out of Portuguese territory, right along the international border. Our relations with the Portuguese authorities in those days were not very good for they resented our recruiting Portuguese Africans without paying them a capitation fee. We were afraid that they would confiscate the bus, and so we cut a new road from Chikombedzi to Marhumbini across what is now the Gono-Re-Zhou Game Reserve.

Blake Thompson corresponded with all sorts of people including some black nationalists. I think that he used to write to Sir Roy Welensky. I do not know what happened to his papers, but he may have handed some of them to the Bulawayo Museum.

He was friendly with Mr Hank Blowers (Ex Deputy Commissioner), a senior officer in the BSA Police, now retired."

Despite the fact that the only other Europeans at Marhumbini were the Koopmans at Marhumbini Mission, Tommy would have nothing to do with them. All he would say was that he did not like them. I never did learn the reason for this, although I knew Tommy quite well. When any policeman visited him though, he would talk non-stop from morning to evening. Even going to the toilet would not stop him for he would follow, and continue talking.

Blake Thompson died at Shabani on the 16th November 1962.

Zimbabwe News.

Norman Travers MC, MSM, who was a prominent farmer and a well known figure in the Marandellas and Wedza districts, died on the 18th March 2010 at the age of eighty eight. He was particularly well known as a leading Game farmer and conversationalist. During the war he was extremely active as the Chairman of the Wedza Area Co-Ordinating Committee. He established the well known Imire Game Park on his Wedza farm.

The following tribute to Norman Travers appeared the Rhodesian Services Association of New Zealand Newsletter for June 2010: -

“Only the elephants could have delivered such a moving tribute to Norman Travers. Shortly before he was buried last month on his farm, Imire, in eastern Zimbabwe, two 40-year-old bulls arrived unbidden, wandered through the crowd of 250 mourners, lumbered up to the coffin and sniffed it, long and intently.

When the last spadeful of earth had been cast on the grave, they stood together on the heap of ground he lay beneath. Three times in the ensuing week, they returned and stood by the grave. Travers’s family is convinced they were mourning, for elephants are known to have a fascination with death.

Travers was an eccentric Englishman, a war hero, an inspiring community leader and a lover of wildlife whose affection for his elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards, hyenas and warthogs was as close as it was for his children. His numerous innovations in breeding, training and establishing techniques to enhance their survival drew scorn from experts but he was always proved right.

His three sons and daughter grew up in a household where his animals, including a half-ton juvenile rhino, wandered in and out of the house, ate up the flower beds and shared breakfast with the family on the lawn on Sundays. Most days he and his wife would go for walks with Cassius the lion (named after Cassius Clay, later Muhammad Ali), Bere the hyena, Dudley the warthog, Potter the otter, two Labradors, a dachshund and a cat.

Cassius was barred from the sunset strolls after Travers noticed the lion slaving at the farm workers’ children they passed. Cassius’ favourite treat was being fed ice cream from a bowl by Travers, but despite that, died when he was well into his twenties, advanced years for a lion. His pelt ended up on the Travers’ lounge wall.

Rough-and-tumbles on the lawn with their pets often resulted in serious accidents. His wife, Gill, had a chunk of her calf taken out by a pet hyena. His son John nearly lost an eye to the swipe of a leopard. Cassius once tried to “serve” Travers, leaving him badly bruised and scratched.

But he was best known for being the first person to prove that African elephants, hitherto regarded as too dangerous and unpredictable, could in fact be domesticated. He developed a rhino breeding programme that doubled the rate of their unusually drawn-out reproduction. He pioneered the first buffalo herd free from foot-and-mouth disease that is endemic in the species.

Norman Meckiffe Travers was born in 1921 in what is now North Korea, where his mother, Amelia, ran a seaside hotel. His father used to hunt Siberian tigers before he abandoned the family for good when Travers was 6. The boy was put on a boat to England to attend school in Tunbridge Wells. While back in Korea on holiday in the 1930s he was interned for three years with his mother by the Japanese during their annexation of the peninsula.

He joined the British Army for the war (Editor’s note – WWII) and rose to command a tank regiment. In a battle with a German Panzer unit in Italy, one of his tanks took a direct hit, and Travers plunged into the blazing vehicle to pull one of the men out, an act for which he was awarded the Military Cross.

After the war he joined thousands of British veterans looking for a better life in Rhodesia, where he worked on a farm in the rolling hills of the Wedza district, about 110km east of Salisbury (now Harare). In 1950 he bought Imire nearby and began farming tobacco, maize and cattle.

In the late 1970s, during the country’s independence civil war, he was awarded the Legion of Merit award from the Rhodesian government for holding together the small white farming community at Wedza while under frequent attack from black nationalist guerrillas. (Editor’s note – Norman was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Civ) not the Legion of Merit according to Gazetted records as well as the Police Reserve Long Service Medal).

Around the same time, bored with conventional agriculture and longing for the presence of wild animals, Travers decided to branch out into game farming, and bought a herd of impala. They thrived and in ten years the farm was fully stocked with waterbuck, kudu, sable and eland as well.

In 1980 he took on an orphaned baby elephant from a wildlife sanctuary in Harare. As Nzou began to grow out of the confines of the Travers' yard he decided to train her, defying the conventional wisdom that the African elephant was safe only behind a solid stockade.

The Indian mahouts' technique of subduing elephants with painful jabs behind the ear from a sharp iron rod was anathema to him. Instead, he used kindness, affection and rewards of bucketfuls of horse cubes to overcome the animal's mistrust of humans and to condition it to heed commands willingly. Soon Nzou was taking tourists for rides on her back, and Travers, simultaneously with a separate project on a farm north of Harare, could claim to be the first to domesticate the species.

He put Nzou and a bull elephant in a large paddock to breed, alongside a herd of buffalo. The bull died, and Travers stumbled onto another nuance of animal behaviour — that elephants, rather like Konrad Lorenz's geese, could take on the identity of species other than their own. Nzou adopted the buffalo and became their matriarch. She has continued to protect the bovines fiercely since then, and has killed 13 buffalo bulls who tried to separate females from the herd. When a bull pinned down one of Imire's guides and was on the point of goring him, Nzou came to the man's rescue and crushed the bull under her knees.

Ironically, Travers learnt of elephant behaviour close at hand from hunting expeditions since the 1950s in the Zambezi Valley. With curious detachment, he shot his last elephant at the age of 72. He argued that keeping down elephant populations was a vital strategy for their conservation in the wild.

In the 1980s, when Zimbabwe's black rhino population crashed in an onslaught of poachers seeking rhino horn, Travers recognised the threat to the suddenly endangered species' gene pool and decided to set up a breeding programme. Most experts derided him, insisting that a species from the dry heat of the Zambezi valley could not possibly survive in the freezing winters of Wedza. Travers' answer was the 700-year-old cave paintings of the San people (Bushmen) near his farm and the many rhino depicted in them. If they were abounding there then, they could survive there now. He got approval for his project.

However, the two-and-a-half year weaning period for a baby rhino — after gestation of 15 months — would be too slow to stabilise the population. Travers applied the basic barnyard precedent of early separation of cattle calves from their mothers. He took baby rhinos from their mothers at a year to be bottle-fed, and had the mother back in oestrus within months. In 20 years Imire's three female rhinos produced 14 calves to restock private and national reserves, twice as fast as other rhino breeding programmes.

Travers also pioneered the first introduction of wild buffalo on to farmland in 1980. Until then, buffalo were natural carriers of foot-and-mouth disease and had been restricted to corridors on the country's extremities, outside a foot-and-mouth disease barrier. The African buffalo is one of the "big five" large mammals prized by big-game hunters, and its absence from private wildlife ranches in the rest of the country was a drawback to the industry.

Scientists at a research station near Harare, however, had developed the nucleus of a herd bred free of the pathogen and needed to test their hypothesis that buffalo could live on ordinary cattle-ranching land. Travers took them, and Imire soon became a breeding centre for foot-and-mouth-free buffalo too.

Travers is survived by his wife Gillian, two sons and a daughter."

Mashonaland.

The Annual General Meetings of both the Mashonaland Branch and the Central Advisory Committee were held at the Mount Pleasant Sports Club on Sunday the 30th May 2010. Those attending were: - 18697X Brett Baines; 5281 Peter Bellingham; 6384 Peter Birkett; PR11997 Dennis Borra; 13945G Simon Bouchet; 7760 Rod Bowen; (4446) Lou Brough; 5608 Dave de Burgh-Thomas; 203509E Connie De Kock; 9348 Bill Edwards; 4728 Bill Ellway; 8263 Athol Estment; 8646 Andrew Field; 5917 Rod & Laura Finnigan; Guest D Flanagan, 7458 Mike Fox; 6262 Nigel Gabriel; (6583) Nora Griffin; 9491 Pat Hammond; 111038 Cliff Johnson; A9402 Gerry Kolpien; 5652 Bill Linfield; 6319 Chris Looker; WFR Pearl MacLachlan; 4394 Dave & Nella Martin; 9906 Red O'Connell; 8477 Peter Quick; 9494 Malcolm Smith; 8746 Rick Summers and (4130) Betty Wright.

Apologies were received from 7615 Tok Arnold; 5927 Maxie McDonald; P/R Pilot Ronnie Pascoe; 10107 Dave Payne; 6007 Bob Schonken; PR6215 Richard Seward; 7014 Malcolm Smith; 6029 Jamie Tennant; 7437 John Woodward and 6783 Dave Young.

Both the Mashonaland Committee and the Central Advisory Committee were unanimously re-elected for a further year.

The AGMs were followed by a braai which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Those members who did not attend the AGMs, for whatever reason, missed a most enjoyable social event.

The Monthly Gatherings on the second Friday of every month are gaining in popularity, and already have a solid corps of regular attendees. Now that the evenings are getting longer with the arrival of summer, the attendances should improve, for many older members do not like driving after dark.

Matabeleland Branch.

The Matabeleland Branch Dinner was held on the 11th June 2010 at The Roasted Berry in the Bulawayo Suburbs, which prepared an excellent meal. Those attending included P/R Pilot Tim Cherry, 27346Y Francis Day, 4728 President Bill Ellway (Guest Speaker), Associate Gordon Geddes, John Glossop, 9499 Karl Hurry, 7435 Taffy Jones, 8766 Gordon Kent, Guest Barry Knight, 5247 Ken MacDonald, NRP John Minshul, 110711 Gus Oosthuizen, Associate Peter Rollason, 6540 Hugh Squair, Guest Rod Tourle and 961231 Tony Turner. The President, Bill Ellway addressed those attending about the history of the Regimental Association. The company was good, the evening convivial, and the event was a credit to the organizing committee.

Regional News.

Natal Branch.

MARGATE : The late Dave Callow reported a Bring & Braai event was held at the Ramsgate Bowling Club on Saturday 13 March 2010, with a good turnout of 40. Guests included former members of the SAP and three RLI who had heard how popular these get-togethers are. A BSAP flag atop the appropriate pole properly identified the occasion. 6785 Roger and Marie Brownlow had put together a photographic collage, depicting many functions of the BSAP, which they donated to the Margate Station. It was noted that the generosity of local members, including raffles and auctions, has produced over R5000 this year alone towards Association funds.

MARGATE SNIPPETS: *Barry Woan reports two further interesting stories from on the South Coast: -*

1. Contact has been made with a local resident named Garth Philpott, who turns out to be the son of Horace Bartlett Philpott – BSAP cadet No. 105 (1935), who served on later as 3486

Trooper Philpott. He served from June 1935 to July 1938. He left on transfer then to the NRP, ending up as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner in 1959. Horace will be better known to all of us as the co-founder of Philpott & Collins, stationers and lesser known as a founder member of the Bulawayo Chronicle

2. At our recent gathering of the clan we were privileged to have amongst us several ex members of the Rhodesian Army and SAP. One such fellow was ex Sergeant Keith Bartlett MFC who served as a Sergeant with the RLI. Keith brought along with him the BSAP Best Shot Trophy that was awarded to his father, 4032 Trooper William Henry Bartlett, in 1949. Trooper Bartlett served mainly in the Lomugundi area from 11/6/1946 to 7/1/1951. Apart from being an excellent shot, William played rugby for his District and was lucky enough to have a game against the All Blacks in 1949 in a mid week fixture!

HILLCREST :

Dave and Maddie Lynn arranged a little get together of former police colleagues at their Kloof home during April. The excuse for this gathering was the visit from Canada of 7081 Farris Jaboor and his wife WP 115 Bev (nee Bayley) where they have been resident for the past 25 years. Also present was WP 303 Jacqui Short (niece of Farris) who is based in Durban but apparently spends most of her time “swanning” around the world on a cruise ship, taking people’s money (she is a croupier). Then there was 6136 Ant Crossley who is a member of Hillcrest Station but is rarely seen at any of our social functions. Ant and Bev were stationed together at one time at Salisbury Traffic before Bev saw the light and joined CID.

There was a “Bring & Braai” gathering at the Augusta Club in Hillcrest on Sunday 23 May 2010 which attracted some twenty seven visitors.

Transvaal.

Monthly gatherings were moved to the Rosebank Bowls Club as a temporary measure until the renovation of Transvaal Scottish (The Jocks) has been completed. As usual, they are held on every second Friday, anytime after 5.30pm. Wives, partners and guests are all welcome. Recent attendees at the Friday gatherings have been 8318 Dave Cushworth from the USA, 6068 Gordon Geddes from Bulawayo, and 8040 Roger Rudd from parts unspecified!

A Curry & Rice luncheon was held at the Rosebank Bowls club and we had a fine attendance. Present were: Army Ian Bate, 10488 Markham Batstone, Pascale Batstone, Sean Batstone, Guest Tony Carter, Guest (9th Bat) Ted & Jackie Coetzee, 7038 Ashley Collings & Morag Willis, 6534 Ian & Dee Cuthbertson, 6817 Keith Douche, Guest Carol Doughty, WP58 Gwen Drummond, 7489 Ian Duncan, 9214 Ian Edwards, 5619 Barry Enslin, 6145 Alex Fraser, 6769 Dick Glanville, (5703) Judy Hankinson, 24569 John Harvey, Guest Trevor Harvey, 110887 John Herdman, W Heystek, Guest Alisha Howe, Guest Chris Howe, 6059 Laurie & Liz Ibbitt, 6144 Dick Judson, 6143 Bryan & Margo Kilborn, 6904 Ian Lawrence, 6255 Jack & Fiona London, 4028V Allan Lord, 6538 Glenn Macaskill, Guest Clare Marshall, 110905 Doug McGibbon, Guest Jill Merrifield, WP346 Maureen Merrifield, 22979B Mike Miskulin & Ruth Reed, Guest Brian Newton, 6610 Jock Pirrett, 607907V Lawrie Poorter, Guests Lynne Pritchard Annabel Seed, Associate Lorraine Rutherford, Guest Donal Sammon, Guests K Scafturis, 110687 Nick Sheward, 5809 Peter Stanton, 8410 Andy Sternslo, 4831 Peter & Fran Stiff, Guest Alan Strachan, 7670 John Sutton, 5405 Brian Thomas, Guest C Von Memerty, 9790 Duncan & Carol Waugh, (6325) G West, 22115M Alf & Marion Whiston, 6137 John Wright & 4577 John Yeoman.

Western Cape Branch.

A very pleasant “Ladies Lunch” took place at the Mowbray Golf Club, Pinelands on Sunday 18 July with 53 attendees sitting down to enjoy a four course meal. A special word of thanks

is made once again this year to Cheryl Munro. She organised the gifts for the ladies of a scarf and chocolates specially wrapped in Blue and Old Gold. Those attending were: - PR653117 Dave Acker, 6639 Bob and Sue Bedingham and guest Veronica Mackay, 7880 Guy and Sally Bekker, 5483 Dave and Hanni Blacker, 6846 Jim and Marlene Blain, 6920 Andy and Valerie Bullmore, 8895 Rod and Elmari Eterman, 4885 George and Maureen Farmer, 6900 Martin and Marina Gee, 5860 Doug and Di Grierson, 6694 John and Rosalie Holmes, 8173/8952 Lockie and Rene Howie, 6869 Peter Logue & (5623) Sally May, 8151 Lawrie and Shirley Mabin, 7108 Alastair and Patricia Mackenzie, 5880 Stan and Deidre Macmillan, Mike & Lucille Mays & guest Enid, 8714 John and Cheryl Munro, & guests John's daughter & Mrs Helen Miller, 6893 Brian Oberholster, 5689 Gilly and Isobel Potter, 5098 Dave Riley, 6671 Jan and Felicity Steenkamp, 6226 Andrew and Ursula Stevens, 6222 Rob and Joan Trail, 5675/7285 Dave and Nikki Waddon and Dave's sister ex UK, and 8265 Stewart Woodcock and partner Gaby.

The Annual Dinner was held on the 11th September, 2010, at Mowbray Golf Club. The evening was well attended by approximately 60 members and their guests. Our Guest Speaker for the evening was Major General Leon Jacobs who had some very complimentary words to say about the role of the BSAP in the history of Rhodesia, and his association with the Force over the years.. The following members and guests were in attendance: - Ian Barnes, 6639 Bob Bedingham, Andrew Bellamy, Roche Beneke, 5483 Dave Blacker, 6846 Jim Blain, 6354 Derek Bothwell, 6920 Andy Bullmore, Colin Burke, Alan Crook, 6941 Richard Currie, Des Easom, 8895 Rod Eterman, Bobby Gibbons, 5860 Doug Grierson, 7544 Dave Hawks, John Holmes, Kai Howie, 8173/8952 Lockie Howie, Roger Humphries, Deon Huysaman, Ed Ions, Maj/Gen Leon Jacobs (Guest Speaker), 6780 Graham Jansen, 6118 Pat Keyser, Chris Lemesurier, 6869 Pete Logue, Peter Lowe, 8151 Lawrie Mabin, Tom Mabin, Ralph MacArthur, Steve Macevoy, Rob Maclean, Niall McKrill, Stan McMillan, Wendy Meyer, Dusty Millar, 8714 John Munro, Rudolph Murray, Dave Osborn, 6120 Dave Parry, 6158 Don Peters, 5689 Gilly Potter, Shamus Power, Smith Red, 5098 Dave Riley, 6494 Tony Rozemeyer, Derek Russell, Allistair Sempill, Pete Shout (Jnr), Pete Shout (Snr), John Souter, Ted Spencer, 6874 Neville Spurr, Jamie Surkont, 7471 Joe Surkont, Matt Surkont, 6222 Rob Traill, 8897 Carl Van Woerden, Ted Vickery, 7041 John Waterhouse, Mike Webster & Eddy Wilkinson. The Guest Speaker spoke about the role of the BSAP in the history of Rhodesia, and reminisced about his association with the Force over the years.

Eastern Cape Branch.

The AGM was held at the Maritime Club, Port Elizabeth and commenced at 1200 hours on Saturday the 27 March. The incoming Committee remained largely unchanged. However, 5922 Trevor Compton was brought onto the Committee as the new Chairman. The new Committee is therefore: -

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|---------------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| Chairman | 5922 | Trevor | Compton |
| Secretary/Treasurer | 6966 | Rob | Clarke |
| Member | Associate | Anne | Basson |
| Member | Associate | Claire | Wilson |
| Member | P/R | James | Fisher |

The following members attended: - Anne BASSON, 6443 Basil & Jill BLATCH. 6570 Brian & Helena BURSTEIN, 6966 Rob CLARKE, 5922 Trevor & Pat COMPTON, 6687 Alan DICKINSON, 4696 Tony DOWN (Port Alfred), 5624 Pat & Lyn FERGUSON, PR James & Connie FISHER, 8710 William & Linda GODWIN, 7890 Ed HOLLOWAY, 9580 Peter & Lindsay KNOWLDEN, 9023 Pat LEE (Port Alfred), (4982) Jill MACKENZIE, 7777 Digby POCOCK (Port Alfred), PR Rodger & Betty SLATER (Humansdorp), (5879) Shelagh STOW, C245 Dave & Margy WHINNEY & Claire WILSON. Apologies were received from: - (5225) Elaine CARSE, PR Pilot Dave CARTWRIGHT, PR Herbie DU PLESSIS, WFR Mignonne GIBBINGS, 9332 Yorky GRIFFITHS, 6870 Dave LOW, WP 137/281

Doreen NOWELL, PR Roger SOUTHGATE, 5144 Ray WEARE, 5001 Jamie WHITELAW & 5907 Pete WILSON.

A special welcome was extended to 6125 Mike & Roxy HORNER from Tunbridge Wells, UK. Mike, a former Chairman of the Eastern Cape Branch, had arrived the previous day for a short vacation visiting his sister Anne Basson. Pat LEE, also a visitor, was roped in by Tony DOWN at Port Alfred. He said that he was returning to Zimbabwe shortly. A point of interest with regard to his family history is that his grandfather was 841 Neil Housman WILSON who served from 1906 to 1910 taking his discharge to transfer to the Attorney General's office as a prosecutor.

A bring and braai followed the AGM and a good time was had by all those attending. Friendships were renewed and copious amounts of liquid refreshment were consumed. A late arrival, due to work commitments, was 8018 Alan GORDON. Funds were raised in a raffle of several items of memorabilia donated by the relatives of the late PR Aubrey INGRAM.

The Annual Regimental Lunch was held in PORT ELIZABETH on Friday, 24 September. The following members attended: - Anne BASSON, 6443 Basil & Jill BLATCH, PR Pilot Dave & Di CARTWRIGHT, 6966 Rob & Pam CLARKE, 5922 Trevor & Pat COMPTON & Guests Trevor & Tracy HARTWIG, 6687 Alan & Joan DICKINSON, PR Herbie DU PLESSIS & Guest Tony QUICKE, 5624 Pat & Lyn FERGUSON, PR James & Connie FISHER, 5621 Gerry FRITH (Guest Speaker), WFR Mignonette GIBBINGS, 7890 Ed & Glynis HOLLOWAY, (8225) Margaret LE ROUX and daughter Melanie-Jane. (4782) Jill MACKENZIE, 7777 Digby & Trish POCOCK, PR Rod & Betty SLATER (Humansdorp), 5879) Shelagh STOW, 5144 Ray WEARE & daughter Norma MULLER, C245 Dave & Margy WHINNEY & Claire WILSON. Apologies were received from:- 6570 Brian & Helena BURSTEIN, (5225) Elaine CARSE, 4696 Tony & Laura DOWN, 8710 William & Linda GODWIN 9580 Peter & Lindsay KNOWLDEN, 6870 Dave LOW, WP137/281 Doreen NOWELL, PR Roger & Rose SOUTHGATE 9434 Jimmy & Liz SWINNERTON & 5907 Peter & Brenda WILSON. Our Guest Speaker, Gerry Frith, had travelled from Knysna to attend the function. Gerry did his three in the BSAP, and performed an assortment of jobs joining the Hong Kong Police, from where he retiring as a Deputy Commander. His talk, concentrated mainly on his service in the BSAP. He related various humorous incidents during his BSAP service, especially with regard to Depot and equitation. On behalf of the Branch, Alan DICKINSON presented him with a framed Dave BLACKER poem.

International News.

Australia Branch.

The Annual Luncheon of the Australia Branch took place on Saturday 25 September at the City of Belmont RSL. Our guest speaker was 7682 Ian Calderwood who left the BSAP in 1973 and joined the West Australian Police Service. He achieved the rank of Superintendent before retirement. Ian delivered a very absorbing account of his service both in the BSAP and in the WA Police Service, particularly when stationed in the more remote areas. Those attending were: John & Margaret Seward, Alan and Joyce McGrath, Terry & Joan Walton (Joyce McGrath's sister & husband visiting from London), Jan and Howard Martin, Rob & Laurie Gates, Lew & Joann Whitmore, Linda and Steve Martin, Betty Cilliers (Guest of Merle Howden), Merle Howden, Charles and Adele Scott, Tom Doherty, David Van Zuydam and guest (son Adam Van Zuydam), Elizabeth and Sam Williams, Rod and Brenda Blevin, Janet Capell (daughter of ex Asst Commissioner Dave Sloman now in Joburg) and her mother-in-law Cecily (her late husband was a descendent Col. Essex Capell ex BSAP Commissioner), John Savage, Bert Freemantle, Jane Van der Westhuizen (daughter of Bert Freemantle), Nick Van der Westhuizen (Bert Freemantle's grandson), Jordan Van der Westerhuizen (nephew of Jane visiting from Johannesburg), Rob Bater, Ian Calderwood (Guest of Honour), Carol

Clapham, Margaret Craft (guest of Carol Clapham), Dick & Helen Hamley, Kerry and Olivia Hoadley, Chris and Dorothy Morten, Bob and Barbara Osborne, Sylvia Holborn, Dave and Joyce De Salis, Bill Johnstone, Alan Richardson (President of the City of Belmont RSL and guest of the Branch), Arthur Hutson, Fleur Blick and her husband Graham, Vivienne Hedge, Margo Morgan, Don and Joyce Bulloch, Andrew Cox 9369 (guest of Rod Bater just arrived in WA), Val Davies, Celia Parkinson and Mick & Joan Davis.

Queensland Branch.

Mike Edden reports that one irreverent Branch member chose to refer to the regular Coffee Mornings meeting of a small group of members as the Old Farts Club (OFC). Unfortunately it is all too true so OFC! we shall remain. 7432 Will Keys sent out a formal invitation to the members of the OFC to join him and others with a Southern African connection, for lunch at the Queensland United Services Club (QUSC) on Wednesday 14th April at 1230. The day arrived and, as per a prior arrangement, I was picked by 6278 Gerry Dyer, and we drove off to Mt Gravatt to collect 6604 John Gold. I was sitting in the front and couldn't help noticing that Gerry was changing controls to the left of the steering wheel with his right hand! Somewhat concerned about this particular skill, asked him the reason only to learn that he was recovering from an operation to the rotary cuffs in his left shoulder! This started an interesting conversation to me as I have a similar problem with two torn cuffs, the only difference being that I was told that if I had been a 29 year old sportsman the specialist would have operated straightaway but, being an OF, he wouldn't bother as the other two cuffs would gradually take over the job. I still have trouble lifting my fork to my mouth but fortunately I hold my wine in my right hand! Having collected John we arrived at the QUSC in good time. We were joined by a friend of Will's, Frank Gutridge, who is a Corporate Executive who was educated at Peterhouse, served in the Rhodesian Intelligence Corps, and now lives in Brisbane. Rob Krohn, another friend of Will's who used to play Rugby for the SA Defence Forces and Under 20 for Natal. The final guest was John Shenfield, another Chartered Accountant in Merchant Banking and, like Rob, a recognised Rugby player in South Africa. We had a superb lunch accompanied by wines which went on until around 4pm when our party was the last to leave the Club.

The annual lunch and was arranged by John Gold to take place at the Wynnum-Manly West Sports Club on the 21st November. The Chairman, Mike Edden, having turned 80, and was kindly taken by Gerry and Wendy Dyer to the lunch so that he could enjoy a glass or two of alcohol.

The following attended the lunch: 4727 Mike and Rosemary Edden, 6278 Gerry and Wendy Dyer, 6303 Peter and Carol Nortje, 6604 John and Mary Gold, 6969 John (Billy) Budd, 6994 Colin John and his two guests ex-Internal Affairs Rob and Sandy Knights, 7012 Mike and Ginny King, 10265 Mitch and Debbie Dove, WFR Jenny Jones and daughter Debra, PR David and Alison Catherall and the Rhodesian fast bowler "Goofy" Lawrence.

As usual the Club laid on a splendid meal with suitable hot snacks passed around by the staff before the meal. The informality made it a very easy occasion and, once John Gold had called us to order, Mike Edden gave a short resume of events that have taken place since he became Administrator of the Branch, including his attendance at the unveiling of the Memorial to the Force at the National Memorial Arboretum in the UK, and later he proposed the toast to the Regiment. John Gold proposed the Branch thanks to Mike for keeping things ticking over for the past 18 months.

United Kingdom Branch.

The highlight of the year for the UK Branch was the dedication of the BSAP Memorial that had been erected at the National Memorial Arboretum at Arewas in Staffordshire. It was a

Grand project, Grand in its conception and Grand in its execution. The Dedication of the Memorial was attended by some three hundred plus people, mainly from the UK, but there were representatives from all parts of the world. Everyone to whom I have spoken, who attended the Dedication Service, commented on what a moving experience this was. The Chairman and the Committee of the United Kingdom Branch who managed the project and brought it to such a successful conclusion are to be Highly Commended for a job “Well Done”. Barry Henson, the UK Branch Secretary wrote the following for the UK Outpost: -

THE FINAL PARADE by 5662 Barry Henson

On Sunday 25th July, two coaches and lots of cars took people over to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire for the Unveiling and Dedication of the BSA Police Memorial. Lots more people came in from other parts of the country. Again, no exact number as the registrations, which reflected almost 300, were incomplete. I reckon there were at least 350, probably more. The weather was ideal and the light buffet reception gave time for socialising before ‘Fall In’ was sounded. A good 100 or more fell in and 4777 Tackie **Macintosh** showed that the years had not diminished his drill voice. Off we marched to the Memorial, about 250 yards away, to a recording of Kum a Kye by the BSAP Band – played at almost double time!! It was a beautiful ceremony and quite a few tears were shed. Chairman 6905 Peter **Phillips** gave the welcoming address and **Lord Walker**, Patron of the BSAP Trust and son of the late 3989 Col. WDH **Walker**, performed the Unveiling. 4600 the Rev. Terry **Mesley-Spong** CLI performed the dedication ceremony. He also blessed the Roll of Honour. (This is a beautifully leather-bound volume which was later ‘laid up’ in the chapel). Our last Commissioner 3939 Peter **Allum** gave a short address and the formalities ended with a reading of 5483 Dave **Blacker**’s poem ‘The Regiment’. At the end of the ceremony the Parade formed up and for the very last time, the order ‘British South Africa Police Dismiss’ was given. The parade ‘right turned’ marched three paces and broke away to the Regimental march, Kum a Kye - more tears! The Memorial is based on the ‘Blatherwick Memorial’ in Morris Depot, and is beautifully crafted out of Cotswold Stone. The four commemorative plaques, one on each side, were sculpted by 5872 Winston **Hart**. They respectively depict the Force crest, a mounted trooper, the civil role and the military role of the BSAP over the years. Photographs of these will appear in the Outpost and on line. A beautiful souvenir programme produced by our Associate Member Sandi **Henson**, was handed out to those present. Copies will be forward with the Winter Outpost to those who were not able to attend. Other copies will be sent to the Honorary Secretaries of Branches worldwide. A DVD of the occasion is being prepared which we hope to distribute with the Winter Outpost in November and also send to other Branches. No charge is being made for the programme or DVD, but donations to the Memorial Fund will be welcome. General opinion was that it really was ‘**A Weekend to Remember**’ and members were proud to say “**I was there**”.

Mailbag.

Brian Pym reported on the 50 year reunion of Recruit Squad 1 of 1960. The following members made up the Squad: - 6117 Roy Edwards, 6118 Patrick Keyser, 6119 Edward Burbridge, 6120 David Parry, 6121 Mike Harvey, 6122 Richard Evans, 6123 Brian Pym, 6124 Neville Eva, 6125 Michael Horner, 6126 John Thatcher, 6127 Errol Cunningham, 6128 Brian Jeffreys, 6129 Kenneth Keens & 6130 Randolph Symmons. The reunion was held at the Clouds Wine Estate, Stellenbosch, and was attended by Roy Edwards (South Africa), Pat Keyser (South Africa), Dave Parry (South Africa), Mike Harvey (New Zealand), Dick Evans (South Africa), Brian Pym (United Kingdom), John Thatcher (South Africa), and Ken Keens (South Africa) together with their respective wives/partners. Sadly two members of the Squad had since passed on, namely John (Stork) Burbridge and Neville Eva. Both John & Neville were remembered during the course of the proceedings, as were those members who were unable to attend – Mike Horner (United Kingdom), Errol Cunningham (South Africa), Brian Jeffreys (Australia), and Randy Symmons (United Kingdom). The initial gathering occurred in Cape Town at Kirstenbosch Gardens, followed by a lunch at Quay 4 on the V & A

Waterfront. Thereafter the assembled group moved to Clouds Wine Estate in Stellenbosch. An informal “braai” was held there that night. The next morning saw visits to various wine estates, with much “wine tasting” or perhaps a little more !!!, ending with a picnic lunch at the well renowned Boschendal Estate. A semi formal dinner was held that evening at which various speeches were given as was the loyal toast, and toasts to our absent and departed friends. Following dinner Mike presented a slide show he had prepared on the Squad’s History set to the music of the BSAP Band. Regrettably, the following morning saw the breakup of the group as we went our various ways. The Reunion was a truly memorable occasion at which many acquaintanceships were renewed and memories shared. This event will be remembered by all when they proudly wear the “BSAP Squad 1/60” Sports Shirts kindly donated by Roy, and when they read and re-read the “Cherished Times and Fifty Years On of Squad 1/1960” that was compiled by Mike. Photographs were taken of the occasion and anyone wanting to see copies should contact Roy Edwards: roy@cerefco.co.za.

Roll of Honour

| Force No. | Name | Forenames | Place | Date |
|-----------|-------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 4368 | Armstrong | Andrew Kenneth Patrick | Howick, RSA | 21/03/2010 |
| WPR1917 | Baalbergen | Johanna Clara | Fish Hoek, Cape, RSA | 1998 (Late Report) |
| 3005 | Bellamy | John Franklyn | Holsworthy, Devon, UK | 30/06/2010 |
| 18184F | Binder | Norman Cuthbert | Nelspruit, RSA | 09/04/2010 |
| 4631 | Blair | Alexander Anderson | Calgary, Canada | 03/11/2010 |
| (4511) | Bradfield | Joan (Widow of 4511 John Bradfield) | Harare | 09/07/2009 |
| 6468 | Callow | David | Port Shepstone, RSA | 02/06/2010 |
| 6235 | Carlisle | Lynn Andrew | Johannesburg, RSA | 19/07/2010 |
| (3497) | Castle-Ward | Beryl (Widow of William James Castle-Ward) | Bulawayo | 08/11/2010 |
| 3531 | Cave | James Desmond Dooge | Kingstone, UK | 15/05/2010 |
| 4307 | Collins | Timothy James “Jimmy” | Pietermaritzburg, RSA | 26/04/2010 |
| 6816 | Cumming | William McPherson “Bill” | Harare | 06/11/2010 |
| 3921 | Earle | William Anderson | Cirencester, UK | 01/05/2010 |
| 7000 | Harley | David Phillip | Melbourne, Australia | 18/08/2010 |
| 4642 | Hounsfield | David Ranleigh | Port Elizabeth | 07/05/2010 |
| 6569 | Kuttner | Felix Johannes Joseph | Chiredzi | 27/07/2010 |
| 10529 | Kydd | Charles Hamilton | Johannesburg RSA | 11/10/2010 |
| “A” Res | Langley | Peter | Johannesburg, RSA | 18/06/2010 |
| (3201) | Lardant | Ida (Widow of Jeffrey James “Ginger” Lardant) | Deal, UK | 17/10/2010 |
| 8496J | Learmonth | John | Bulawayo | 24/11/2010 |
| F/R | Leask | Mike | Kwe Kwe | 03/03/2010 |
| 8165/8856 | Lloyd | Stephen Geoffrey | Johannesburg RSA | 01/06/2010 |
| 9486 | Luscombe | David | Plymouth, UK | 10/09/2010 |
| 6342 | Marks | David John | UK | 18/05/2010 |
| (6759) | Miller | Denise (Wife of 6759 John Perry Miller) | Pietermaritzburg, RSA | 04/03/2010 |
| Associate | Munnion | Christopher “Chris” | Johannesburg RSA | Sept 2010 |
| 7530 | Nimmo | Norman Peter | Road Accident Nelspruit, RSA | 03/05/2010 |
| (5689) | Potter | Isobel | Cape Town, RSA | 06/09/2010 |
| P/R | Rausch | “Skip” | London | 12/12/2010 |
| 4267 | Reese | Shane Art Eamon | Runcorn, UK | 23/06/2010 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|------------|
| PR34776Y | Robinson | Eric | Thorne, Yorks UK | 26/05/2010 |
| PR6047 | Shattock | James S “Jim” | Marondera | 21/04/2004 |
| PR 13355 | Spanton | Gerald C V | Henneman, OFS, RSA | 25/04/2010 |
| 6441 | Stevenson-Baker | Brian Reginald | London | 16/10/2010 |
| 6063 | Stock | Alan Peter | Eastbourne, UK | 20/06/2010 |
| 10317 | Taylor | Michael William | Johannesburg, RSA | 26/05/2010 |
| 3667 | Turner | Cyril Bernard | Dawlish, Devon, UK | 21/01/2010 |
| 10231 | Williams | Brian | Johannesburg, RSA | 08/07/2010 |
| 4956 | Williamson | Alexander Robin | Heywards Heath, Sussex, UK | 14/08/2010 |
| 4225 | Underwood | Ronald | Margate, RSA | 31/08/2010 |
| PR8066R | Van Niekerk | Hubert Graham | Port Elizabeth RSA | 06/10/2010 |
| (6419) | Wheatley | Rose (Wife of Clive Frank Wheatley) | Johannesburg RSA | 07/11/2010 |
| 7597/8886 | Wright | Harold Aspinall | Keynsham, UK | 08/08/2010 |

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