



## QUEENSLAND NEWSLETTER MAY 2011

### OFC

The third gathering for 2011 took place at Toscani's at Garden City on Wednesday 6th April; present were 4727 Mike Edden, 5450 Dick Howlett, 6303 Peter Nortje, 6604 John Gold, 7012 Mike King, 7432 Will Keys, Goofy Lawrence and we were joined for the first time by 900931 Neill Gordon. Apologies were received from 5757 Ian Milton, 6278 Gerry Dyer, 28014Z Mike Hayes and 6969 Billy Budd.

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### NJUZI AND THE RIVER PEOPLE

The MS was been sent off to the USA and the single book for checking will be here towards the end of this month.

### RHODESIA MEMORIES

A single copy of my book was given to Mike King to do a proof read for me with a view to seeing what can be deleted and any additional material added.

### PHOTO BOOKS

At the April meeting I introduced Mike King to BLURB the American Publishing House, which is doing my books. However, he has gone another route and produced photo books of various King travels for interest each of which were magnificent productions and Mike is to be congratulated on the quality of his work.

He also handed over to me a compilation of family adventures dating back to 1760, which makes interesting reading, so much so, I wonder if any other members have gone back in their family's history, if so I would be very interested and will consider them for publication in due course..

### FINANCE

In April I obtained approval for \$100 to assist in the purchase of accessories for the Dell Notepad kindly donated to me by Will Keys, after the family PC crashed and the mainframe was wiped out.

Will and Jacqui Keys have been very supportive of me by fundraising last year to enable Queensland to be represented at the Last Parade and now providing a

used Notepad, in pristine condition, to enable me to stay in touch with members both here and worldwide. Thank you very much.

### HEALTH

Ian Milton confirmed he is well over his hernia ops.

I have been placed on the waiting list for a new left hip.

### FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

John Berry in Ireland is about to publish book No 14 on the BSAP and this will include four chapters of my memoirs headed "The Turning Point" in the war, which cover Operation Hurricane and COMOPS up to the Mkushi Raid.

Fred Punter in the UK has put a BBC Channel 4 researcher on to me as the BBC wishes to do a programme on the attempted assassination of Nkomo following the first Viscount Disaster.

This raid was carried out by the SAS as Operation Bastille on April 13 1979. As a surviving member of COMOPS I have been asked for my opinion regarding the alleged British Spy in COMOPS, who reputedly tipped Nkomo off about the raid and, whether I am prepared to do an interview on the subject later on. Naturally I suggested that the interview should be in London, but it appears that parsimony and modern technology has made that trip unnecessary and it will be done by radio link from a studio in Australia; pity!

I admit to being somewhat surprised at the request, but it is not so much about the raid concerned, that is well documented in Barbara Cole's book "The Elite", which is the story of the Rhodesian SAS, but that the British want to do a story about the spy, particularly as the SAS believed at the time that the spy was the Director General of CIO, who was supposed to have made the phone call to Lusaka from COMOPS, because the Government preferred to deal with Nkomo rather than Mugabe.

When Ken Flower was shown to have an alibi, the suspicion was moved to his Deputy, Derrick Robinson and even I came under suspicion, though why any of us would have chosen to make the phone call, in the rather more public surrounds at COMOPS than in the safety and security of our offices in CIO, is beyond imagination, particularly as Nkomo's laughter about the shooting down of the Viscount, then the murder of survivors, put him well beyond the pale and even though Ian Smith had been talking to Nkomo about the Rhodesian situation days before, he was greatly embarrassed by the matter and neither he nor CIO would have interfered in Nkomo receiving his just deserts.

However, I find it very interesting that the British want to do a story some 32 years after the event; perhaps the British public are now keen to know more about the perfidy of their government at the time!

### PLAN B AND 49 DAYS

Gerry Dyer was still keen to hear about Plan B.

This was first raised by Air Marshal Mick McLaren Deputy Commander COMOPS regarding what action could be planned in the event of the CTs

winning the election and marching out of their Assembly Points on Salisbury shooting everything in their path.

I detailed the pre-planning, which was prepared with senior officers of SAS, the RLI, Scouts and Air Force organised by me and Chief Superintendent Mac McGuinness in a safe house in the Avenues in Salisbury and suitable arrangements were made to ensure that remedial action would have been introduced immediately with the help of the South African Airforce.

COMOPS referred to this plan as Plan Z. This plan was discussed in later months by the TV media as a possible coup by the SF, which General Walls admitted to, but the circumstances were taken out of context by Mugabe who then banished Walls and cut off his pension.

As the CTs did not react in this manner, this plan never saw the light of day.

Will Keys thought that Plan B referred to my chapter “49 days”, which is published in the third and final volume of the History of the BSAP, but not many of those present have a copy of the book; so I then gave the details of the scheme which, if authorised and successful, would have guaranteed the Muzorewa party a minimum of 22 seats at the 1980 election.

As we all know, the SF were confined to barracks and only the “Black Boots” were in the field in the vicinity of the Assembly Points, so that no candidate other than ZANU PF and ZAPU could put their case to the people in the TTLs. The CT theme was “Vote for ZANU PF or the war will continue and you will be punished.”

In spite of the British putting various obstacles in the way, we Rhodesians found a way to overcome these obstacles and could have balanced the intimidation of the voters in the TTLs and ensured that the urban voters could have seen a Government of National Unity rather than an election in which the British favoured the CTs particularly ZANU PF.

It’s all water under the bridge now, but 32 years on, interest is still being expressed in the final events of the “Bush War”

#### **FUNDS LEAVING RHODESIA POST-1980 ELECTION**

Frank Gutteridge raised the issue of the funds, which left Rhodesia, as he, as a member of the Civil Service, didn’t have this facility.

Gerry Dyer explained to him the scheme whereby members of the Police and Security Forces were enticed to stay serving until the bitter end.

I must admit that I personally did not know that the scheme had not included members of the civil service.

On that happy note, I had to leave the gathering for another appointment.

Best wishes Mike Edden  
ADMINISTRATOR