



The British South Africa Police.

BSAP REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION, UK BRANCH

The Scottish Gathering Newsletter, No. 2

Enthusiasm for the inaugural *Scottish Gathering* is increasing as 14th May 2011 draws nearer. The latest attendance count is 56 (inclusive of spouses), well over double the number hoped for when the project was first mooted. No less than 27 members have forwarded the requested payment in advance of £7.50 per head, most with added donations, and these are gratefully acknowledged. Donations alone now amount to £260.00 which means that an overall surplus is assured. This amazing response is a very clear indication of the need for regular *Scottish Gatherings* in the future, and as mentioned before, members are asked to think about how best to forge ahead.

This is a final request to members before the event for confirmation of attendance so that a figure may be given to the caterers on or before 30th April 2011. Members who have paid their dues in advance have already been included in this count, but for the few remaining, Steve Acornley awaits your advice, please. If you have not already done so, please advise spouse/partner/guest name for then name tags.

To conclude this part, a very sincere 'Thank You' to everyone for your interest and wonderful support!

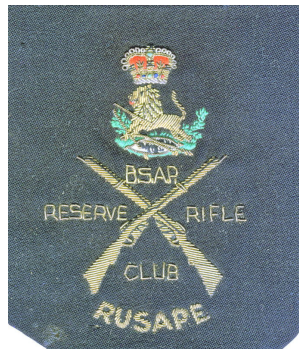
The Crest of the British South Africa Police

As all indications are that the *Scottish Gathering* is to be a permanent event, it follows that there will be a continuation of this Newsletter. Apart from news of current meetings, an item or two of general interest, together with input and responses from members, will provide added interest. The mention in the first Newsletter of Regimental blazers is thus the inspiration for the following report on the BSAP Crest:

A series of articles in the **Outpost** in the 1960s gave details and photographs of variations of the BSAP crest over the decades, as used on uniforms, blazers, official stationery and even in large cement castings as applied to the façade of buildings. Two variations of uncommon BSAP blazer badges are reproduced here. The first is a badge from a tailored sports blazer worn by Trooper 2496 HH Haslam in the 1920s. The blazer is made of cream coloured barathea material, with a broad black tape around the collar and edges. The badge is in black cotton embroidery.



The second badge is of a BSAP Reserve Rifle Club. These were supplied on either a black or navy blue barathea material; with the BSAP crest above crossed rifles in gold wire and indicating the specific rifle club, in this example, RUSAPE.



It would be interesting to hear what the BSAP historians have to say about the origins of the crest. What is known, however, is that the design is identical to the reverse of the British South Africa Company's Medal 1890-1897, the ribbon for which is described in one catalogue as 'Golden yellow with three blue stripes', or to ourselves as the more familiar 'Blue and Old Gold'.

This link to military medals goes further. The Cape of Good Hope General Service Medal 1880-1897, the qualification for which included service in the Langberg Campaign in Bechuanaland, has a ribbon described as dark blue with a gold centre band, the colours being from earlier campaign medals for service in Southern Africa. This reference is to the South African Medal first instituted in 1854 (1834-53) and again in 1879 (1877-79). The medal design is of a crouching lion backed by a protea bush and above a shield and spears. This medal ribbon is described as being orange-yellow with blue stripes. The design of this medal is attributed to a father and son collaboration, the obverse by William Wyon (1795-1851) official chief engraver of the Royal Mint, and the reverse by Leonard Charles Wyon (1826-1891) who succeeded his father.

There is, however, another event which could be the inspiration for the BSAP crest; a Scottish link through David Livingstone. He established his first mission in the valley of MABOTSA, one of the sources of the Limpopo River, 200 miles north-east of Kuruman. Shortly afterwards, he was attacked by a lion which crushed his left arm. The arm was imperfectly set and was a source of trouble to him at times throughout his life. There is a memorial statue depicting this event in the grounds of the Livingstone Museum in Blantyre, Glasgow.

Beverley Thompson, wife of Dick Thompson (5559) of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne has a book entitled 'The Life and Explorations of Dr Livingstone, The Great Missionary Traveller'. There is an engraved drawing on the cover of a lion with left paw pushing down on the left shoulder of a distraught-looking Livingstone clutching his rifle. The lion closely resembles the lion of the BSAP crest, save that the tail is not upright. Livingstone takes the place of the shield. The background is of fronds of shrubbery, much the same as the mimosa (acacia) in

the BSAP crest. A check on the internet will bring up variations of this drawing of Livingstone's lion, some with the lion slightly angled from the viewer's perspective, and not so strikingly similar to the lion of the BSAP crest.

Any further information or comment would be very welcome!

Sincerely

Steve Acornley (7784) & Nigel Seaward (5976)

3rd April 2011