

## Home News - Extracts from the UK Outpost Issue No 73 [Winter 2009]

Edited by Mike Abbotts 5975

### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT – 6905 Peter Phillips

As ever, I am writing this in the aftermath of the Annual Dinner and prior to our Christmas gathering. The dinner was, again, a very successful event with 70 in attendance, an improvement on last year. Sue Onslow's speech was short and sharp but very entertaining; the response from Tony Granger was of his usual high standard. We were delighted to welcome guests from overseas of whom I must especially mention Bill Crabtree – a very fit 92 year old over from Natal. A fuller report and photos appear elsewhere.

Much of my chat this time is to refer you to items appearing elsewhere in this issue. Plans for the memorial are covered in a flyer with this issue; please get the dates in your diary now. We are still eager for donations and have even arranged a PayPal account for those who have forgotten how to write a cheque. Seriously, some people are putting a lot of effort into the Memorial and the Unveiling event. Do feel free to support them and the project.

Elsewhere there is possibly good news on the Pension front. Whilst not having a vested interest myself, could I ask anyone who is corresponding with OSPA to also let Bertie know so that we can have a proper database of our pensioners.

Upcoming is the Remembrance Day service at the Rhodesia plot at Westminster. Parry Jones, Keith Brown and I will be taking an active part and, again, support would be very welcome.

After that we look towards our Christmas Sundowner and I look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, may I wish you the compliments of the Season and all you would wish for yourselves for the New Year.

### AROUND AND ABOUT THE UK AND IRELAND:

#### Victory Services Club Gatherings

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2009** - this month we were pleased to welcome the following from afar, 5211 Bill **Birch** (Namibia), 6170/7756 Graeme **De Wit** (South Africa) and Alan **Bryant** (Zimbabwe), ex Rhodesia Army (*Grandson of 658 Trooper A.E Bryant who joined the Mashonaland Division in 1905 and served until 1910*). Also enjoying the company were: 4278 John **Balchin**, 4853 Fred **Punter**, 5055 Ken **Miners**, 5248 Alan **Lane**, 5507 Brian **Taylor**, 5975 Mike **Abbotts**, 6197/7208 Keith **Addison**, 6348 Dennis **Poole**, 6527 Mike **O'Donnell**, 6737 Mike **Coleman**, 6905 Peter **Phillips**, 7225 Keith and Judy **Brown**, 7359 Bertie **Cubitt**, 7391 Alan **Toms**, 7407 John **Bradbury**, 19566 "Skip" **Rausch**, 22137 Peter **Munday** and guests John **De Wit** and Ian **Stuart** (maker of tasty biltong!).

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2009** - a fine early autumn evening saw the best turnout at the monthly gathering for some considerable time with the following putting in an appearance: 4278 John **Balchin**, 4503 Derek **Humberstone**, 4853 Fred **Punter**, 4735 Cliff **Rogers**, 4882 Peter **Dancer**, 5248 Alan **Lane**, 5469 Dave **Grimbly**, 5507 Brian **Taylor**, 5625 "Biff" **Way**, 5662 Barry **Henson**, 5975 Mike **Abbotts**, 6308 Dan **Hughes**, 6514/7562 Chris **Johnson**, 6527 Mike **O'Donnell**, 6609 Parry **Jones**, 6905 Peter **Phillips**, 7211 Peter **Biddulph**, 7359 Bertie **Cubitt**, 7391 Alan **Toms**, 8338 Mal **Thurman**, 8510 David **Adams** (Zimbabwe), WPO 484 Carol and Graham **MacKenzie** and 195666 "Skip" **Rausch** together with guests Carl **Keith**, Gary **King**, Tom **Prentice** (Major) and Ian **Stuart**

**6<sup>th</sup> October 2009** – a smaller turnout than normal, probably because of our recent Dinner. Nice to see 8510 David **Adams** from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe again this month – he returns there shortly. Others attending were 4278 John **Balchin**, 5248 Alan **Lane**, 6348 Dennis **Poole**, 6737 Mike **Coleman**, 6905 Peter **Phillips**, 7391 Alan **Toms** and 7407 Tony **Bradbury**.

## **Whitwell Braai : Rutland - 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

The mid-year braai was once again held at Whitwell on the shores of Rutland Water in the County of that name. The motto of the County is, appropriately, “multum in parvo” which means “much in little” – England’s secret and smallest county. Those attending the braai and arriving early often take the opportunity to visit the two delightful market towns of Oakham and Uppingham and the nearby surrounding countryside. The County’s central feature is of course, Rutland Water which extends over 3,300 acres and is one of the largest man-made reservoirs in Europe. The reservoir, created by damming the valley near Empingham, was built to supply water to East Midlands towns and was completed in 1975. It is of interest that the villages of Nether Hambleton and most of Middle Hambleton had to be demolished as part of the ground preparation but their neighbour, Upper Hambleton, survived the filling of the reservoir and now sits on a peninsula within the lake – reminiscent of the building of Kariba Dam to provide hydroelectricity in the late 1950’s when the Batonka tribe had to move from their many villages in the Zambesi Valley to avoid the rising waters of the dam. Rutland Water was, however, a very, very much smaller project in comparison!! It is a really delightful area to explore.

As usual, the Reunion Centre was set up the day before the braai by stalwarts Alan Toms, Jim Hazlett, Dennis Poole, Barry Henson, Peter Phillips together with the welcome help of Caroline Witt (*who celebrated her birthday over the weekend – we won’t tell you which one!*) This entails a considerable amount of time and effort and all should be congratulated on their good work and the finished result – all sorts of BSAP memorabilia was on show and it was well worth the time spent on a visit. Members, wives, partners and families started to gather during the afternoon and soon there were small groups catching up on the present and reminiscing of years gone by – some hadn’t met for over 30 years!!! The company was convivial, the food good and the drink flowed well into the evening. Beyond all expectations and thanks to the number of prizes generously donated by members attending the braai, the raffle raised the grand sum of £385 which will go towards the cost of the proposed BSAP Memorial (*mentioned elsewhere in this Outpost*).

A most enjoyable weekend was had by one and all – showing their faces were: 4503 Derek and Joan **Humberstone**, 4549 Ken and 204504 Dorothy **Stanford-Smith**, 4646 Roger **Young**, 4741 Bill **Bailey**, 4853 Fred and Margaret **Punter**, 4882 Peter **Dancer**, 5141 Ivan and June **Stitt**, 5171 Peter **Hillier** and 200029 Joan **Walker**, 5248 Alan and Pauline **Lane**, 5312 Mike and Sara **Lindley**, 5358 Mick and Norah **York**, 5486 Mick and May **Wood**, 5508 Gordon and Eve **Norris**, 5559 Dick and Bev **Thompson**, 5615 Tom and Joan **Meekin**, 5625 Biff and Anita **Way**, 5653 Mike and Di **Taylor**, 5662 Barry and 200715 Jean **Henson**, [5670] Jane **Pringle**, 6348 Dennis **Poole**, 6449 Ted and 201399 Ros **Crawford**, 6479 Ted and Tina **Ayers-Hunt**, 6605 Cy and Ronnie **Hartley**, 6609 Parry **Jones**, 6630 Jim **Hazlett**, 6789 Matt and Glennis **Harwood**, 6905 Peter **Phillips**, 6960 Steve and Maureen **Ripley**, 7072 Terry and Jan **Walmsley**, 7085 Fred and Angela **Hubbard**, 7136 Dave and Lyn **Lynas**, 7211 Peter and Margaret **Biddulph**, 7233 Clive **Shelley** and Theo **Shelley**, [7327] Maggie **Plant** and Irene **Arnot**, 7391 Alan and Lyn **Toms**, 7677 Peter **Dewe**, 7892 Peter and Liz **Marshall** and Ann **Derham**, 7964 Stuart **Thomson**, 8009 Peter and Nicky **Butler**, 8218 Geoff **Clements** and Neil **Clements**, 8224 Alan and Martine **Ledger**, 8338 Mal and Roz **Thurman**, 9102 Ian and Jacquie **McLaren**, Claire **McLaren**, 204556 Caroline **Witts**, Associate: Sandi **Henson**, Robert and Susan **Amphlett** and Mark and Helen **Tabor**.

## **Irish Gathering - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

### **John Berry 5584**

The Eighth Annual Irish gathering was held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September at the usual excellent venue, Sandy Stokes’ home near Clonmel, Ireland. Once again, much thanks to Sandy. The weather was good, although cloudy and a little cool and so full use could be made of the lovely grounds. The conservatory was decorated by four old Rhodesian flags presented to the group by 4061 Tpr Robert Slade. Thanks, Bob.

Thirty-eight people attended, of whom twelve alone were bussed down from the North by stalwart Tom Meekin. Several old Rhodesian guests attended, including Sandy's old bank manager, Geoff Wood, from Chippinga many years ago.

An excellent lunch was served, including boerewors, testimony to the hard work and dedication of many of the ladies. Many thanks for contributing to the success of the event.

A new face this year was that of Biff Way, well-known raconteur. He acted as auctioneer of Eddie Matchett's painting of a Mounted Trooper and it was like the Tobacco Sales floor. He also presented an African Constable skit which was much appreciated. Another innovation this year was a Raffle, which was organised, and prizes donated, by Marie Berry and Katherine Flynn, while Biff did the ticket selling. The raffle, some donations, and the event overall brought in enough to enable the Group to make a donation of £200 to Association Funds.

Those attending were: 4789 Eddie and Joan **Matchett**, 5196 Graham and Kathy **Mageean**, 5272 Pat **Deasey**, 5312 Mike and Sara **Lindley**, 5508 Gordon and Eve **Norris**, 5584 John and Marie **Berry**, 5615 Tom and Joan **Meekin** and guests Stan and Anne **Mills**, 5625 Biff and Anita **Way**, 5681 Rob and Carole **Harvey**, 5976 Nigel and Pauline **Seward**, 6264 Bob and Katherine **Flynn**, 7348 Peter **O'Hara**, 9225 John and Linda **Scott**, 110713 Brian **Armstrong** and Jill **Delaney**, 23361 (FR) Chris and (WFR) Wendy **Kavanah**, 31477 (FR) Ian and Patricia **Pearce**, guests Nicky **Hall**, Geoff and Maggie **Wood**, Mike **Harris** (ex Rhod. Govt) and Neeline and last, but not least, 5586 Sandy **Stokes**.

Apologies received from: Barry Henson, Peter Bradley, Clive Evans, Derek Singleton, Norman McNarry, Gary McWade, John Coleridge, Garth Long, Jim Hazlett.

### **Regimental Association Dinner London - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Regimental Dinner took place in the Carisbrooke Hall at the Victory Services Club, London on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Members and guests started to gather at around 6.00pm with the trumpet call for dinner sounding at 7.30pm. Chairman, Peter **Phillips**, got things underway by welcoming Dr Sue **Onslow** (Guest Speaker), Peter **Petter-Bowyer** (RhodAF) and Nighean **Darlaston** (NRP Association) together with those members attending from overseas with special mention of 3708 Bill **Crabtree**, over from South Africa, looking very well at 93 years old. He then read out greetings and best wishes from Her Majesty the Queen, General the Lord Michael Walker (Patron), Rhodesian Army Association and the Natal Branch of the Association.

After the loyal toast, 67 members and guests sat down to a very enjoyable meal. Following the customary short break, Peter introduced our guest speaker, Dr Sue **Onslow**, Research Fellow and Lecturer War Studies, Kings College. Sue, having lived and worked in South Africa and Kenya, gave an insight into her work, especially her present project which has brought her face to face with many of our Members when recording their involvement and experiences in terrorist war leading up to the change in Government in Rhodesia. Her speech was very well received. Tony **Granger** replied in his usual eloquent manner.

Once the speeches were over, Dennis **Poole** got the raffle under way with the help of Sue – the three main prizes being won by Mick **York**, Seamus **Power** and Peter **Lane** – proceeds of the raffle, amounting to just over £1100.00, will go to the BSAP Memorial Fund. A special word of thanks should be given to Dennis who has been running the raffle for many years - he is standing down this year and says he wants to give somebody else the chance to “rake” in the money!! (*A volunteer would be welcome*). Parry **Jones** and Dan **Hughes** should also be thanked for the efficient organisation of the dinner.

No report of the dinner would be complete without mention of the unfortunate accident that befell Bertie **Cubitt** whilst setting up the hall for the dinner – Bertie slipped from the stage and landed heavily on his hip. This necessitated him being taken to hospital where he was detained, thus missing the dinner, and having to have a hip replacement operation on the following Monday. The good news is that Bertie is now making a recovery at home.

Those attending the dinner were: Sue **Onslow** (Guest Speaker), Peter **Petter-Bowyer** (RhodAF), Nighean **Darlaston** (NRP Assoc), 3708 Bill **Crabtree** (South Africa), 4158 Tim

**Weimer**, 4278 John **Balchin**, 4503 Derek **Humberstone**, 4735 Cliff **Rogers**, 4851 Murray **Harrison** (Spain), 4853 Fred **Punter**, 4857 Mike **Wiltshire**, 4882 Peter **Dancer**, 4897 Brian **Shiers** (USA), 4964 Mike **Tadman**, 5055 Ken **Miners**, 5075 Dick **Ray**, 5111 Jack **Bacon**, 5171 Peter **Hillier**, 5248 Alan **Lane**, 5259 Wilf **Howe**, 5272 Pat **Deasy** (Eire), 5349 Peter **Lane**, 5358 Mick **York**, 5408 Richard **Barnes** (Australia), 5507 Brian **Taylor**, 5559 Dick **Thompson**, 5601 Eric **Robb**, 5615 Tom **Meekin**, 5625 “Biff” **Way**, 5662 Barry **Henson**, 5755 Stewart **Edwards**, 6123 Brian **Pym**, 6130 Randy **Symmons**, 6308 Dan **Hughes**, 6348 Dennis **Poole**, 6432 Chris **Roberts**, 6507 Seamus **Power**, 6609 Parry **Jones**, 6629 George **Glibbery**, 6630 Jim **Hazlett**, 6632 Gerry **Paxton**, 6743 Bruce **Allen**, 6905 Peter **Phillips**, 7211 Peter **Biddulph**, 7359 Bertie **Cubitt**, 7391 Alan **Toms**, 7677 Peter **Dewe**, 7784 Steve **Accornley**, 7996 Peter **Hirst**, 8009 Peter **Butler**, 8163 Mike **Robertson**, 9086 Tony **Granger**, 9102 Ian **McLaren**, 9591 Les **Burrow**, 111032 Colin **Bewes**, W199 Linda **Robertson**, ‘A’ Reserve 4891 Sid **Cooper**, 19566 “Skip” **Rausch**, 201279 Heather **Milner**, 00453 Patricia **Shaw**, Associates: Andy **Banks**, Jacqui **McLaren** and Claire **McLaren**, Guests: Stan **Mills**, Nick **Golden**, Jason **Allen**, Huw **Parry-Jones** and Glyn **Parry-Jones**.

## **History Section**

### **7391 Alan Toms**

The History Section this issue is devoted to a transcript of an original set of notes written by 230 Tpr Arthur Edward Bryant, describing his early experiences in the BSAP. He is recorded as attesting first on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1901. It seems he then took leave and re-attested as Tpr 658 on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1905 finally leaving on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1910.

It is not known exactly when the notes were written but are thought to have been around 1905. The notes were donated to the Association by his grandson Alan Bryant still living in Zimbabwe, it is intended they will be lodged in the National Army Museum.

### **EARLY DAYS IN THE RHODESIAN POLICE**

**By**

**A.E. Bryant, Plumtree,  
S. Rhodesia (PO Box 13)**

Born in Essex I received as good an education as possible and on leaving school was apprenticed as a gunsmith. I did well at this but on the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War the restlessness of youth seized me and in 1901 at the age of 18 years the lust for travel and adventure duly overcame discretion and parental advice and I volunteered for service in S. Africa. I joined the B.S.A. Police (that is the Police Force of Rhodesia) and proceeded to that Colony. The Boer War was then in progress and the journey up country to Bulawayo was as exciting as any youngster could wish. There were 50 of us lads that had been recruited in London and none of us African explorers. We took 10 days on the journey from Cape Town to Bulawayo only travelling by daytime. We were constantly sniped at by the Boers but saw no very serious fighting.

We were accommodated first class. That was 10 men in an iron cattle truck and even although this was the month of June the heat across the Karoo and through Bechuanaland was quite as much as we youngsters could stand. We had to cook our meals, or rather I should say make our coffee or tea at any time the train stopped and it was quite usual for us just as we had our billies near boiling there would be a terrible screech, the whistle of the engine and all aboard with our lukewarm water.

However Bulawayo was reached eventually and at the BSA Police camp there we were able to get rid of the dirt and dust of the journey and the bath we then enjoyed was, I think, one of the greatest luxuries of my whole career.

During the journey up country, although we were fully fledged Policemen, we only had our civilian clothes, so I will leave to the imagination what a scarecrow party we looked, some in grey lounge suits, some in blue suits others in once white summer suits and, in one case, a Policeman in morning suit complete with tails as then worn. To add to the glory of our apparel

was Police boots, slouch hats (Police pattern) bandolier with 50 rounds of ammunition, water bottle haversack and mess tin.

After a few days halt at Bulawayo we started on the 300 mile trek to Salisbury, our ultimate destination. It must be remembered that this was the year 1901, so that the luxury of motorcars or armoured trucks had not yet arrived and we had to make the journey on our as yet untried policeman's feet. 50 of us started out one cold morning in July.

In charge of us was a police officer and sergeant, two good men who had born the hardships of the Rhodesian Rebellion, which please remember had only been over for four years, so for we youngsters the very unsettled state of the Country and the hate filled eyes of the natives was as thrilling and as nerve testing as one could wish. With us to carry our kit and supplied for the journey were three ox wagons under charge of Hottentot drivers and a Quartermaster sergeant to issue our rations and see we did not get too fat for that 300 mile walk.

As we were still in our civilian clothes plus the martial trappings, we began to resemble good old English tramps but what did we care, we were young and fit, and going up to Mashonaland to guard railway bridges, this to be our glorious part in helping to beat the Boers.

At the midday halt the first day of our trek happened one of the most amusing incidents of my life. (It did not appear so humorous at the time). The wagons outspanned and the military voice of the Q.M Sergeant, called we 50 innocents to come and get our rations. Now, having been well fed and looked after at Bulawayo the thought of how we were going to feed on the road had not occurred to us, so we strolled up to the ration wagon for the goods. What was our surprise, not to say disgust, when the worthy Q.M.S. hurled at each of us a tin of bully beef, stooping to pick these luxuries up we were told to come and get our flour, (we expected bread), a scoop full supposed to be 1lb, was thrust at each of us which we were obliged to empty into our haversacks or mess tins. Next a hand full of sugar (3ozs) was given us and this, together with 1oz coffee and half oz of tea had to go into our pockets. This comprised our rations for the next 24 hours. In a very chastened mood we sat down, fortunately there were one or two of us who had previously soldiered and we were soon, under their guidance, arranging ourselves into messes, but the greatest mess of all was that first attempt to turn flour into bread or its equivalent, and to sort out the tea, sugar and coffee from our pockets. This first day was, naturally, the worst. We soon had little ration bags made (mostly from our handkerchiefs) to hold the sugar, tea, etc., and after a few days really enjoyed the rough life and its equally rough food.

Owing to being young and somewhat soft, the first few days we only walked 12 miles each day, but this was gradually increased to 15 and then to 20. Try this some of you tough Policemen of the motor era, don't forget, civilian clothes, military boots, rifle and bandolier, 50 rounds ammunition, water bottle, haversack and mess tin and we just youngsters, average age perhaps 20, straight out from good living in the Old Country, but we did it and never a grouse or sore foot amongst us, for we were not adventurers, coming out for the love of the life and its excitements, not to mention the great attraction of the fabulous pay of 5/- per diem.

There was sameness about each day, but one great hardship, or so we thought, was the fact that all the wayside stores and hotels refused to serve us. We naturally wished to add some luxuries to our spartan fare, but the stores were all barricaded and the storekeepers on guard with rifles. The reason for this was that just prior to our journey up, a certain Regiment, (not an English one) coming down country from Beira en route for the South, had shown a very unsportsmanlike attitude by helping themselves at the stores and neglecting to leave the money, hence we had to suffer for this.

Towards the end of July we were nearing Salisbury and were then burnt and fit, a real tough looking lot notwithstanding our attire. At the time of which I write there was a splendid military band attached to the Police at Salisbury and at our last halt some six miles from Town the Band met us headed by that grand old soldier, Jack Flint, who was then Commandant of the Police. Jack, as he was affectionately called, was an old Indian officer of the Royal Dragoons and I understand at one time the best swordsman in India. The Colonel was in the full dress of a Dragoon Colonel and the band also was in full dress to welcome us. The joke of this situation

was that as the Band approached our camp, they broke into the hymn tune of “Art thou weary art thou languid”, which we considered very appropriate after our 300 mile stroll. The last six miles, headed by “Jack” and the band was accomplished in fine style in under two hours.

After a few days rest at Salisbury Camp we were issued with uniforms and our training commence, this did not take long as we could all both ride and shoot, these accomplishments having been a necessary qualification before joining in London, so at the end of three weeks we were ready for our jobs and I with about 20 other youngsters were sent down to Umtali and there detailed to guard the railway bridges on the Beira and Mashonaland railways. Three men on each bridge, 2 hours on guard and 4 hours off duty and there we remained on this glorious and noble duty until peace was proclaimed in May 1902.

### **British South Africa Police Memorial**

#### **National Memorial Arboretum**

##### **5248 Alan Lane**

Our Chairman, Peter Phillips, has mentioned in previous editions of The Outpost, the plan to erect a Memorial to the BSA Police at the National Memorial Arboretum with an official opening planned for the 25<sup>th</sup> July next year, 30 years after our Force ceased to exist. The Memorial will be a replica of the Blatherwick Memorial in Morris Depot, with suitable bronze panels embellishing it.

Recently on a trip to the Derbyshire Dales, Pauline and I made a short detour to visit the Arboretum to find out more about it and to see what had been achieved in the relatively short time since its inception. On our arrival we found a visitor centre, chapel, small charity shop and a welcome coffee/tea room which provides light refreshments.

The literature in the visitor centre stated that the National Memorial Arboretum is the United Kingdom’s living and lasting Memorial to commemorate and celebrate:-

- Those who have given their lives in the service of their country.
- All whom have served and those who have suffered as a result of conflict.
- Others who for specific or appropriate reasons are commemorated on the site.

Created in 1997 on reclaimed sand and gravel pits, the Arboretum is located in the heart of the country within the National Forest at Alrewas, near Lichfield, Staffordshire. (*for those of you who can’t read a map and rely on a satnav, the post code is de13 7ar 11*). It covers an area of 150 acres of well-kept grassland bordering the River Tame with some 50,000 trees already planted and 150 dedicated memorials established.

It is the home of the Armed Forces Memorial, dedicated in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007. The Memorial was constructed to provide recognition of the men and women of the Armed and Merchant Services who have lost their lives in the service of their country since the end of the Second World War. Unlike the World War Memorials in towns and villages across the nation, there is nowhere that records the names of those who have been killed on duty since 1945.

One may forget that since the Second World War, the men and women of the Armed and Merchant Services have taken part in more than 50 operations and conflicts across the world. These actions have ranged from war to peacekeeping, from humanitarian assistance to fighting terrorism, from the jungles of Malaysia to the storms of the South Atlantic, from the streets of Aden to the streets of Northern Ireland.

The Memorial itself is an imposing structure, consisting of a large 6 metre high earth mound, reducing from 100 metres wide at the base to just 50 metres wide at the top and based on early British barrows or tumuli. On top of the mound stands a 43-metre diameter stone structure with two curved walls and two straight walls, constructed of bricks faced with Portland stone panels. At present there are 16,000 names inscribed on these panels. In the centre of this structure is bronze wreath, flanked by two evocative bronze sculptures. The alignment and axis of the Memorial is such that on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the sun's rays stream through the wall of the memorial, illuminating the wreath.

The BSA Police Memorial will be sited in a very pleasant position near the corner of Yeomanry Avenue and Far East Walk. Other Police Forces with Memorials already established in the Arboretum are the Kenya Police, Malaysian Police and Royal Hong Kong Police.

We found the Arboretum, featured below, to be a very worthwhile and special place to visit, so much so that I immediately sent off my long overdue donation towards the Memorial Fund. I would recommend any member who may be in the area to pay it a visit – I am sure they will be impressed.

### **Important information in regard to Zimbabwe Pension**

#### **4853 Fred Punter**

Mr Turville Kille in Harare has been liaising on behalf of the Public Service Pensioners' Association with the Zimbabwe Director for Pensions Mr Sylvester MnKandla and with HM Consul at the British Embassy Harare, Mr John Murphy. He has now reported that the Director of Pensions is now seriously hoping to be able to pay a pension allowance in US\$ to pensioners residing outside the country, whether they formally emigrated from Zimbabwe or just left the country. There will be no back pay because due to hyperinflation in Zimbabwe the value of pensions not paid since 2003 has been wiped out. The British Consul in Harare who discussed the scheme with the Director on 1st October has confirmed this information. However, the Director has not yet obtained the necessary approval from the Government.

In order for the Pensions Office to commence paying this allowance (if duly authorised), each pensioner must submit four documents:

1. Certificate of Life;
2. Additional Details (Details of service, dates, Department etc)
3. Bank instruction form (giving details of the bank account into which the pension is to be paid);
4. Certified copy of the passport (the page with your photograph).

Copies of the Certificate of Life and the bank instruction form can be obtained from the OSPA office:-

***OSPA (Zimbabwe Pensions)***

***138 High Street***

***Tonbridge***

***Kent TN9 1AX***

***Tel: 01732 363836 (Int: +44 1732 363836)***

***Fax: 01732 365070 (Int: +44 1732 365070)***

***Email: mail@ospa.org.uk***

Send your request by post, fax or email and OSPA will send you the forms.

**Or** Fred Punter, fapunter@ntlworld.com can send them to you as email attachments.

Return the completed forms, with the certified copy of the passport page, to the OSPA office for forwarding by secure means to the Government Pensions Office. The Pensions Office Director hopes to be able to start making payments by December and that they would be backdated to August.

Please note: OSPA cannot answer questions about pension entitlement, or related queries. This applies to all pensioners in UK and world wide except South Africa or elsewhere if local arrangements have been made.

## OBITUARIES

**It is with regret that we report  
the following deaths.**

**We extend our deepest  
sympathy to the family and  
friends of the deceased.**

**6119 Edward John Francis Burbidge.** Peter Bellingham, Central Branch, Harare reports the death of Edward at Chipinga, Zimbabwe in 2004. The exact date and cause of death is not known. Edward served from 8<sup>th</sup> February 1960 until 13<sup>th</sup> July 1964 leaving in the rank of Constable. He was farming in the Chipinga District when he died and his death was confirmed by the Joubert family who farmed next door to him. Edward's death only came to light when members of his 1960 Recruit Squad were trying to contact squad members for a squad reunion

**4006 John Charles Hooton Fox** died on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009 in Middlemore Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand after suffering a massive stroke. He was in hospital at the time, having been admitted for an unrelated bladder infection. John, who was a member of the New Zealand Branch of the Association, did his "three", serving from 28<sup>th</sup> April 1946 to 27<sup>th</sup> April 1949, leaving in the rank of Constable.

**8225 Trevor John Le Roux** died on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 at his home in Port Elizabeth, South Africa from cancer. Trevor, a member of the East Cape Branch of the Association, served from 15<sup>th</sup> April 1969 to 16<sup>th</sup> June 1973, leaving in the rank of Detective Patrol Officer. His wife Margaret and daughter Melanie survive him.

**4321 Jack Berry** died on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009 in Zimbabwe. Jack, who was a life member of the Mashonaland Branch of the Association, served from 16<sup>th</sup> November 1948 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 1968, retiring in the rank of Chief Superintendent.

**9437 Neil Mervyn Donachie** died on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2009 in Cape Town, South Africa from a heart attack. Neil, a member of the Radio Branch, served from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1975 until 31<sup>st</sup> July 1980 when he transferred to the Zimbabwe Republic Police, where he served until 31<sup>st</sup> December 1980, leaving with the rank of Inspector (T).

**5552 Neil McGlip McGuffog** died on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2009 in Tasmania, Australia. Neil served from 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1956 to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1959, leaving in the rank of Constable. He went on to serve in the Swaziland Police.

**4416 Edwin Alfred (Eddy) Webb, PMM** was found dead at his residence at the Masonic Cottage Complex, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Eddy served from 29<sup>th</sup> March 1949 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 1980 when he transferred to the Zimbabwe Republic Police, where he continued to serve until 30<sup>th</sup> April 1982, retiring with the rank of Assistant Commissioner.

**3824640R John Frederick Sheward** died on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 in Johannesburg, South Africa. John, a Police Reservist, was a very keen, loyal and long standing member of the Transvaal Branch of the Association. He had been unwell for some while suffering eventually from Alzheimer's. Our sympathies are extended to his son 110687 Nick Sheward and his family.

**4388 Paul Jasper** died on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in Colchester, England of cancer. Paul, a member of the UK Branch of the Association, served from 10<sup>th</sup> January 1949 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 1953, leaving with the rank of Sergeant.

**4040 Derek Peter Clarke** died on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in Adelaide, Australia. Derek served from 11<sup>th</sup> June 1946 to 25<sup>th</sup> May 1948, leaving as a Trooper. Following his service in the Force, Derek was resident in the Shamva area and involved in the transport industry. He is the father of WP424 Pauline Clarke.

**7617/9154 David John Hannan (Dave) Fowler** died on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in Johannesburg, South Africa from cancer. He was due to attend the Transvaal Regimental Dinner on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009 but was too ill to attend. Dave first attested on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1966 taking his discharge on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1972 as a Section Officer, he rejoined on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1974 and served until 13<sup>th</sup> July 1980, leaving with the rank of Inspector. He was a member of the Transvaal Branch of the Association.

**5225 James (Jim) Carse** died on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at St. George's Hospital, Port Elizabeth, South Africa from heart and kidney failure – he had been suffering from a heart condition for some years. Jim, a member of the CID for most of his service, attested on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1954 and served until 31<sup>st</sup> July 1980 when he transferred to the Zimbabwe Republic Police serving until 31<sup>st</sup> July 1982, when he retired as the PCIO, Manicaland Province with the rank of Acting Assistant Commissioner. A keen soccer and cricket player, he played for Police teams at various levels. Jim was the Chairman of the East Cape Branch of the Association. His wife Elaine and sons John and James survive him.

**8017 Hendrik Carsten Coetzee** died on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in Cape Town, South Africa from cancer. Hendrik, who was not a member of the Association, served from 14<sup>th</sup> June 1968 to 13<sup>th</sup> June 1971 leaving as a Patrol Officer.

**4983 David John Michael (Dave) Sankey** died of a heart attack in Leming Garth Nursing Home, Yorkshire, England on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Dave, a well known character in the Force and a member of the UK Branch of the Association, served from 5<sup>th</sup> October 1952 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 1973 retiring in the rank of Inspector.

**Sir Alastair Aird.** Whilst not a member of the Force, Sir Alastair was a good friend to the Association. He served our Honorary Commissioner HM The Queen Mother in various capacities from 1960 till her death at which time he was her Private Secretary. He was very helpful in the arrangements for our Centenary Dinner which Her Majesty attended. He ensured that our links with the Household were maintained and was instrumental in ensuring that we were represented at HM's state funeral. In an earlier life, having been born in India into a military family, he rose to Captain in the Queen's Royal Lancers before becoming an Equerry to the Queen Mother. After retirement he became an Extra Equerry to the Queen. He died in Dorset on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at the age of 78.

***Finally!***

**THE UK BRANCH COMMITTEE,  
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES,  
&  
TRUSTEES**

*Wish all our colleagues and their  
families a truly blessed Christmas*

*and a peaceful New Year.*