

# HERITAGE of ZIMBABWE

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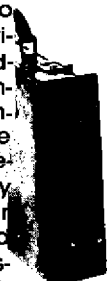
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# **HERITAGE of ZIMBABWE**

Publication No. 8 — 1989

**THE HISTORY SOCIETY OF ZIMBABWE**  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

*Edited by*  
**M.J. KIMBERLEY**

*Assisted by*  
**C.W.H. Loades**

*Authors are responsible for their own opinions and  
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**COVER DESIGN** — *Front:* Zimbabwe Bird, from a cast in the National Archives of the soapstone original which was removed from Great Zimbabwe by the archaeologist Theodore Bent in 1891; masonry from a passage wall in the Great Enclosure, Zimbabwe (photograph c. 1904). *Back:* Masonry with chevron decoration, from the outer wall of the Great Enclosure (photograph c. 1894); Conical Tower (photograph c. 1930) National Archives.

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# FOREWORD

This, the eighth volume of our journal HERITAGE, is the largest issue to date and it appears a year after the despatch of No. 7. The main reason for this bonus in size is that whilst our policy is to produce an issue every calendar year, No. 7, although dated 1987, was unavoidably delayed and only distributed to members in the second half of 1988.

This issue is intended to offer something of interest to every one of our members and other readers though we do not expect that every article will captivate every reader.

Content ranges from rock paintings through botanical and medical biography to early travel by air and by bicycle.

Historical development encompasses agriculture, transport, medals and weapons. There is some social history in Chegutu and some surveying in and around Rutenga, as well as some interesting ethnography and ethology, and some short notes.

Finally, because our branch activities are so vital to the continued existence of the Society, we publish several talks given on the history of places visited on branch outings.

In conclusion, may I appeal to all members and other readers to consider putting pen to paper and writing articles for publication in our next and future annual issues of HERITAGE. Without your support the journal cannot continue. Additionally, if any reader knows of any company that might wish to advertise in HERITAGE and in this way help the Society to minimize the ever escalating cost of printing, please let us know.

**MICHAEL J. KIMBERLEY**

Editor

# Notes on Contributors

Peter Garlake was educated at St. George's College, Harare and studied architecture at the University of Cape Town and archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London. Between 1964 and 1970, he was Senior Inspector of Monuments with the Historical Monuments Commission of Southern Rhodesia. He was subsequently Senior Research Fellow in archaeology at the University of Ife, Nigeria and Lecturer in archaeology at University College, London. He returned to Zimbabwe in 1981 and is presently engaged in studying the rock paintings of Zimbabwe. He has directed archaeological excavations in Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Mozambique, Tanzania and Qatar. He is the author of many papers and books on different aspects of the prehistory and early history of Africa, including papers in earlier numbers of *Heritage* and *Rhodesiana*. He has lectured on Zimbabwean prehistory widely in Britain and the United States and the paintings were the subject of his Hans Wolff Memorial Lecture at the University of Indiana in 1987. His latest published book is *The Painted Caves: an introduction to the prehistoric art of Zimbabwe* (Modus Publications, Harare, 1987).

Sir Albert Robinson was born in Durban in 1915 and educated at the Durban High School where he matriculated in 1932. Afterwards he studied at Stellenbosch, the London School of Economics, Trinity College, Cambridge and Leiden Universities. He is a barrister-at-law of Lincoln's Inn, London and M.A. (Cantab). At Cambridge he was President of the Footlights Club and the South African Society. Sir Albert returned to South Africa in 1938, after completing his education overseas, and in 1939 joined Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited.

In 1940 he volunteered for active service and joined the Imperial Light Horse in Johannesburg. He served in Egypt and Libya and was wounded at El Alamein in July 1942. Sir Albert is today the Hon. Patron of the I.L.H. Regimental Association — now the Light Horse Regiment. In 1945 he was elected a member of the Johannesburg City Council and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee. In November 1947 Sir Albert fought and won a Parliamentary by-election for the United Party in the constituency of Langlaagte in Johannesburg and, at age 32, he was the youngest member of Parliament in South Africa. He was appointed a member of the Central Executive of the United Party by General Smuts in 1949. He served in the Union Parliament until 1953.

In 1954 Sir Albert moved to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) which formed part of the recently established Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and he became a Federal Citizen. During the period 1954 to 1961 Sir Albert founded Founders Building Society in Salisbury and served on the Boards of several industrial and finance companies. In 1955 he was appointed resident Director of Nyasaland Railways and in 1957 Chairman of Central African Airways. In 1960 he was appointed a member of the Monckton Commission that reviewed the constitutional future of the Federation. In 1961 he was appointed by Sir Roy Welensky as Federal High Commissioner in London. In 1962 he was knighted for public services on the recommendation of the Federal Government.

On his return to Africa in 1963 Sir Albert accepted an invitation from Mr Harry Oppenheimer to join the Board of E. Oppenheimer & Son (Pty) Limited. Shortly

afterwards he was appointed Executive Deputy Chairman of General Mining and Finance Corporation Limited one of South Africa's oldest mining and finance houses. In 1965 Sir Albert became a Director of Anglo American Corporation of South Africa and was appointed an Executive Director in 1969. This is South Africa's leading mining and finance corporation.

In 1963 Sir Albert also resumed his directorships in Rhodesia of Founders Building Society, The Standard Bank, Anglo American Corporation Rhodesia Limited and various other finance companies. He continued to hold these Directorships after the independence of Zimbabwe in 1980.

From 1971 to 1980 Sir Albert was Chairman of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company Limited and Rustenburg Platinum Mines Limited. In 1981 he was appointed Chairman of Australian Anglo American Limited. In 1985 Sir Albert retired from his various Directorships with the exception of Anglo American Corporation and E. Oppenheimer & Son. He retired from Anglo American Corporation on 31st December, 1988.

Over a period of 45 years Sir Albert served as a war-time soldier, and also in politics, diplomacy and business in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Australia. He had a close relationship with General Smuts, later with Sir Roy Welensky Prime Minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and throughout his career a close personal friendship with Mr Harry Oppenheimer with whom he served during the war, in parliament and in business. In retirement he devotes his time to furthering the interests of the University of Bophuthatswana to which institution he was appointed Chancellor in 1981.

Sir Albert has travelled extensively — mainly in connection with his various business interests. In retirement, he and Lady Robinson are continuing to travel for their own pleasure and are interested in international affairs, music and people.

Sir Albert's family has a long association with South Africa. His father, the late Mr C.P. Robinson, was a prominent Natal lawyer and from 1905 to 1938 was a Member of Parliament for Durban in the Natal and Union Parliaments. He was a close friend and political colleague of General Smuts. He was also a leading personality in founding and developing the Natal Technical College and Natal University. Sir Albert's mother, as an infant, arrived in Johannesburg from Kimberley in 1886 — at the time that gold was discovered on the Witwatersrand. Her father, the late Mr. L. Rosettenstein, who was a Rand pioneer, had purchased a farm where the family settled, and which is now the Johannesburg suburb of Rosettenville. Sir Albert's first wife, Lady Mary Robinson, died on the 9th July 1973. She had four daughters all of whom are now married. In November 1975, Sir Albert married Mrs M.L. Royston-Pigott of Melbourne, Australia.

Peter Gerard Locke was born in Bulawayo and educated at Christian Brothers College, Bulawayo, and at the University of Zimbabwe from where he graduated with a B.Sc. (Hons) in Geology in 1972. His grandfather, Mr F.P. Mennell, pioneer geologist in Zimbabwe, was first Curator of the Museum in Bulawayo, having been appointed in 1901 at the instigation of C.J. Rhodes to assist the many prospectors and smallworkers operating in Matabeleland. It was appropriate, therefore, that Mr Locke should commence his career as Curator of Geology at the National Museum in 1972 and thereby follow in his forebear's footsteps. After six years at the National Museum he undertook post-graduate



training in museology at the University of Stellenbosch, as a result of which he was appointed Director of Mutare Museum in 1979. He held this post until opting to step down to Curator of Antiquities at Mutare Museum in 1987 in order to concentrate on research. Mr Locke is a former Vice-Chairman of the Gemmological Association of Rhodesia, Chairman of the Mutare Museum Scientific and Cultural Association and past President of the Manicaland Publicity Association. His interests include vintage vehicles, firearms, numismatics, gemmology and antiques in the broad sense. He is, by his own admission, an inveterate and compulsive collector in many of these fields.

Monica Kemple was born of Scottish parents in Hartley (now Chegutu) on 24th May, 1912. Her Father, Dr. MacKenzie, came to this country in 1899 to work under Dr. Andrew Fleming of the Chartered Company.

She lived with her parents in Hartley until 1919 when her father was transferred to Gatooma (now Kadoma), then a growing town due to the development of the Can & Motor Gold Mine.

She was educated initially by governesses, then at the Gatooma School, Mrs. Peech's School at Rumbavu Park, and finally at Cranley in Edinburgh where her two elder brothers were at Merchiston Castle School. She remained at Cranley for 4 years and finally went to Leatherhead Court to "finish". She returned to her family in Gatoma in 1929. She used to accompany her Father to his annual Clinic on the Zambesi at Sinekoma's Kraal about 50 miles north of Kariba for 6 weeks during which time her father taught her to shoot and about the bush.

During the slump of the late 1920's she went to Salisbury and eventually got a job with Digby Burnett at Lonhro. In 1932 she married John Kemple, who had come to the country in 1922 to farm. He bought a virgin farm in Chakari which was in a Gold Belt Title Area. Farming was not a flourishing occupation at that time, but they were fortunate being in a mining area as the smallworkers bought their farm produce for rations and they also had a wood contract with the Turkois Mine as well as making charcoal for the suction gas engines.

The Kemple's were both fond of tennis, golf, riding, polo, shooting and squash, and they actually built the fourth squash court in the country on their farm.

In 1934 John Kemple went to work for W.B. Blyth of Blyth & Moore Ltd. at the Eiffel Blue, where he managed the farm and learnt cyaniding.

When their eldest son "Michael" was born in 1937, the Kemple's, in partnership with Monica's younger brother were tributing numerous properties scattered about the country. She was taught to test gold solutions and to do the agitation Test for Assay.

During the Second World War her brother joined the Air Force, and she and her husband ran the plants and two farms. At the end of the war, her husband became involved in farming affairs, and was Chairman of the Farmers Association, and the Show Society of the district. He joined the Farmers Co-Op, and the Mining Affairs and the Natural Resources Boards, and was a member of the National Farmers Union. This involved Monica in running the farm and the plants while her husband was away. She started a small dairy and supplied retail milk to the Dalny Mine, and also produced 2000 lbs of vegetables a week as rations for mine labourers. The entire Farming venture is still being operated by her two sons.

Mike Kimberley graduated in Arts (Latin, Classics and Psychology) and in Laws at the University of the Witwatersrand where he served as President of the Student's Representative Council. A Zimbabwean by birth, he became a member of what is now the History Society of Zimbabwe whilst a University Student in 1956. He has served two terms of two years as National Chairman of the Society and has served continuously on the National Executive Committee of the Society since 1963. He was National Chairman for the Society's extremely enjoyable Silver Jubilee Celebrations in 1978. He has written a number of articles for the Society's journal, including biographies of the first three High Court judges with two more soon to be published. He was awarded the Society's gold medal in 1975 for his outstanding contribution towards furthering the aims and objects of the Society.

A man of wide interests, he is presently President of the National Trust of Zimbabwe, and a Trustee and Joint Deputy Chairman of the Zimbabwe National Conservation Trust and Chairman of two of the Trust's Committees. A founder member, a Fellow, and in his fourth two year term as National Chairman of the Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society, he has edited all 13 issues of its internationally acclaimed year book *Excelsa* and convened and chaired Aloe 88, the Society's very successful International Succulent Plant Congress held in Zimbabwe in July 1988. He has written widely on succulent plants, on the conservation and protection of indigenous flora, and biographies of botanists, having had 76 articles published in journals in Zimbabwe and in the United States of America. He was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1978, to the Board of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Research in 1988, and a Fellow of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America in 1989.

J.D. Archer was born and educated in South Africa. He served with the 13th Field Company of the South African Engineer Corps in North Africa and Italy during 1939/45 war.

He came to Southern Rhodesia as it then was in 1949, joining the Ministry of Roads in Mutare. He later moved to the Sabi Tanganda Estate, now known as Middle Sabi where he was employed as the Engineer. He subsequently joined the staff of Jeffares and Green, Consulting Engineers, who, at that time, were surveying the route for the proposed railway line from Lions Den through the Zambesi Escarpment to Lusaka via Makuti and Kariba.

In 1954 he moved to the British South Africa's Mazoe Citrus Estate as Assistant Surveyor until 1956 when he was appointed Estates Surveyor responsible for all Civil Engineering on the Estates. He retired from Mazoe Citrus Estates in 1986 and now lives with his wife Jean at Christon Bank.

Peter Silk is a chartered accountant resident and in practice in Hastings, England. He is an enthusiastic military historian and medal collector. Collecting medals has resulted in his researching the history of the individual recipients of medals and the military units in which they served. His present research relates to the Rhodesian units which served in World War I.

Aeneas Soko Chigwedere was born in Wedza and received his primary education at Chigwedere and Chimanga Schools and Waddilove Institute. After his secondary education at Goromonzi High School he obtained a B.A. Honours degree in history in

1964 from the University of Zimbabwe (the University of Rhodesia and Nyasaland at that time). He taught at Fletcher High School, Gweru and then at Goromonzi High School becoming Deputy Head in 1976 and Headmaster of the latter School in 1977. He is presently Deputy Regional Director of Schools for Mashonaland West in the Zimbabwe Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.

He has been an active and enthusiastic researcher for over 20 years, beginning in 1966 with his study of Chimurenga I (1896–1897). This was followed by research into ancient Zimbabwean History resulting in his publications. From Mutapa to Rhodes (1980), Birth of Bantu Africa (1982), and The Karanga Empire (1985). He has also researched into Shona Customs and Traditions and published the Pros and Cons of Lobola in 1982.

In addition to the above he has had numerous articles published in the press and various journals, including *Heritage*, and has appeared on numerous radio and television programmes.

George Abrahams was born in London in 1908 and educated at Haberdashers' Aske's School and the College of Estate Management, Lincoln's Inn. He qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and Arbitrator in England and also a Surveyor in Malawi. He is Chairman of the Zimbabwe Group of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He visited the then Southern Rhodesia in early 1936 on his way to Japan to work, where he was arrested and literally thrown out. He returned England where he enlisted in the Territorial Army early in 1938. He served in England, in West and South Africa, India and Burma as a Gunner Officer, ending his service on Admiral Earl Mountbatten's Staff in Ceylon. Whilst there he played rugby football at the age 37! He has travelled extensively in the United States of America, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Thailand and Taiwan. He has lived in Zimbabwe since 1949.

Roland Smith was born in Bulawayo and educated there at the Milton Schools. His paternal grandparents arrived in Bulawayo in 1895 from Barberton and his father was one of the first pupils at St Georges College before that institution moved to Harare. His maternal grandparents emigrated from Sheffield, England to Harare arriving in 1895. His entire career has been spent in the printing industry where he served his apprenticeship with the Bulawayo Chronicle and later qualified as a printing manager in London working there for the famous bank note and postage stamp printers Waterlow and Sons Limited. He served in various senior positions in the printing industry in Zimbabwe for 40 years. He is actively involved in Rotary, the Samaritans, and in free Masonry and is the longest attending member of Lodge Salisbury Kilwinning.

R.W. Petheram came to this country as a young child in 1918. He held senior positions in several government ministries; was head of the Federal Ministry of Works, and Deputy Secretary for Mines and Lands in the Rhodesian Government Service after Federation.

In earlier days with the Southern Rhodesia Division of Internal Affairs, he was associated with the establishment of National Parks, and twenty years later, in an official capacity, took the chair periodically at meetings of the National Parks Advisory Board.

Since his retirement he has been involved in committee work for the National Trust, the Tree Society — of which he was President for some time — and other conservation orientated organisations. He has researched, written up and given talks on indigenous trees notable for historical or other reasons, and he was prominently associated with the preliminary work which led to the formation of the Mukuvisi Woodland Association.

While on the National Executive of the History Society of Zimbabwe he felt obliged, last year, to withdraw because of ill-health, but he remains an enthusiastic member of the Society, and this is his third contribution to its publications.

He holds both the M.B.E. and the O.B.E., awarded in 1957 and in 1963 respectively.

He is a keen angler and a rugby enthusiast.

David Brownless was born in Chelmsford, Essex, England and came to Zimbabwe in 1948 to join the Police (No. 4244) where he served for three years before obtaining employment in farming. In 1954 he became involved in mining and has been in that industry ever since having worked in the Chegutu, Mutoko, Miami, Penhalonga, Emberengwa and Mazowe areas including the last twenty years in the latter area.



# The power of the elephant: scenes of hunting and death in the rock paintings of Zimbabwe

by Peter S. Garlake

The rock paintings of Zimbabwe are the work of a hunting people, deeply concerned with the animal life around them, which they observed with great acuity and recorded in their art astonishingly vividly and accurately. It is universally recognised that the artists belonged to a people who have been extinct in Zimbabwe for many centuries (or whose society and culture were utterly transformed by the abandonment of hunting as the basic mode of life and the adoption of farming in its place). It is also accepted that they formed one or more of the many distinct Bushman or San ethnic and linguistic groups that once existed over the whole of southern Africa. Some survived in parts of South Africa and Lesotho into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and two or three survive as hunters in small numbers today in Botswana and Namibia.

Hunting was enormously important to all San groups before they were acculturated by later black or white societies. Most of their food came from the collecting activities of women, who daily set out in small groups, armed with digging sticks, to gather wild fruits, roots and bulbs and collect any small animals that they chanced upon. The meat from the hunting activities of the men provided much less food but its social importance was much greater than its economic.<sup>1</sup> Larger game was hunted cooperatively by bands of men and the meat was shared by the whole community, a process that established a system of obligations that bound the whole community together. Hunting dominated the thoughts, imagination and conversation of all San men. Hunting made a man.

As this would suggest, by far the most common image in the art is that of the male hunter, armed with a bow and arrows, a small bag filled with further arrows and a fly whisk slung from one shoulder. The arrows are usually painted as a single line, often thickened at the flight and held, as all arrows are, with the tip highest and furthest from the body. Hunters are shown singly or in lines of up to thirty men, walking or, more often, running with an impression of great speed and energy. Some aim arrows but only extremely seldom are they shown drawing their bows. This image provides the dominant archetype of the art. It defines and celebrates San society's perception of man's productive role in the community.

Given the San hunting ethos and given the pervasive imagery of the hunter in the art, one could predict that, if the art of Zimbabwe was created, as most people once assumed, as a direct representation of sensory experiences, if it was painted primarily to recall and enjoy in retrospect the pleasures of life, or as a historical record, or to teach children about

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<sup>1</sup> Lee R.B., *The Kung San* (Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1968).



Fig. 1 Elephant hunt, The Rivers. The scale is given by the quartered circle, which is 2cm in diameter.

aspects of San life, it would include a great many realistic scenes of hunting. The surprising and extraordinary thing, which has to be explained, especially by those who hold such views of the art, is how very few scenes of this sort there are. It is these scenes that I want to examine to try and establish the intentions behind them.

### Part I. Hunting scenes

The only scenes that show hunting are a very few scenes of elephant, rhino, buffalo and fantastic, surreal or supernatural creatures being killed. I know of only one or two very dubious associations of images that may show an antelope being shot at by a hunter. No one has claimed that there are any paintings of animals in traps, snares or pitfalls. There are also no scenes of animals being hunted or killed by other animals.

I have seen and recorded only four paintings of elephant being hunted. At The Rivers, Mazowe District, a wounded elephant is surrounded by 15 hunters (Fig. 1). Four or five aim arrows at it; six flee from it and one is lying, crouched and face down under its belly, his arrows beside him. It is noticeable that the hunters are not using the simple arrows shown in most paintings. These have instead a heavy triangular head. It is unusual also that none of the hunters have hunting bags slung from their shoulders. Most have short lines on the backs of their heads; two have tufts across their heads and two have lines ending in tufts coming from their penises.<sup>2</sup>

The elephant stands, head slightly lowered, pierced by a great many arrows in its rump, belly, neck, legs and trunk. It bleeds profusely from its wounds and internally, as the blood from its trunk indicates. The blood is represented as areas of dots or stippling.

At Gwangwadza, Murehwa District, the faint outline of a very large elephant has four hunters just in front of it, two of them aiming arrows at it (Fig. 2). One of these hunters crouches as he aims, in the characteristic position of a San hunter as he releases his arrow. Two hunters flee from the encounter. Just behind the elephant are five more hunters, three of them running towards the animal and one aiming an arrow at it. Again the arrows being used are unusual with barbed or bifurcated tips. None of the hunters have any emblems attached to their bodies. Again the elephant stands inert, accepting its fate, pierced by many arrows and bleeding from its trunk.



Fig. 2 The hunters behind and in front of their victim. Elephant hunt, Gwangwadza.

<sup>2</sup> These emblems have been analysed in Garlake P.S., 'Reading the prehistoric paintings of Zimbabwe', *Heritage of Zimbabwe*, 7, 1987.





Fig. 3 Buffalo hunt, Liwonde.

Close to Domboshawa Cave, a faded painting shows an elephant being shot at by four hunters standing in front of it.<sup>3</sup> A fifth hunter has fallen on his back under it but still also aims an arrow at it. Two hunters have emblems on their heads: a line of tufts and what look like animal ears. There is nothing unusual visible in their arrows. The elephant stands erect, its head and tail and possibly one leg raised in agitation, its trunk pierced and possibly bleeding.

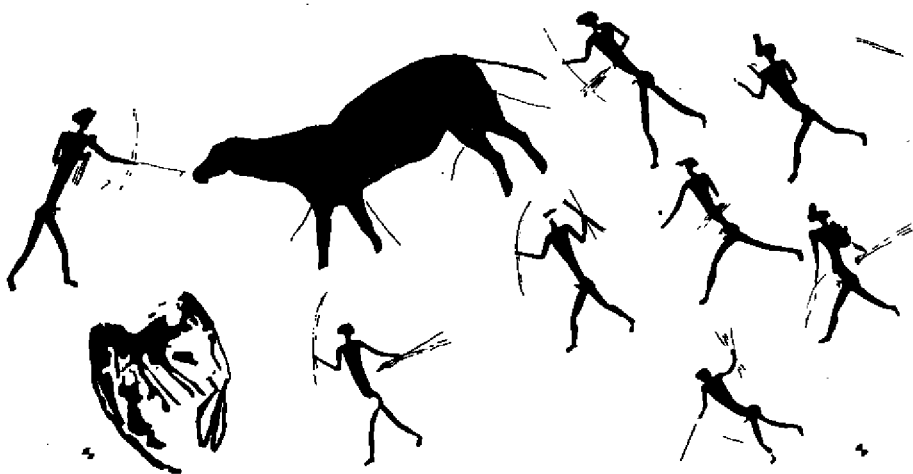
At Chebonore, Wedza District, there is a small painting of an enraged elephant, apparently moving at speed, tail and legs raised and perhaps with its ears spread, although the ears are painted in one of the unrealistic conventions of the art. From so unusual a posture, one can safely assume it is being hunted. There is a single running hunter under its forequarters.<sup>4</sup>

There is a single scene of a rhinoceros kill, at Charewa Cave, Mutoko District.<sup>5</sup> The animal is not bleeding or collapsing but has two arrows in its chest and possibly another in a foot. One hunter aims an arrow with a bifurcate tip at it and another is about to plunge a spear into its belly. Both hunters have large tufts attached to their penises.

3 Garlake P.S., *The painted caves* (Harare, Modus Publications, 1987), Fig. 52.

4 A similar elephant hunt from Valhalla, Makoni District is sketched in Lee D.N. and Woodhouse H.C., *Art on the rocks of southern Africa* (Cape Town, Purnell, 1970), Fig. D11.

5. Garlake, *Painted caves*, Fig. 4.



**Fig. 4 Hunting a large unidentifiable beast, Kingsdown.**

At Liwonde, Goromonzi District, a buffalo has three armed hunters running towards it from behind (Fig. 3). Two hunters stand beneath it, one holding an arrow with a large triangular head. The two hunters have what look like two short aprons or tails over their buttocks and lines or tufts attached to their heads.

Other animals shown being hunted or killed do not belong to the natural world as we know it. At Kingsdown, Marondera District, an unidentifiable creature, certainly more like a bovid than an antelope, with heavy body, head and neck, hoofed, hornless and earless, is pierced by four arrows (Fig. 4). Eight hunters approach it, one of whom aims an arrow with a bifurcated tip at its nose. Another holds arrows with the same head. The arrows of the remaining hunters have no distinct tips. Two hunters have conical shapes attached to their crowns.

On a single panel at Chisewe, Mutoko District, there are at least three separate small hunting scenes, all reiterating the same theme (Fig. 5). In the first, a hunter prepares to lunge a spear with a bifurcated end, what look like several barbs at right angles to the shaft and a set of tassels beneath them into an animal. Behind it, a hunter aims an arrow with an identical tip to the spear. The creature has a lowered head and extended legs as if it was already dead. It has the shape of an antelope but is hornless and has rounded ears and a long tail with a bifurcated end. It conforms to no recognisable species. To the right of this, a bear-like creature with long round ears, short curved muzzle, clawed paws and a long thin tail has an arrow in its chest and again seems to have a lowered head and extended legs. A hunter in front of it aims an arrow with a bifurcated end towards it. Behind him are his hunting bag and further arrows of the same type. Both the hunters with bows have lines behind and down from their heads and tufts attached to their penises.

In the third scene, the hunter again shoots an arrow with the same tip at the rear of an unidentifiable animal with lowered head and extended legs. Its legs all come to points and the lower parts of the back legs are extraordinarily thin.

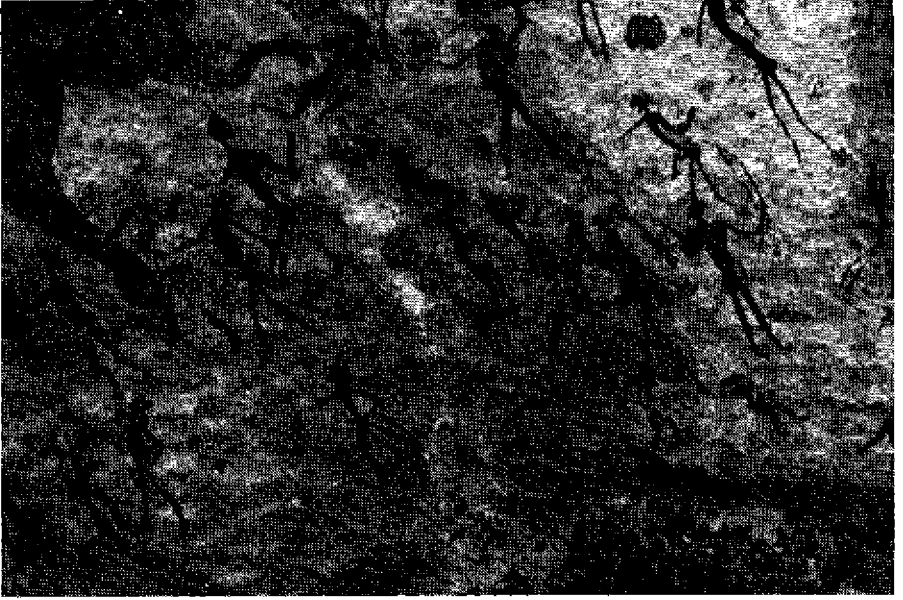


**Fig. 5 Hunting, healing and transformation scenes, Chisewe.**

Below these scenes are a pair of hunters carrying bundles of arrows and with hunting bags filled with more arrows. One of them aims an arrow with a triangular head towards one of a pair of antelope with the horns of duiker, although they are disproportionately large for this species. Both hunters have two tails hanging behind them, two lines emerging from their chests, two lines from the upper part of the arms holding the arrows, lines from their heads and bars across their penises. Elsewhere in the panel, one more hunter aims a pair of barbed and tasselled arrows though his prey is not shown. Just below him, these scenes are imitated in a crude way with another hunter standing in front of a small unidentifiable antelope and shooting an arrow with a bar across the tip at its nose.

There are three panels relevant to this discussion, with large groups of figures gathered round large animals, although they are not certainly hunting or killing them. At Charewa Cave, an elephant, decorated with white stripes, has 35 figures in front and under it (PI. 1). Only one is a woman, who wears an apron and carries a short stick. Only four of the men are armed. One is sitting in a shelter and another is carrying a large bundle of arrows. They are both in a much paler ochre and probably were not painted with the rest. The other two carry arrows with barbs in the form of a St. Andrew's cross. One of them seems to touch the elephant's trunk as he flees from it. All the others have very large tufts on their penises, tufts tied in the smalls of their backs and protruding upwards and downwards above their buttocks and lines standing up and hanging from their heads.

The second group of hunters, at Kentucky, Makonde District, are almost all armed (Fig. 6). At least 30 still surround the outline of a large animal, painted before the hunters. Its forequarters and head have been destroyed by rainwash, which probably also destroyed several more hunters. To judge from the surviving outline, the animal was certainly a hippo or rhino and most probably the latter. The hunters are highly accomplished paintings by an extremely talented artist. There is a concentration on the anatomy, bone and muscle of their bodies. Round discs on the upper arms seem to emphasise knotted muscles. Elongations of the knee and ankle expose and emphasise bone structure. A narrow



**Platc 1. Hunters surrounding an elephant, Charewa.**



**Fig. 6 Hunters around a large beast, Kentucky.**



**Fig. 7 Detail of a group of hunters, Cairnsmore.**

unpainted line running up the front of the bodies of many of them draws attention to the inner channels of the body if not the spine. The buttocks and, most unusually, the umbilical hernia, are carefully delineated. Their only adornments are lines rising from the heads of several figures. Most of the arrows are equally detailed, showing triangles above oval shapes, the only painting I know which might show poison applied to the shaft below the head as a glutinous lump or a stone head fixed to the shaft with a blob of adhesive mastic or gum in the way that Late Stone Age arrows are known sometimes to have been made. The variety and energy of the hunters' movements are vividly expressed through their long curved torsoes as they stand, crouch over and prepare their weapons and run towards the beast, waving their bows.

At Cairnsmore, Mazowe District, there are two groups of hunters engaged in an energetic cooperative activity (Figs. 7 and 8). One group of 36 faces right and across a large gap, where the paintings have been weathered away, another of eight men faces left. They may well be hunting a large animal that once occupied the gap between the groups. Of those on the left, at least 25 form part of a single composition by the same artist. Four of these are engaged in active attack and seven flee the scene. Another nine figures have been added to the composition by later artists. They share many of the features and motifs of the original figures and act to enlarge and emphasise the themes set by the original artist.

Many of the figures have roundels on their upper arms, like those at Kentucky. Similar roundels are placed over their penises. Several also have strange hoops curving from neck to shoulder. Where the arrows are detailed, they have heavy bifurcated, crossed and triangular ends. Three of the largest figures carry long staffs with similar tips instead of



Fig. 8 Group of hunters on the right of the Cairnsmore hunting scene. The line of arrows on the left may delineate the chest of the animal that they are hunting, the outline of which is no longer visible.

bows and arrows. The range of emblems on the bodies emphasise lines rising from the head and leaf and streamer shapes attached to one shoulder.

Other authors have reproduced copies of lions being hunted, from Bohwe and Whitewaters in the Matopo Hills.<sup>6</sup> It seems likely therefore that lions were placed by the San in the same category as the elephant, rhino and buffalo.

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6 A lion is hunted in Cooke C.K., 'Rock art in Matabeleland' in Summers R., ed., *Prehistoric rock art of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland* (Salisbury, National Publications Trust, 1959), Pl.84. Jones N., *Prehistory of Southern Rhodesia* (Cambridge, University Press, 1949), frontispiece and p. 61, reproduces what is said to be a cheetah hunt, with several of the animals upside down and therefore, he claims, dead. Cooke, C.K., 'The cheetah hunt'. *Arnoldia*, 6, 33, 1974, shows there is no indication that the animals are being hunted and that they are certainly lions and not cheetah.

These paintings of hunting scenes all follow a clear pattern which has several very significant features. Where the paintings represent identifiable animals, they are all large powerful and dangerous beasts: elephant, rhino, buffalo and lions. They are admittedly all except the lion also very desirable eating, sources or large quantities of highly palatable meat, rich in fat. On this simple level, the paintings represent the most sought-after prey. On the other hand, they also represent the most difficult animals to kill. Rhino are comparatively easy to approach and kill with a heavy metal spear. Elephant are said traditionally to have been possible to kill only in pit falls or if they were approached at close quarters and then hamstrung by severing the Achilles tendon with blows from a heavy metal axe or speared from trees above the paths they frequented, using a heavy metal spear. The San of Zimbabwe did not possess any metal weapons. Hunting these animals with bows and arrows, especially the light weapons of the San, if it were possible at all and this seems extremely doubtful, would have been a remarkable and rare achievement.

The sense of unreality is heightened by the arrows that are shown being used in the paintings. In almost every case, they have remarkably large, heavy, yet fragile, unwieldy and inefficient heads, made with what look like large triangles, long thin bifurcated or crossed tips and sets of long multiple barbs. It is impossible to envisage what material available to the San could have been used to make them or how they could have been shot any distance or with sufficient velocity to penetrate a tough hide, let alone disable a large beast or cause it to haemorrhage internally as several of the elephants are clearly doing. The long shafts of the arrows are shown stuck in the body, whereas only the tip of a San composite hunting arrow remains in the victim, the shaft falling away. (The animal is thus unable to rub the poisoned tip off and it can then penetrate deeper and lacerate the wound and distribute the poison more effectively through the bloodstream). The design of the arrows is as perverse and impossible as the very act of hunting such creatures.

The paintings of these hunts are thus, on one level, a way of imagining the impossible and thinking the unthinkable. If the hunting paintings, even those representing the hunting of recognisable animals, are certainly not representations of reality, they must operate on another level, in another area of San reality. Ideas as to what this may have been must be sought by examining San beliefs.

The most important supernatural experiences of all San groups over a wide area and a long span of time centred on the individual spiritual energy that could be activated in trance by a large proportion of the population and harnessed to influence nature, weather and game, to travel outside the body, to cure disease and, above all, alleviate the stresses and tensions within the community.<sup>7</sup> Trance is achieved through prolonged communal dancing. Studies of the San paintings in the Drakensberg have demonstrated how there the eland was painted as a metaphor for trance.<sup>8</sup> Many of the symptoms that are associated with an eland's death were perceived by the San to reproduce the sensations and experiences that a person undergoes when he enters trance.

With this knowledge, we can recognise several specific indications in the hunting paintings of Zimbabwe to suggest that they are also concerned with San trance experiences.

There is one direct illustration of one of the events of trance juxtaposed with some of

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<sup>7</sup> Katz R., *Boiling energy* (Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1982).

<sup>8</sup> Lewis-Williams J.D., *Believing and seeing* (London, Academic Press, 1981).

the hunting scenes. The panel at Chisewe, with the series of small hunting scenes, also contains a scene in which a man bends over a crouched figure and touches him in the small of the back with both hands (Fig. 5). Both figures have long lines falling from their muzzles and a single long curved tusk emerging from the tips of their muzzles. These figures are in the characteristic postures of a San trancer massaging and curing a patient. The lines strongly suggest that both figures are bleeding from their noses, a common symptom of trance among the San. Nasal blood is commonly used in San curing rituals in which a San curer rubs his blood on his patient. The tusk is one of the most powerful emblems in Zimbabwean paintings and it seems reasonable to suggest that it is connected with the power that was believed to derive from the elephant or from the elephant as a symbol of trance.

Above the curing scene and the adjacent hunting scene a winged creature hovers, with a human body and a single human leg and with wings with long feathers in place of arms. The transformation of people into birds is a recurrent feature in the art of Zimbabwe and it seems reasonable to associate it with beliefs in travel of the spirit outside the body that can be one consequence of trance.

Some striking features of the hunters at Kentucky and Cairnsmore can also be related to sensations associated with trance experiences (Figs. 6, 7 and 8). San trancers say that, on entering trance, their muscles become tight and knotted and their bodies feel stretched and attenuated. The Kentucky and Cairnsmore figures have discs on their arms that suggest compressed muscles; the Kentucky torsoes are extremely elongated and the joints of their knees and ankles are stretched so far apart that they seem to expose the bones themselves.

The pumping of the heart and the circulation of the blood increase in trance and the trancer experiences the throbbing of his enlarged blood vessels, especially obvious in the vessels of the neck. The strange hoops on the necks of the Cairnsmore figures can be explained as illustrating another symptom of trance, the dilated arteries in the necks of trancers.

When a person enters trance, it is believed that the energy he activates rises up the spine and through the body to its release. The torsoes of the Kentucky hunters have a strange channel through them that could well represent the conduit for the release of this energy.

Another example of the striking San verbal imagery of trance is that the trancer feels drained and incomplete and is in some real sense dead. Figures that have been painted very deliberately incomplete are a recurrent and important feature of the art of Zimbabwe. At Kentucky, there is a crouching figure amongst the hunters and clearly one of them, whose legs are complete and carefully detailed but the rest of whose body is represented by a single horizontal line as if only his spine remains. He is clearly not in pain, wounded or collapsing; nor is the figure damaged or unfinished. It is a complete and considered statement and suggests vividly a trancer whose spirit, essence or energy has been released from his body.

Amongst the Cairnsmore hunters (Fig 7), one of the figures, clearly an integral and original part of the main composition, is shown standing upright and still, in fine detail but without arms and legs, another deliberate statement about "incompleteness".

Amongst the figures surrounding the elephant at Charewa, two figures are so thin as to seem skeletal (Pl. 1). They have no heads or arms and their chests are unpainted and



“empty”. Another figure is deliberately armless and headless. These attenuated and incomplete figures all seem to express aspects of trance and bring this scene once more into the realms of San beliefs about trance.

In describing the sensations of trance and their beliefs about them, the San say that trance energy is inserted into the body by master trancers shooting magical arrows into the novice trancer's body in the area of the stomach and that a trancer feels pricking, stinging sensations in the abdomen as he enters trance. There seems to be good reason to suppose that the arrows with elaborate tips in the hunting scenes are these magical arrows of trance. It follows that the hunters who shoot them are therefore experienced trancers of the community, inducing or bringing on trance. It would then follow that the large animals pierced by these arrows are symbols of a person entering trance or of the essence of the trance experience itself. The collapse of the animals would then be a metaphor for entering trance and the stippling emitted by the dying animal not only blood but the release of supernatural energy activated by trance. Many of the significant features of these hunting scenes can thus be reinterpreted and given new significance and meaning within the beliefs about trance.

## Part 2. Wounded animals

There are many more paintings of animals with arrows in them. Again there is an overwhelming emphasis on the same powerful beasts as in the hunting scenes. There are paintings of elephants pierced by arrows at Kanyima, in the Chinamora Tribal Trust Lands, and at Chikupu, where the beast is shown upside down with limp and crumpled legs in the air. Goodall illustrates a similar image from Ruchera, Mutoko District.<sup>9</sup>

A small rhino with three arrows in its loins has been drawn below the large animal surrounded by hunters at Kentucky (Fig. 6). It seems to be intended to simplify, reiterate and exemplify the essence of the message of the main scene. Perhaps in the same sense, a rhino with many arrows in its undersides is painted beside the buffalo hunt at Liwonde. There is another in the midst of dance scenes at Akombi, Guruve District (Fig. 9). One of many unrelated rhino at Lion's Head, Msana Tribal Trust Lands, has arrows in its neck, belly, withers and back leg.<sup>10</sup> At Cockington, Makonde District, a rhino with an arrow in its belly has lines of blood issuing from the wound and may also be leaving a blood spoor<sup>11</sup>: in contrast to the elephant, the only instance of a bleeding rhino.

At Mananzwa, Wedza District, a lion has six arrow shafts with thickened flights, one of them broken, sticking in it. There is no indication of bleeding or collapse and though hunters are painted near it, they do not seem to be engaged in the kill.

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9 Goodall E. 'Rock paintings of Mashonaland' in Summers, Fig. 12, where the painting is mistakenly said to be at Rodedede Cave.

10 Goodall, Fig. 10.

11 Tucker M.R. and Baird R.C., 'The Trelawney/Darwendale rock art survey', *Zimbabwean Prehistory*, 19, 1983, Fig. 20.

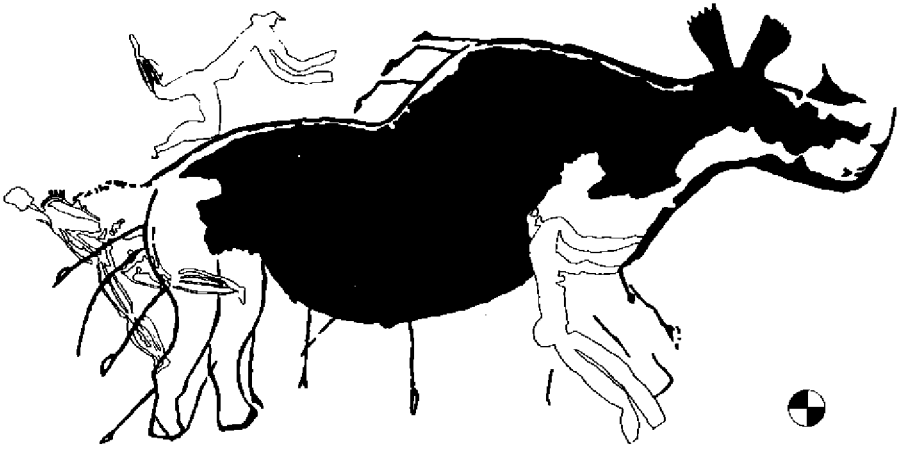


Fig. 9 Wounded rhinoceros, Akombi.

One of the few examples of an antelope shot by an arrow is at Rakodze, Marondera District (Fig. 10). It has clearly been killed for it is upside down, its legs are limp and bent and its neck lies extended and twisted. Beside it, one of the big cats and a creature with a zebra's head but a feline's tail are also shown with an arrow in them. In all three instances, the arrows are in a different pigment to the animals and have been added later by another hand. Above them, another artist has added a hunter carrying an arrow with the large triangular head of a "magical trance arrow". Goodall illustrates two other antelope shot.<sup>12</sup> One lies dead beneath the slaughtered elephant at Ruchera and the other, in the Masembura Tribal Trust Lands, has its head lowered and is about to collapse.

It has been shown, in studies of the paintings of the Drakensberg and records of the beliefs of the southern San, how the San saw nasal bleeding as a characteristic symptom both of eland as they collapsed and died and of humans in trance and how they took this striking analogy and conflated the two ideas and made the first a metaphor for the second in their art and ritual.<sup>13</sup> At Chisewe, we have one of the very few illustrations of nose bleeding in trancers in Zimbabwe. We have also seen the emphasis on elephants bleeding from their trunks in some of the hunting scenes. Besides these, almost the only paintings in Zimbabwe of animals bleeding from the nostrils are, strangely and at present inexplicably, all but one of zebra. There are two at Charewa and others at Lion's Head<sup>14</sup> and Manemba Cave, Mutoko District. These animals show no signs of having been hunted or wounded though most have their heads lowered, a sign of incipient collapse. The only other animal suffering nasal bleeding is a warthog at Gwangwadza.<sup>15</sup> Many paintings show animals upside down. Some are clearly intended to represent death. This is made clear, as in the Rakodze example, by the limp, bent legs and the extended, twisted necks. In many other instances, the animals have the rigid legs, taut tail and alert raised head of a creature full of life. They are

12 Goodall, Figs. 12 and 11.

13 Lewis-Williams, *Believing and seeing*.

14 Garlake, *Painted caves*, Fig. 85.

15 Garlake, *Painted caves*, Fig. 20.



**Fig. 10 Dead and shot animals and hunter, Rakodze.**

simply reversed images of live animals. This distinction is clear and intentional but its significance cannot yet be suggested. Perhaps the reversed animals may even have been painted for no deeper reason than to demonstrate the technical virtuosity of the artist. The skill in depicting an animal upside down is deceptive for, once the techniques and conventions of the art are understood, it is not difficult to do. That the dead animals may once again signify some aspect of trance is suggested in the painting of the great congregation of people and dancers centred on a single person recumbent in trance at Stratford.<sup>16</sup> Among a set of small antelope on the fringes of the scene, one takes the characteristic posture of death and stands out from the rest of the animals as incongruously as the trancer stands out from the rest of the people around him.

The repeated use of scenes of hunting and killing animals, of animals pierced by

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<sup>16</sup> Garlake, 'Reading the prehistoric paintings', Fig. 11.

arrows, bleeding, collapsing, dying and dead as symbols of San trancing is established in Zimbabwe in several different ways: by the highly selective choice of the types of hunting that could be illustrated; by the highly improbable, dangerous, unnatural and fearful nature of the particular forms of hunting; by the unreal sorts of weapons used; by the associations of these scenes with scenes directly illustrating trance; by the associations with transformed or "trance formed" human figures with manes and wings.

Animals were conceived by the San as in some sense equivalents, substitutes or symbols for people. This is made clear and certain by the many paintings of a large range of species shown wearing human bodily adornments: girdles, necklaces and particularly two bracelets below the fetlocks, shown as lines of white paint, presumably representing shell beads.

### **Part 3. The role of the dangerous beast in the art**

It is worth going on to consider the ways the victims of the "trance hunts" were treated in other contexts in the art. Of these, the elephant was the most important and is perhaps the most important animal symbol in the whole of the art. It is not the commonest of the animals that were painted, being far outnumbered by images of kudu<sup>17</sup>, particularly kudu cows, but the varied contexts in which it was painted demonstrate its great significance.

Several different conventions were developed to represent significant aspects of the elephant. The ears may be absent altogether, shown as one ear tip breaking the line of the back or as two large semicircular shapes attached to the top of the head. Tusks may also be omitted altogether or painted either in "twisted perspective" from the front so that tusks are shown on both sides of the trunk, emerging from the roots and both curving down and out, or in side view, with the two tips, one above the other, breaking the outline of the front of the trunk. Paintings of elephant vary a great deal in size. Outlines of the animal may often be 2m and more across and, at Lucknow, Mazowe District, one outline approaches life size. The artists often filled these outlines with a thick, clayey cream, orange or grey pigment, smeared across the surface with their hands. Frequently this pigment has disappeared, leaving only a lighter stain on the rock surface. Smaller representations were done in solid colour and as carefully painted as any other small images. There was once much discussion and controversy about the temporal significance of these different techniques.<sup>18</sup> No regional or temporal differences in style or technique have been firmly or generally established. The choice between the use of a solid paint or outline alone or a combination of the two depended primarily on the size of the image.

Large paintings of elephants dominate many caves, usually placed high on the walls above the numerous smaller paintings, as at Ruchera, Zombepata, Charewa, Chikupu and Makumbe. They often show the animals in family groups. Striking outlines of large elephants, with paintings of human groups and animals in and over them, occur at Ngomakurira and Somerby. On almost every hill or outcrop of boulders where there are several sets of paintings, there will be one huge painting of an elephant. These huge images,

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17 Tucker and Baird, 'The Trelawney/Darwendale survey'.

18 Goodall, p.3-4, considers the large outline paintings one of the earliest manifestations of the art. Cooke, C.K., *Rock art of southern Africa* (Cape Town, Books of Africa, 1969) p.50, places them, or at least those that are smeared with thick pigments or that appear as stains on the surface, at the end of his stylistic sequence.



Fig. 11 Buffalo cow and calf, Rockery.

quite disproportionate in size to the rest of the paintings, can be said to form the background or field in which the rest of the paintings are set. This had more than a visual connotation. The pervasive power of the elephant is the symbolic context of much of the art.

Regular lines of white dots once covered the oval shapes that are a feature of the art and which I have shown elsewhere were probably the most important Zimbabwe San symbols of supernatural energy.<sup>19</sup> The regular arrangements of the white dots are an essential element of their symbolism. Lines of white dots also covered people and animals, like the large recumbent trancer at Diana's Vow<sup>20</sup> and a buffalo at Rockery, Marondera District (Fig. 11). These white embellishments add nothing to the visual or aesthetic impact of the paintings. They enhanced the paintings in another way. White pigment seems to have been envisaged and used as a means of increasing the spiritual or supernatural content of a painting, removing it even further from the level of mundane reality.

White played an important role in elephant depictions. White outlines of large elephants were often painted over entire panels of paintings. Examples survive at Markwe (Fig. 12), Zwetzindi (Fig. 13), Leeds (Fig. 14) and Mananzwa, all in the Marondera District. They unite the disparate images and bring them under a single coherent symbol, embodying again the power of the elephant.

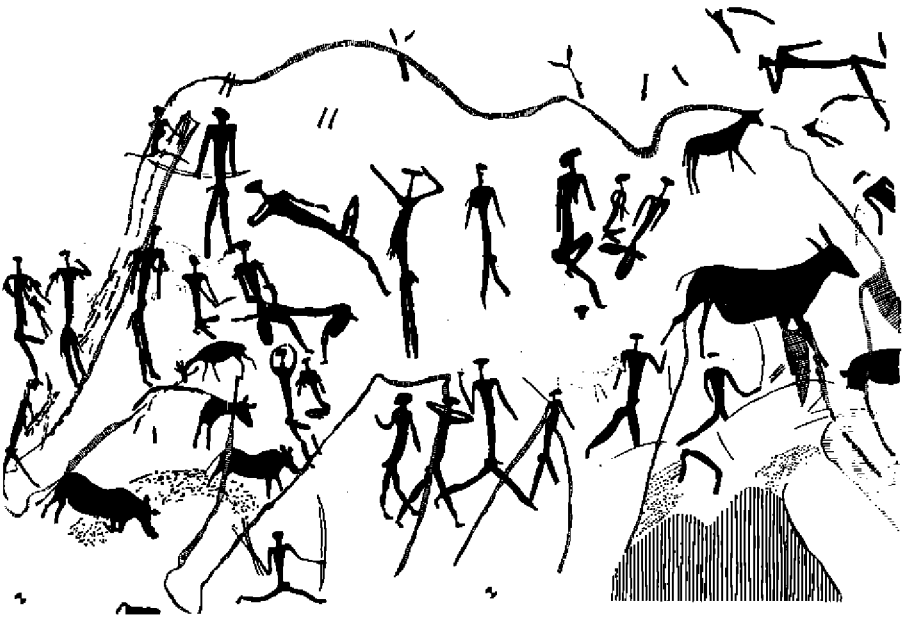


Fig. 12 Section of main panel. Markwe.

19 Garlake, *Painted caves*, pp. 52 – 53.

20 This celebrated panel is reproduced in almost every book on the paintings of southern Africa e.g. Goodall, Pl. 56; Garlake, *Painted caves*, Pl. VIII; Cooke, *Rock art of southern Africa*, Pl between pp. 30–31; Lee and Woodhouse, Pl. 78.



Fig. 13 Elephant and buffalo, main panel, Zwetzingi.



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Fig. 14 Elephant over oval shapes, Leeds.



Like the human trancer, elephants were capable of transformation into supernatural creatures. There are recurrent small images of creatures, with the ears, trunk and tails of elephants, whose backs are so deeply ridged or serrated that they cease to have any reference to the natural world.<sup>21</sup> The legs of these creatures may be stiff and extended. Sometimes only their two near legs are shown or two of their legs may be rudimentary. They frequently emit lines or stippling which generally connote the activation of a supernatural energy.

In one set of paintings, at Ndoma Hills, Mazowe District, three of these transformed creatures have manes, bristles down their backs and tails, and claws on their feet (Fig. 15). These are attributes of carnivores and especially lions. The San believe that the lion exemplifies some of the most powerful, uncontrolled and hence dangerous and malevolent aspects of trance.<sup>22</sup> People who fail to control their trance energy or who wish to do harm are believed to transform into lions. The attributes of lions are frequently found on paintings in Zimbabwe of people, perhaps most commonly in those who have long "hair" hanging from the back of their heads which may signify a lion's mane. Similar signs, especially manes, are found on composite creatures whose postures and most striking attributes are based on the baboon.

The most immediately distinctive and defining characteristic of the elephant other than its trunk is its tusks. Tusks, denoted by a pair of light curved lines emerging from the jaws, are rare but striking emblems attached to human figures and even more rarely to animals or supernatural creatures. At Chisewe, the curer and his patient have them. At Glen Norah, outside Harare, several bloated figures with gaping mouths, one with a feline's fur and tail, have tusks protruding from their lower jaws, indications of a complex form of transformation.<sup>23</sup> At Chimanza, Wedza District (Fig. 16), three strange composite or "trance formed" creatures with many of the attributes of felines and with fingers or claws on their forelegs and the suggestion of human back legs, have single tusks from both upper and lower jaws. It is probably no accident that they are superimposed on a recumbent figure in a characteristic attitude of trance. At Diana's Vow, the large figure in the same trance attitude has lines of the characteristic tusk form on his forehead. Below him, a creature based on a jackal or dog has a lion's mane and tusks rising from his jaws. At The Rivers, three small figures in a panel near the hunt scene, have tusks and are releasing lines of energy from many parts of their bodies. The attribute or emblem of tusks is thus associated with trancers, curing, the release of energy and transformation into supernatural and particularly lion-like creatures. Again, this represents another aspect of the varying powers associated with the elephant.

One of the most striking images in the art of Zimbabwe is of figures with grossly swollen abdomens, shown from the front and with their legs apart.<sup>24</sup> Long zig-zag lines issue from between the legs. Though most of these figures are women, the swollen bodies are not an indication of pregnancy for the shape, size and position of the swelling is not that of the womb. They can be taken rather to represent the generation of supernatural energy, which the San believe has its seat in the abdomen. Crawling up and down the lines,

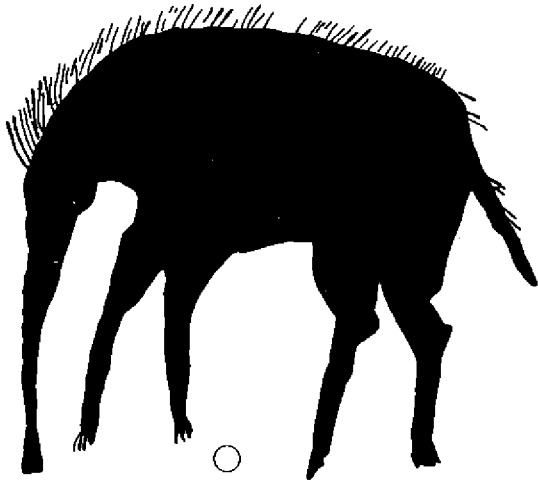
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21 Goodall, Pl. 11 and 12 and Garlake, *Painted caves*, Fig. 83.

22 Lewis-Williams, J.D., 'Testing the trance explanation of southern African art: depictions of felines', *Bolletino del Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici*, 22, 1985.

23 Garlake, *Painted caves*, Fig. 44.

24 Garlake, *Painted caves*, Figs. 74 - 77.



**Fig. 15 Transformed elephant, Ndoma Hills.**



**Fig. 16 Tusked creatures, Chimanza.**

crouched on them, holding them or floating above them, are small malformed human creatures that have many of the connotations of trancers. Once more, these images can best be interpreted as the transmission of supernatural energy from experienced trancers to novices or from the essence of a particular form of trance energy through the community.

The San of Zimbabwe clearly envisaged the elephant as sharing the same powers as the swollen human figures and the animal equivalent of them. At Zwetzindi (Fig. 13), a series of the characteristic malformed human figures hold onto and float above the back of an elephant rather than on the zig-zag lines of a person. Images of elongated and recumbent trancers occur elsewhere on the panel.

In Zimbabwe, as we have said, the essence of trance was represented primarily by clusters of oval shapes: abstract images with no apparent natural connotations. These ovals also had their animal equivalent in the elephant. This is demonstrated in the panel at Leeds (Fig. 14). Amongst the earliest paintings here were a set of oval shapes. As human and animal figures were added, more ovals in different colours were painted, curved to fit around the original ones and expand their field. Progressively, white dots, caps and outlines were also added to all the ovals. Finally, the white outline of a large elephant was superimposed on the whole panel. It can thus be said to replace the ovals and make the same statement as them.

Once more, along the elephant's back, are a set of transformed human figures. One crouches and holds the elephant's back; another floats horizontally above it, its body growing feathers. Others wave their arms grotesquely, standing or lying with their legs in the air. What unites all these figures and removes them from the physical world is their very long thin arms and legs, the lower parts of which were painted in white. Their arms end in long bright red claws rather than fingers and some of their feet end in talons.

To emphasise the pervasive and coherent conceptual unity of these images, one can show that, as in the hunting scenes, the rhino and buffalo were seen and treated as the only other equivalents of the elephant in the San conception of their world. This is neatly illustrated by the Zwetzindi panel (Fig. 13) which had its basis in an outline of a large buffalo, facing right, of which only the tail, feet and lines of belly and neck remain. In the final stages of the development of the panel it was replaced by the outline of a large elephant, facing left. The back and tail of the buffalo were repainted, probably more than once, in mustard and white pigments. The trancing figures belong as much to it as they do to the elephant. At Rockery (Fig. 11), a buffalo cow — its calf stands below it — is covered in regular lines of white dots characteristic of the oval shapes and thus signifying an equivalence between buffalo and ovals. A similar equivalence is established between trancers and ovals in the large recumbent figure at Diana's Vow which is also covered in a regular grid of white dots. Here the equivalence is emphasised even further in the oval attached to the back of the figure. The same equivalence is established at Leeds with the superpositioning of the elephant over the ovals.

Large rhino, in simple or partially filled outlines, and often represented by a single cow with a calf behind her, are also the central features and foci of many panels. At Kisanzi, Makonde District (Fig. 17), such a pair are the centre of a composition of outlines of oval shapes and surrounded by dancers and a host of small antelope and pigs. At Liwonde (Fig. 18), the outline of a large rhino is overlain by several single hunters, many of them falling or supine, a family group and files of hunters and gatherers.

An example of the buffalo used as the background of a series of different groups of



Fig. 17 Part of the rhinoceros panel, Kisanzi.



Fig. 18 Part of the rhinoceros panel, Liwonde.



Fig. 19 Buffalo panel, Msonneddi Estate.

images occurs at Msonneddi Estate, Mazowe District (Fig. 19). Here the emphasis of the superimposed paintings is clearly on different aspects of dancing. At Diana's Vow, the earliest painting, in the centre of the panel, was also a buffalo, though much smaller.

There is at least one example of the large bovine which is the victim of the hunt at Kingsdown used as an overall unifying feature. At Markwe, a large orange bovine with massive body and delicate horns confronts the large elephant of Fig. 12.

## Conclusion

The analysis of all the paintings described in this paper establishes a series of principles in the art. First, paintings of hunts are both very rare and restricted in their victims. They cannot portray actual events. Not only are the hunts themselves unreal, so are the hunters, their weapons and many of their victims. Second, the imagery of these paintings can be correlated with several aspects of San trance: in the use of magical arrows, in their emphasis on bleeding, in the bodily sensations they express and in their illustration of San metaphors for trance. Third, animals were conceived as the equivalents of humans. Animals are also metaphors for trancers, symbols of trance energy, symbols of the essence of the trance experience and the actual embodiments of the transforming powers of trance. Fourth, trance powers are epitomised by the elephant and almost as much by the rhino, to a lesser extent by the buffalo and probably also by the lion. Fifth, the significance of the powers symbolised by these animals is expressed by the use of images of them as backgrounds, unifying agents, cores and foci of many panels of paintings. Sixth, the art can be seen to represent the same, probably restricted, range of metaphysical ideas on several different visual levels.

In what would seem a very crude analysis to the San artists, we can categorise these paintings as firstly, direct illustrations; secondly, as illustrations of ideas; and thirdly, as symbols. The paintings reiterate the same concepts on three different visual levels: human, animal and abstract. Thus, aspects of the powers of trance are depicted on the human level through a range of distortions of the human figure and through figures with swollen abdomens and emissions from them. On the animal level, the same powers are represented through hunted, wounded, bleeding and dying animals. On the abstract level, they are represented through a range of oval shapes. Amongst the animals, the elephant alone operates on and unites all these levels. It bleeds and collapses like a trancer. It is distorted and given the attributes of other animals. It acts with the same powers as the swollen figures. It replaces the oval shapes.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> I would like to thank once again all the farmers and landowners who have given their help and hospitality so readily when we visited paintings on their properties. I would again welcome any information on paintings from the readers of *Heritage* at Box BW 238, Borrowdale. Ray Brown, Anthony Chennells, Margaret Garlake, Sophie Golay Lescuyer, Ann and Roger Martin and Sasha Wales-Smith helped me to copy the paintings published here.

# Diary of a Journey from Johannesburg to London by Air 14th to 25th December 1933

by Albert E.P. Robinson

## December 14th — By Air to Pietersburg, Bulawayo and Salisbury

The starting point of this journey is the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg. At 4.45 a.m. a light breakfast is served in the room and shortly afterwards I hand over my baggage and passport to Imperial Airways and we set out for Germiston Airport. In an hour's time we shall be headed for Pietersburg our last landing place in South Africa.

It is raining hard and I wonder what it will be like in the air. At the airport we discover that our plane is the *Amalthea* piloted by Commander Algar and First Officer Douglas. On the stroke of six, we taxi over the large aerodrome after waving farewell to our friends, and in a few minutes *Amalthea* is high above the ground and we are off on our long flight through Africa.

After a few minutes flying we pass over Pretoria the capital of the Transvaal at a height of 6,500 feet and at a speed of 100 m.p.h. The Union Buildings, headquarters of South Africa's government departments, stands out very clearly.

Today we are six in the plane, eight including the Commander and First Officer. This type of machine — the *Atalanta* class — carry nine but a large Xmas mail is on board and I am told that a number of applications for seats had to be refused owing to the excessive weight of the airmail. Sending letters by airmail is becoming very popular and large numbers of people employ this method owing to the time saved.

Three quarters of an hour has passed and we are flying in brilliant sunshine above the clouds — a wonderful sight. At 7.35 a.m. the plane passes over Zebedelia Citrus Estates where thousands of fruit trees standing in long rows can be seen. The Commander enters the cabin and informs us that we shall be in Pietersburg in an hour. To the minute of 8.45 a.m. we start descending rapidly and in a few moments a perfect landing is made at Pietersburg. Off by bus to the Royal Hotel where a full course breakfast awaits us. Most of the passengers are content with paw-paw, porridge, bacon and eggs or a chop. Here we fill in the forms "furnishing reasons for leaving the Union".

Off again at 9.35. We have just passed through a large swarm of locusts, the terrible pests that all farmers dread. After 2 hours we cross the Limpopo into Southern Rhodesia and at 11.30 a.m. we make a smooth landing at Bulawayo, where we are to refuel and have morning tea. The last portion of the flight has been rather bumpy and some of the passengers did not feel too well. They welcome the rest as it enables them to recover a little.

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\* This diary first appeared in *In Flight*, published by British Airways.

+ The author was 17 years of age at the time of the journey; he subsequently became Sir Albert Robinson, Executive Director of the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited.

Bulawayo is 4,000 ft above sea level and we find the climate exhilarating. We are only given an hour here, as our schedule shows Broken Hill as the night stop and this means another 4 hours flying as well as our stop for lunch at Salisbury. The Commander and First Officer step into the cabin quite often to show us things of interest — they are extremely courteous.

2.45 p.m. sees us in Salisbury where we are met as usual by Imperial Airways groundsmen — who do everything to make our stay at the different places as comfortable as possible — and very successful they are too. We drive to Meikles Hotel by car where lunch awaits us. This is a beautiful hotel and very comfortable indeed.

At 2.45 p.m. we are off again, but not for long!. Suddenly after 10 minutes flying there is a jerk and looking out of the window I find that one of our engines has stopped. We are quite safe, however, thanks to Imperial Airways for all their machines on this route have 4 engines. We simply turn round and flying on 3 engines arrive once again at Salisbury. After a short investigation the Captain decides to remain the night and so once again we drive to Meikles Hotel where I am shown to a very comfortable room. Before dinner I sit talking to Commander Algar and he tells me one or two interesting things about the plane. Atalanta class machines are specially built for high altitudes. They develop 1630 horsepower having 4 supercharged engines of 340 horsepower each and this enables them to climb very quickly, which in view of the very high levels of the majority of the aerodromes is absolutely essential. They have a cruising speed of about 110 m.p.h. and are naturally capable of doing far more. After dinner we retire early as owing to the delay we have to make an early start for Broken Hill.

#### **December 15th — From Salisbury over the Zambesi to Broken Hill, Mpika and Mbeya**

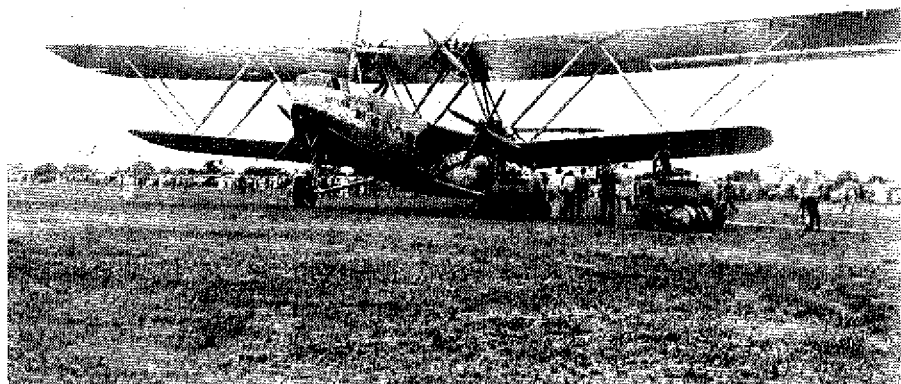
At 3.30 a.m. a waiter awakens me and Marie biscuits and tea are served. On meeting our crew downstairs they inform us that *Amalthea* is to return to Johannesburg so that the trouble to the engine can be rectified. We shall be transferred to *Artemis*, a sister ship, identical in shape, size, fittings and every detail. Both pilots are also transferred and they are not too pleased as Imperial Airways men never leave the plane to which they are assigned unless, as in this case, it is absolutely essential.

We leave the hotel by car for the aerodrome at 4.30 a.m. and even at this early hour all Imperial Airways groundsmen and staff are on duty. 5.35 a.m. sees us in the air and soon the town of Salisbury is left far behind. It is now 6.30 a.m. and far below us we occasionally see the large homes of Rhodesian farmers and ranchers. Suddenly the earth becomes obliterated by thick white clouds. The sun is shining brightly from a blue sky above. The plane is as steady as a rock and on we drone at 100 m.p.h. cut off from the earth by this widespread, snowy blanket — a marvellous spectacle. Half an hour passes and we are out of the clouds into glorious, heavily-wooded, mountainous scenery. Here is the real Central Africa standing untouched by civilisation which only a few of the world's millions have been privileged to see. I wonder if the progress of aviation is to spoil this simple yet majestic beauty.

The first emergency landing ground comes into view. These are known by letters of the alphabet and also by numbers. They are simply clearings in the bush, for use in case of emergency; and very necessary they are too for a forced landing in these parts would be, to my mind, a risky thing.

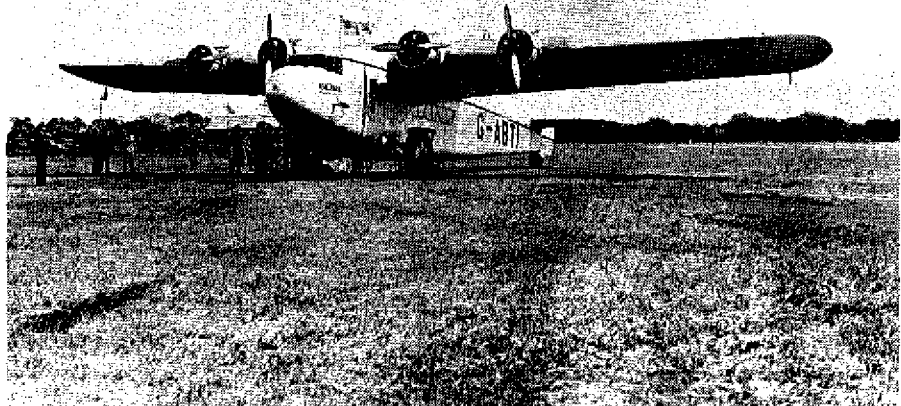
At 7.20 a.m. the mighty Zambesi comes into view. What a grand sight it is too, even





**R.M.A. "Helena" at Bulawayo, 14th January 1933  
Pilot: Capt. Powell and Capt. E.A. Aitwood**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*



**Imperial Airways "Atalanta", Bulawayo 1933/34  
First passenger monoplanes used on the "all red route"**

from this height. Threading its way through a large valley it presents a sight probably unequalled anywhere in the world. In an hour and ten minutes we shall be at Broken Hill, and I wonder what this well known mining centre will prove to be like.

At 8.40 a.m. the plane makes a perfect landing and on alighting the passengers are conducted to a small rest hut where breakfast has been specially prepared. This morning it consists of scrambled eggs or fried eggs and bacon, toast, jam and coffee — a very welcome meal I assure you after having been up since 3.30 a.m.

Broken Hill is a mining centre with a comparatively small white population. We are joined by 2 new passengers, one bound for London and the other for Nairobi, and at 9.20 a.m. we are off for Mpika which is 400 miles from civilisation, but has now been placed on the map owing to the advancement of air travel. The railway from the south ends at Broken Hill and only the Great North Road connects it with Mpika. The country does not change much in appearance between these two centres and we arrive, after an uneventful journey at Mpika, at 12.5 p.m. Here lunch is served as usual in a rest hut.

Mpika has a population of 9 whites. A hotel is in the process of being built here. A lady — the future proprietress of the hotel — tells me that only a month prior to our arrival a man was mauled by a lion 200 yards from the hotel, and that many lions had been seen, and still could be seen at times, on the borders of the drome. We are also informed that it costs thousand of pounds to transport petrol to Mpika for the use of the machines, and it takes the lorries weeks to cover the distance we had just covered in 3 hours.

At 12.50 p.m. we take off and are soon on our way to Mbeya where we are to spend the night at Imperial Airways new hotel. At 1.13 p.m. we are flying at 8000 feet and at 100 m.p.h. On our right is a terrific rain storm and among the black and ominous looking clouds flashes of lightning can be seen. But there is nothing to fear as our pilots — taking no risk — simply fly round it.

We are going down the Shanga Valley and the country is all heavily wooded. At 2.30 p.m. we pass over Lake Young and after a little more than an hour's flight cross the Tanganyika border at 3.50 p.m. Here the pilot enters the cabin and we have our first change in the time — the clock being put forward one hour. Shortly afterwards at 4.50 p.m. Tanganyika time — we pass the emergency landing ground before Mbeya.

There has been no sign of any wild animals as yet and all the passengers are anxiously awaiting the first sight of game. 5.15 p.m. sees Mbeya in the distance and in a few moments after circling above the aerodrome the plane descends rapidly and comes to rest not far from the beautiful little hotel that Imperial Airways has built in this far away spot. In a short while we are conducted into the hotel where each one of the passengers is shown to a single room. After a wash and a brush up I decided to go for a little stroll before dinner, and not far from the hotel I am fortunate enough to meet two or three natives, carrying spears and native pianos, and after a deal of gesticulation I was able to procure a specimen of each. I might mention here that throughout the journey one is able to procure wonderful curios from all the respective tribes and races one comes in contact with, but don't forget to have patience — for they all can't speak English!!! After dinner which was delightfully served under the supervision of the ground superintendent we were served with real, unblended Tanganyika coffee, and what delicious coffee it was too.

Once again the Commander tells us that it is to be an early start as the Xmas mail has to be in London on time and owing to the delay at Salisbury we had been forced to sleep at Mbeya instead of Nairobi in Kenya Colony, so to bed early. Here we are at dusk cut off

from civilisation, listening to the drone of the insects and the weird chanting of the natives in their huts. A few yards away stands *Artemis*, gleaming in the dusk — the atmosphere is filled with excitement and we retire to bed with an unforgettable memory of far far-away Mbeya.

**December 16th Mbeya to Kisumu. Our first sight of Game.  
Over Victoria Nyanza to Juba:**

At 3.30 a.m. we are awakened and go down with the other passengers to *Artemis*. Everything is pitch black and the native porters carry our baggage to the plane by torch and lantern light. Right down the length of the aerodrome are two long rows of flares and between these our plane will taxi and, we hope, make a successful take-off. This, our first flight at night, is an exciting event and after a short while, during which time we take our seats and the engines are warmed up, the plane moves slowly into position and in a few seconds we rise beautifully into the air and head for Dodoma, where we are to breakfast.

The cabin is beautifully lit and it is for all the world like a railway compartment, so smoothly is the plane running. One by one the passengers turn off their lights and soon all are either dozing or fast asleep. We are now shut off from the earth by pitch darkness and we continue in this fashion until 5.45 a.m. when the first rays of the sun begin to steal out of the horizon on our right. It really is a most entrancing sight and after not more than half an hour it is quite light. The Commander enters the cabin and informs us that “we are dead on our course” — but I think it is better not to take him too literally.

Down below are some remarkable kraals, called by the natives “tembes”. They are square in shape, with very thick walls. The natives live in the walls and their cattle are placed in the centre at night, to protect them from the wild animals, like the Zulu in the Union of South Africa.

At 6.40 a.m., after passing over the Bohora Flats we land at Dodoma where our breakfast awaits us. Here the plane and ourselves are subjected to close scrutiny by a large crowd of natives and they appear very interested in the strange bird and curious people that have swept out of the blue into peaceful little Dodoma. The ground superintendent informs me that at first they were rather afraid of the planes, but have now more or less grown used to them.

At 7.10 a.m. we leave for Moshi, situated at the foot of Kilimanjaro — the highest mountain in Africa. We pass over the great Masai plain and away down below I can see large herds of native cattle. The First Officer enters the cabin to say we shall have marvellous luck as Kilimanjaro is bare of clouds, a sight — the Commander afterwards told us — he had only seen four times in two and a half years continual flying on this route. It was really a magnificent spectacle even at this distance of more than two hundred miles.

9.20 a.m. sees us in Moshi where I meet Mr Green the district commissioner. He tells me it is fairly lonely at this far-away spot, but he is kept well occupied with his work and I am sure, big game hunting.

The plane takes on petrol and we set off once again, this time for Nairobi. The clock is also changed, now being put back thirty minutes. After five minutes flight we sight our first game and there is great excitement in the cabin. It consists of three giraffe which are quickly followed by buck, zebra, wildebeeste, ostriches, in fact we have struck a perfect game reserve. The animals were all grazing on a large grassy plain which extends practically from Kilimanjaro to Nairobi. I am sure we must have seen at least 3,000 head

of game and there may have been even more. Naturally I attempted to get photographs but as we are flying a little too high, it is not too easy. Countless herds of antelope of every description can be seen, and I rejoice to think that at last I am seeing Central Africa's game in its natural state. The wildebeeste galloping around in all directions, the antelope charging about, as the plane passes overhead, can all be seen quite clearly from the machine.

The hour and a half between Moshi and Nairobi had passed much too quickly and as we arrive at Nairobi we find a whole herd of zebra on the aerodrome!!

The Pilot chooses the best position to land, carefully avoiding the animals, which stand, unafraid, quietly grazing on our right.

After little over an hour's stop at Nairobi we set out for Kisumu, the Central African Headquarters of Imperial Airways, which is situated on the shores of Victoria Nyanza. We are over the Great Rift Valley now and one can distinctly see how this huge rift has been formed. Not being a geologist, I am not able to appreciate fully what I am seeing. In the centre is a volcano — Suswa — and the Commander tells me there are numbers of lion down below, but it is difficult to see them from this height owing to the colour of their fur which blends with the grass.

Mount Olongot passes on our right and also Lake Nawasha which has thousand of flamingoes all over it — presenting a lovely picture.

We are flying at 10,000 ft and it is very bumpy, some of the passengers being affected.

The native huts in this part are similar to those in South Africa, having round walls and conical shaped roofs. They are grouped together in clusters varying in number from four to ten and these clumps are surrounded by a fence consisting of trees and bushes. It really is very picturesque looking at them from this angle.

At 1 p.m. exactly we make another perfect landing at Kisumu. Here we are to change planes and also we are to lose our pilots who have so successfully flown us from Johannesburg, for they will now return to the Union with the downward mail.

A drive through Kisumu to the hotel and I might tell you that this was probably the most dangerous part of the trip, as we did not appreciate the attempts made by our driver to emulate Malcolm Campbell in his rather dilapidated old Ford.

We say goodbye to Captain Algar and First Officer Douglas and enter *Horsa* — much larger, though not as fast a plane as *Artemis*. The passengers from the South do not appreciate this change as we lose the convenience of having a single cabin and few passengers. About eight new passengers have joined — all bound for Egypt except two.

*Horsa* has a crew of two pilots, a wireless operator and a steward. The machine is divided into two sections with fourteen people in each compartment. In between is a pantry, luggage room and toilet. In the pantry is a huge ice box, with minerals, cups, saucers and numerous other gadgets. The seats are well upholstered and each one is provided with a small cushion. In front of the seats are small collapsible tables and on either side of the cabin is a luggage rack for hats coats and other small packages. The ventilation is very good and in fact we are most comfortable as we set off for Entebbe at 2.05 p.m.

Lake Victoria is beneath us and it stretches away to the North for 340 miles. From the plane it appears like a huge sea. Numerous islands, most of them uninhabited are dotted about all over the place. On we fly swiftly over the water and at 3.45 p.m. we land at Entebbe which, like Kisumu, is also on the edge of the Lake. Afternoon tea is served

consisting of tea bread and butter, jam, pineapples and the most delicious bananas I have ever tasted. Entebbe is a very pretty little place and has all the familiar characteristics of a tropical village. The natives here wear long white robes and I am most impressed at their apparent dignity and aloofness whilst serving us.

4.10 p.m. sees us in the air once again, this time headed for Juba, which is to be our first landing place near the Nile and where all going well we shall spend the night.

After leaving Entebbe, the country becomes heavily wooded and down below us is thick jungle. The real Central African jungle with swamps, fever and wild animals. A forced landing here would be practically an impossibility. But on we fly and it looks as though we shall still be flying when darkness sets in. On our left, it is raining heavily and it strikes me how peculiar is the manner in which we run in and out of rainstorms at such frequent intervals throughout the journey.

After three quarters of an hour I spy a small herd of buck on a little hillock, but that is to be the last game we shall see today as the sun is fast disappearing in the West.

Far away to the left is Lake Albert and on the other side is the Victoria Nile with the Murcheson Falls though we are a little too far away to see them.

We are over the Karuba Rapids now — the sun has set and the steward is busy serving hot tea and biscuits the time being 6 p.m.

On we drone, everything is pitch black beneath us and an occasional glimmer of a forest fire is the only light to be seen. Suddenly I spy six fires in a ring and I assume they must be native kraals and cannot help thinking how marvellous it is that people can exist in this wild and lonely country.

At 8 p.m. two long rows of paraffin flares indicate that Juba is at hand and sure enough we begin to descend slowly. A few yards from the ground the Commander tries to ignite one of the two magnesium flares situated beneath either wing tip, but it does not go off—!! and in the pitch darkness the wheels strike the ground with a nasty bump. But our pilots are experienced men and ready for any emergency. With a roar the engines are revved up and we rise once more into the air. After circling around we start descending again and this time the other flare bursts into flame and the plane makes a perfect landing. I am very tired as we have been forced to fly for about seventeen hours in order to sleep the night at Juba, which makes us up to time at last.

A drive to the beautiful little hotel which is spotlessly clean and most comfortable. After a quick meal I am soon in bed well protected by mosquito netting from all enemy insects, which I am told exist in large numbers here.

#### **December 17th. From Juba over the Sudd Swamps to Malakal, Kosti and Khartoum where the Blue and White Niles join. Our first sight of Elephant.**

This is the fourth day of my trip and I am now leaving Juba for Malakal. It is 6 a.m. and the plane and passengers are all ready to leave. The cabin has been fumigated this morning, as Juba is famous, if for nothing else, for its mosquitos and Imperial Airways do not wish to take any risks. It is rather upsetting at first but after a few minutes flying the cabin is soon aired. We are entering the Sudd country, and I hope to have the good fortune of seeing elephant.

The Nile is far below us, but owing to the formation of the ground it is difficult to trace the main channel. The deep red colour of the rising sun is a sign that it is to be a real desert

scorcher when we enter the Libyan desert later in the day. All the country is very flat and apart from this being my first really clear sight of the Nile, it has not proved to be a very interesting morning as yet. Most of the passengers, including myself, are either dozing or fast asleep. Suddenly I am awakened by a fellow passenger and with an excited gesture he points to the earth. And there 2000 ft below us are a magnificent herd of African elephant. What wonderful luck to see them, and to think I might have missed them, had it not been for this gentleman's kind action. There must be over a hundred there and they are attended by a number of snowwhite tick birds, which add to the beauty of the scene. Some of the animals are apparently feeding whilst others are bathing in the swamps nearby. But we are only allowed a few precious moments to view this unforgettable scene, and like everything else they are soon lost to view in the distance.

Another few minutes flying, and a river steamer comes into view, slowly making its way through the water and I assume it is bound for Juba.

We have just passed over Malek at 7.40 a.m. and this small Sudanese village presents another picturesque sight. The country is gradually changing in appearance and the great desert is taking the place of the swampy Sudd country. The main channel of the Nile has become more distinct now, and even from this height it appears huge. The River Tibus — a tributary of the Nile — comes into view and this is a sign that we are shortly due at Malakal, the capital of the Upper Nile Province, which is to be our first stop this morning.

At 9.55 a.m. we arrive and find on entering a small tent beside the aerodrome, a delightful breakfast consisting of eggs and bacon, coffee, toast, Marie biscuits and strawberry jam, awaiting us. After the passengers had finished and the necessary petrol had been taken aboard, we prepare to take our seats in the plane. At that moment a flying boat, which is preparing to land on the Nile close by, passes overhead. It had left Juba before us, but being an old type of machine, had not made the journey in as quick a time as *Horsa*. This machine is carrying a portion of the large Xmas mail, as far as Cairo.

10.50 a.m. sees us in the air again. Away up at 8,200 ft it is beautifully cool and it is a relief to be in the air again, as at Malakal it was beginning to get very hot. At 1 p.m. our first meal in the air is served — and very delicious it turns out to be too. The bill of fare consists of sardines on toast, followed by Chicken a la Maryland, roast lamb, iced peas, sliced potatoes, iced apples, peaches and cream and then the usual cheese, biscuits and coffee. Drinks of every description are to be had and this reminds me that there are no "early closing hours" on board an aeroplane!!

Shortly after lunch Kosti comes into sight, and we make a landing at this tiny little place for petrol. As the door of the machine is opened we are met by a blast of hot desert air, which seems strong enough to knock one down. It is our first taste of real Egyptian heat, and all the passengers were unanimous in hoping this to be our last. We are fortunate enough, however, to see a real desert caravan pass the aerodrome — which I might mention is simply a flat piece of desert ground, cleared of stones and other obstacles that might come in the way of a plane. The caravan consists of about ten camels. There are six men and an equal number of women in attendance. The men are riding on the camels dressed in long white robes, whilst the women who follow on tiny little donkeys are all heavily veiled and clothed in the deepest of black. This, our first sight of the "ships of the desert", is indeed a memorable one, and despite the intense heat, we all gather on the edge of the drome to watch this strange sight pass.

At 2.20 p.m. we set off, this time, for Khartoum, where we are to spend the night. It is

now 2.50 p.m. and we are flying over the Libyan desert at 5,500 ft, and away down on the earth the Nile continues on its way to the sea. Everything is absolute desert, no vegetation or green or any description, excepting on the banks of the river itself, and I cannot help marvelling that this strip of water so narrow in comparison to the vastness of the surrounding desert is not sucked away by the dry sands.

The shimmering heat haze over everything shows how hot it is on the ground, and I am very thankful to be away up in the delightfully cool atmosphere of 5,000 ft.

One can clearly see the famous method of cultivation on the banks of the river, for on either bank there extends for about one and a half miles a strip of growing crops, which shows how the river must overflow its banks during the wet weather thus irrigating the neighbouring land.

Our arrival at Khartoum at 4 p.m. is very welcome, as it enables me to see this historic old town before darkness sets in. After being shown to a large comfortable room at the Grand Hotel, I engage a taxi to convey me to the various sights of the city. The hotel fixes up with the man with regard to places of interest and, more important, with regard to the fare. One has to be careful, I had been told, as one could leave much poorer than when one arrived if one has to satisfy the demands of the various Sudanese gentlemen who are all to anxious to help.

In Khartoum practically all the Sudanese to be seen have their homes in Omdurman, which is situated on the other side of the Nile. The Hotel advises me to visit Omdurman so I instruct the driver accordingly. We drive along the banks of the Blue Nile which passes through Khartoum and eventually we reach the famous Omdurman Bridge, beneath which the Blue Nile joins with the White Nile which comes sweeping in from the desert on the side of Khartoum, and the two rivers continue as the Nile proper up to Cairo and then into the Mediterranean. Across the bridge we pass the Sudanese cemetery and then enter the village. Western civilisation has had its effect on this eastern town, for amidst the picturesque setting of Sudanese men and women in their flowing robes and the tiny little stalls that constitute the market, are trams and modern electric lighting.

My driver, who answers to the grand name of Mahomed Assidulla says he thinks it advisable to proceed first to the house of the famous Mad Mahdi, as it is growing dark and naturally I want to see this interesting place. We drive on for a few minutes and arrive at the house. On entering a Sudanese gentleman receives me, and shows me the many interesting things to be seen. The Mahdi's chariot and other personal effects are all exhibited and, although I desire to spend longer here, I am reminded by my driver that I will not see much more if I delay any further.

Entering the market once again, I am surprised to see a large procession headed by men bearing what appear to be banners. They are coming from the square adjoining the Mahdi's house. Perhaps there are hunger marchers in this part of the world as well, I think, but no, Mahomed informs me that the fast of Ramadam is being ushered in with the usual ceremony. During this fast no true Mahomedan may partake of any food in the day time, for a whole month. After watching the procession from the market we enter a number of tiny back streets all crowded with Sudanese. On both sides of the streets are hundreds of tiny little stalls — and here in Omdurman is my first experience of the Eastern Bazaar. But being the only white man amongst hundreds of curious people, all anxious to see "the new white visitor" and realising only the grandparents of the present generation were our

bitterest enemies and were responsible for the death of General Gordon, I decided to leave the village and instruct Mahomed Assidulla to proceed back to Khartoum.

After crossing the bridge once more, I decide to visit the statues of Generals Gordon and Kitchener, as there were still a few moments before night set in.

Back to the Grand Hotel, after inspecting these beautiful monuments erected in memory of two of England's finest soldiers. On arrival I am given a card by the ground superintendent with full particulars as to when we must rise and at what time we depart in the morning. I am off to bed early, and the Nubian waiter tells me that if there is no "haboob" — dust storm in the night, I will sleep well. It is a beautiful night, though a trifle hot, but all is quiet in this desert land and I doze off with the thoughts of camels, Nubians, Sudanese, aeroplanes and haboobs flitting across my weary mind.

**December 19th: A delay at Khartoum, I visit the Zoological Gardens, Gordon College, the Chief Mosque and the Sudanese Market:**

At a quarter to five I am awakened by the Nubian waiter and after a quick breakfast I am on my way, by car, to the aerodrome. On arrival I notice that the down mail plane is also here — the *Helena* — and she is standing quite close to *Horsa*. The engines of our machine are started and in a few moments, we move forward slowly in order to get into position for our take-off. There is a jar and we stop. I look out of the windows and find that the wing tips of *Helena* and *Horsa* have hit each other and the end sections are badly crumpled. It is a most extraordinary accident, and all the officials are busy examining the damage. After a delay of 10 minutes, the ground superintendent informs us that we shall probably have to remain here all day. On returning to the hotel we are informed that the delay in Khartoum is to be extended to two days as the necessary repairs will take longer than it was first thought probable.

I decide to occupy my time with further sightseeing and I immediately set out for the Zoological Gardens, which are situated close to the hotel. This is really a remarkable place — quite like a small game reserve. Kangaroos, wallabies, buck, birds and geese are walking around the grounds and the majority are very tame. Only the lions, leopards, elephants and other large game are kept behind bars. It has been a most enjoyable hour, but I must now depart if I wish to see more of Khartoum.

Engaging Mahomed Assidulla once again I set off for the Museum, which is characteristic of the Sudan, for the exhibits are almost entirely devoted to Sudanese culture and history.

I proceed from here to the Gordon College where only Sudanese are educated. It is really a University and School combined for whilst I noticed English and Mathematics I also noticed that Engineering and such-like University courses are taught. It is a wonderful building and the crowds of Sudanese students in their white robes give a unique appearance to the College.

After visiting this Mahomed says I ought to visit the main mosque in the city, so I instruct him to proceed. On arrival we enter the mosque and climb the minaret which affords a magnificent view of Khartoum. This has to be done in stockinged feet and naturally affords great amusement to the non-believer. Opposite the mosque is a Sudanese Market and noticing a caravan of camels about to enter the main gate I hasten to view this unusual scene. The camels are laden with grain and other merchandise. I am indeed



fortunate to witness them arriving from the desert. The leader informs Mahomed Assidulla that they had been travelling for a week.

I leave here to return to the hotel. On the way I stop to see Kitchener's and Gordon's statues, once again, as it had been rather too dark the previous evening to inspect them properly.

The remainder of the afternoon slips by quickly and shortly after my dinner I retire to bed.

*Note: As the journey moves away from tropical Africa we have decided to omit the further detailed diary entries and only dates and stopping places are listed. From Brindizi to Paris the journey was by train as the Fascist authorities would not allow foreigners to fly over Italy.*

**December 20th: Remain in Khartoum all day. Leave for Wadi Haifa at 1.30 a.m.**

**December 21st: From Khartoum to Wadi Haifa. Across the Desert to Cairo. I see the Pyramids. By train to Alexandria.**

**December 22nd: By seaplane to Mirabella in Crete and then to Athens. I visit the famous Acropolis.**

**December 23rd: Over Corinth to Brindizi. We start our Journey by train for Paris.**

**December 24th: By rail through Italy. I visit Milan. Through the Simplon Tunnel to France**

**December 25th: Christmas Day. Arrival in London.**

# **Pistol-Carabines and Submachine Guns Manufactured in Rhodesia, 1975 to 1980**

**by P.G. Locke**

Deliberately kept confidential at the time (for security reasons), details of the arms manufacturing industry in Rhodesia\* in the years immediately prior to the country's independence were always vague and shrouded in secrecy. Indeed, less than two years after its inception in 1976 the arms industry was described as having already created "a legacy of confusion as to exactly what weapons are made in the country."<sup>1</sup> Post independence in 1980 the situation deteriorated even further with the cessation of production, destruction of records and departure from the country of many of the individuals involved in the industry. Consequently, the picture today is even more obscure and information decidedly fragmentary. Nevertheless, it is felt important to record what is known about the manufacture of arms in what was then Rhodesia before time further clouds its history.

The development of an arms industry in Rhodesia was an accomplished, if obvious, response to factors which arose as a result of the war situation existing in the country. These were:— firstly, a demand from the civilian population for arms with which to defend themselves in the face of increasing insurgency and attacks by guerillas during the latter years of the independence war; secondly, the scarcity and consequent exorbitant price of imported self-defence weapons due to the effects of international sanctions and, thirdly, a need to conserve foreign currency on which the bulk of the country's military requirements (obtained from 'friendly' countries) was dependent. Of secondary consideration, and probably an unexpected bonus, was the creation of an export market for the weapons — which actually earned valuable foreign exchange.

There is no doubt that the local design and manufacture of firearms in Rhodesia was a remarkable achievement — and few countries of comparable size and industrial infrastructure have demonstrated a similar capability.

## **The submachine gun — an automatic choice**

Although several shotguns and prototype pistols were also produced, it was perhaps natural that the only weapons manufactured in Rhodesia in sizeable quantities were based, in broad terms, on the submachine gun concept and were designed to fire standard 9 mm parabellum ammunition.

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\* Rhodesia became Zimbabwe-Rhodesia in 1979 and Zimbabwe after independence in 1980. The name of the capital city, Salisbury, was changed to Harare in 1982. For historical reasons names in use at the time of the events described have been retained.

The reasons for this choice are not difficult to perceive, as follows:—

- 1) The submachine gun (and its derivatives) because of its simple design requires relatively unsophisticated engineering facilities and yet it is basically a reliable and effective weapon. In this respect it is noticeable that, with one exception, the Rhodesian submachine gun-type weapons did not involve complicated metal castings and were assembled largely from parts stamped or machined from stock materials.
- 2) In the absence of an ammunition manufacturing capability in the country, the choice of a widely available and proven small-arms cartridge, also in use in the armed forces, was inevitable; i.e. 9 mm parabellum.
- 3) There was a need for an essentially defensive weapon which was easily portable, useful for close-combat / ambush situations and capable of delivering a relatively large volume of fire in a short time. In particular, a weapon was required for use by civilians as personal defence while travelling by vehicle in sensitive areas. The semi-automatic version of the submachine gun (pistol-carbine) was well suited for this purpose because it combined the features of a pistol and, with the stock extended, a shoulder fired weapon. However, most of the weapons in question were rather too heavy to be fired repeatedly using one hand without support.
- 4) Supplies of a light offensive weapon for military purposes were also required to supplement the imported submachine guns in service with the armed forces. Local manufacture was an obvious means of overcoming the arms embargo against Rhodesia.

### **Weapon nomenclature**

From a technical point of view the weapons described in this paper can be classified (with one exception) as either pistol-carbines or submachine guns, although the distinction between pistol-carbines, machine pistols and submachine guns is not well demarcated.

Strictly speaking none of the Rhodesian-made weapons was a machine pistol — in spite of the fact that they were commonly known as such by the public. For the sake of clarity the definitions according to which the weapons have been categorized (based on the definitive work by Nelson and Musgrave<sup>2</sup>) are given as follows:—

*Pistol-carbines* — are visually similar to submachine guns and are usually fitted with a semi-fixed or folding shoulder stock. Semi-automatic fire only is possible and pistol ammunition used. Theoretically they are suitable for single-handed use.

*Submachine guns* -- are able to deliver selectively either semi-automatic or fully automatic fire. They are designed to be fired with two hands whether or not a shoulder stock is employed.

### **Automatic versus semi-automatic types**

The majority of Rhodesian-made weapons of the type under consideration were designed and produced primarily for civilian use — although most were evaluated by the military authorities. In several instances two variants of the same design were manufactured, semi-automatic only for civilian use or selective fire for para-military and military use. In fact, all the civilian models were basically of submachine gun design but restricted to

pistol-carbine status by the elimination of fully automatic firing mode. Contemporary press reports<sup>3,4</sup> indicate that the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which was responsible for administering the Firearms Act, was adamant that firearms for civilian use should be limited to semi-automatic and legislation provided relatively harsh penalties for persons caught converting weapons to fully automatic.

It is apparent, however, that when news of the production of locally-manufactured pistol-carbines was first released, there was a certain degree of confusion in the public's mind as to whether or not the new weapons were capable of fully automatic fire. It soon became established that they were not, after definite assurances were hurriedly issued through the press by the manufacturers<sup>5,6</sup> (evidently aimed as much as placating the relevant authorities as informing the public) to the effect that the weapons were limited to semi-automatic and could not easily be converted to fully automatic.

Despite the manufacturers' claims to the contrary, however, controversy over the alleged facility with which the weapons could be converted to automatic fire led to a temporary ban being placed by the South African authorities on the importation of one Rhodesian pistol-carbine into that country.<sup>7</sup> Only after the weapon's manufacturers had proved that it was no more easily altered to automatic firing than other weapons of its type, and probably more difficult than most to convert, was the embargo lifted.

### **Proof testing and evaluation**

The publication in August, 1977 of standard specifications for the safety and proof testing of small arms using 9 mm parabellum cartridge<sup>8</sup> marked the introduction of local proofing of the pistol-carbines manufactured in Rhodesia. Prior to this, regulations required that a small percentage (2%) of weapons manufactured locally should be submitted to South Africa for "standards clearance".<sup>9</sup> Although unconfirmed it would seem that the remaining 98% of production was deemed satisfactory on the successful performance of those tested selectively.

Produced at the request of the then Government, the Central African Standard specifications in this regard were prepared by a committee comprising representatives of Government, the armed forces, manufacturers and retailers, and other arms experts. In common with usual practice the proofing specifications were designed primarily to ensure safety of the weapons tested and not to determine their efficiency. However, an inspection as detailed in the bulletin<sup>10</sup> "for mechanical soundness and proper functioning" was "included to ensure that the arms are suitable for proofing" and implied that efficiency was indirectly assessed.

Proofing involved the test firing of two proof cartridges (producing a pressure of 30 percent above that of commercial cartridges) followed by at least one commercial cartridge per barrel, the function of which was to submit the barrels and action to a stress which was considerably in excess of that produced by ordinary commercial cartridges. After successful testing, the proof mark of the Standards Association of Central Africa (a triangle enclosing the letter P) was applied to the barrel and receiver of the weapon.

According to the Standards Association<sup>11</sup>, problems encountered in proof testing were confined largely to mechanical faults such as improper functioning of the safety or feeding of rounds into the breech and not with failure of the barrel. Weapons which failed

testing were then returned to the manufacturers for rectification of the fault and subsequently re-submitted for test.

No statistics of the relative performance of the different manufacturers' weapons are available from the Standards Association. It was apparent, however, that "certain makes were better constructed than others, and hence had a smaller 'first time' failure rate" although the "general impression . . . at the time was one of the reasonable satisfaction with the 'first time' pass rate."<sup>12</sup>

### **A casualty of peace**

In the latter part of 1979, with the end of the war in sight, it became clear that local demand for weapons of all types would diminish considerably and probably fall away completely. At this time five arms manufacturers were still producing pistol-carbines in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and, indeed, most were well established, successful enterprises. Two of the pistol-carbines were being manufactured under licence in South Africa, a further two were being exported as finished weapons, and several manufacturers had new developments in the pipeline. It was not surprising, therefore, that the arms manufacturers, while acknowledging that the "honeymoon" was over, generally expressed optimism that the arms industry would survive the ending of the war and continue successfully as an export-based industry.<sup>13</sup>

With the declaration of a ceasefire at the end of 1979, followed by independence in April 1980, the situation in Zimbabwe changed radically, however, and earlier forecasts that the local arms industry would remain viable proved erroneous. Soon after independence an "arms amnesty" was declared whereby the population was required to surrender all unlicensed weapons and re-applications had to be made to hold any licensed weapons. In this exercise conditions under which civilians could possess weapons were tightened considerably and licences for pistol-carbines were automatically withheld. Thus the situation arose whereby persons owning pistol-carbines could not obtain legal authority to possess same. As a consequence many pistol-carbines were surrendered to the authorities whilst a considerable number was "rendered permanently inoperable" in terms of the firearms regulations and retained by their owners as war souvenirs.

Under these circumstances it was not surprising that the local demand for pistol-carbines dried up completely. As an indication of the glut of weapons and strict licensing controls, gun dealers holding stocks of pistol-carbines were offering the weapons new for \$50,00, approximately one quarter of the price before independence.

However, apart from the demand for weapons in Zimbabwe terminating abruptly, it also soon became clear that the export of arms to South Africa was an anathema to the new political order ruling in Zimbabwe. As this was the only country which imported weapons from Zimbabwe in any quantity there was little option for the arms manufacturers other than to cease business. By mid 1980, therefore, all production of pistol-carbines had stopped, thus bringing to an end what had become a surprisingly sophisticated arms industry which accurately illustrated the adage "necessity is the mother of invention."

# Design, Development and Description of the Weapons

## i) LDP/KOMMANDO

Known colloquially as the Rhuzi (due to its superficial resemblance to the Israel-designed Uzi submachine gun) the LDP was the first Rhodesian-made semi-automatic pistol-carbine. Details of the weapon were first released by the press in late 1976<sup>14</sup> at which time it would appear that only prototypes had been produced — after a year of development. Manufactured by Lacoste Engineering in Harare the LDP was reportedly designed by A. du Plessis and financed by H. Ponter, deriving its name from the initials of the company and individuals concerned.<sup>15</sup>

Market research was conducted to gauge public reaction to the LDP by means of advertisements in the press<sup>16</sup> in late 1976 requesting information “to assist in preparing a production schedule.” (see Fig. 1). A price of approximately \$160,00 was quoted and availability stated as early 1977. Response to the survey was very favourable and a public demonstration of the weapon was held in Salisbury in February, 1977.<sup>17</sup> After a short delay limited supplies of the LDP were being made available for sale at \$165,00 in mid-1977,<sup>18</sup> the same time as which one competitor (the R76) was released on the market.

Although produced primarily for ‘home defence’, the LDP is known to have been evaluated for military use<sup>19</sup>. Naturally the manufacturers were keen to supply the armed forces and were confident that an order would be forthcoming<sup>20</sup>. However, although “considerable interest” was shown,<sup>21</sup> it is evident that an order was never secured and the LDP had a limited, if any, military role.

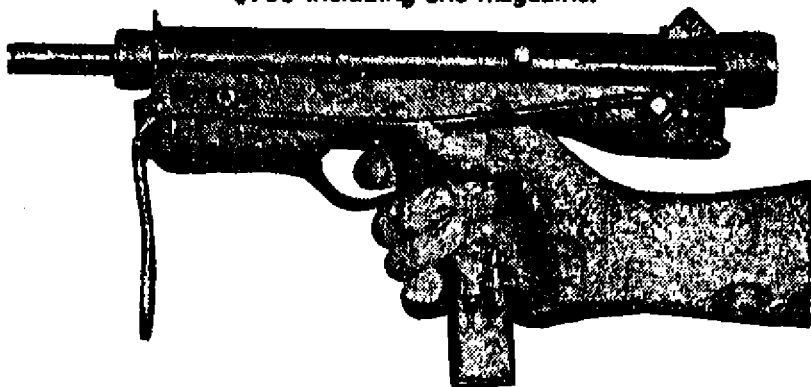
The export potential of the weapon was realized from the start and small numbers of the LDP had already gone on sale in South Africa in July, 1977.<sup>22</sup> Initially there were problems with the South African market and a temporary ban was placed on the LDP by the authorities in that country because it was allegedly too easily converted to automatic fire. Emphasis in the press on the export potential of the LDP and Kommando<sup>23,24</sup> suggests that exports, and the valuable foreign currency earned, were regarded as highly important, partly to offset imported materials required and no doubt partly because of the prestige attached to an export quality product. It is interesting to note that the Kommando was advertised by a South Africa arms dealer in an international mercenary soldiers’ magazine and apparently over 2 000 enquiries were received.<sup>25</sup> In 1979 *Finance Week*<sup>26</sup> reported that there was a waiting list of potential buyers of over 5 000 in South Africa alone — in spite of the fact that the Kommando sold there for well over double its price in Rhodesia. There are indications that exports to countries other than South Africa were also investigated and possibly fulfilled, the countries mentioned being elsewhere in Africa, in South America, and the United States.<sup>27</sup>

The initial demand for the LDP was reckoned to be between 3 000 and 5 000 weapons<sup>28</sup> but within nine months of its announcement there had been 7 000 local enquiries alone for the weapons.<sup>29</sup> Demand far outstripped supply and by early 1978 only 1 000 LDP had been produced.<sup>30</sup> In April 1978 a new company, Arms Manufacturing Corporation, was formed to take over production of the LDP and,

# DEFEND YOURSELF

## WITH THE ALL RHODESIAN 9 mm L.D.P. SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL

This weapon will be available February/March, 1977.  
Weight 2,7 kg. Magazine 25 rounds. Price approx.  
\$160 including one magazine.



To assist us in preparing a production schedule, we would like you to indicate your interest by filling in the coupon below. This is not an offer to sell as we propose these weapons will be sold through usual retail dealers and the dispatch of the coupon does not commit you in any way.

### BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Name in full .....

Postal Address in full .....

Occupation ..... Age ..... Sex .....

Reason for requiring a firearm .....

.....

.....

Send this form to: P.O. Box 1268, Salisbury.

28369-F-9

*Figure 1* Market research was carried out by means of this pre-production advertisement for the LDP pistol-carbine. The response was overwhelming and in terms of numbers produced the LDP/Kommando was easily the most successful Rhodesian-made pistol-carbine. (*The Rhodesia Herald*, 3.12.1976)

after slight modifications, it was renamed the Kommando hand carbine and retailed at \$175,00. Contemporary news reports<sup>31</sup> indicated that major shareholders in the new company included nine members of parliament with one of them as managing director. (Government approval of and support for the venture was assured!) Production of the Kommando proceeded apace and by mid-1979 over 10 000 of these weapons had been sold in Rhodesia alone,<sup>32</sup> with the demand far from satisfied. At this time the price of a new Kommando, with two magazines, cleaning kit and sling, was \$200,00.

With the termination of hostilities in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, demand for all weapons fell abruptly and production of the Kommando ceased in mid-1980 after the Arms Manufacturing Corp. had been taken over by Three D Engineering (Pvt) Ltd. A year earlier, however, production of the Kommando under licence had been commenced in the Orange Free State, Republic of South Africa, by Maxim Parabellum. (see Fig. 2). The South African version, which sold for the equivalent of \$400,00, was later renamed the Paramax after certain modifications were made to the weapon, viz, replacement of the plastic frame by a steel one and substitution of the original folding butt by a retractable type.<sup>33</sup>

The LDP / Kommando was undoubtedly the most successful of the locally produced pistol-carbines and far more of these weapons were manufactured than the other types.

#### *Technical features*

The LDP / Kommando group actually comprises two variants of the LDP (Types I and II) and the Kommando. All are basically similar, differing only in detail.

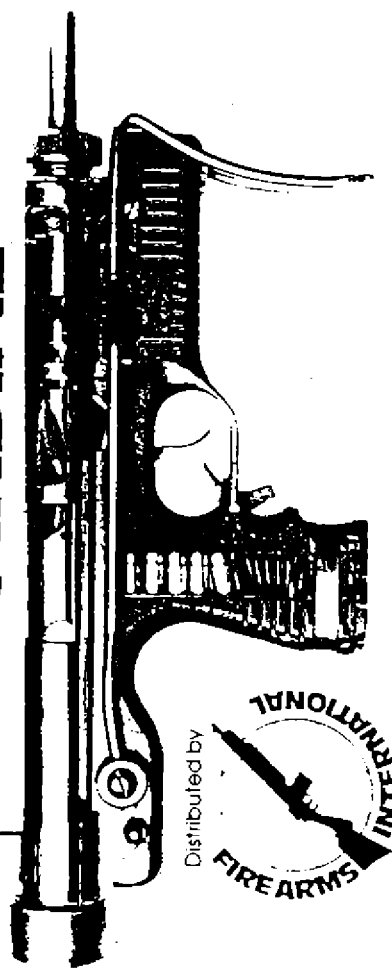
The LDP / Kommando is a blowback operated weapon which fires from the open-bolt position. All models feature three safety devices:- an applied safety positioned on the left above the trigger, a grip safety beneath the trigger guard which simply blocks movement of the trigger unless gripped during firing and what is termed a safety sear. The latter device prevents accidental firing should the bolt slip off the main sear due to mishandling. In practice many users of the weapon either removed the grip safety or it was rendered inoperative by being taped in the firing position — in order to facilitate ready firing.

The frame of the LDP / Kommando comprises a GRP moulding with magazine housing integral with the pistol grip. The magazine catch is located on the left hand side of the grip. A wire stock which folds away under the weapon when not in use is provided. In the folded position the shoulder rest can be used as a rudimentary grip for the left hand.

The differences between the LDP Type I, Type II and Kommando result from a series of modifications/improvements made to the weapon during its production run; however many of the components are interchangeable between all models. Perhaps the most significant difference lies in the barrel, which in the Kommando has six lands with an integral feed ramp, instead of five lands with a separate feed ramp as in the LDP types. Other differences include an improved trigger mechanism and safety and altered stock design on the Type II and Kommando, while probably the final modification, made during 1979, was to the magazine catch of the Kommando. The latter improvement incorporated a revised shape pistol grip which prevented



# KOMMANDO COMBAT-READY HAND CARBINE



The Kommando hand carbine was designed in Southern Africa and is an effective and proven indigenous weapon to defend home and family.

The Kommando was subjected to extensive and thorough testing on the battlefield by the Security Forces.

The Kommando quickly gained a reputation amongst the rural and farming communities and proved itself a formidable opponent in hostile situations.

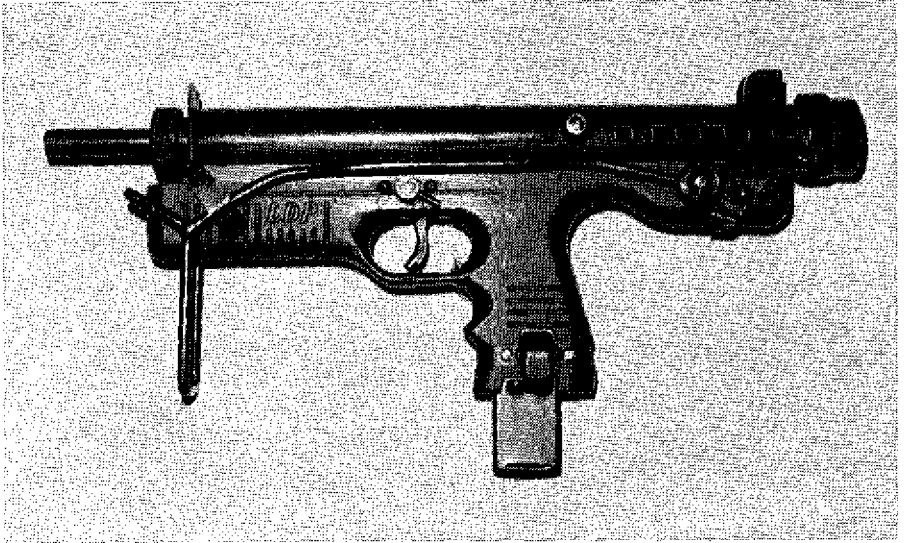
The Kommando is a light-weight weapon designed chiefly for self-protection. It handles easily, functions reliably and has a number of unique safety features.

P.O. Box 805, Florida, 1710, Republic of South Africa  
Telephone 674-1163. Telex 8-0023 SA

*Figure 2 The Kommando was manufactured under licence and sold in South Africa (where it was also known as the Paramax). International sanctions against Rhodesia no doubt necessitated the oblique references to its origins. (Magnum '79)*

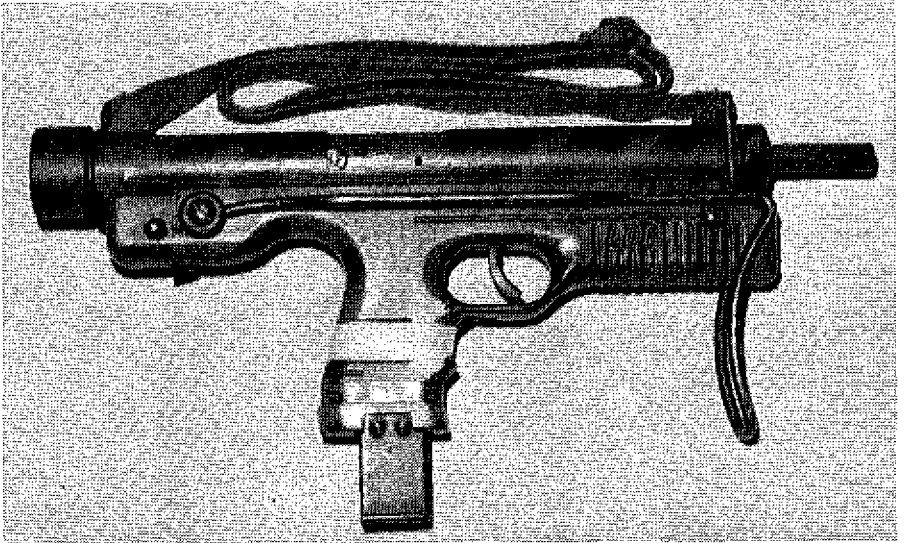
inadvertent compression of the magazine catch during firing and consequent release of the magazine.<sup>34</sup>

Accessories provided for the LDP / Kommando included a cleaning kit, carrying sling/shoulder strap and purpose-made gun cabinet for safe-keeping of the weapon.



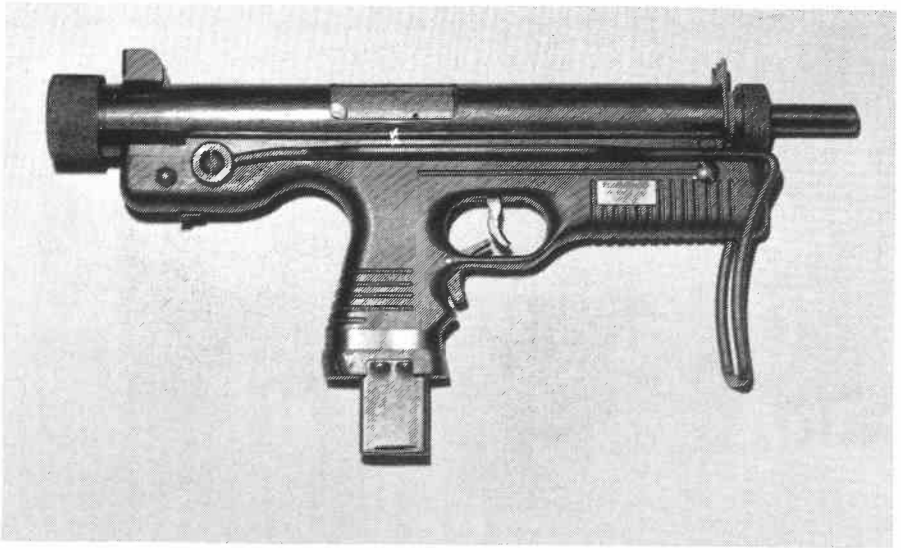
**LDP PISTOL-CARBINE, with Mk. I type wire stock design**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*



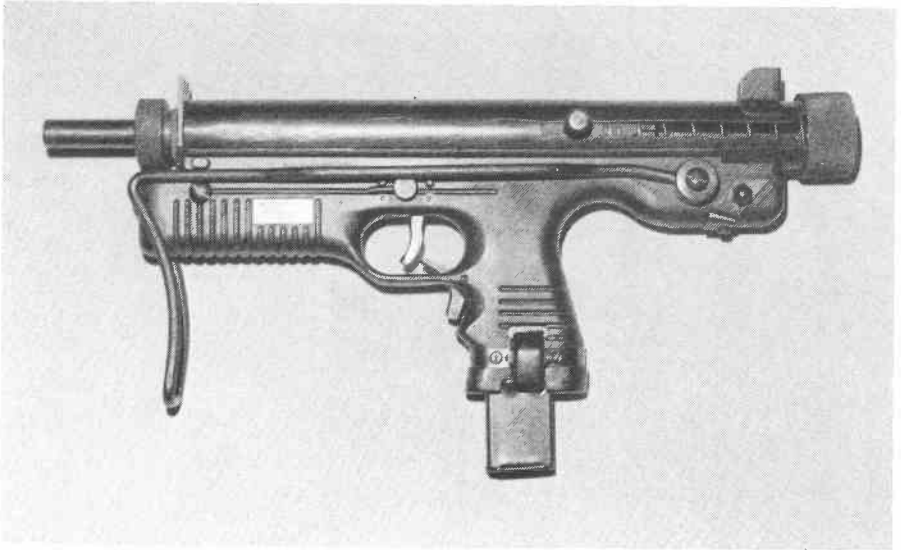
**LDP PISTOL-CARBINE, with proprietary sling. Note camouflage paint-work and de-activated grip trigger typical of a combat weapon.**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*



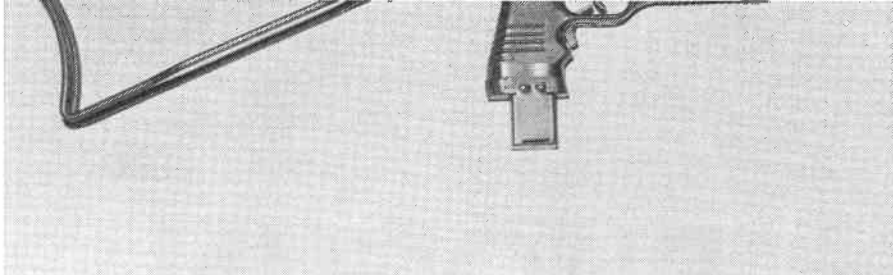
**KOMMANDO PISTOL-CARBINE**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*



**KOMMANDO PISTOL-CARBINE, left view**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*



**KOMMANDO PISTOL-CARBINE, stock extended**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*

## ii) **RHOGUN**

The Rhogun was an enigmatic weapon which, after a prolonged and troubled gestation, proved in the end to be stillborn. Designed originally by R. Emmerson as a submachine gun proper, with selective fire, the registered manufacturers of the weapon were Bulawayo Engineering Co. with Bulawayo Armoury appointed as the sole distributors.<sup>35</sup>

Although initial development work had commenced two years earlier, the existence of the weapon was only made public in late 1976 — apparently in response to news of the planned production in Salisbury of the LDP pistol-carbine.<sup>36</sup> At that time only prototype versions of the Rhogun had been produced, an example of which had been evaluated (unsuccessfully?) by government officials for use by the armed forces.

In December 1976 an advertisement in the press<sup>37</sup> intimated that availability of the weapon for purchase by the public was imminent and deposits for the Rhogun, priced at \$200,00, were invited to secure orders. (see Fig.3). Several months later it was reported that “government indecision” was delaying assembly of the first batch of Rhoguns<sup>38</sup> but shortly thereafter it was announced<sup>39</sup> that permission to produce the weapon had been granted — subsequent to satisfactory proof testing by the South African Bureau of Standards. However, after an elapse of a further five months the weapon had still not appeared on the market, due to the fact that quality of the barrel had proved unsatisfactory and imported tooling from South Africa was awaited.<sup>40</sup> Estimated price of the Rhogun had also risen to \$230,00 by this time.

In fact, although it is clear that parts for, perhaps, one hundred Rhoguns were manufactured and at least some finished weapons were produced, the Rhogun never



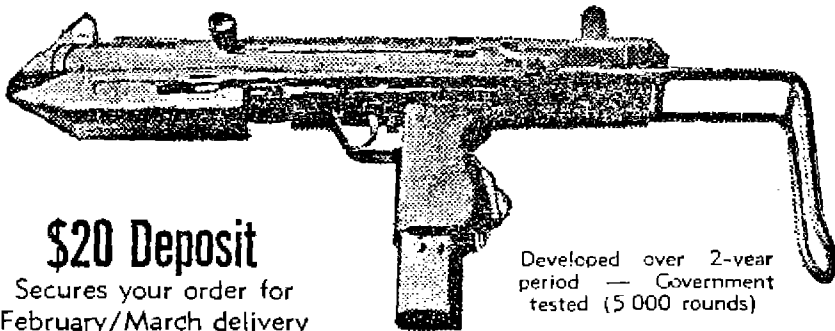
# BULAWAYO ARMOURY

(PVT.) LTD.

142 Main Street, 14th/15th Avenues,  
BULAWAYO. Phone 65779

Sole Distributors for

## RHOGUN



**\$20 Deposit**

Secures your order for  
February/March delivery

Developed over 2-year  
period — Government  
tested (5 000 rounds)

**PRICE \$200**

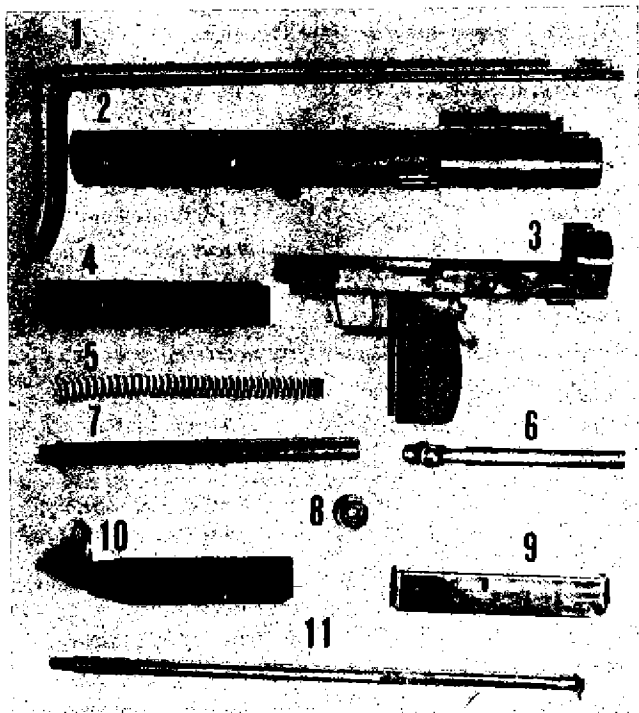
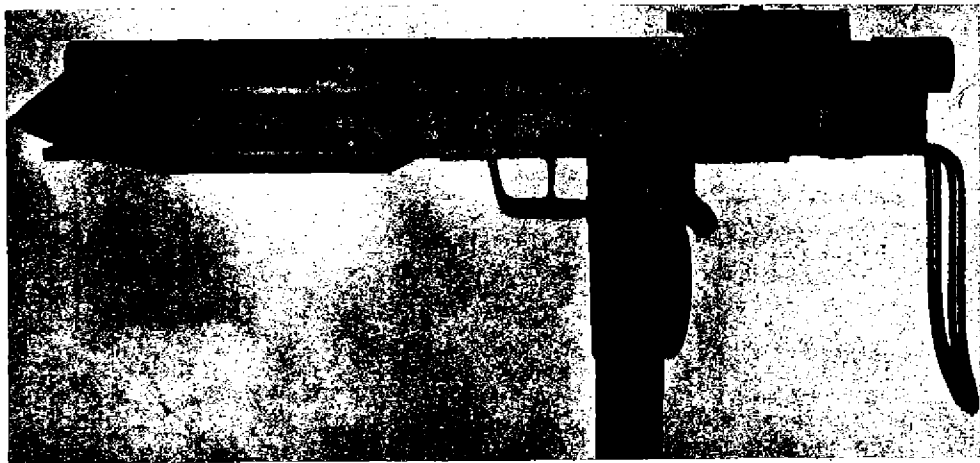
Weight 6½ lb. Rate of fire (fully automatic): 500 r.p.m. Classified  
as one of the safest machine/carbines in the world.

DESIGNED FOR USE FROM A VEHICLE OR FOR HOME  
DEFENCE.

Ideal weapon for women or people inexperienced with weapons.

65732-Y-12.

*Figure 3 Prematurely optimistic advertisement for the Rhogun — which never actually achieved production beyond prototypes. (The Rhodesia Herald, 18.2.1977)*



**RHOGUN SUBMACHINE GUN (Prototype)**  
*Reproduced by kind permission of T.B. Nelson*

appeared on sale to the general public and over 1 000 prospective purchasers who paid a deposit for the Rhogun were refunded or offered an alternative weapon (the Cobra)<sup>41</sup>.

The reason for the failure of the Rhogun to reach full production is not known. It is reputed to have had a relatively poor finish and to have performed unsatisfactorily and it appears likely that permission for its manufacture was withdrawn by the relevant authorities. Also, having been designed originally as a fully automatic sub-machinegun it may well have been considered unsuitable for the general public as well as being rejected by the armed forces.

No example of the weapon has been handled but a full description of the weapon has been published by Nelson and Musgrave<sup>42</sup> and some details were released in the contemporary press.<sup>43,44</sup>

#### *Technical features*

The Rhogun is of typical submachinegun design, being blowback operated and firing from the open-bolt position. The breech block is circular in section and slides on a guide rod in the receiver. A sliding wire stock and anti-climb device are fitted. The magazine housing is integral with the grip.

An unusual grip safety is incorporated into the design which prompted the manufacturers to claim that the Rhogun was one of the safest weapons of its type.<sup>45</sup> This functions by restraining the level of the magazine to below the normal feed path when the weapon is not in use. On being gripped, the safety then causes the magazine to rise approximately 6 mm into the correct position for firing — enabling rounds to be picked-up and fed into the breech.

Produced as a fully automatic weapon, a cyclic rate of fire of 500 r.p.m. was claimed by the manufacturers for the Rhogun.<sup>46</sup>

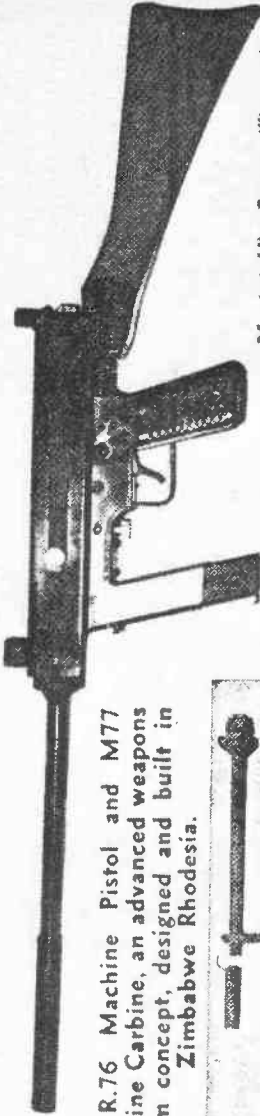
#### iii) **R76/M77**

Designed by R.J. Mansfield-Scadden (in co-operation initially with J. Hale) and manufactured by Northwood Development (Pvt) Ltd of Salisbury, the R76 took its numeric designation from the year of its initial development.

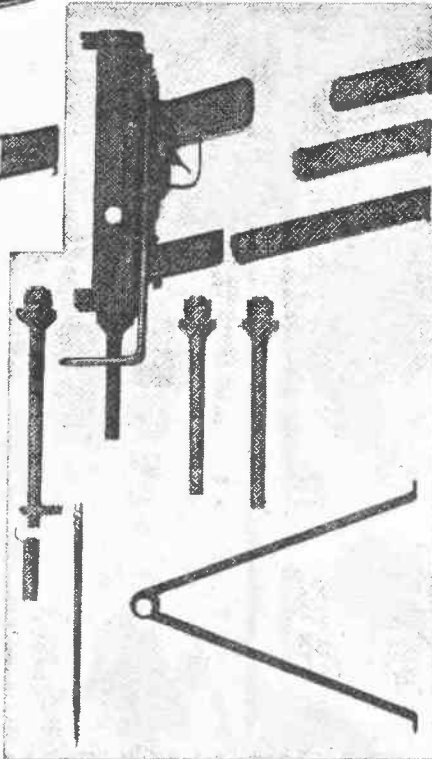
Announced in late 1976 at the time that news also reached the public of the development of the LDP and Rhogun, a prototype of the R76 was unveiled three months before first deliveries of the weapon were made in mid-1977.<sup>47,48,49</sup> It was marketed by gunsmiths, L.G. Harrison (Pvt) Ltd, and priced at \$230.00, considerably more than the LDP. Its price eventually rose to \$400.00, making the R76 by far the most expensive of the Rhodesian-made weapons. When first released on the market the R76 was being produced in small quantities (4 to 5 a week), which did little to satisfy a waiting list of potential buyers of over 1 000. The rate of production was increased and by mid-1979 over 1 000 weapons had been sold,<sup>50</sup> rising perhaps to a total of 2 000 weapons sold on the local market. Limited quantities of the R76 were also exported — probably to South Africa.<sup>51</sup>

Described as a "complete weapons system" by its designer, the R76 was available with a choice of three barrels, 13, 20, or 30 round magazines (inter-changeable with the 9 mm Browning pistol), flash hider, bayonet and bipod. Indeed, within limits, the weapons could be built to suit a particular customer's requirements.<sup>52</sup>

# R.76 Machine Pistol



The R.76 Machine Pistol and M77 Machine Carbine, an advanced weapons system concept, designed and built in Zimbabwe Rhodesia.



24 start Micro-Groove rifling and new design features give reliability and hitting power second to none.

All working parts 'Tuffride' hardened for long life and corrosion resistance.

13-, 20- and 30-shot heat treated magazines interchangeable with the Browning Hi-Power Pistol.

6 months' guarantee.

12 000 round barrel life guarantee.

All weapons are proof tested by The Central African Standards Association.

## NORTHWOOD DEVELOPMENT

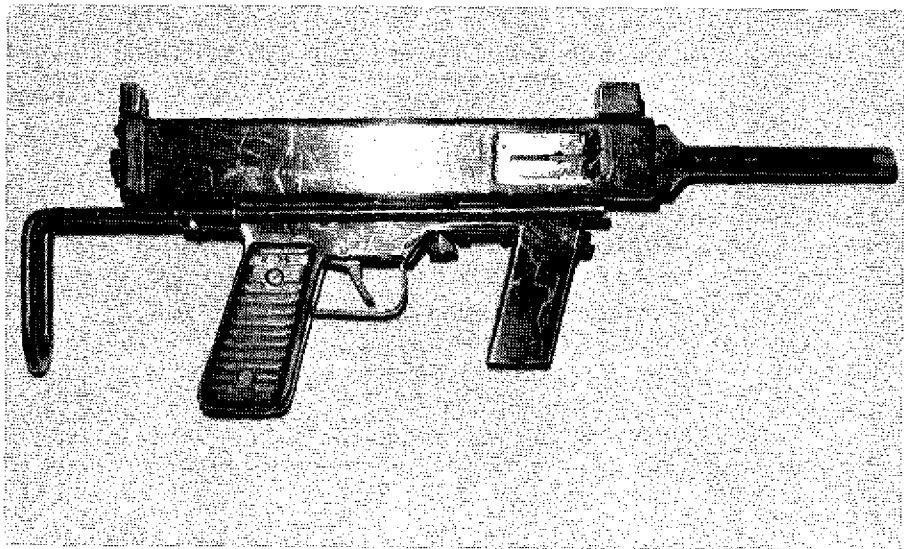
FOR SALES & SERVICE  
PHONE 760572  
or contact your nearest  
arms dealer



18467-T-4

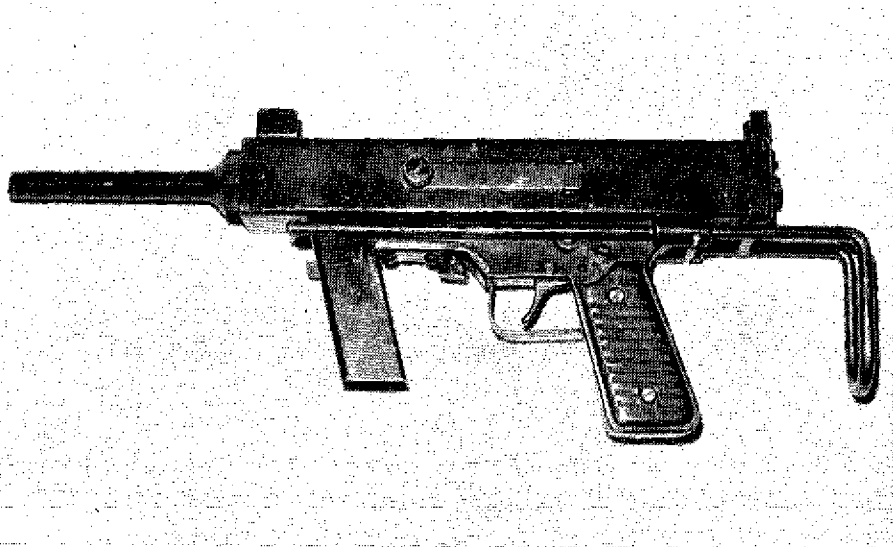
Figure 4 The R76 pistol-carbine and its derivative, the M77 carbine, featured a selection of options and accessories and could be built to suit a customer's requirements. (The Herald, 4.10.1979)





**R 76 PISTOL-CARBINE, with 155 mm barrel**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*



**R 76 PISTOL-CARBINE, left view**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*



**R 76 PISTOL-CARBINE, stock extended**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*

Whilst the prototype weapons were capable of firing in the fully automatic mode, and the R76 was classified as a submachinegun by Nelson and Musgrave,<sup>53</sup> all weapons sold to the public were limited to semi-automatic. It is possible, however, that exported weapons were capable of selective fire.

In mid-1978 the R76 was joined by a proper carbine version known as the M77, whilst the prototype of an automatic pistol, the P78, also based on the R76, had been developed.<sup>54</sup> The M77 featured a detachable wooden stock and was described as either a defensive or light assault weapon. With the longer 267 mm barrel a muzzle velocity approaching that of the AK rifle was claimed. The M77 was retailed at \$260,00. (see Fig. 4).

Whilst the mechanism of the M77 was identical to that of the R76, the P78 differed in that it operated on the closed breech system. However some parts of the P78 pistol were interchangeable with the other two weapons. The estimated cost of the P78 was \$280 to \$300<sup>55</sup> but it does not appear to have achieved production beyond prototypes and no example has been examined.

The R76 was basically a well made weapon with a reputation for reliability greater than other pistol-carbines manufactured in Rhodesia. It is known to have been evaluated by the military authorities and its performance reckoned to be superior to its main competitors, the LDP and Cobra.<sup>56</sup> Despite this, few, if any, were adopted for use by the armed forces due to doubts which still existed as to whether the R76 could match tried and trusted submachine guns such as the Uzi. No doubt, sales of the weapon to the public would have been increased had the relatively high price not been an inhibiting factor.

#### *Technical features*

Firing from the open-bolt position the R76 and M77 are blowback operated. The receiver is rectangular in section and the bolt travels on two guide rods which also

carry the driving springs. The cocking handle, on the right, does not move during firing. A single applied trigger safety is fitted. All working parts of the weapon were case-hardened to increase durability and corrosion resistance.

The barrel, as stated, was available in different lengths and, unusually, featured 24 microgroove rifling. Undoubtedly this refinement was the reason for the higher cost of R76 relative to the other Rhodesian-made pistol-carbines. Fitted forward of the pistol grip is the magazine housing, which also serves as a grip for the left hand when firing.

The R76 is fitted with a wire stock which may be stored in either of two retractable positions or is quickly detachable.

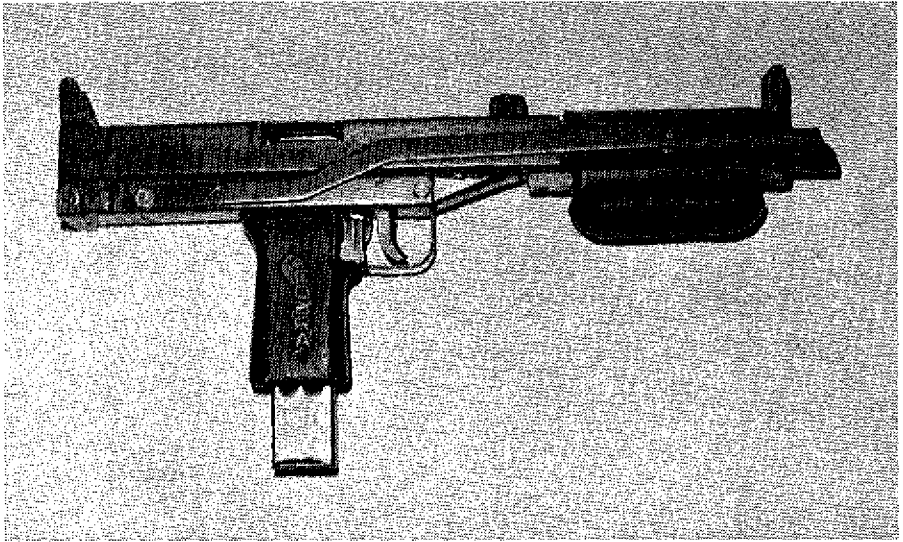
#### iv) **COBRA**

The Cobra was the fourth 9 mm pistol-carbine to be manufactured in Rhodesia. Designed by P. (Tommy) Steele and B. White, the planned production of the weapon by Stellyte Co. (Pvt) Ltd., Bulawayo, was first announced in the press in April 1977.<sup>57</sup> A prototype model (entwined by a stuffed cobra!) was exhibited by the sole distributors, Bulawayo Armoury (Pvt) Ltd, at Trade Fair Rhodesia a month later and it aroused considerable interest, with 2 000 orders being placed for the weapon.<sup>58</sup> Apparently enquiries were also received regarding manufacture of the Cobra under licence in South Africa, South America and Denmark but, although a proportion of the local production was exported to South Africa, there is nothing to suggest that foreign manufacture was ever achieved.

Actual production and distribution of the Cobra was beset with delays. At the time of its initial announcement evidently the Government was reluctant to authorize production of yet another pistol-carbine due to the proliferation of private arms manufacturers and concern about the facility with which owners could convert pistol-carbines to fully automatic.<sup>59</sup> Approval for manufacture was eventually forthcoming, however, and by mid-1977 release of the Cobra on the market was expected imminently,<sup>60</sup> with the manufacturers reportedly geared to turn out 1 000 weapons per month. Three months later the Cobra was reported to be in full production with orders for 3-4 000 weapons having been received by that time.<sup>61</sup> However these reports were premature and prospective buyers had to wait until May 1978 (exactly a year since its initial unveiling to the public) before the Cobra became generally available. Initial deliveries of 100 per week were distributed on the home market with "part of production going for export."<sup>62</sup>

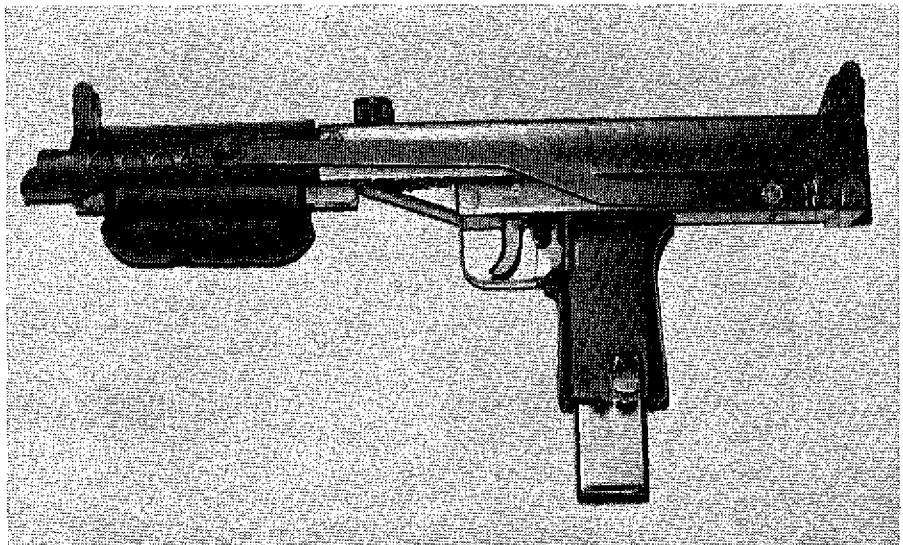
The reasons for the delay in full production of the weapon are unclear but they may have been financial. Development costs of \$250 000 (a substantial investment at that time) were reported<sup>63</sup> which were evidently too great a strain on the manufacturer's resources, for only one month after production commenced the firm went into liquidation.<sup>64</sup> However, another engineering company took over the franchise for the Cobra and production was continued, eventually ceasing during 1979.

Stellyte Co (Pvt) Ltd manufactured the majority of parts and assembled the weapons but several other firms in Bulawayo, Livingstone Mint, Mathews Manufacturing Co. (Pvt) Ltd and Bulawayo Manufacturing Company were contracted to produce various parts.<sup>65</sup> After production ceased in Bulawayo the balance of the stocks of the weapon was purchased by Slektarev Engineering, Salisbury, (which later became



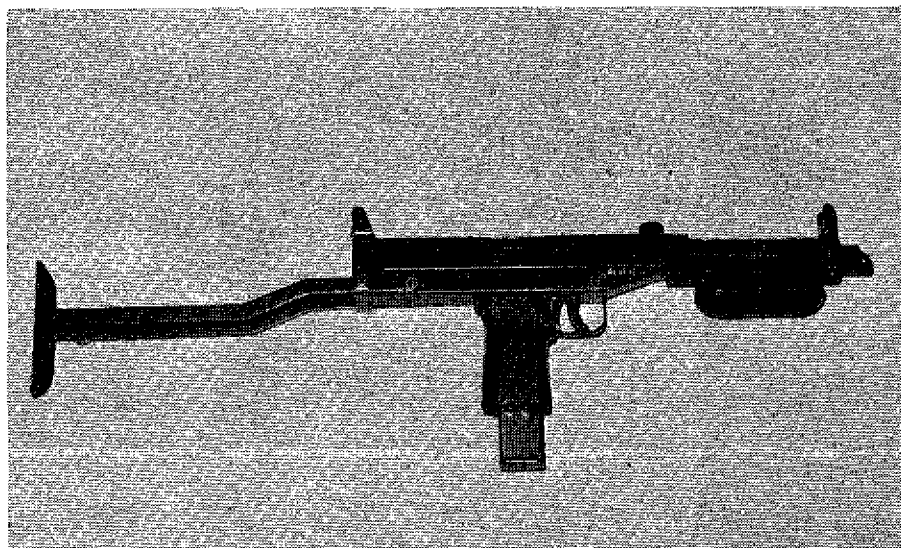
**COBRA MK I PISTOL-CARBINE**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*



**COBRA MK I PISTOL-CARBINE, left view**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*



**COBRA MK 1 PISTOL-CARBINE, stock extended**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*

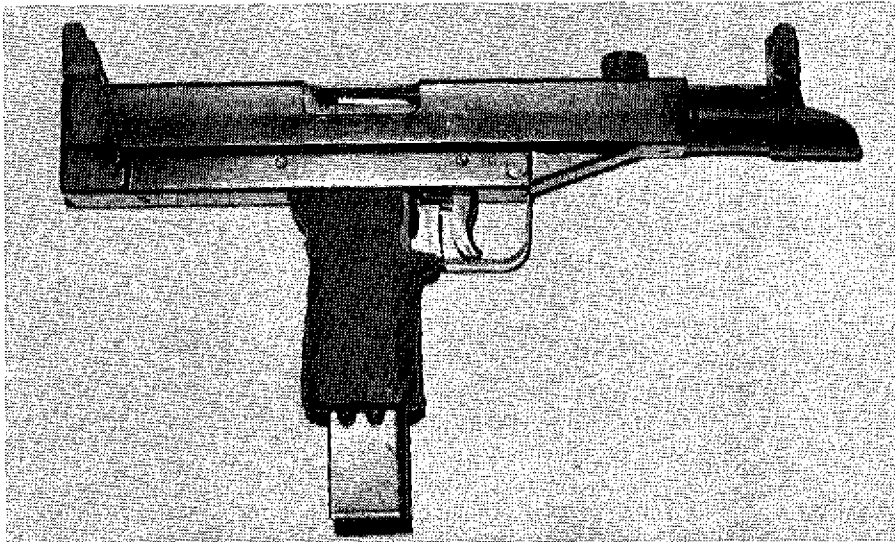
Crusader Engineering), probably with a view to continued manufacture. However production was never re-commenced.

At the time that the Cobra was eventually distributed to the public, it was reported that tooling for a Cobra Mark 2 had been prepared and that this version would be manufactured solely for the military.<sup>66</sup> Sales literature<sup>67</sup> also described the Mark 2 which differed from the Mark 1 only in a "break open" feature to simplify cleaning in the field. Apparently, the Cobra was never evaluated by the Police<sup>68</sup> and as far as is known it was never adopted by the army. It is uncertain, therefore, whether the Mark 2 was ever made in any quantity.

No doubt partly due to initial difficulties in obtaining permission for its production from the relevant authorities, the manufacturers of the Cobra were at pains to stress that the weapon was a semi-automatic only and could not be tampered with by the public to fire on fully automatic.<sup>69</sup> It was later admitted, however, that it could only be **correctly** changed to fully automatic by the manufacturers themselves!<sup>70</sup> In spite of the fact that the Mark 2 was designed specifically for military purposes, it appears that this version was also only a semi-automatic weapon.

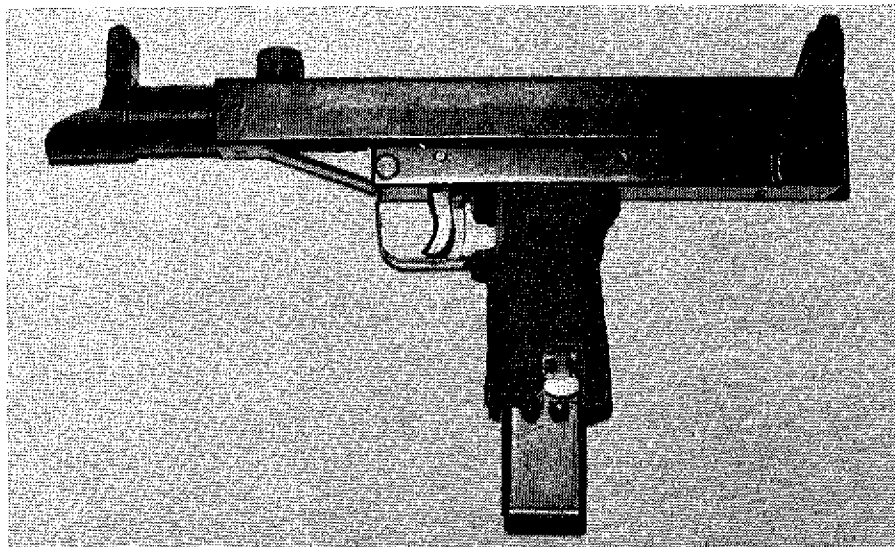
Another version of the Cobra which did achieve production was the little known Scorpion. This was evidently an attempt to produce a lighter weapon which more closely resembled a pistol in concept, enabling it to be fired more easily with one hand. In effect, however, the Scorpion was merely a Cobra with shortened barrel and minus the folding stock. It is known not to have been widely distributed.

Priced at \$200,00, the Cobra was an extremely well made weapon, visually attractive with considerable attention to detail (i.e. adjustable front and rear sights and use of flush fitting allen screws). Though the design was also sound, however, its performance in operation could only be described as fair.<sup>71</sup> Ironically, the quality of its engineering has been suggested as the cause of the Cobra's mediocre performance,



**SCORPION PISTOL**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*



**SCORPION PISTOL, left view**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*

due possibly to the weapon's tolerances being too fine and its construction too light for a pistol-carbine type weapon.<sup>72</sup>

### *Technical features*

Although of general appearance typical of a modern submachine gun, the Cobra was never produced as a fully automatic weapon and, therefore, is correctly classified as a semi-automatic carbine. Incorporating a neat folding stock, the Cobra can be fired from the shoulder with the butt extended. Alternatively, according to the manufacturers,<sup>73</sup> "with the butt folded the weapon can be controlled effectively with one hand". In practice, however, it is likely that most users would have found the Cobra too heavy for single-handed firing. Early weapons had a rubber pistol grip for the left hand attached beneath the barrel guard but in later versions this was replaced by a less protuberant grip.

Firing from the closed breech position, the Cobra operates by the hesitation lock or delayed blowback system and, at the time of its manufacture, was believed to be one of only two weapons of its type to employ this combination of features.<sup>74</sup> No doubt claims that the closed-bolt firing system ensured comparative safety from accidental discharge and enhanced stability and accuracy during firing were substantially correct.

The Cobra has a square receiver with wrap-around bolt which travels on a single guide rod carrying the return spring. The cocking handle is positioned on the top of the receiver and remains stationary during firing. The magazine housing is incorporated into the pistol grip while an applied safety is fitted behind the trigger. An anti-lift device(?) attached to the barrel fore-end would appear to be superfluous on a semi-automatic weapon.

The working parts of the Cobra Mark 2 are identical to those of the Mark 1 but, as already mentioned, the former incorporates a "break open" feature to facilitate dismantling of the weapon. Whilst the Mark 1 requires the complete separation of the receiver from the body assembly during disassembly, in the Mark 2 the receiver is hinged to the body frame.

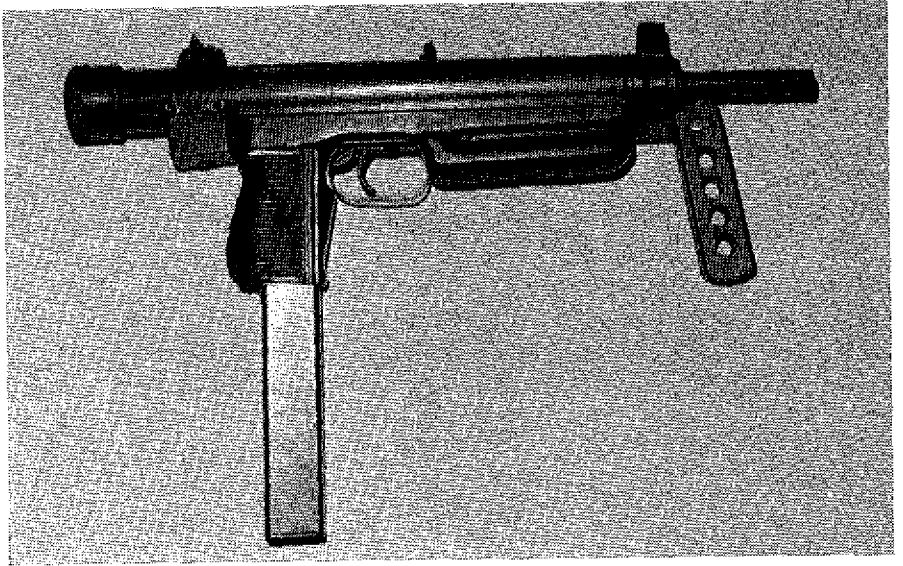
The working parts of the Scorpion pistol are also common to the Cobra Mark 1 but, as already described, the Scorpion features a shorter (165 mm) barrel and does not have a folding butt. Like the Cobra early examples had a pistol fore-grip fitted to enable two-handed firing.

The Cobra is coated with a durable 'Nato' green epoxy finish, while the grips are of moulded rubber. The Scorpion is finished in a similar material, only coloured black. Both weapons were sold in a specially compartmented polystyrene case with spare magazine and cleaning kit.

### v) **GM 15 / GM 16**

A certain degree of intrigue surrounds the manufacture of GM 15 submachine gun and its semi-automatic version, the GM 16. Manufactured by GM Steel Ltd, Salisbury, the GM 15 was based closely on the Czechoslovakian Model 25 submachine gun, with minor modifications incorporated into the design by Dan Pienaar.<sup>75</sup>

At the time of its production it was general (although unofficial) knowledge that



**GM 15 SUBMACHINE GUN**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*



**GM 15 SUBMACHINE GUN, left view**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*





**GM 15 SUBMACHINE GUN, stock extended**

*Photo: P.G. Locke*

the GM 15 had, in fact, been copied with Government sanction from Model 25 submachine guns captured from guerilla forces. Whilst none of the Rhodesian-designed submachine guns/semi-automatic carbines ever found favour with the Rhodesian armed forces due to doubts about their reliability, a need did exist to supplement the supply of Uzi, Sten and Sterling submachine guns in use with the forces. Apparently, therefore, plans were made to commence the production of an SMG, of tried and tested design, specifically for military use. The Model 25 fitted the requirements in all respects and a decision to copy the weapon was a logical step. Proven in use over many years with the Czechoslovakian army and various guerilla movements, the weapon was of simple design and fired a cartridge already in use with the Rhodesian forces (9 mm parabellum). In addition, due to the political circumstances which prevailed at the time, formal licensing arrangements and the existence of any international copyright conventions could be ignored with impunity.

Probably due to the covert origins of the weapon, and because its production was primarily for military purposes, a minimum of information was released on the manufacture of the GM 15 and GM 16. Production was probably commenced in the latter half of 1978<sup>76</sup> and, certainly in the initial stages, the breech block was cast in South Africa.<sup>77</sup> By May 1979, however, it was reported that the manufacturers had already slowed production<sup>78</sup> and manufacture ceased in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia in early 1980. The GM 16, which was restricted to semi-automatic fire only, was sold in fairly limited quantities to the general public but production figures of both the civilian and military versions are impossible to ascertain.

Shortly after the GM 15 / 16 commenced production, an identical weapon appeared in South Africa, known as the SANNA 77, and manufactured by Dan Pienaar Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd in Johannesburg.<sup>79,80,81</sup> Whilst impossible to substantiate it

was rumoured that a duplicate set of tooling had been surreptitiously produced in Rhodesia and taken to South Africa to commence manufacture there once the initial contracts for the weapon's production in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia were completed. Whatever its precise origins, although the SANNA 77 was well received in South Africa, the manufacturers are reported to have gone into liquidation after a short period of production.<sup>82</sup>

Though its finish was only of average quality the GM 15 / 16 was a reasonably serviceable weapon. Compared with the original Czechoslovakian Model 25, however, its performance did not come up to expectations. While not possible to verify, it has been suggested that wear and tear in the captured Model 25 submachine guns was copied into the tooling for the Rhodesian-made weapons — which meant that every GM 15 / 16 manufactured had inherent faults from new!<sup>83</sup>

The retail price of the GM 16 is unknown but the SANNA 77 sold in South Africa for the equivalent of \$385,00<sup>84</sup> making it marginally cheaper in that country than the LDP / Kommando.

#### *Technical features*

Technical details of the GM 15 / 16 are basically similar to those of the Czechoslovak Model 25. They are straight blowback operated weapons which fire from the the open-bolt position. A cylindrical wrap-around bolt and magazine well intergral with the pistol grip are features now regarded as typical of this type of weapon but, in fact, the design of the original Model 25 was innovative in its heyday.<sup>85</sup>

A folding metal strip stock is fitted, the shoulder rest of which acts as a pistol grip for the left hand when the stock is in the folded position. A plastic fore-stock is also provided for use when the butt is extended. A safety catch is situated directly behind the trigger and when applied this blocks the trigger's movement and locks the bolt in position. Sights, quickly adjustable from 50m up to 200m, are an unusual refinement.

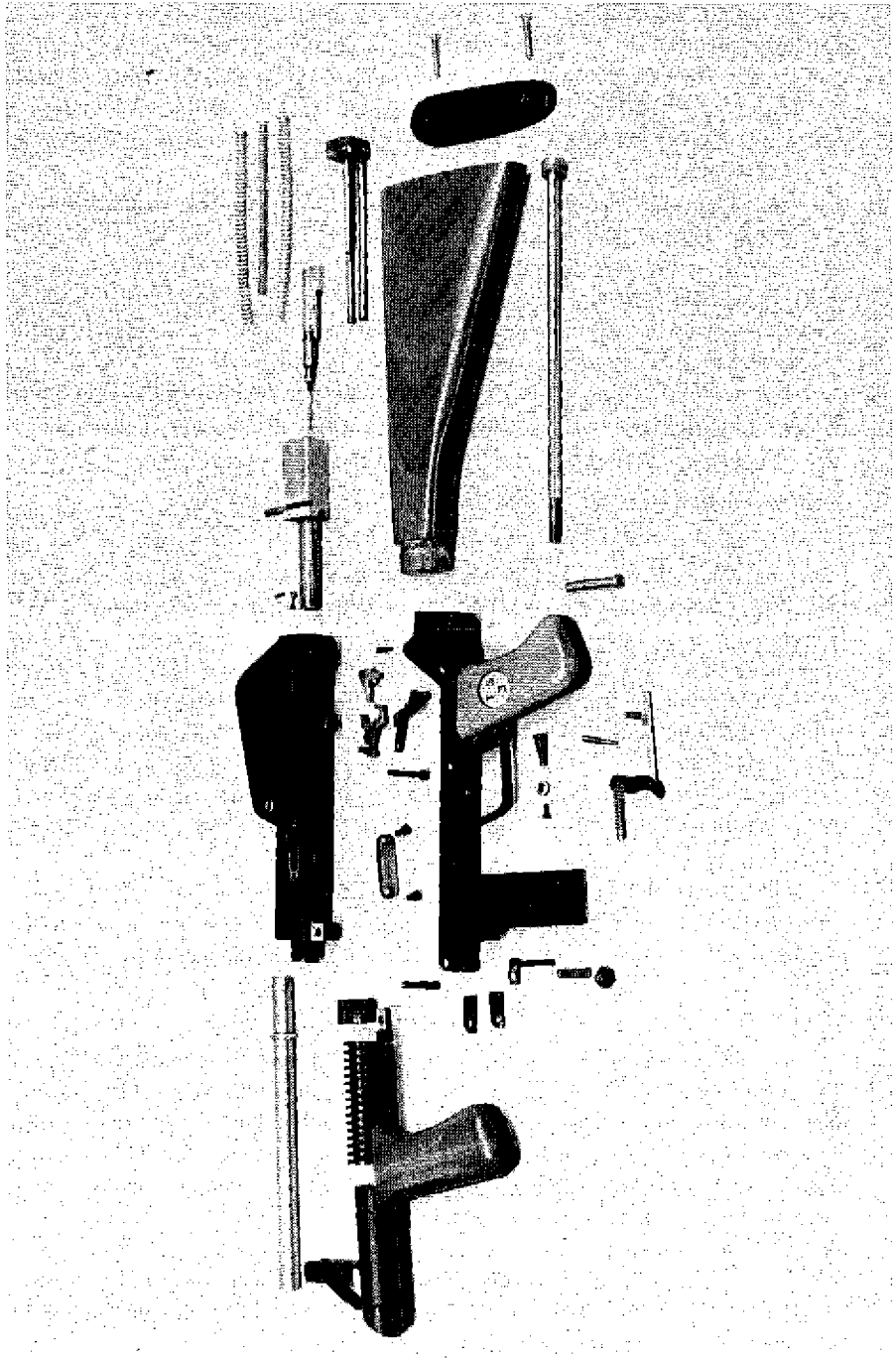
Like the Czech Model 25, the GM 15/16 used a 40 round magazine of semi-triangular section. Being a type specific to these weapons it seems probable that this magazine was also manufactured in Rhodesia but there is no supporting evidence.

#### vi) TS3

The TS3 pistol carbine was the last weapon of its type to go into production in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. Designed and manufactured in Bulawayo by Mr. Tommy Steele, who was closely concerned with the Cobra pistol-carbine, the TS3 is presumed to have derived its name from the initials of its designer/manufacturer. It is not known exactly when the TS3 went into production but manufacture had certainly commenced by October 1979, at which time a batch of a dozen weapons was illustrated in the press.<sup>86</sup>

Due to its entering the market only shortly before the ceasefire in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia in December 1979, the TS3 did not achieve widespread distribution or sales and it is apparent that only limited numbers were produced.

No information on the weapon has been published and neither has an example of the TS3 been physically examined, consequently information is sparse. However, the following details have been obtained from an unpublished technical report.<sup>87</sup>



**TS 3 PISTOL-CARBINE, dismantled**  
*Reproduced by kind permission of R.K. Stevens*

### *Technical features*

The TS3 is blowback operated semi-automatic weapon which fires from the closed breech position. In this instance, however, the bolt appears not to be of the wrap-around type and thus the design of the weapon differs from all the contemporary Rhodesian pistol-carbines. The breech block and receiver are square in section, the former travelling on two rods which hold the return springs. The barrel is fully enclosed in a jacket, the rear half of which features a series of closely spaced cooling fins. A single safety is fitted behind the trigger, while a carrying handle is attached to the top of the receiver, necessitating the sights to be elevated on brackets.

The TS3 is fitted with a fixed wooden stock and two pistol grips with wooden facings are attached below the receiver and barrel jacket respectively. A separate magazine housing is located between the pistol grips.

### vii) **IMPI**

The Impi submachine gun never achieved production beyond two prototypes but mention of this weapon is included for the sake of completeness.

Designed in 1979 by J.J.C. Steynberg, the Impi was intended specifically for para-military or military use.<sup>88</sup> Apparently it was a reliable and robust weapon in prototype form, and production costs were estimated to be low. Testing of the Impi by the armed forces produced favourable results and in mid-1980 it was reported by the designer that orders for the weapon had been received from this source.<sup>89</sup> The weapon was also tested by the military authorities in South Africa and, it was claimed, they indicated that it was "by far the best they have tested."<sup>90</sup> Despite these claims, however, the climate in newly independent Zimbabwe was unfavourable for weapons production and nothing further was heard of the Impi.

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# Specifications of Rhodesian Pistol-Carabines and Submachine Guns

	LOP / (KOMMANDO)*	RHOGUN	R 76 / (M77)*	COBRA MK1 / (SCORPION)*	GM 15 / (GM 16)*	TS 3
Class/Type	Pistol-carbine	Submachine gun	Pistol-carbine (Carbine)	Pistol-carbine (Pistol)	SMS (Pistol-carbine)	Pistol-carbine
Cartridge	9 mm Parabellum	9 mm Parabellum	9 mm Parabellum	9 mm Parabellum	9 mm Parabellum	9 mm Parabellum
Method of Operation	Blowback	Blowback	Blowback	Delayed Blowback	Blowback	Blowback
Ready-to-fire position	Bolt open	Bolt open	Bolt open	Bolt closed	Bolt open	Bolt closed
Firing mode	Semi-automatic	Selective	Semi-automatic	Semi-automatic	Selective (Semi-automatic)	Semi-automatic
Length, butt extended	615 mm	660 mm	670 mm with short barrel (880 mm)	670 mm (N/A)	670 mm	680 mm
Length, butt folded	415 mm	457 mm	480 mm or 430 mm (N/A)	420 mm (343 mm)	440 mm	N/A
Barrel length	210 mm	254 mm	155 mm, 200 mm or 267 mm (267 mm)	254 mm (165 mm)	282 mm	216 mm
Number of lands	5 (6)	4	24	6	6	6
Direction of twist	Left	Right	—	Left	Right	Right
Type of feed	2 position, 2 row	2 position, 2 row	Single position, 2 row	2 position, 2 row	2 position, 2 row	—
Magazine type	Uzi	Uzi	Browning	Uzi	Czech Model 25	—
Magazine capacity	25 rounds	25 rounds	13, 20 or 30 rounds	25 rounds	40 rounds	—
Sight, front	Protected post	Post	Protected post	Protected post	Protected blade	Protected blade
Sight, rear	Aperture	Aperture	Aperture	Aperture	Swivel 'Y'	Aperture
Cyclic rate of fire	N/A	500-550 r.p.m.	450-480 r.p.m.**	N/A	600-650 r.p.m. (N/A)	N/A
Muzzle velocity	—	381 m/s	502 m/s with 267 mm barrel	—	—	—
Safety device	Applied trigger	Lowered magazine	Applied trigger	Applied trigger	Applied trigger	Applied trigger
Finish	Blued	? Blued	Blued	Epoxy resin	Blued	? Blued
Materials	Steel end GRP	Steel and wood	Steel and plastic	Steel and rubber	Steel and GRP	Steel and wood
Weight unloaded	2.9 kg	2.9 kg	3.0 kg (—)	2.4 kg (1.75 kg)	3.0 kg	3.5 kg
Designer	A. du Plessis	R. Emmerson	R. Mansfield-Scadden	P. Steele / B. Whyte	Copy of Czech Model 25	P. Steele
Place of manufacture	Salisbury	Bulawayo	Salisbury	Bulawayo	Salisbury	Bulawayo
Name of manufacturer	Lacoste Engineering Co	Byo. Engineering Co.	Northwood Development	Stelltyre Co.	G.M. Steel	—
Date of release	June 1977 (c.Oct.1978)	N/A	June 1977 (May 1978)	May 1978 (—)	Late 1978	October 1979
Retail price***	\$ 165 (S 175)	\$ 200 proposed	\$ 230 (\$ 260)	\$ 200 (—)	—	—
Numbers made	Over 10000, both types	250/month projected	± 2000, both types	Est. 2000, both types	—	—

\* Where specifications differ these are shown in brackets  
 \*\* Data for prototype automatic version  
 \*\*\* Price at time of release in Rhodesian dollars, excluding sales tax  
 N/A Not applicable  
 — Data not known

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1. *The Rhodesia Herald*, 6 July 1978.
2. Nelson, T.B. & Musgrave, D.D. 1980. *The World's Machine Pistols and Submachine Guns*. Vol. 11A. Hong Kong : Chesa.
3. *The Rhodesia Herald*, 31 March 1977.
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# The Hartley District – 1900 to 1960

by Monica Kemple

The Hartley (now Chegutu) district consisted of an area from Norton to Battlefields, including Hartley, Gatooma (now Kadoma), Unsweswe and Chakari. That was the area which constituted my father's practice. He (Alexander John MacKenzie) had come out from Scotland to be surgeon to Dr. Andrew Fleming in Salisbury (now Harare), and was then transferred to Hartley.

My father annually made a trip on foot from Hartley to a village called Sinekoma 50 miles above Kariba, where he treated patients for "sleeping sickness". They came from many miles away to be treated, and he would have as many as 500 in the Clinic at one time.

Hartley was a thriving little town, with two hotels, one a double storeyed building! A magistrate's house, a police camp, a bank, a church, a general store and several Greek and Indian trading stores, and a hospital.

There were a large number of prospectors, prospecting for gold, mainly — "smallworkers" who had mills of varying sizes, from a "Dolly" i.e. 2 stamps to 20 stamps. The Giant Mine at Gadzema was reputed to have had 100 stamps working at one time. But alas the payloade proved inadequate, so the whole plant was not in operation for very long.

Mine dwelling houses mostly consisted of Kimberley brick (un-burnt brick) and corrugated-iron, Cater huts with a "bird cage" in the middle, possibly a verandah and an outside kitchen and bathroom. In many cases a zinc bath was carried into a bedroom and water was heated over an open fire outside.

Many of the small-workers did not have a hoist for lowering workers down the shaft and for hauling the "ore" up to the surface, but used instead a windlass operated by two workers. If the shaft was vertical you hung on to the rope with both feet in the bucket, but if an incline shaft, you had to keep one foot on the hanging wall of the shaft to guide the bucket.

Unfortunately, the early houses have been demolished, including the hospital which is now a Government school. But the bank in the main street and the courthouse and the native commissioner's offices are exactly as I remember them as a child.

There was an active social life, with tennis, racing, dances, concerts, gambling, shooting and fishing, and most important, the two mail trains every week, one from the Cape and one from Salisbury. The latter invariably brought down blocks of ice wrapped in coarse salt and wet sacks, which seemed to arrive in good order. This was the occasion for dinner parties and ice cream. Everyone flocked to the train to see who was on it and to see their friends.

When the smallworkers came to town to deposit their gold, there was hectic social activity with lots of gambling and drinking!

The mode of transport was a variety of mule carts, bicycles and horses. Horses were a constant problem owing to horse-sickness unless you were lucky enough to own a "salted" horse — one that had had horse-sickness and recovered.





Clay pigeon shooting on Tetbary Farm, Hartley

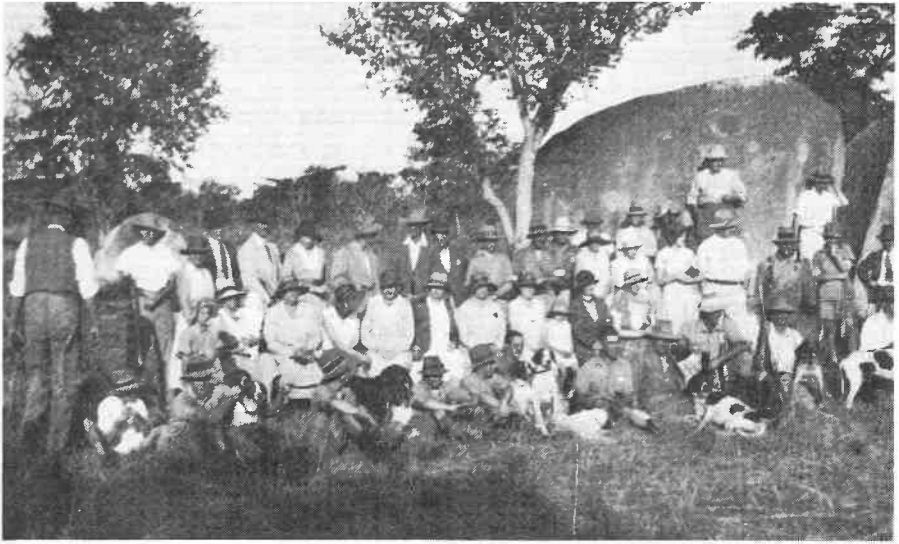
Gatooma had little or no development until the Cam and Motor Mine was discovered. There was a hut on the railway line. Two Cater huts on the top of two ant-hills where the present Municipal Offices stand to-day, were occupied by my father's younger brother (James MacKenzie), also a Doctor, and an elderly nurse, who together ran a small hospital, which remained the African hospital until the present hospital was built. The original main hospital still stands in Masters Avenue at the top of Campion Street but is now a privately owned house : the only innovation is that the gauzed verandah is now bricked in.

There were two hotels : Specks Hotels and the Grand Hotel. Both have been rebuilt and the Grand no longer operates as an hotel. The Methodist Church in Masters Avenue is almost exactly the same, but the Church of England and the Catholic Church have had extensions built.

The Golden Valley Mine about 12 miles out of Gatooma was owned though not, discovered, by John Mack, a pioneer miner. At one time it was reputed to be the richest smallworking in the world, and you could actually see the seams of gold running down the walls. After world war I, I think, during the middle Twenties, John Mack struck a massive "dyke" in his mine, which, with tremendous courage, determination and **all** his resources, he took two years to penetrate. He was convinced that if he could get through the "dyke" he would find the reef again, which he did and it was as rich as ever. John Mack then took in two partners Frank Johnson and Herbert Latilla (the latter of Falcon Mines).

Chakari had numerous small mines in the area and at one time from the Chakari police camp, one could hear 27 mills working.

The Chakari police camp, with 2 or 3 European Police and several African, consisted of three rondavels. There was a store run by Mr Plagis of an old Hartley family, and he also ran the postal agency. Mail in the early days was delivered daily by an African on a



**End of day tennis and clay pigeon shoot  
Tetbary Farm Hartley**

bicycle, and many was the time when one of the rivers was in flood my husband pulled the postman, his bicycle and the post bag across with a rope.

In the Chakari area we had a church service once a month, held in someone's house on a mine or later on a farm, preferably with a piano or pianola. When the service was over everyone stayed on to dance or play bridge! On moonlight nights we would ride to dine with our neighbours, and thought nothing of riding four or five miles to play an afternoon's tennis. Time seemed no object.

As children in Hartley, we were taken for a drive every afternoon in a governess cart drawn by a very evil tempered mule called "Ada" who, when she thought she had done enough, would kick the floorboards out of the cart.

Game of all kinds abounded in the whole of the Hartley district as did snakes, hippo and crocodiles in the Umfuli (now Mapfure) River, yet we rode all over the veldt around Hartley on donkeys without any harm coming to us. On one occasion my father discovered the pad marks of a lioness in the duty-room of the hospital.

My father used to ride to Salisbury on a bicycle when subpoenaed for High Court. My eldest brother was the first baby to be born in Rhodes' Paper House, which was used as a nursing home.

In 1919 my father was transferred to Gatooma, as the Cam and Motor Mine was rapidly developing. As a result, Hartley, on the other hand, was dwindling in size and population.

The laundreyman, Bago, came from Hartley on Monday morning and collected the laundry from several of his customers and returned to Hartley to wash it in the Umfuli. On Friday, he returned it in a huge wicker basket. Everything was immaculate even to the stiff evening dress-shirts! Bago's descendants are now prosperous businessmen in the town, as are those of the shoemaker and the vegetable vendor.

After world war I, the Government surveyed agricultural land and farming operations started. John Mack took up Orange Grove farm just on the outskirts of Gatooma, where he bred pedigree Herefords and grew oranges. He also bought Lion's Vlei on the Golden Valley Road, where he grew tobacco.

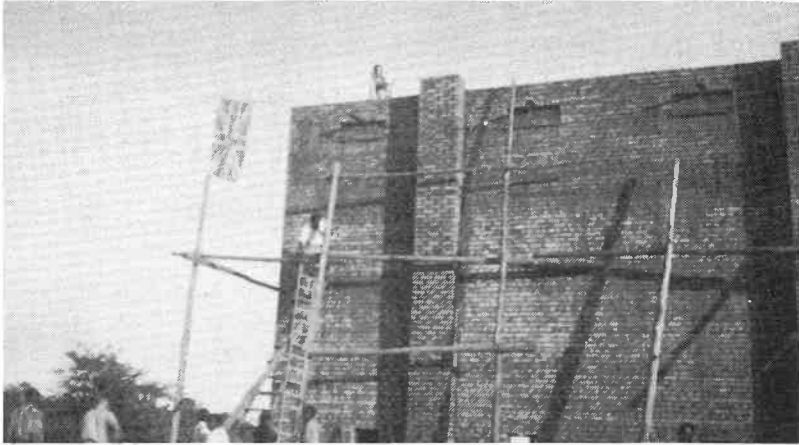
An Irishman by the name of J.J. Conway contracted to supply wood to the Cam and Motor Mine for timbering and for the boilers. He constructed a narrow gauge railway, weaving its way through the bush from the Cam through Chigwell, to very near Chakari, where virtually all the wood was cut and removed. The trees are now in second growth. The land was in the gold belt title area so there was no restriction except that trees had to be cut down to a given height. Some of this land near Chakari was later released and taken up for farming, such as our own farm.

My husband contracted to supply the Turkois Mine with wood before he started farming this land, and had to go very near the Tsetse Belt to get it. As the Tsetse came further in towards Chakari, he decided the risk to the oxen was too great, so he purchased from the Municipality of Johannesburg a large traction engine, which was railed to Gatooma. He hired an engine driver from the railways to drive it to Chakari. The engine driver had the first trip with the wagons but, alas, ran out of water before he got back. John Wingfield-Digby had the next try but he "dropped the plug" not many miles from home on the return trip. The problem was solved by pulling a scotch-cart with a sizeable tank of water on it as well as the wagons for the wood.

Clearing the lands to plant crops was, of course, done by hand and being second growth bush, was hard work as there was insufficient growth for leverage. Ploughing, harrowing and some of the planting was done by hand. The crops grown in this area were mostly maize, monkey nuts, beans and sweet potatoes, all of which could be sold as rations to the mines. There was no orderly marketing and one found one's own market for whatever one grew. During the slump maize fetched as little as 4/6 a bag! Sunhemp was grown as a green manure crop to be ploughed in. Cotton was grown on a small scale but the insect damage was so high, and because there were no pesticides, it was given up until the



**Start of a Point to Point on Lancefield**



**Squash Court nearing completion on Lancefield Farm**

Empire Cotton Corporation came to Rhodesia with their expertise and research. Now the Hartley/Gatooma district grows a large acreage very successfully.

During the 1918 influenza epidemic, every building of any size was used as a hospital including the hotels and school, with volunteers to do the nursing. We all wore cinnamon bags round our necks and any notes that came for my father were carried with sticks and put in the oven before being handled.

Rivers and spruits played a large part in communications as there were no bridges but only drifts. Our farm was cut off from Gatooma for up to two to three months during the rains.

Hartely, Gatooma and Chakari all had rifle ranges, and many good days were spent on shoots, mostly organized by the police.

Umsweswe and Battlefields each boasted a railway siding and a store. Battlefields was a very bad blackwater fever area and my father used to send a case of champagne to the police every month as "medical comforts!"

Both Hartley and Gatooma had a racecourse, cut out of the bush, and show societies. The Hartley Society was eventually amalgamated with the Gatooma Society to cover the whole district. It lapsed during the second world war, and was resuscitated by my husband in the early fifties from scratch though he had no funds. The stalls pens and stands were all built with poles and thatch. However, it grew into a highly successful show, thanks to all those townspeople and farmers who put so much of their time and own resources into it.

The first bi-plane that came to Rhodesia came to Gatooma and the pilot gave 'flips' and a display, landing in a vlei on the edge of the town. Later an aerodrome was built to accommodate small planes on the site where the present cold storage works stands.

Chakari which was originally spelt Shagari, was changed to Chakari to avoid confusion in the postal service with Shangani.

Chakari also had a polo ground which was started in the late twenties and survived till the middle seventies. An article once appeared in the magazine *The Field* describing it as the cheapest polo club in the world as we only put a few shillings in the "kitty" to buy the balls.

# **Dr. Frank Rand,** **M.B., C.M. (Hons), F.R.C.S. (Eng.) M.D. (Edin).** **1856 – 1937**

**by Michael J. Kimberley**

Richard Frank Rand was born in 1856 at Plaistow, Essex, England. He studied medicine in Edinburgh and was a brilliant student, graduating M.B., C.M., with Honours in 1880, and receiving the Wightman prize for being the best final year student. In 1883 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and in 1889 he obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Edinburgh. For a short time he practised medicine in Jamaica where he obtained experience in diagnosing and treating malaria which was useful later.

In the late 1880's the gold discoveries at Barberton and Johannesburg were widely publicised in England, and Dr. Rand decided to visit Africa; arriving in Cape Town on the Union Line steamer *Dane* on the 31st October, 1889. He journeyed to Kimberley where he met Cecil John Rhodes and, a week later, left Kimberley by coach for Johannesburg with fellow traveller John Arnold Edmonds, who later settled in the Arcturus District near Harare.

While in Johannesburg, where Rand had commenced private practice, he received a telegram from Mr Rhodes requesting him to accept medical charge of an expedition that was shortly to travel to Mashonaland. Rand accepted the offer and became Senior Medical Officer initially with the rank of Surgeon Lieutenant and later Surgeon Captain, attached to the Headquarters Staff of the British South Africa Company Police, travelling with B. Troop, for the long journey from Macloutsie in Bechuanaland to Mashonaland.

Rand himself recalls asking Mr Rhodes "Are there any special instructions you wish to give me?" Rhodes replied "You are in charge; you do what you like." Before the expedition set off in July 1890, Rand had time to treat patients for fever and other ailments on the Company's behalf at Mafeking and Elebe.

Shortly after the arrival of the pioneer column on the 12th September 1890, Rand accompanied Major Forbes to Manicaland where Captain Heyman was involved in skirmishes with the Portuguese during his endeavours to annex that area.

On returning from Mozambique, Rand remained in the Company's employ as a hospital and police surgeon. Salisbury's first hospital consisted of three wattle and daub huts, a marquee and a few tents. One hut was used as a dispensary, another as a kitchen, and the third, together with the marquee and tents, as wards. When Mother Patrick and Sister Amica, Berchmans, Bonaventura and Constantia arrived as the country's first nursing sisters on the 27th July, 1891, they found twelve patients in the hospital under the care of Dr. Rand, most of them suffering from fever or dysentery.

When a hospital board of three members (the Resident Magistrate and two Company nominees) was formed in July 1892 to control the hospital, Rand, resenting the idea of lay control, resigned and became Salisbury's first private practitioner, practising from a hut in



Officers of the B.S.A. Co. Police

Back row: L to R: Lieut. Slade; Dr. Rand (M.O.)

Middle row: L to R: Lieut Shepstone; Capt. P. Forbes; Col. Pennefather;  
Capt. Graham; Cannon Balfour (Chaplain)

Front: Lieut. the Hon. Eustace Fiennes; Capt. Heyman

*Photo National Archives of Zimbabwe*

Pioneer Street. He was succeeded as a hospital surgeon by Dr. Herbert Edgerton who was appointed at a salary of £200 per annum with the right to private practice.

As a hospital and police medical officer with the British South Africa Company and as a medical practitioner in private practice, Rand was regarded with great affection, and almost worshipped, by his patients. He was renowned for a devotion to and rapport with his patients, which is now uncommon in our materialistic and commercialised world.

He was an able physician in spite of his handicap of deafness which sometimes embarrassed patients when they had to describe their ailments in voices audible some distance away.

He laboured unceasingly to combat malaria and other tropical diseases, which attacked many of the early residents. In contrast to the position nowadays, he never hesitated to attend patients at any hour of the day or night. He often rode on horseback to remote areas in atrocious weather to visit prospectors and traders in need of medical attention.

He was well known for an extremely unpleasant-tasting concoction of brandy and quinine, called "Rand's kicker" which was an effective cure for fever. When asked why it was called "the kicker" Rand replied, "Well, it was either because people kicked so much against swallowing it, or that the mixture kicked all the fever out of them." It was said that the mixture "pulled many a man back from the grave." The ingredients of "Rand's Kicker" were the subject of speculation and lack of trace in the prescription books at Strachans

Pharmacy. However, all was disclosed in a letter by Rand to the Bulawayo Chronicle in reply to allegations made by Sir Harry Johnston about widespread drunkenness in the southern part of Africa at that time, which reads as follows:

“Sir Harry Johnston’s statement regarding ‘a drunken sprawl’ over Southern Africa in the 90’s, has no reference to the Mashonaland Pioneers. It only excites my wonder for reasons which will appear. I was given charge of official supplies of alcohol which reached the country in the beginning. Beyond a few cases of brandy and champagne kept for urgent cases in hospital, these supplies were all **dop**. This **dop** it was my practice to commandeer and into each barrel my supplies of quinine were regularly tipped.

This, with a little garnishing, constituted a delectable beverage known as the ‘kicker’ and it was with ‘Livingstone Rousers’ and the ‘Kicker’ — crude weapons perhaps — that the battle against malaria was fought in those early days. There was no liquor available for convivial purposes, and needless to say, there were no inebriates.”

On one occasion a call came from a sick person at Mazoe. Rand immediately responded, and set forth on horseback. Forging the Gwebi River in flood, he took off his clothes and fastened them to the saddle in a bundle, retaining only his boots and hat. He caught hold of the horse’s tail to pull himself through the river, but when the far bank was reached, the horse accelerated up the steep slope and Rand lost his grip on the tail. Unable to catch up with the horse, Rand could only follow and eventually arrived at the patient’s house naked but for his hat and boots.

He served as a Company nominee on, and first Chairman of, the six man Salisbury Sanitary Board when it was formed in November 1891, and campaigned for the provision of sanitary services for the growing township. In his campaign, and despite being a company employee, he never failed to criticise the company when this was warranted. As the founder of public health in this country, he campaigned vociferously for the building of latrines, the burying of dead animals, the sinking of wells, the provision of hygienic water supplies and adequate medical supplies, the control of straying animals, and the fencing of stands. He strongly encouraged standholders to grow vegetables to alleviate the shortage.

It is of interest that many of the names of avenues in Harare are attributable to Rand. After Ross had completed his survey of the township he, an American from Atlanta, Georgia, suggested that all streets and avenues be given numbers. It was Rand who suggested that they be named after some of the African explorers and as a result names such as Speke, Stanley, Moffat, Baker, Cameron, Baines and Livingstone were chosen.

After commencing private practice, the fiery Rand became an even more severe critic of the British South Africa Company. He blamed the company for the suffering of the pioneers and police, often making wild statements which he was unable to substantiate. He regarded the appointment of the hospital board as a personal affront and made violent attacks on the company and the Sanitary Board, as well as individuals, particularly the accountant James Kennedy, and William Ernest Fairbridge the newspaper editor. In 1892 while electioneering during the Sanitary Board elections of that year, his attacks on the company and individuals became bitter and grossly exaggerated. He even went to the extreme of alleging that conditions in the company’s territory could only be matched by terrorism in Russia.

Major Arthur Glyn Leonard, who had been commanding officer of E troop of the company police, was deeply impressed with Rand. He states in his book —

“I have met scores of medical men in my time, but never one so completely wrapped

up, so entirely devoted to his profession, while his knowledge and ability are unquestionable . . . . He devotes all his time and attention to it, not because he lives by it, but because he loves it, and on account of his humanity . . . . likes to apply all the force of his intellect in succouring others who are helpless. And his devotion is so great that it amounts to positive slavery.”

Leonard continues —

“Earnest and studious as you can well imagine such a man would be. he has plenty to say for himself, and possesses a fund of dry humour that is positively refreshing, for the conversation here is very commonplace and as full of platitudes as a red herring is of roe; a man whose earnestness of purpose even an enemy could not but appreciate, and whose deep sincerity is such a striking contrast to the shallow superficiality around us, that it is not surprising I find in him a companionship not of pleasure only, but of wholesome instruction as well.”

Leonard concludes —

“Very liberal in his opinions, but with a strong leaning towards socialism, and in spite of his calm exterior and quiet demeanour, a man of sterling character and of strong passions who, if the occasion demanded it, or the emergency arose, might possibly develop into a red hot firebrand.”

Rand had two major hobbies. One was mining, and for a while, in 1890, he appears to have abandoned the practice of medicine in favour of the more active pursuit of his mining interests. By 1894 he had virtually withdrawn from medical practice when he became managing director of the Mount Darwin Syndicate spending most of his time on the mine. His other abiding interest was indigenous flora, and he spent much of his spare time on the journey to Salisbury and after arriving there, collecting and identifying plants. He was a pioneer of botanical collecting in Mashonaland and his fairly extensive collections were sent to the Botany Department of the British Museum in London. He was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London in recognition of his botanical work. His “Wayfaring Notes” were published in the *Journal of Botany* between 1898 and 1926.

On 20th February 1893 a meeting was held at the Police Officers’ Mess at which it was decided to form what is now the Harare Club. The meeting was presided over by the Resident Magistrate, Captain the Honourable Charles White, and the 18 persons present included R.F. Rand who served on the first committee, and was one of the 36 Foundation Members who were required to take at least one share of 10 guineas secured by mortgage on the club’s buildings.

He returned to England for health reasons, but served in the South African war from 1899 to 1902, and returned to Rhodesia in 1910.

Rand left Rhodesia in 1914 and immediately enlisted, serving in the Great War initially as a Captain in France, and subsequently in Africa in the South African Medical Corps, where he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was awarded the Great War 1914 – 15 Star in addition to the Queen’s Medal (with three clasps).

By 1926 he was living in Cheltenham, England, but again returned to Rhodesia where he practised for several years in Hartley. He was known there for his daily ritual of “cursing the Lord” namely the British South Africa Company which he had always violently opposed although the company recognised his past services by paying him a monthly allowance.

He died in Brightlingsea, Essex, in January 1937.



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# Development of the Mazoe Citrus Estates 1909 – 1980

by J. Des Archer

Drive north out of Harare along Second Street, by way of the Golden Stairs Road across the Gwebi Flats; in the far distance looms the Iron Mask Range and away to the left, Mount Hampden, original objective of the 1890 Pioneer Column. Drop down the Golden Stairs into the Dassura Valley then on along the shores of the Mazoe Dam to some, memories of a Scottish loch, through the pass in the Iron Mask Range, where stands the splendid arched wall of the Mazoe Dam, and so on to the Mazoe Citrus Estates.

The Mazoe Citrus Estates lies in one of the most beautiful valleys in Zimbabwe. It straddles the Mazowe river and is bisected by the Iron Mask Range. To the east of the range stretch areas of grasslands and wooded hills used mainly for cattle ranching, whilst on the western slopes citrus groves flourish on the rich alluvial soils that have been deposited there through the ages. Geographically speaking, the Estate is on latitude 31 degrees East of Greenwich and 17 degrees 30 minutes South, and covers an area of some 213 square kilometres.

In those early years prospectors tramped the hills and panned the streams in their search for gold, whilst others of farming stock settled in the valley and set about changing the face of this country from untamed bush into what is, today, a flourishing farming community.

One of the latter, George Alexander Simpson, a Scot and Boer War veteran, returned to Africa after spending some time in Jaffa where he had studied citriculture. He then settled in the Mazoe valley on the farm Smithfield.

Robert McIlwaine, at that time a member of the Law Department of the British South Africa Company, later to become a Judge of the High Court, owned the farm "Laurencedale" some few miles north of Smithfield and lying along the western bank of the Mazowe river.

In 1909 these two men and the British South Africa Company joined forces and formed the Mazoe Syndicate, with the object of developing this valley to general farming, and particularly, the cultivation and production of citrus.

Rootstocks were obtained from the wild lemons growing along the banks of the river, said to have been brought in by the early Portuguese during their trading excursions to the land of Monomatapa in the sixteenth century.

Land was cleared, nursery beds planted out, and maize was sown and reaped, but even in those days, despite cheap labour, the capital outlay required to develop a long-term project such as citrus, was heavy, and with the selling price of maize at a mere seven shillings a bag in the then Salisbury, the two private members of the Syndicate had to rely more and more on the necessary development finance being provided by the company, until it reached the stage where they became heavily indebted to the B.S.A. Company.



In March 1914, the company bought out McIlwaine and Simpson's interests in the Mazoe Syndicate. The Estate then became part of the British South Africa Company, who retained the services of Mr Simpson as the first manager of the Mazoe Citrus Estates.

Meanwhile, the Syndicate had sold McIlwaine's farm Laurencedale, and with the funds obtained from this sale had purchased the farm Brundrett which lay immediately to the north of Smithfield and on the same side of the river.

At the time of the first citrus plantings it was confidently felt by some members of the Syndicate, and indeed by some "experts", that citrus farming could be carried out in the then Southern Rhodesia as a dry land operation. Irrigation would only be required in the seed bed and nursery stage, and for a limited period, immediately after planting out into orchards. This was proved to be a rather sad and misguided hope. Citrus trees could not survive the long dry winter months without irrigation.

In 1911 the then Director of Agriculture instructed Mr W M Watts, an agricultural engineer on his staff, to investigate the irrigation potential of the Mazowe Valley.

This investigation, which covered some 64 kilometres of the Mazowe river from a point about one and a half kilometres upstream of the Mazowe poort to as far north as the farm Barassie, which lies roughly eight kilometres north-east of Bindura Township, incorporated river gaugings and weir sites at various strategic points along the river, as well as a line of levels throughout the entire length of the investigated area.

In this survey Mr Watts not only investigated the Mazowe river, but also the Marodzi from its confluence with the Mazowe river upstream as far as the Jumbo Mine's pumping station, as well as short distances up the Mwenje and Garumapudzi rivers from their respective confluence with the Marodzi river.

Mr Watts did not recommend a large irrigation scheme on the Mazowe river, to quote, "From what I saw of the Mazoe river valley I would not recommend a large scheme of irrigation as by doing this much of the return surface water would be lost". Mr Watts recommended instead three small schemes.

The first scheme was a furrow to serve the farm Barassie, secondly, a furrow on the right bank from a point on the farm Rocky Spruit to as far as farm Insingese, and finally, again on the right bank, a furrow on the farm Smithfield, just below the confluence of the Tatagura river. This to serve the Syndicate's farms Smithfield and Brundrett. The latter, incidentally, being the point of abstraction of the Main Canal that serves the Mazoe Citrus Estates and is known as Watts' Weir, or more commonly referred to in the company's water right as Point X.

Mr Watts was of the opinion that there was very little ground on the west bank of the river worth irrigating. To quote from the report, "There is very little ground on the left bank of the Mazoe river worth irrigating, and what little there is I do not think could be served economically". This observation has since been disproved, and in fact, the left bank has been the scene of extensive development in recent years and will be dealt with later in this paper.

Acting on Mr Watts' recommendation the Syndicate started work on the furrow construction in 1912, with the take-off point at the site indicated by Mr Watts. As the furrow was intended only for a small flow, namely one cusec, a diversion weir was not necessary. The present weir and head gate were only constructed in 1926 when the canal capacity was increased.

After getting the first furrow into operation, gaugings of the river were taken at

intervals throughout the following low flow periods, and it became quite apparent that the normal flow of the river would not sustain an irrigation scheme of any size.

In 1914 Mr Mark Randall, irrigation engineer in the Department of Land Settlement, was asked to carry out a survey and to report on the feasibility of building a storage dam in the vicinity of the Mazowe poort.

Surveys, site investigations and planning proceeded during the ensuing years but, due to the Great War then raging, no construction work was possible.

Section 16(1) of the Water Ordinance, 1913, which gave the Administrator the power to "Authorise any riparian proprietor to store or divert surplus or storm water on his own land for such purposes as he may think fit", gave rise to a technical hitch.

The Mazowe river formed a common boundary between the Company's property and the farm known as Great B owned by Mr A C Henderson. It was not possible under the ordinance quoted above to obtain a servitude of storage, and as any dam constructed in, or near the poort would push back on to Great B it became necessary for the Company to negotiate the purchase of a portion of Mr Henderson's farm. This was finally concluded and 404,86 hectares of Great B were purchased by the B.S.A. Company in 1917.

Towards the latter end of 1918 work on the Mazoe dam project got underway. Sir Douglas Fox and Partners, together with Sir Charles Metcalf, were the consulting engineers responsible for the design and construction, and Messrs Pauling and Company, who had been engaged on railway construction, were the contractors.

Construction of the dam was completed in March, 1920, but it would appear both from records available, and the apparent "unfinished" state of the top of the wall and obvious capping of the spillway sections — this to improve flow conditions — that work on the dam was stopped some five feet short of planned height. No reason for this has ever been found despite exhaustive investigations in 1958 prior to the raising of the wall.

It is not intended to deal with construction of the dam in this paper as this subject was covered in detail in an excellent paper by Mr Mark Randall A.M.I.C.E. in the Minutes and proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers (Volume CCXVI, December, 1923). "The raising of the Mazoe Dam" was the subject of a paper by Mr E W Henderson, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., presented to Mashonaland Local Area in March, 1962, and published the same month in the Rhodesian Engineer, (Vol. 6, No.5).

With the construction of the dam having now assured an adequate water reserve, the planting out of orchards went steadily ahead until the tree population reached the 63 000 mark when development ceased — again for no apparent reason since the estimated potential was nearer the 200 000 mark.

However, this potential of 200 000 trees would not have been in one continuous block but rather in a series of pockets wedged between the Iron Mask range and the Mozowe river, covering some twenty-seven kilometres in length from just below the Mazoe dam to Garvin siding beyond Glendale, and would not have been wider than one kilometre at any one point.

This was, undoubtedly, somewhat unwieldy, particularly as dead ground occurred between pockets. However, the question still remains as to why little more than a quarter of the potential was developed, whereas the main canal had been constructed over the entire length of the property, a distance of some twenty-seven kilometres.

For some 20 years things remained pretty well the same with no further development. Then in the early fifties it became more and more apparent that, in order to continue to

complete on the world market and remain a viable project, it was imperative the unit be greatly expanded by increasing the number of trees on the estate.

Although expansion of citrus plantings had come to a halt, general farming continued and crops such as maize, groundnuts, sunflower, cotton, oats and sun hemp were grown quite extensively, as well as wheat as a winter crop under flood irrigation. Wheat as a summer crop had been tried but was not a success owing to rust.

It is interesting to note that quite extensive use was made of vleis, particularly on sandveld, for winter cropping, cultivation taking place in March and April.

The obvious first area for expansion was an area, roughly 202,43 hectares in extent, of the original farm Smithfield which lay between the Mazoe dam and the first block of orchards which, up to that date, had been used as a dryland maize farm, despite the fact that the high level canal which had been dug in the early twenties commanded the entire area.

In 1954 this high level canal was re-constructed and concrete lined, and the first plantings of this development phase got underway.

This phase of east bank development continued at a steady pace throughout the next few years. Development of Smithfield having been completed, expansion northwards beyond the existing orchards on Bloomfield was in progress when, early in 1958, the company was given the option on three farms comprising Frobisher Estate on the west bank of the Mazowe river.

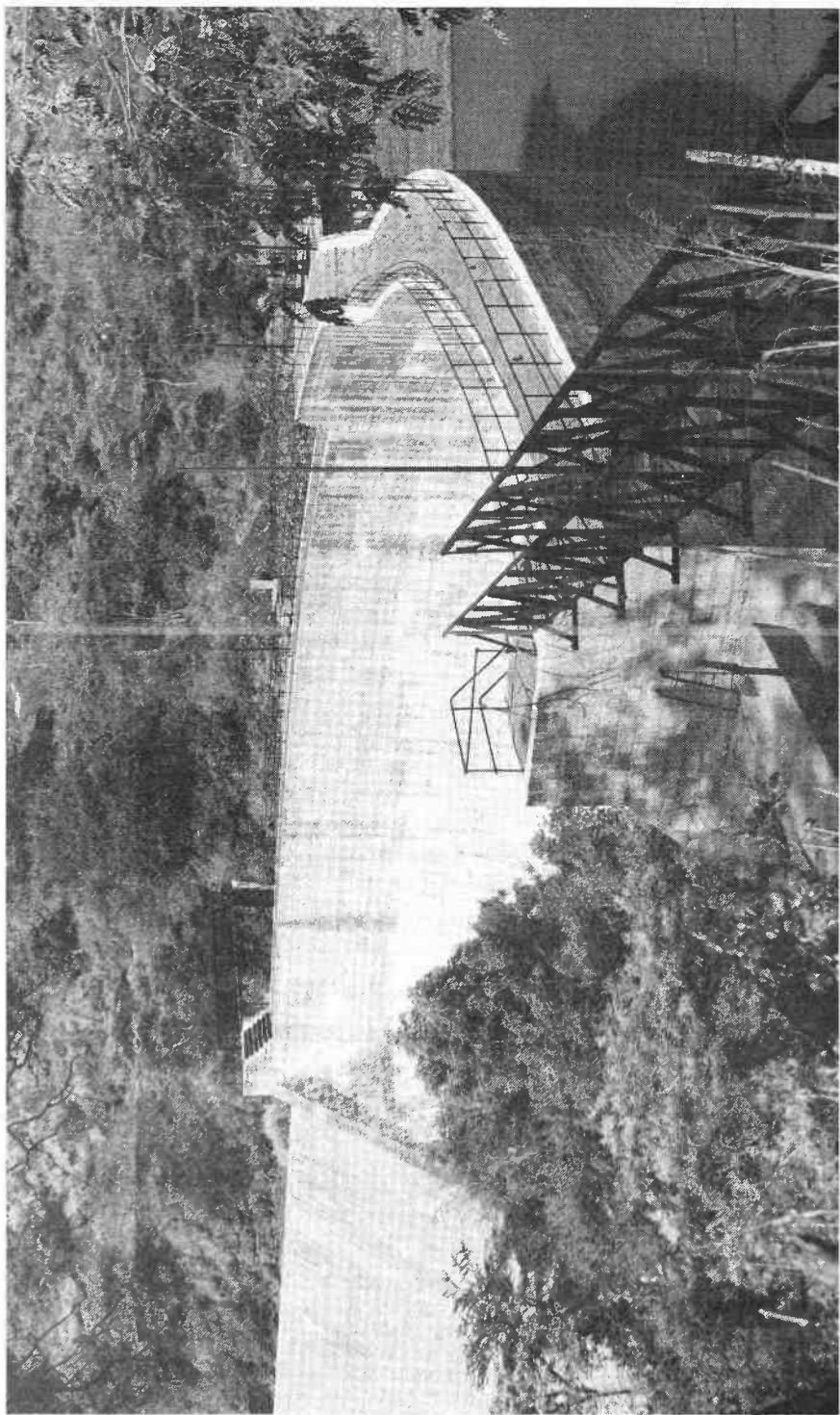
Full investigations were immediately set in hand. Soil types, levels in relation to the Mazoe dam, costs relating to canal construction, siphons to carry the water under the Mazowe river from the east to west bank, land clearing and levelling, etc., until finally these exhaustive investigations revealed, contrary to Mr Watt's report as quoted previously, that of the 2 429 hectares offered in the option, some 1 619 hectares proved to be arable land suitable for citrus growing. More significant than anything else was the fact that whereas on the east bank, being a long narrow strip, the ratio of tree population to Main Canal length was one tree per thirty centimetres of canal, whereas the West Bank ratio would be 3,3 trees per thirty centimetres of Main Canal.

Acting on the report, the board of directors exercised their option and purchased these farms in September, 1958. Detailed surveys and planning immediately got underway and a target date for the first plantings on the west bank was set for the spring of the following year.

In order to meet this target date some 3,25 kilometres of what is known as the Mazoe west canal, together with the siphon, some 1 026 metres long across the river had to be constructed. In August, 1959, water from the Mazoe dam flowed through the siphon out onto the west bank; the target date met and the first trees set out in deep alluvial soil.

The key to the whole development plan was the Mazoe dam. In order to develop both the east and west banks of the estate to the full potential it was essential to increase the storage capacity of the dam.

The original water right granted for the storage of surplus flood water had a clause written into it that reserved the right of the Government to call upon the company to raise the wall by 3,046 metres, or do so itself. This additional storage was intended to supply irrigation water to the left bank property owners, should they wish to set up an irrigation board. This reservation was never taken up, and fell away when the application by the company for increased storage rights was granted by the Water Court.



*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

**Mazoe Dam, c. "1950"**

Although the additional storage capacity of the dam was not required before 1965, at this particular point in time Kariba dam was nearing completion. It seemed a golden opportunity and the company decided to take advantage of their personnel, with their specialised knowledge and construction plant becoming available, to press on with the reconstruction of the Dam.

Two consultants were invited to report independently on the Mazoe dam reconstruction project. Both reports stressed that, whether the Company proposed increasing the storage capacity or not, it was imperative that a considerable amount of work was urgently required to strengthen the wall and its foundations as it was considered to be well below the accepted present day standard of design. The two reports differed only in their respective proposals to remedy this serious defect to bring the Mazoe dam up to the required standard.

The contract was awarded to The Cementation Company (Rhodesia) Limited, successors to Fracois Cementation Company, who were originally brought from the Rand Mines to carry out a pressure grouting programme on the Mazoe dam in 1919 — the first dam in the world ever to receive this treatment. The work was completed well within the specified time and the new wall was formally opened by the Viscount Malvern, P.C., C.H., K.C.M.G., Resident Director of the B.S.A. Company, on 8th September, 1961.

Meanwhile, construction of a 45 cusec canal and the siphons across the Mazowe and Little Mazowe rivers was forging ahead.

The canal, parabolic in section, started on the right bank immediately downstream of the dam, was fed by an 18 inch steel pipeline and ran parallel to the high level canal for approximately one and half kilometres where it crossed the valley by way of the first siphon. It was lined with two inch thick cast-in-situ concrete, and was constructed departmentally by citrus estate staff.

The siphon construction was contracted to M Gonella and Company (Private) Limited and consisted of 104cm diameter spun concrete pipes, 1.82m long, with a wall thickness of 9.5cm, and reinforced with an inner and outer circumferential cage of high tensile welded mesh.

These siphon pipes were aligned on concrete wedges on a 1.22m wide concrete bed 15cm thick. After jointing with a vibrated dense concrete collar the pipeline was quarter haunched to secure it firmly in position.

The section across the actual river bed was designed and constructed so as to form a low flow gauging weir.

At that time the Estate had some 1 518 hectares under citrus with a tree population of 300 000. There was a main canal system 43 kilometres long, and a network of subsidiary brick and cement furrows, which when placed end to end would reach for 138 kilometres, and finally, 1 377 kilometres of earth leading furrows.

After meeting the country's needs, the main portion of the crop was sold on the export market, mainly in the United Kingdom. During 1930 the fruit, which in appearance did not meet export standards, was sold to a firm which had obtained the right from the Company to set up a factory to extract and process the oils and juices in limited quantities. In 1935 the B.S.A. Company provided the necessary capital for expansion and later purchased the business which continued to make steady progress.

During the War Years difficulties in shipping, storage and the distribution of a



perishable fruit in the United Kingdom forced the company to expand considerably the processing side of the crop. In 1944, the estate assumed control of the factory and from then on virtually the whole crop was processed. These products, in competition with old, established citrus producing countries, earned for themselves a reputation for quality among the finest in the world.

What started thirty years ago as a small and insignificant venture is, today, a modern and highly mechanised factory, equipped with some of the very latest fruit processing machinery.

Commercial growers in southern Africa have been reluctant to plant West Indian limes. The black citrus aphid abounds and is the vector for triesteza virusus.

Beginning in 1950, the late Peter Crous began a series of experiments to see if a solution could be found to this problem. Later, a lime seedling was found in the then Sinoia, that appeared to be tolerant to triesteza. During the period 1950 – 1970 experimental limes were propagated using this single tree as a source of budwood. The plantings that resulted all had a mild form of triesteza but the theory is that this tends to immunize them against more virulent attack.

In 1970, the first commercial plantings were made and during that decade Mazoe became the largest producers of West Indian lime juice and oil in southern Africa.

By 1980 sufficient quantities of lime juice concentrate were being made to satisfy the local market and export to the extent of 90% of total production.

Mazoe lime juice has a good reputation in overseas countries. The United Kingdom is the biggest importer.

The oils and juices having been extracted, the residue was processed through a dehydrating plant into orange meal which formed a bulking in cattle food. With the expansion of the estate and the increased volume of fruit being processed it became necessary to find a further outlet for this waste material.

After successful small scale trials the estate embarked on a large commercial scale feeding scheme using the wet waste as cattle fodder.

The waste peel, which includes the pulp and seed, is transported from the factory to a nearby site where the material is ensiled in pits.

The progeny from the breeding herd is penned and has access to unlimited quantities of this ensiled material. In addition, they receive a small quantity of protein concentrate and veld hay.

The feeding of stalled beef cattle during the dry winter months with citrus peel has solved a waste disposal problem.

In the early seventies, having completed the plantings on Peters section, it was decided to stop the expansion of citrus plantings, at least for an interim period, to allow the estate to consolidate on the expansion that had been going on at quite a pace.

In order to make use of the canal that had been completed almost to the northern boundary of Spitzkop it was decided to use the water available at that point for irrigated cash crops.

Thus, when in 1972 a new section named Urry's Spruit, after Mrs Jessie Urry who owned "Cornucopia" at the turn of the century, came into being and the first wheat crop was grown in the winter of 1973 under overhead sprinklers. The wheel had turned full circle, the last wheat crop having been grown on Bloomfield under flood irrigation some thirty years earlier.

The irrigation on Urry's Spruit section served as a pilot scheme for further expansion into irrigated cash crops.

In 1974 an application to the Water Court to revise Water Right No 90 so as to include the dry land farms "Laurencedale," "Farm No 1" and "Farm No 12" which had been consolidated into one title deed as "Laurencedale Estate," was held up by the Judge of the Water Court pending the outcome of an application to the Appeal Court by the estate against an earlier judgement given by the Water Court.

Early in January 1975 the Appeal Court handed down its judgement in favour of the Estate, thus clearing the way for the Water Court to grant the application to include Laurencedale Estate in Water Right No 90.

Tenders had already been called for and the contract was awarded to A.I.C., a subsidiary of the Cotton Co-op.

The design called for a main pump station on the bank of the Mazowe River, some 14 kilometres downstream of the dam, the river being used as a conveyor to that point. The main river pump station would lift the water out of the river and deliver the main flow to a booster station one kilometre to the west, across the main Mazowe/Bindura road.

Water from the two pumps stations is distributed through 22 kilometres of buried asbestos pressure piping, varying in diameter from 600 mm to 150 mm, and some 24 kilometres of portable aluminium piping.

The contract was completed not without a considerable amount of trauma. About a third of the way through the contract the river pump station had to be redesigned as the suppliers were advised that the pumps destined for the scheme would not be available for two years. Added to this, the contracting company was forced into liquidation by the collapse of the Cotton Co-op. However, the company, under judicial management, was eventually able to complete the scheme, albeit some nine months after the original completion date.

Meanwhile for economic reasons coupled with problems in marketing brought about by U.D.I., some 150 000 citrus trees were being uprooted; the decision to uproot the trees was only taken after many months of exhaustive feasibility studies.

These areas along the east bank of the Mazowe river became available for dryland cropping, and the uprooted areas on the west bank for cropping and pastures.

In 1980 a portable plant was purchased to provide irrigation to selected areas that were uprooted on the east bank.

As all the uprooted areas are served by permanent canal system, it is only logical that, sooner rather than later, they be brought under irrigation again.

# The Bledisloe medal

by Peter Silk

*This article was first published in Coin and Medal News (December 1987) and is reprinted here with the approval of author and publisher.*

Charles Bathurst created Viscount Bledisloe 1st Baron of Lydney and Aylburton, was renowned as one of the foremost agriculturists of his time, in addition, he was a statesman who served Britain and the Commonwealth well. Born in 1867, he was a Member of Parliament from 1910 to 1928 and went on to become Governor General and Commander in Chief of New Zealand from 1930 to 1935. Bathurst was responsible for the gift to New Zealand in 1931 of the historic site where the Treaty of Waitangi between the British and the Maoris was signed in 1840. New Zealand and Australia still play rugby union for the Bledisloe Cup. He was appointed Chairman of the Royal Commission on closer union of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1938. It was from this appointment and from his visit to Southern Rhodesia that the Bledisloe medal for Agriculture was established to be awarded to African chiefs.

In the years 1938 and 1939 His Lordship was in correspondence with the Office of the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia (Godfrey Huggins, later Lord Malvern) as to the form of the award. He provided the money for the awards by endowing a trust fund. The Bledisloe medals were to be minted by the Royal Mint in London. Lord Bledisloe hoped that example would be copied in other African states, but research has failed to locate any similar awards. He clearly realised the vital position, in both economic and physiological terms, of African chiefs vis-a-vis the farmers and the value of encouraging and stimulating these leaders.

According to the draft regulations covering the award of the Bledisloe medal, not more than four were to be awarded each year to duly appointed African chiefs who were judged to have encouraged their people into pursuing good farming habits. Recommendations were made before June 1, of each year. The Agriculturist of the Department then had to record his observations on those recommendations. These had to cover statements on:

- (a) Crop rotation
- (b) Contour ridging and other methods to combat soil erosion
- (c) Tillage
- (d) Animal husbandry
- (e) Water conservation
- (f) Tree planting
- (g) Influence in causing other Africans to carry out improvements
- (h) Making use of compost or kraal manure in building up and maintaining soil productivity.

The next stage was for the Secretary to add his observations and to hand them to the Minister who, in his turn, went on to advise the Governor on the awards to be granted.

Research shows only nine chiefs were recipients on the medal between 1939 and 1957. They were:

1942 Chief Chinamora, Salisbury District

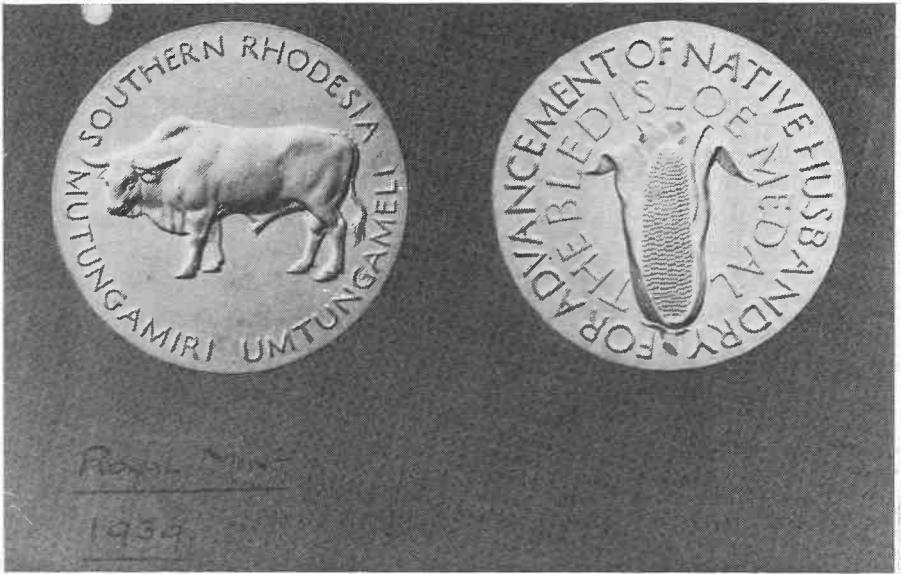


Photo National Archives of Zimbabwe

- 1942 Chief Mangwende, Mrewa District
- 1943 Chief Ntelela, Matobo District
- 1951 Chief Rozani, Wedza District
- 1952 Chief Mzimuni Masuka, Gwanda District
- 1952 Chief Mabigwa, Lupani District
- 1952 Chief Mudzimirema, Marandellas District
- 1954 Chief Madhlisibanda Sikobokobo Nxumalo, Lupani District
- 1957 Chief Mvinga Ncube, Nkai District

The medal was minted in sterling silver. It is 2¼ inches wide and is provided with a cupro-nickel chain to hang around the neck. On the reverse side there is a maize cob with the inscription on the outer ring of *For Enhancement of Native Husbandry*; and in the inner ring *The Bledisloe Medal*. The obverse side reveals a magnificent bull with the inscriptions *Southern Rhodesia* and *Mutungamiri Umtungameli*. These were the Shona Sindabele words for "leader" or "guide". The Royal Mint Annual Report for 1939 records that the medals had been "very favourably received".

The designer of the medal was a Mr Langford Jones, who had many commissions from the Royal Mint between 1922 and his death in 1946. Perhaps his best known commissions, so far as military medals are concerned, were in 1922; these were for the medals of the Order of the British Empire for Gallantry and for Meritorious Service.

Apparently the last Bledisloe medal to be awarded was in 1957 which was, coincidentally, just prior to Lord Bledisloe's death.

Mr G.P. Dyer, the Librarian and Curator of the Royal Mint, Llantrisant, has assisted me with a wealth of facts from the Royal Mint files which appear to finish in about 1954. The orders for the medals were placed by the High Commissioner in London on the instructions of the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia. The original order was for five medals, of which one was for Lord Bledisloe himself; the files record only three subsequent

orders: June, 1951 for one medal; September, 1952 for four medals and July, 1954 for six medals — 16 medals in all. However, I believe from my own researches that the total minted is at least 19 or even perhaps 20.

I have seen obituaries for Lord Bledisloe emanating from the UK, Southern Rhodesia and New Zealand; most of them fail to mention the medal. The Royal Commonwealth Society's obituary states: "*It was at this time (1938) that he made another gesture in which, as a farmer on a big scale himself, he took special pride and interest, the annual grant of the Bledisloe medal to the best African farmer of the year.*"

In addition to the Bledisloe medal, the Right Honourable Viscount Bledisloe PC, GCMG, KBE was also responsible for instituting another agricultural award, a gold medal to former students of the Agricultural College, Cirencester.

#### **Acknowledgements**

*I have been fortunate to receive assistance from Colin Loades and Brian Taylor in Zimbabwe: David Turner in New Zealand and of course Mr G.P. Dyer at the Royal Mint. The National Library of New Zealand provided David Turner with a great deal of information, as did the National Archives of Zimbabwe for my colleagues there.*

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**HARARE – ZIMBABWE**

# From Johannesburg to Tati by Bicycle and Ox-Wagon in 1896

by Frank T. Lighton

*Frank Tomlin Lighton was born in England on 19th August 1869 and visited Mossel Bay in the Cape Province in the latter part of the 19th Century. He later moved to Johannesburg and from there on 18th January 1896 he embarked on a journey by bicycle and wagon to Tati in Bechuanaland (now Botswana) which he reached in March 1896 and thence to Bulawayo. He spent a few years there eventually returning South where he died on 20th November 1929.*

*He had five sons including Norman C.K. Lighton who painted the illustrations for the very well known *Birds of South Africa* by Austin Roberts, and Professor Reginald E. Lighton who was Principal of the Johannesburg College of Education and subsequently Dean of the Faculty of Education in the University of Cape Town; he is the father of Rosemary Kimberley, wife of the Editor of *Heritage*.*

*A diary of his journey is reprinted below. It was previously published in the Mossel Bay Advertiser on Saturday 28th September 1929.*

After a hurried meal consisting of two apples, a glass of H<sub>2</sub>O, I left the Golden City mounted on my bicycle at 6 a.m., on January 28th 1896, the year of disgrace to all Johannesburgers of English origin then living there.

I carried a ground sheet, mackintosh, leggings, revolver, mess-tin and scoff (grub), also a blanket and (fixed to my machine) a tank containing a gallon of water.

The above mentioned impedimenta, worked out at about thirty five pounds weight; no light load when cycling over Transvaal roads under a summer's sun. With an easterly wind at my back, and my course lying due west (to Mafeking) the miles, as registered by my cyclometer, went rolling back at the rate of 8 or 9 miles per hour.

Up out of Fordsburg and just outside of New Croesus, and Langlaagte Estates, I fell into the arms of a boer party, whose leader demanded of me — whither I was bound, and what right I had to show my heathenish face outside the city. He ordered me to show my pass, which I did, and another of the band examined my revolver pass returning it to me in a manner that convinced me that he had been reading it upside down.

However, my freedom regained, away I went, the road taking me down hill not many yards from the Roodeport mine.

By this time the sun had become hot, and the flies began to torment me so unmercifully that I was driven to the verge of desperation.

After passing the Roodeport mine, I struck a wrong track through making for sundown too systematically — passing the farm house where Jameson put up his white sheet, and here at the spruit I had a cool drink. I then pushed on until I reached another farm, at which point, the track came to an end and I had to continue my journey on foot across the open veldt and long grass, riding now and again by way of a-change.



**Frank Tomlin Lighton**  
**In the early 1920's**

After five mile of this hunting after a track, I struck a spoor which led me to another farm, where I was 'cul de sac'd' once more, coming to earth by getting entangled in some barbed wire. After partaking of a drink of water given to me by the vrou and a short conversation with her husband, I pushed on through a vlei (swamp) where to my great sorrow, I lost my eye glasses.

But there was no help for it, and I continued my lonely journey until I overtook a spider which was outspanned — Its crew consisted of two young women and a sprinkling of children, and a man — The motive power was wandering around, and getting his back up for another struggle with the Spider. In front of me was a spruit, a foot and half deep and some fifteen feet wide and through it, lay my road.

Retiring for a few yards I put on a good head of steam and this just, but only just, sufficed to carry me across.

On the other side, and up a small hill, is the new Midas estate and mine — thither, I turned my wheel and having reached the mine enquired for the manager, to whom I was known, but who, unfortunately, was in town (Johannesburg). After partaking of a hearty meal — followed by a nap, (this latter however, much broken in upon by myriads of fleas) I resumed my journey walking as before, in the direction of the setting sun. I passed Randfontein, Queen's Battery, and Brand vlei, at which latter I hauled up for a drink and was told that the next halting place was 24 miles ahead at Mooi river.

Looking at my watch, I saw that it was then 4 o'clock, but I determined to do it, and over a grand surface, and with the wind, still behind me, the twenty four miles — came and went — but there came no Mooi river; and it was growing a bit late but by way of compensation, there was a good moon. The road now began to get bad, rocks and boulders springing up at a moments notice, or without notice at all, and but for the moon, I should have come to grief very often. At last came the welcome dip and run down which spelt Mooi river, and very welcome to me in my weariness it was. On consulting my cyclometer it gave me a record of 29 miles, not 24 as given me by my friend at Brand's vlei. But I had yet to cross Mooi river — and this was a difficult business, costing me two bad immersions.

On the other side was the hotel — and here I changed and dried my clothes — and had a good tuck in — "after which," as Pepys would say, "to bed."

This finished the first day, of 77 miles. The next morning I was up at 7.30 taking before breakfast, a dip in the icy cold stream.

I was ferociously hungry, but breakfast wasn't ready — so I sat down to the piano (!) and stirred up the household with a vigorous rendering of *Chere Elise*, which quickly brought breakfast along and greatly I enjoyed it. I settled my bill (8/6) and after getting posted up as to my route — was off again — I left at 8 o'clock up, up, up that hill, the summit of which I did not reach until 11 miles had been reeled off, then came the change, up and down in rapid alternations, and finally a big down into the boer village of Ventersdorp 24 miles from Mooi river. Wading the spruit, I reached the little village (or township) so pretty and snug, with its trees and gardens, all reminding me of home. Here I stopped, putting up at Mr Grey's hostelry, by the desire of its proprietor, whom I had met by moonlight in the Mooi road the night before. Fruit, there was in abundance, and dined well and cheaply (3/6) and left the dorp at 2'clock, my cistern filled with lemon squash and water — a most unwise piece of forethought — as it afterwards proved. After having been out for about ten minutes, I felt the pressure of thirst and, dismounting, took a good pull at the contents of my tank. As the lemonade went down, it seemed very nectar, thirsty as I



was — but presently (like the book in the *Apocalypse*) the taste was abominable — for chemical action had been set up between the acid of the lemonade and the metal (zinc) tank — I then recollected, to my horror, that I was somewhere about midway between my starting point, and my next halt and a sense of faintness came over me. Then nausea, and vomiting and a “don’t care if I die feeling” aggravated by a pouring killing sun — and no shelter within sight. As for the track I preferred the rough open veldt to it.

When I had mustered sufficient strength to proceed, I, with parched throat and weary limbs, struggled on, each mile seeming like five, until by and by, I could see in the far distance, a few trees — my halting place undoubtedly — and, urged on by that belief, I dragged on, and at last, completely fagged out, reached the spot.

Stopping at the first building that I reached — I alighted and entering it asked its occupant, a handsome vrou for something to drink. She offered me some whisky and down went ¼ pint neat.

Thus ballasted, I arose and thanking her waddled down to a neighbouring half-dried brook, the contents of which looked like cold coffee. I rinsed out my tank, and filled it with the available water, previously filtering it through that most handy and valuable little pocket filter of Lipscombe’s. I could eat nothing, so returned to my bed, with a sharp attack of fever, “and mid noddings on’ I lay until morning when I arose, feeling better for some quinine and my fast. Breakfast with my host Jenkins, and his wife, both English by birth — and most kind and attentive to me they were. For their kindness to me — a stranger — in my extremity I feel towards them the deepest gratitude.

I bade them adieu, and faced half a gale of wind for many miles, the village of Lichtenburg being my next halting place. This place I reached, as fresh as paint and quite ready for a feed at its hotel.

After a chat with the store keeper, Langrisch, and forty winks, I arose in my might and sought out his Excellency the Landrost (magistrate), and demanded of him a free passage over the border. He said that a pass was not required, but he nevertheless furnished me with one, offering me also the protection of a Border Police Patrol, which was going my way, adding that I must be ready to start at 4 o’clock p.m. To the last part of this arrangement, I demurred and returned to my hotel to tea, leaving the mounted policeman to proceed alone.

My friend Herr Landrost remarked that I should in all probability overtake the patrol at some point on the 30 mile course.

Having finished my tea, and after receiving one or two instructions from Langrisch regarding the road(?), I spun out with a cheer from the crowd, and an hour to the bad, with a view to overhauling the mounted gentleman.

For a start, I had to crawl under the lee of a barbed wire fence, then plough through loose shingle, dodge rocks, and float through sand, this going on for about ten miles when the road began to improve, and with it, my pace. Again, as on the previous evening, the moon came to my assistance, and at the end of 2½ hours I was rewarded by coming up with my friend the policeman and his trooper horse Punch.

After a quarter of an hour’s halt at a station, we set off together accompanied by the patrol’s favourite dog, a terrier. We walked, trotted, and galloped, by turns, conversing on the hateful raid business — my companion leading off.

At about 9 o’clock we reached the frontier, and my friend’s hut, where he invited me to stay the night.

I supped and slept there, and in the morning got my pack together preparatory to

covering the remaining distance of twelve miles or so, to Mafeking.

Here, in this mud hut, I found, as at Jenkins hotel, a musical instrument (in this case an american organ) upon which before leaving, I amused them and myself, the "them" being the policeman Barkly and his wife, his brother, one or two boers and a bevy of children. They, one and all, wished me a pleasant finish to my ride, which — for the moment — terminated at Mafeking, which place I reached on Friday at 10 o'clock a.m., my cyclometer showing 190 miles covered from start to finish.

Mafeking — I made my way to Bradley's hotel where I put up, disrobed and had a refreshing bath, after which to the post office for letters. Mafeking is a straggling town and possesses no interest beyond the fact that it is — *protem* — the northern terminus of the Cape railway and the point of departure for all ox wagons and coaches bound for the north and the interior. Messrs. Weil and Musson Bros. are the leading storekeepers and contractors in this most dreary place. At the great outspan may be seen hundreds of wagons in various stages of decay, or completion, as the case may be.

At Bradley's I fell in with the man who was afterwards to be my conductor — a Mr Lass — a Dane, with whom I engaged to proceed to Bulawayo for the sum of £5 — and, of the remaining amount at my disposal (£5). £4 went in provisions for the journey, which Lass placed at 50/60 days.

So with a sovereign in my pocket, I went round the place, free from care or worry or the fear that I might be murdered, for my cash. With a light heart I boarded one of the wagons, and pitched my tent by the side of a thin, pale faced lath of a man, named Pope — who looked very scraggy and dejected as he sat on top of his goods and chattels. After I had settled down a bit I introduced myself to him, but he did not prove to be very communicative, nor was he at any subsequent time, by any means a jovial companion. Shortly after, up came six of Jameson's warriors — the first to arrive at Mafeking, after the raid — all wearing more or less, woebegone looks. One of their number — quieter than the rest, cast his lot in my wagon, and glad I was of his company, since my other companion (Pope) was exceedingly taciturn and glum. This latter gentleman carried with him a goodly supply of fresh eggs, carefully packed in sand, and these he jealously guarded from start to finish. For my part, I rather hoped that they would all go bad, but no, these eggs seemed to grow fresher every day. So at least I judged from the way Pope seemed to relish them, as each day we got further from civilization. Perhaps they tasted better to him, when he looked down upon us ordinary mortals who had no eggs.

Pope fed on cocoa, spoon fashion, as a baby is fed, eggs with stale bread and condensed milk, being thrown in by way of variety.

He said that he needed nothing beyond these to sustain life. I suggested that his well nourished body might sustain a little exertion — that he should now and then get out and walk a bit, but, to this he strongly objected, remarking in language forcible if not polite, that he paid his money to ride to Bulawayo — not to walk thither.

Lass promised to meet us at a station called Ramoutsa, some 90 miles out, he in the meantime going into the Transvaal to his home at Zeerust (near Ramoutsa).

We were therefore left to the mercies of his men a dozen or so in number.

Our train consisted of four wagons only one of them — and that not mine — having a hood. Besides the wagons, were two boilers mounted on wheels — one for the Blue Jacket mine, Tati, and the other for a Bulawayo brewery. Off we started on February 1st at 3 p.m. trekking out — 5 miles, the oxen returning to Mafeking for water. On their return, we

inspanned and trekked about another 3 miles when we got into trouble — the oxen not pulling well, for want of good drivers, and good ground.

It then came out that the men were also in no great hurry to push on seeing that they were paid by time and not by results — one wagon ran against a tree stump and broke its disselboom (pole) then a lot of time was lost in cutting down a suitable tree to replace the boom.

Then the oxen began to show signs of distress, and to give an additional flavour to the trouble the men decided to go back the next morning and slaughter a sick ox that had been left behind — and bring it in to make biltong.

This intention was carried out and in due time they returned, bringing in the ox upon a small tree drawn sledge fashion.

What a feast those men had, they only wanted beer, and there would have been no more trekkings for that week. After 36 hours delay caused by this gorge we again started, covering about six miles — when these blessed men decided to outspan and once outspanned there could be no more progress until the next day.

There we were, without any shelter from the sun — then at its zenith— and making as already said, but little progress.

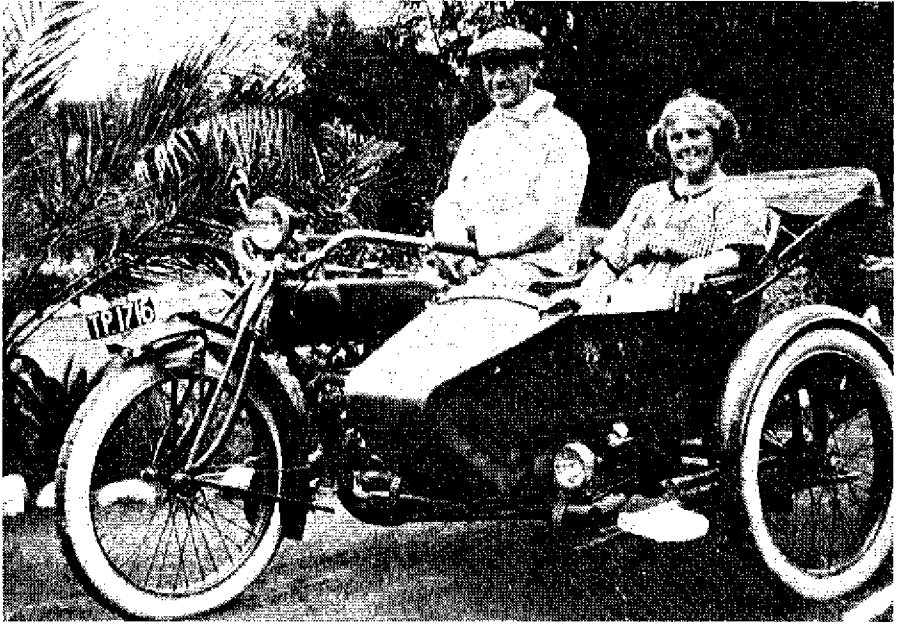
We had however some sport. We surprised but did not capture a large cobra snake — and I got hold of a scorpion or two — . . . One morning towards the end of the first week — one of the wagons got stuck in a mud flat, the wagon was tilted, with the wheels on one side embedded to their axles — and the hitching on of 2 spans of 18 oxen each failed to move the thing — I then threw out a suggestion for extricating the unfortunate wagon as also did the warriors. The men having exhausted their own resources and those of the warriors, tried mine, when, out came the show with a run. While the business of extricating this wagon was going on — I witnessed for the first, and I hope the last, time what warming 'em up meant — Warming up having reference to the poor oxen. Two drivers stand one on each side of the span, and starting with the leaders come down with a heavy whip, on one ox at a time finishing with the wheelers and shouting all the time. The whip lash used in warming 'em up is of giraffe hide, and of a thickness tapering from nothing, to half an inch in the middle and 1 inch at the stock end, and is some fifteen feet long, the stock being made of bamboo and about 10 ft long.

The lash is then doubled, i.e. the driver holds the flick end in his hand and grasps the stock firmly with both hands.

It follows that the punishment thus inflicted on the poor beast is horribly severe. It happened in this case that one of the wheelers jibbed, and this brought about a fearful punishment inflicted by two drivers who hammered away until they only desisted from weariness.

The poor ox was driven nearly to madness, when the paroxysm having passed away he laid down — motionless, but still bellowing. Don't think that this is an isolated case, or that I have coloured the picture, this, and worse will often happen, and indeed were I to tell you of the fiendish cruelties that are often inflicted upon the poor helpless beasts, you would not believe that I was not dealing in the grossest exaggeration.

Frequently the track will be interrupted by the body of a dead ox, a tree, or some other obstruction — which obstruction will be removed by the drivers for his own passage, but which will be carefully replaced by him, for the benefit of the one who may next follow — such at least, are transport riders in many instances.



**Frank Tomlin Lighton and his wife on his  
motorcycle and sidecar**

When about 65 miles out, my wagon caved in, the wheels having got severely twisted in their numerous encounters with mud and sand — and I and some others patched and repatched them as well as we could, but to no purpose, and one evening down went the fore-carriage in the sand. The next morning I got my bicycle together, and left for Ramoutoa, 25 miles distant, where I expected to find Lass waiting and angry. We had then been 14 days out — and had only covered 5 miles a day, and things looked rather badly for reaching Bulawayo in 60 days. I reached Ramoutsa (meeting the down coach on the way) in 2 hours 35 minutes but alas there was no Mr Lass — there, nor could I hear any tidings of him. The manager of the hotel there very kindly gave me a good dinner which I greatly enjoyed. I told him that I had no money, which was mainly true, for I determined not to touch my last piece of gold until I was hard pushed, which, up to then, I wasn't.

I then rummaged out a storekeeper but he could tell me nothing of Mr Lass. He — kind man — offered me food and lodging advising me to wait until the morrow. I thankfully accepted his hospitality and waited. I strolled down to a small stream — which there formed the Transvaal frontier — and, crossing it proceeded to explore that particular portion of the S.A.R.

The neighbourhood was very pretty, and a large and compact kraal of about 1 000 huts flanked by a winding spruit of clear and sparkling water, with forest in its rear lay at the foot of the kopjes.

I dangled my legs in the water, and thought of the miserable weather that you were probably experiencing in dear, dirty old London. Early on the morrow, I arose and tried to patch up my severely punctured tyres, which had been thorned in a number of places, after which I paid a visit to the only other store-keeper in the place, a Mr B. Stark. While sitting

there, in walked Lass's brother in law — a missionary — swearing rather loudly at the delay — and a sudden sickness of Lass which we (Stark and I) decided was a drinking fit. To cut the story short — brother in law and I stowed the bike at the back of a Cape Cart, inspanned two mules, and made back for the wagon. I held the ribbons, and brother in law the sjambock (whip). We kept on until the mules became tired, when we outspanned for half an hour, then on again across the veldt, dodging trees and rocks until we came up with the wagons, which had, since I left got "forruder" by a mile or two.

My wagon — which had somehow been got on its legs, together with the others — again got under way and in due course we reached Ramoutsa, where a wedding was in full swing.

We went to see the fun — and a droll affair it was. After various ceremonies had been performed "Praise God from whom all blessing flow" was sung — and all adjourned outside for whisky and beer. I also at this point adjourned. During the night a good old tropical thunderstorm came along and nearly washed us out of our wagons. One of the Jameson warriors declared that he would rather go through the raid again — than such a night.

After three days we were in repair and off again — but such slow work. By this time I had become a bit handy at inspanning. Inspanning is an operation just the reverse of outspanning (the latter easy enough) the former, not quite so easy, while it is often a very exciting business.

This is how it's done — The oxen are driven in from the water or the grass towards the wagons where their presence is required, each driver sorting out his beasts and getting them into position, two and two, side by side. Then trouble frequently begins. The driver goes down the row and slips nooses over the horns of each ox — This at least is what he has to do — but frequently "Bos" objects, turning his horns first one way and then another — giving his gentle guardian much trouble all round, to say nothing of frequent prods with the aforesaid horns.

The rate of travelling is, under favourable circumstances, from two to three miles per hour. But circumstances are sometimes not favourable for example if sand is about, when one's rate of progress is measured by a crawl of from 5 to 500 yards at a stretch — punctuated at intervals by a stop of a couple of minutes for a "blow" — Between Palapye and Palla, we had to do some sixty miles of sand struggling.

At Gaberones, a great meeting between our warriors and the residents who knew them, took place and a ten gallon cask of Cape Smoke was got rid of.

We next reached a place called Sequani where I managed to get in some odds and ends of food — flour, baking powder, tea, sugar, coffee and condensed milk etc.

There was then, a beautiful river in which I swam, though I was afterwards told that it abounded with crocodiles.

While there I met a trader named D . . . by education and manners, a gentleman.

He seemed to take to me, and after a chat, asked me to accept half a sovereign to help me along the road. I thanked him very heartily for his kindness — but would not accept the half sovereign (though half sovereigns were scarce with me). But I did accept from him a letter of introduction to a member of the Willoughby Syndicate at Bulawayo.

Here I had an attack of dysentery, and on top of that, fever, and, to round off matters, a scorpion bite. There was no medicine at hand, but we presently overtook a Dutchman's wagon, and from its owner procured a dose of castor oil, which latter cleared me of what

little energy I had in hand. The roads were vile, and the shaking dreadful, notwithstanding that the Cape cart was placed at my disposal and until Palla was reached no further medicine was possible — Lass very kindly went ahead, and procured brandy. Pontac Chlorodyne and Liebig's extract and bye and bye I got rest and sleep. I had had neither sleep nor freedom from pain since leaving Sequani and as for food, none had — as the story books say — passed my lips for nine days.

At Palla, a pleasant place at Khama's country, we stopped for a day. I then began to pull myself together, and picked up strength and appetite, and things, to me, began — again — to look pleasant.

Now however, our horse and bullock troubles came along. A horse would go off his feed, sicken, and flop down, dead as a door-nail, or an ox would flag a bit, get winded, stop, refuse to go any further, and frequently it, like the horse, would lie down and die. Then would come the dust, or sand, storms, by which we quickly became half blinded, and half choked and our features almost unrecognisable; and no water to drink — let alone to wash in. Now and then, we would come across a pan — a pond or pool the water of which would be rather high to smell and taste — but we were glad of it. During all this the poor oxen had a hard time.

The poor things, willing and unwilling alike, were all most unmercifully flogged, indeed I'm afraid that without the flogging we couldn't have got through. Near to most of the pans were water holes — holes into which the water from the adjacent pans had filtered.

The contents of these holes were more palatable than were the contents of the pans. There was always a push for these water holes, and it was often man versus beast, for a drink. The beast is not content with anything short of a big drink — and he stirs up all the mud there is about — therefore the man tries to get in first, if possible. The stench from the dead oxen lying about had now become very bad — and the road was bad also — so bad, that our last spurt into Palapye only covered one mile per hour.

Palapye, is a collection of kraals — over 2 000 in number — and lies at the foot of a range of kopjes and is not too well supplied with water. Besides the aforesaid kraals, it boasts 2 or 3 stores.

Khama is doing us good service just now by sending on 1 000 or so of his people to work at the Mafeking and Bulawayo railway. I visited one of the three stores, and traded off some bully beef for some condensed milk, castor oil and a pocket handkerchief.

I constructed a large water bag, for we were in for a ride of 60 miles along which we shouldn't see much water, so at least I was told.

After 2 days stay, we left Palapye and once more got on the open veldt — where however the air was heavy and putrid with the stench emitted from the carcasses of poor brutes that had succumbed to the awful and mysterious rinderpest.

Two days out, we were running down a dry sluit (ditch) when all at once one of the boilers, to the rear of which was attached the Cape cart (I being seated on it) gave a sudden lurch, a wriggle, and a heave, and then stopped dead.

I jumped out and ran forrard to see what was the matter, when I found that the linch pin on the turntable on which was placed the boiler had come out — and had allowed the whole show to get loose, and the boiler and Cape cart had got hopelessly mixed. Lass came along and asked me my opinion about it.

He then made use of some expressions and said "I leave it to you, Lighton."

I set to work all I knew, and in 2½ hours got the thing again on its legs, and once again

we were off. I omit the details of the next two days. It was the same old story, no water, plenty of sand, oxen dropping off and dying on the road — said road being already well furnished with the dead and evil smelling oxen left behind by those who had preceded us.

We were now nearing Tati, which place we looked forward to, as a haven of rest, for 2 or 3 days, and at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning — our 42nd day out from Mafeking and 500 miles from thence, we reached the Tati outspan. On counting up my cash assets, I found that I had 2/9, hardly enough to get me a meal at the hotel.

Hearing that there was a want of skilled labour at the Blue Jacket mine, I repaired thither, but couldn't get "on" since on account of the difficulties of transport the mine was stuck for building material and machinery.

I was however told that the Monarch mine, situate about 34 miles N.W. of Tati had room for an engineer. I soon made up my mind — and thither, on my bicycle I went — determining that if unsuccessful I would come back to the wagons and trek to Bulawayo — i.e. — should the oxen last as far.

Thankful I was, when on arriving at the Monarch I was promised work. I returned forthwith to Tati, sold off the remainder of my biscuit (flour and grub generally) for 30/- packed up my traps, bade my 42 days fellow passengers adieu, and with their best wishes for my prosperity I, and my heavily laden bicycle, wheeled out of the outspan in the direction of the Monarch mine.

As I passed out, I left several of our faithful warriors lying about the precincts of the Tati hotel drunk, or ratty.

My health had now reached par again, and generally I was altogether fit, although when I reached the Monarch, I was in about the last stage of "done up-edness" and very — very thirsty.

My journey had taught me much — a good deal — among other things the gentle art of cooking, without having much to cook — or much of the wherewithal with which to cook.

Tati, March 1896.

# How We Became Shona

by Aeneas S. Chigwedere

*"Certainly no people in the country claim the name Mashona (in 1929) as their tribal name and each would prefer to be described by the proper name of his particular group."*

The quotation above comes from the Report of the Language Committee that was submitted to the Southern Rhodesia Government at the end of 1929. The truth of the matter is that not only were there no people in this country who claimed the name Shona but that there were no Shona people at all. The question then is: When did we become Shona and how did this come about?

It is not the aim of the author to persuade present and future generations to shun the name Shona. This is an important aspect of our history. Few educated Zimbabweans realize that we have been anything else other than Shona. Realizing that we have been Shona for hardly sixty years, this suggests to me that within another generation when all our "non-Shona" parents will be dead, it will sound insane to tell the Zimbabweans that they were at one time not Shona. Therefore, I felt it was necessary to bring the present generation into touch with the literature that converted us into the Shona people that we are today.

## Brief Historical Background

Contrary to colonial literature, the Shona are one tribe and have been so for many centuries. This is different from saying that the Shona are one ethnic group. The Tonga group on the periphery is a distinct group. But those Tonga people in our midst have been acculturated and are an integral part of the Shona tribe. By tribe we mean an independent or autonomous political grouping; generally, the majority members of that grouping have a common ancestry; the members speak the same language or dialects of the same language; the group has a common culture. Briefly, such a grouping is a tribe.

That the Shona, by this definition, were, before and after colonialism, one tribe can not be in doubt. But like all other tribes, by 1890, the Shona tribe had segmented into a multiplicity of dynasties. Unfortunately, these are the dynasties the colonial writers have popularized as "tribes". But these so called "tribes" are in fact the clans and clans are no more than segments of a tribe.

We do not know what external dangers might have threatened the ancestors of the Shona before 1500 and how they coped with them. But after 1500, the picture painted by Portuguese records is that there were no serious external dangers that threatened our ancestors. If any, they were able to cope with them. In fact, the real threat to their autonomy came from the Portuguese themselves. From after the murder of Father Goncalo da Silveira in 1561, the Portuguese started to post military detachments into the interior, ostensibly to avenge his death. By 1650, they had done much to fragment the Shona tribe in the east and north-east. But the Shona galvanized their forces and between



1685 and 1695, drove the Portuguese to the sea and out of the area. Although up to 1890 a few Portuguese could be found in our midst, these were isolated traders who were in no way a danger to Shona autonomy.

The significance of this is that the absence of serious external dangers destroyed the political and military cohesion of the Shona. The tribe became complacent for a long time and degenerated. This was easily demonstrated by the advent of the Nguni hordes in the first half of the 19th century. In 1831, Zvangendaba and his Swazi hordes, later to be called Angoni, invaded the country and slaughtered the Rozvi Mambo. The Shona were not able to create a national army to attempt to wipe out the invaders. By 1840, the Ndebele of Mzilikazi had also arrived and they too started to toss the Shona around. In the south-east, the Shangaans were doing exactly the same. Right through, the Shona were unable to create a national army to repel these dangers. Possibly, two or three neighbouring clans occasionally banded together to try what they could against the enemy. But the truth remains that each clan was left to itself and did the best it could for itself.

These events are an expression of the degeneration of the Shona. The symbol of autonomy was no longer the tribe but the clan. Likewise, the symbol of unity was no longer the tribe but the clan. The pride had become the clan mutupo, clan chidao and clan territory. Generally also, each clan had acquired its clan name and whatever common tribal names had existed before, had either fallen into disuse or were now confined to a few scattered clans. These included such names as Tonga, Karanga, Mbire, Rozvi and Nyai all of which had, by 1890, completely lost their original ethnic and political connotations.

What you then find in 1890 is that there is no name to cover all or the majority of the clans in any one region of the country. Each clan simply stood by itself and had its own clan name. Take the province we call Manicaland today: the name Manyika applied to Mutasa, Mutasa's descendants, Mutasa's subjects and Mutasa's territory only until after the advent of colonialism. Makoni's territory, clan and dialect were Hungwe; Marange's were Bocha; Zimunya's were Jindwi and so it went on. If you move over to what we call Mashonaland today, the picture is exactly the same. There was not one clan that was called Zezuru or Shona. Instead, you find Seke's clan and territory called Harava; Chinamora's called Shawasha; Mangwende's called Nhowe; Nyandoro's called Tsunga; Svosve's called Mbire; Nyashanu's called Hera; and Zvimba's called Ngonya or Mutoko's called Budya.

The province today called Masvingo was not any different. Before colonialism, there was not one clan there that was called Karanga. By 1890, this name was applied to south-western Matabeleland only. The people of Chibi called themselves Mhari; those of Chirimuhanzu (Chilimanzi) called themselves Govera; those of Gutu called themselves Rufura; those of Mapanzure called themselves Hera; those of Mazungunye, Nyajena, Mugabe and their associates called themselves Duma; those of Jiri called themselves Rozvi and so it went on. Examine any other region and you find the picture exactly the same. Cross over to the north, the province, popularly called Korekore and you will find such clans as Gova, Nyungwe, Tavara, Doma, Chikunda, and Tonga. There is not one clan called Shona or Korekore.

### **Advent of Colonialism**

In 1890, the British South Africa Company invaded Mashonaland and that marked the beginning of the colonization of the country. Where they got the name "Mashonaland" from can be only a matter of conjecture. Certainly C.F. Selous the famous hunter, had used

it before. In 1890, he guided the Pioneer Column into the country. One would like to believe that the invading company was influenced by him in applying this name to part of this country.

In 1893, the same company invaded Matabeleland to complete its seizure of the territory between the Limpopo and the Zambezi. In 1894, a separate administration was established for Matabeleland. However, in 1895, Mashonaland and Matabeleland were united and were given the name Rhodesia after Rhodes. But even thereafter, the government saw the country in two segments, Mashonaland and Matabeleland. Matabeleland had a semblance of homogeneity. The dominant ethnic group there was called Ndebele and its language, Sindebele. The Shona groups there had already been Ndebelized. But the situation in Mashonaland was very different. Although the area was called Mashonaland by the colonial administrator, there were no people there called Shona nor was there a language called Shona. Moreover, there was not one clan that could claim superiority over or seniority to all the others to enable the administration to impose its name and dialect on all the others. Furthermore, the dialects of the common language they all spoke diverged rather disturbingly from the east to the centre; from the centre to the south; from the centre to the north; and from the centre to the west. Which of these was the standard and what was it called?

For as long as there was no formal education in the country, maybe the maze of clans, clan names and dialects did not matter much to the administration. But as formal education caught on and some standard (national) examinations were contemplated for Africans, some common orthography became necessary. Some name for that orthography had to be coined. Some name for the people represented by that language had also to be found. How could this best be done?

The work of the administration had rather been simplified by the missionaries. Out of over three hundred major clans, they had created five regional "tribes". In that process, they had also reduced all the Shona dialects to five regional dialects. Also in the process, they had developed five regional Shona orthographies. Possibly, the administration could simply pick one of these and impose it on all Mashonaland. Possibly, also, it could pick one of the names of the five new regional "tribes" and impose it on the whole area so far called Mashonaland. But which five were they? These were Karanga, Korekore, Manyika, Shangwe and Zezuru and how they came into existence is of interest to us here.

When the British South Africa Company colonized this country, the missionaries also opened their roads into the new colony. But these missionaries were more heterogeneous than the Shona i.e. they belonged to different denominations and conflicted among themselves. Each denomination was intent on carving its own "colony" within the colony. The American Methodists established themselves in the east and developed two centres, one near Mutare (Old Mutare Mission) and the second one in Chipinge, that competed for leadership. The Chipinge centre championed the local dialect called Chindau and would have liked the whole of what we call Manicaland today to be called something like Ndauland and speaking a dialect called Chindau. But the Old Mutare centre, with its printing press, close proximity to Mutare and to the railway line and generally easier communications system, won greater influence and stamped its will on the emerging religious province. It favoured the name Karanga for what we call Manicaland today. This had been gleaned from Portuguese documents. So, because of the greater influence of Old Mutare Mission, the region became known as Karanga and the Shona

dialect spoken in the whole eastern region also became Karanga.

The interesting point to note is that there was not one clan in the province that called itself Karanga nor was there a Shona dialect there that was called Chikaranga. Even the Portuguese documents that make references to "Karanga people" and starting off with Alcacova's of November 1506, did in no way refer to present day Manicaland. So these missionaries were after a common name that suited their needs whether or not the name had before been associated with the area.

The southern region, that we call the Masvingo Province today (plus parts of Midlands) was colonized largely by the Dutch Reformed Church from South Africa. These established themselves first at what became Morgenster Mission and this station became the nuclear centre for all D.R.C. operations in the region. Unknown to the American missionaries, the Dutch missionaries called their new colony Karangaland; their subjects Makaranga and their language Chikaranga. This too had been gleaned from Portuguese documents. Here too, the people referred to as Karanga by the Portuguese had nothing to do with the province we today call Masvingo.

When the American missionaries discovered that their name (Karanga) had also been applied by the Dutch to their own colony as well, they (the Americans) decided to abandon it and to look for a new name for their colony. They said they had nothing in common with the Dutch and would not stand the idea of using a common name with them. A number of names were thrown up and examined for possible adoption for what we call the Manicaland Province today. One of them was Makoni and the language was to be called Chimakoni (and not Chiungwe). If this had won the day, Manicaland would have been called Makoni, speaking a Shona dialect called Chimakoni. But Old Mutare mission was in Mutasa's Chiefdom. A suggestion was thrown up that Mutasa's chiefdom appeared to be the biggest, most powerful and possibly the oldest (which was not true) of the dynasties in the eastern colony. That chiefdom was called Manyika; its dialect was called Chimanyika. This was proposed for adoption by the whole eastern colony and it won. From that point on, the eastern province that had just become Karangaland, changed over to Manicaland speaking a dialect called Chimanyika. This was to include Chipinge and Chimanmani whose missionaries wanted to constitute them into a separate province speaking Chindau.

As the Dutch colony was developing in the south and the American colony in the east, the Catholic/British Methodist colony was simultaneously developing to the north of Karangaland, to the west of Manicaland and centering around Harare. The fathers of this central colony were the Jesuits at Chishawasha. They were quick to establish a printing press and started to disseminate literature including readers, Bibles and hymns, to the few schools already in the area. They were supported by the British Methodists who had established themselves at Epworth Mission (Chiremba) and at Waddilove Institute (then known as Masvingo).

But what name was to be given to this central colony? Opinion was rather divided on this one. Father Hartman, a pioneer in local African grammar occasionally referred to the local language as Mashona Language. But some of his colleagues such as Father Moreau referred to it as Chiswina. Father Biehler also preferred Chiswina and so did the sisters at Monte Cassino Mission. The Methodists prevaricated between using the names Zezuru and Karanga. Gradually, the name Zezuru won wider support and so the colony to the west of Manicaland and north of Karangaland became Zezuruland with its people known

as Mazeduru (those of the Uplands i.e. the Highlanders) and their dialect called Chizezuru.

As in Masvingo, the interesting point to note here is that there was not a single clan in this central colony that knew itself as Zezuru. As pointed out earlier, the area knew of the Harava, Hera, Nhowe, Mbire, Rozvi, Tsunga Ngonya etc., and never of the Zezuru. But because the missionaries chose the name Zezuru for application to their central colony, a regional "tribe" called Zezuru and speaking a dialect called Chizezuru came into existence after 1890.

By 1930, therefore, we had three solid religious and linguistic provinces in the country (excluding Matebeleland) and these were Karangaland, in the south; Manicaland in the east and Zezuruland in the centre. The western province (Gokwe) and the northern province (Mt. Darwin and Guruve) were virtually untouched by the missionaries and were not thought much about. The Language Committee of 1929, to which I shall refer shortly, decided to call them Shangwe and Korekore speaking Chishangwe and Chikorekore respectively. We therefore ended up in 1930 with the Africans outside Matebeleland and divided into five linguistic (and religious) regions and these were Karangaland speaking Chikaranga, Korekoreland speaking Chikorekore; Shangweland speaking Chishangwe, Manicaland speaking Chimanyika, and Zezuruland speaking Chizezuru. These were all new creations altogether in the country. The modern Zimbabwean finds this rather difficult to accept because he is of the impression that these names and regions had always been there before 1890.

Both the missionaries and the colonial administration grew to see the Shona in five regional tribes and speaking five major dialects of the same language. Not surprisingly, the literature for the Shona was written in those dialects except that the American champions of the Ndaup people continued to battle for the recognition of a separate linguistic zone for the Ndaup people but lost in 1930. The best evidence for this may be a brief examination of the literature published before 1930.

#### Literature for Karangaland

- (1) 1893, Matabele and Makalake Vocabularies, by M.E. Weale.
- (2) 1899, Buke eo ko Ravisa Tshekaranga (Elementary Reader) by Lutheran Missionaries.
- (3) 1910, Nziyo dze Chikaranga, Morgenster Mission Press.
- (4) 1915, A Manual of the Chikaranga Language by Mrs. C.S. Louw.
- (5) 1920, English Book for Va – Karanga, Morgenster.
- (6) 1925, Primer for Vakaranga, Morgenster.
- (7) 1926, English – Chikaranga Dictionary, Morgenster.

#### Literature for Manicaland

- (1) 1898, St. Mark's Gospel and Hymns in *Chino*, the language of Mashonaland, S.P.C.K. *Chino* here may possibly be Chivanhu.
- (2) 1900, Prayers and Hymns for Church people in *Chino*, S.P.C.K.
- (3) 1903, St. Mark's Gospel in the Chizwina language, S.P.C.K., translated by E.H. Etheridge.
- (4) 1908, Heroes of the Faith in the Chiswina language, S.P.C.K.

- (5) 1908, First Primer in Chimanyika, S.P.C.K.
- (6) 1910, Second Primer in Chimanyika, S.P.C.K.
- (7) 1912, Manyika – English Phrase and Conversation Book by F. Mayr, Marianhill.
- (8) 1913, Material relating to the Nyika people in Mashonaland by Brother Aegidius Pfister, Marianhill.
- (9) 1914, First Primer in the Chiswina Language, S.P.C.K.
- (10) 1921, Chiswina Primer, S.P.C.K.
- (11) 1929, The Acts of the Apostles in Chiswina, S.P.C.K.

#### **Literature for Zezuruland**

- (1) 1893, An Outline of a Grammar of the Mashona Language, by Father A.M. Hartmann.
- (2) 1894, English — Mashona Dictionary, by Father A.M. Hartmann.
- (3) 1900, A First Catechism of Christian Doctrine in English and Chiswina by Father Moreau.
- (4) 1905, Rugwaro rgwa Kunemba Chiswina.
- (5) 1906, English — Chiswina Dictionary with an Outline Chiswina Grammar by Father E. Biehler, Chishawasha.
- (6) 1906, Four methods of Teaching English to Mashwina by Father E. Biehler, Chishawasha.
- (7) 1910, A Karanga Progressive Reading Book by Father F. Marconnes, Chishawasha.
- (8) 1916, Rugwaro rgwo kutanga Kunemba Chizezuru by Monte Cassino Sisters Macheke.
- (9) 1920, Chizezuru and Chinyanja Songs by the Salvation Army.
- (10) 1927, Rugwaro rgwe Chipiri Kunemba Chizezuru, by Monte Cassino Sisters, Marianhill.

I believe that this literature gives you a very fair picture of the linguistic muddles prevailing in the country before 1930. There was no literature for Korekoreland and Shangweland because there were no schools yet in those areas. Schools were established after 1930 and this was after we had all been converted into Shona people.

One thing emerges very clearly from this literature: that there were no people and no language or dialect in this country called Shona. The only champion of the name Shona was Father Hartman of Chishawasha. Indeed, the literature cited above speaks for itself. Even that Chishawasha stopped making references to Shona people and Shona language after 1900. When and how then did we become Shona?

#### **The Language Committee**

In 1929, the settler administration set up a committee called the Language Committee to decide on a common name for the people and language in Southern Rhodesia outside Matebeleland. Although the administration referred to that area as Mashonaland, its people and language were not officially called Shona; there was no common name for them. The Language Committee was to propose a common name for both the people and language. Its chairman was the Rev. Father B.H. Barnes, C.R. of St.

Augustines; its other two members were the Rev. Father A. Burbridge, S.J. of Chishawasha and the Rev. Mrs. A.A. Louw of the Dutch Reformed Church. Towards the end of 1929, the Committee submitted its recommendations to the administration. For our purposes here, the relevant part of its recommendations reads as follows –

“The Committee have come to the conclusion that the only name possible for the language which may be expected ultimately to result from the proposals made is the name “Shona” and accordingly we propose to produce a Shona Grammar and a Shona Vocabulary. We hope to unify in the fulness of time the dialects of the area generally and officially known as Mashonaland and the name for the language should preferably be one which indicates this width of range. No name but ‘Shona’ has been suggested which can do this simply. It has been widely felt that the name ‘Shona’ is inaccurate and unworthy, that it is not the true name of any of the peoples whom we propose to group under the term ‘Shona — Speaking people’ and further that it lies under a strong suspicion of being a name given in contempt by the enemies of the tribes. It is pretty certainly a foreign name and as such is very likely to be uncomplimentary but in point of fact its etymology is extremely uncertain and no one can dogmatise about it. . . . . The idea that it is a contemptuous nickname is widespread . . . . . It is true that the name Mashona is not pleasing to the natives, but that may very well be simply because it is a group name imposed from without and ignoring all true tribal distinctions . . . . . With a certain reluctance, we recommend the name Shona for the unified language, while we would be quite ready to accept any more worthy alternative.”

Also in 1929, Professor Clement Doke of the University of the Witwatersrand was granted a Fellowship for Research by the Carnegie Cooperation. He came to S. Rhodesia to start the process of unifying the African dialects into one language with one orthography and to be called Shona. In 1930, he submitted his recommendations to the settler government (Report on the Unification of Shona Dialects) and the first three recommendations are as follows –

- (1) That there be two official native languages recognized in Southern Rhodesia, one for the main Shona-speaking area, and the other for the Ndebele — speaking area.
- (2) That one unified literary language be recognized to serve the main Shona area, excluding the Western (Kalanga) group.
- (3) That the name of the unified language be Shona, and in the Vernacular, Chishona.

It was on the basis of these two Reports, that of the Language Committee and that of Professor Doke, that the S. Rhodesia Government accepted the name Mashona for all Africans outside Matebeleland and, Chishona, for their new language resulting from the unification process. In 1930, a directive was sent to district officers and mission stations to the effect that all Africans outside Matebeleland were from then on to be referred to as Mashona and their language, Chishona and that all literature thereafter must refer only to Mashonaland, the Mashona and Chishona unless it referred to Matebeleland. So, in 1930, the first Shona people were born in Zimbabwe. The oldest of them are very nearly two generations old today (1989).

That today, we see ourselves as nothing but Shona and that we are clearly of the impression that we have always been Shona demonstrates the power of the pen. The settler regime and the missionaries had power to call us by any name and that name would have caught on exactly in the way ‘Shona’ did. Not surprisingly, however, our elders out in the

rural areas and who did not get the opportunity to go to school, have no association whatever with the name Shona. They do not understand what you mean when you refer to them and their language as 'Shona' and may only glare at you.

Lastly, where did the white chroniclers get the name Shona and Mashobaland from? They did not create it from nothing; they certainly derived it from some word or name somehow associated with the area we today called Mashonaland. Its origin is certainly highly controversial. The Report of the Languages Committee again makes this very clear –

“It (the etymology of 'Shona') has been connected with svina or tsvina, dirt. It has been connected with the Portuguese suino, swine; it has been connected with shona or chona, to despise; Fr. Torrend derives it from Sena and makes the language a relation of the Sena language; it has been suggested that the Zulu-speaking raiders from the East Coast used it to describe their victims as people of the West, from the Zulu word — shona, to set of the sun; and it has been stated that the Mandebele on the west called a hill to the north-east of Gwelo in the early days Tshona and the people beyond it amaTshona.”

One thing is certain: the name originated from the Zulu/Suthu people to the South and west of the Shona. These are also the people who accompanied early prospectors and hunters such as Hartley, Baines and Selous. It was also they who, as interpreters and cattle herders, accompanied the Pioneer Column into Mashonaland in 1890. This explains why the early white settlers spelt so many of our names with a 'U' e.g. Umtali for Mutare, Umniati for Munyati, Umsweswe for Muzvezve, Umtegeza for Mutekedza. A second thing is also certain: that the settlers derived the name Shona from the Zulu/Suthu word Tshona, to disappear or set (of the sun). They referred to Mashonaland as Matshonalanga i.e. the country on the setting side of the sun — the western region or district. But how could this be when the Zulu/Suthu people were on the southern and western (Tswana) sides of Mashonaland? In what way was Matshonalanga on the setting side of the sun?

To understand the origin of this, you have to go back to about the year 1 000 A.D. when Mashonaland was a Ka-Langa country. KaLanga means Easterners (those on the rising side of the sun) and I devoted a whole book to these people — *The Karanga Empire*, B.F.A. 1985. I argued in the above book that these were the people represented archaeologically by Zimbabwe Period II that starts between 700 and 800 A.D. By 1 000 A.D. these people had spread from the east coast to the central regions of Mashonaland. Their kingdom was divided into two broad regions, the eastern lowlands and the western highlands. Their word for rise (of the sun) was Puma; their name for sun was Langa. Their word for setting (of the sun) was Tshona. The result was that the eastern lowlands were referred to as Puma – Langa or Mpumalanga; the western highlands were referred to as Tshonalanga or Matshonalanga.

Around 1 000 A.D. these Kalanga people were invaded by the Mutapas and were driven to the south across the Limpopo and to the west into Botswana. They became the ancestors of the Zulu/Xosa /Suthu /Tswana groups. From the south and west, they continued to call the highlands of Zimbabwe Matshonalanga because this is the name by which the region was known by their ancestors. When early explorers, prospectors and hunters came into the country, they all came from the south or south-west. They got wind

of the fact that the region north of the Limpopo and west of Matebeleland was called Matshonalanga and they distorted it to Mashonaland. F.C. Selous was definitely one of them. The Pioneer Column and the British South Africa Company gleaned this from their records and applied it to the whole area north of the Limpopo and west of Matebeleland. So, our country became Mashonaland and after 1930, we too became Shona, speaking a language called Chishona.



# The Bow McLachlan Traction Engine – A Postscript

by P.G. Locke

The Bow McLachlan traction engine as described in *Heritage No.7* (Locke, 1987) is an imposing machine of almost gargantuan proportions whose arrival in 1897 and subsequent operation in the then Rhodesia must have generated considerable local interest. It seems almost inconceivable, therefore, that its presence could have escaped the attention of the incipient but astute news media of the day. Nevertheless, no report of the enormous machine has been detected in the contemporary local newspapers — although it was not possible to conduct an exhaustive search.

Equally surprising is the fact that no historic photographs of the Bow McLachlan traction engine were located during investigations over a 20 year period into the history of the vehicle — despite the existence of a fairly comprehensive photographic record of other traction engines of the period in this country. It is of interest to note, therefore, that a photograph of the Bow McLachlan has recently surfaced in England as a result of information on the machine being supplied to the Road Locomotive Society. Even more surprising, but perhaps of significance, is the disclosure that the Bow McLachlan appears, apparently misidentified, in advertising literature for Fowler traction engines — as described in *The Road Locomotive Society Journal* (Gilbert, 1988).

The illustration (see photograph) is from an undated Fowler Catalogue (Part II, No. 61, *Agricultural and Road Locomotives*) and is captioned “Fowler Trains in Rhodesia”. Incredibly, however, neither of the two engines depicted is actually a Fowler and it is apparent that those responsible for this otherwise well produced publication are guilty of mistakenly promoting their competitors’ products! According to Gilbert (1988),

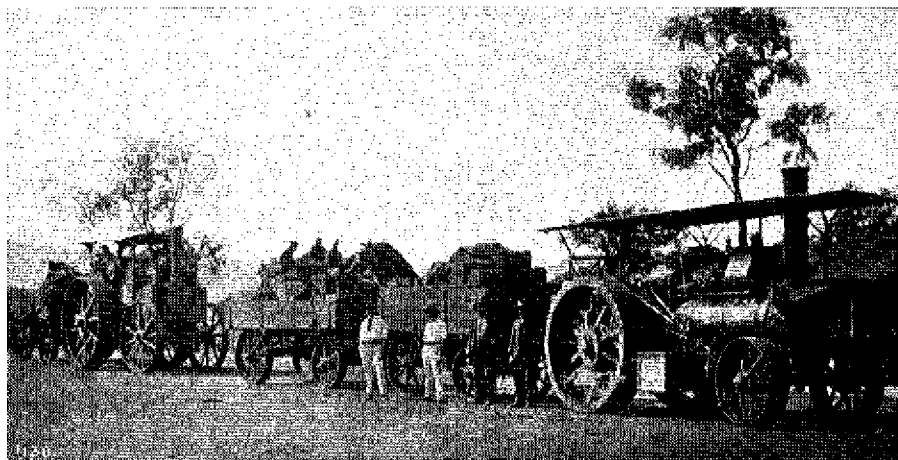


Illustration from Fowler Catalogue Part 2 No. 61 erroneously captioned “Fowler Trains in Rhodesia”. Actually neither traction engine is a Fowler!

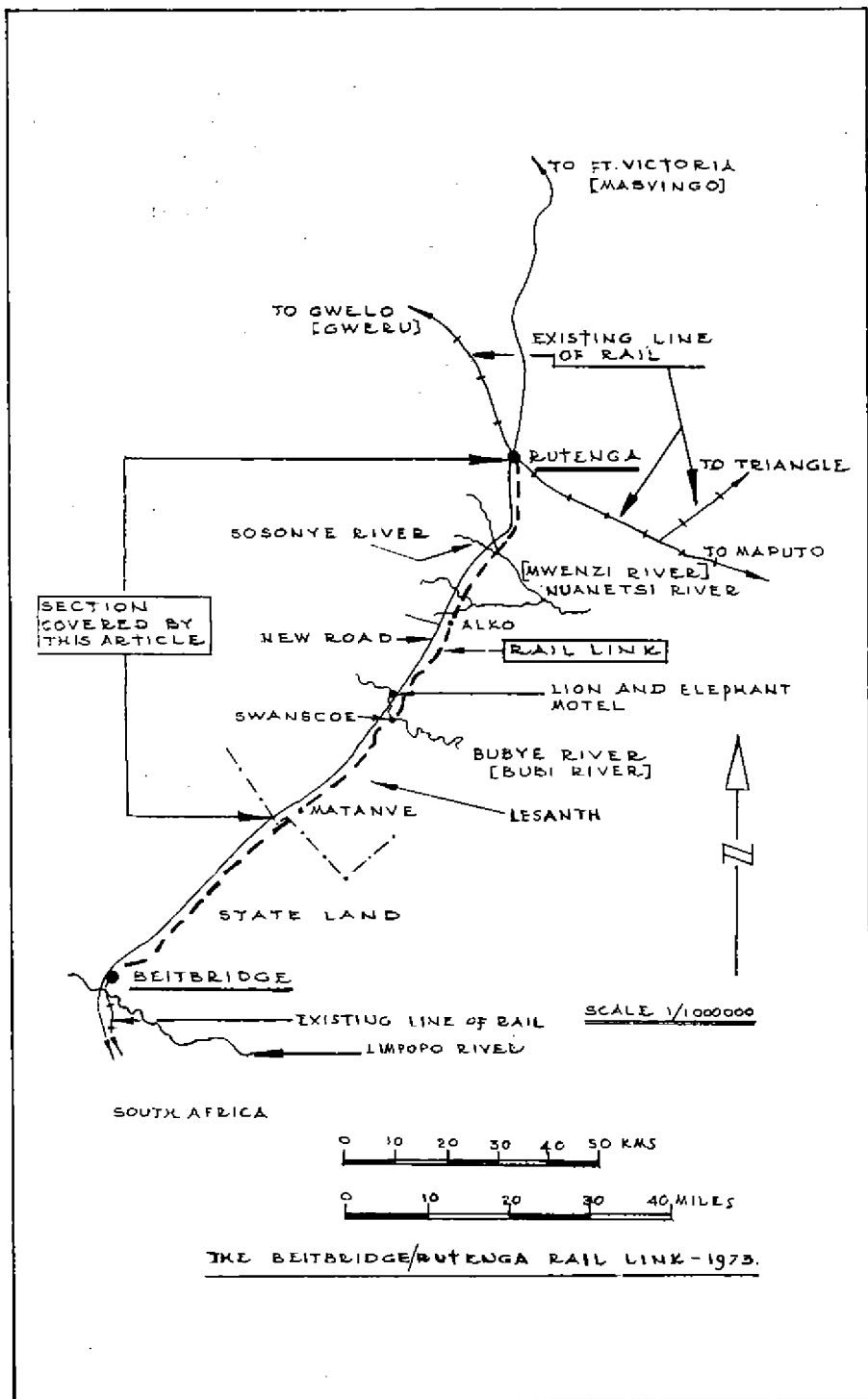
“the leading engine displays all the characteristics of a top slide Aveling compound (traction engine) while the second engine has (previously) defied all attempts at identification.” Comparison of the Bow McLachlan traction engine with the Fowler Catalogue illustration, however, indicates without doubt that this machine is a Bow McLachlan. Not only does this traction engine possess characteristics peculiar to the two Bow McLachlans specially ordered by Manica Trading Company for service in Rhodesia but it is also portrayed in a role which the one surviving machine is known to have played in the early years of this century when in the ownership of H.S. Henderson V.C., i.e., haulage using ox-wagon trains.

It seems entirely feasible, therefore, that the illustrated machine is indeed the same Bow McLachlan which now stands at the entrance to Mutare Museum!

At least one small facet of history is now no longer distorted by a Fowl(er) – up!

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# The Beitbridge – Rutenga Rail Link

by B.G. Abrahams

It is seldom that a valuation surveyor has the opportunity of playing a part in the making of history anywhere, particularly in Zimbabwe. History is history, and cannot be obliterated by any process of ignoring it, for it is something that has actually taken place. Though people may dislike and disapprove of what has taken place, the fact remains that it did take place, whether we approve or not.

To ignore certain phases in the development of a country and its history, is to present an incomplete picture of the past. If these gaps are not filled in by the recording of actual happenings, then they can become figments of someone's imagination and, in the context of history are, I would suggest, of no serious consequence unless, of course, they are believed.

The Beitbridge — Rutenga rail link did take place; it is a fact; is with us today, and I was involved in it. I suppose that in recording the meagre part I played in its coming into being in 1973, the first direct rail link between South Africa and Rhodesia as Zimbabwe was then called, it would not be without interest to very generally note the development of at least part of the rail system to, and within, Rhodesia.

The first line of rail within Rhodesia was completed on 19th October, 1897, when Harold Pauling's construction train steamed into Gubulawayo (Bulawayo). This was a result of a conversation in Bulawayo between George Pauling, Harold's first cousin, and Cecil Rhodes in 1893. Rhodes wanted the railway, which then terminated at Mafeking, to be continued to Bulawayo, and George Pauling went to England in 1895 to arrange for the finance and construction of the first 100 miles of the 500 mile line. Why only 100 miles, I do not know?

George Pauling was English born, and at the age of 20 went to South Africa where he and his family, in 1877, founded the civil engineering contracting firm of Pauling & Company Limited, which subsequently built railways all over the world.

In May of 1899, the line from Beira reached Salisbury as Harare was then called, and in October, 1902, the Salisbury — Bulawayo line was completed with the last link 80 kilometres east of Bulawayo. By the 25th April, 1904, the line to Victoria Falls had been finished. So it was not until 86 years ago, within living memory of a few, that one could travel from South Africa, via Rhodesia, to the port of Beira.

Incidentally, Pauling built a line from Salisbury to Ayrshire Mine, to the North of Banket, in 1902. The Ayrshire railway, 120 kilometres in length, is no more, and its terminal station in Salisbury, known as Salisbury A, between the main Bulawayo — Beira line and the east end of Manica Road, was long ago demolished. This line went round the Police complex at the east end of North Avenue, thence parallel with the Borrowdale Road, through Mount Pleasant and between the Lomagundi Road and Broadlands Road, to link with Avondale Halt, now only remembered by the small road called Halt Way. Not too long ago, I used to get on the train at the Avondale Halt, en-route to Sinoia as Chinhoyi

was then called, for it was only a mile from where I then lived, and saved me going to Salisbury Station.

However, back to my part in the Beitbridge — Rutenga rail link. The then *Rhodesian Financial Gazette* of 24th August, 1973, announced that “There is a lot of travelling ahead for George Abrahams in the next few months. He has been given the task of ruling on the payment to be made by the Railways to land-owners along the proposed Rutenga — Beitbridge rail link”. In other words, I was the valuation surveyor/arbitrator. The short article finished by saying “Neither Mr. Abrahams nor the Railways would speculate on how big the pay-out is likely to be”, which is hardly surprising, as it would have been most improper for either of us to have done so.

The “lot of travelling”, sounded to me as if I was likened to blazing the trail from Cape to Cairo whereas, in point of fact, I was to drive down, establish my base somewhere along the future line of rail, and do a lot of footslogging thereafter — all during the rainy season. By the time I came onto the scene, the 60 metre width line of rail had been surveyed and generally roughly cleared, and work on culverts and piers were in hand.

The newly aligned 6,703 metre (22 feet) tarmat road from Beitbridge to Fort Victoria as Masvingo was then called had been completed, so far as I remember, in 1972, and the rail stripe was to run a little to the east, and roughly parallel to this road. I commenced my eventual report by saying “both for economic and strategic reasons it had long been considered that a direct rail link between South African and Rhodesian Railways systems was desirable and in order to activate this, it is intended to link Beitbridge with Rutenga by rail”.

My job was to assess compensation as at March/April 1973 (these notes will not deal with this aspect, which is of interest only to a few) for 87 kilometres (52,25 miles) of rail strip from Rutenga southwards. The rest of the strip to Beitbridge was over State land and therefore not a subject of the exercise.

My then assistant, Cuan Marsh, a tall, big and very fit young man, who had been with me for years, was not particularly enamoured by the prospect when I told him about the job, for we both knew that tramping up and down over 87 kilometres of very roughly cleared, muddy land during the wet weather was unlikely to prove a picnic. I suggested that it would do him some good, and possibly kill me — neither of which observations served to console him in the least.

The job involved considering the interests of the Nuanetsi — Beitbridge Rural Council (now the Beitbridge District Local Authority), twelve ranch owners whose lands were used for cattle and game ranching, and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, as the rail strip would take a total of 597,20 hectares (1 475,68 acres) of land off the ranches and rural council land. The sketch plan indicates the new main road and the line taken by the rail strip.

So whilst the compensation, irrespective of the cost of accommodation works, such as putting in cattle grids, fencing, gates, re-siting reservoirs, boreholes, etc., was itself not large, for one was generally dealing with ranching land and injurious affection, severance and disturbance, a lot of ground had to be covered to obtain a picture, not only of the land to be acquired, but of the ranches as a whole. This involved a very general inspection of each ranch in the vicinity of the rail strip, the largest of which was 323,438 hectares (799 217 acres) in extent. It could hardly be compared to considering a one acre back garden in Bulawayo or Umtali as Mutare was then called.

We set out on 19th October, 1973, and, as I had a survey to do in Fort Victoria, there we first went, I'd booked into the Lion and Elephant Motel, at the Buby River, but by the time we had finished in Fort Victoria, it was getting late, and we were bowling along the road towards the Buby River when dusk fell. I was driving pretty fast down a straight section of this excellent road, when from the righthand side, leapt an enormous Kudu. To swerve away, which was what one instinctively tended to do, might well have turned the car over, so I kept on. The antelope literally sailed over the bonnet, and for at least half a minute neither Cuan, nor I, spoke. It seemd that luck was on our side — on this occasion.

That evening in the bar there were a few local residents to whom I started to chat, and steered the conversation around to the local ranchers, in order to try to find out something about them. In other words, who I was going to meet. Only one, it appeared, would be difficult and he, I was told, would be unlikely to be even prepared to talk to me. My plan had been to commence at the Rutenga end of the link and work down towards Beitbridge, but I now felt that I should first see the "difficult one" — so off we went. We arrived shortly after breakfast at the homestead door, and knocked. It was opened by a very pleasant looking woman, and I asked if the rancher was in, to which a booming voice in the background said "Who's that?". In we went, expecting the worst, and the reverse was the case. We were offered breakfast, which we declined, but we did have tea. The upshot of the "difficult one" was that we were not only invited to dinner, but to stay on the ranch whenever we were in the vicinity!

So having established a good relationship with the so-called "difficult one", we went off to Rutenga. In every case I made it clear that I was looking at the problem objectively, and showed them on a plan the land which was to be taken. I then explained the many factors which had to be taken into account when assessing compensation, the matter of accommodation works and, finally, that my fees would be paid by the Railway Authority. After that, I asked the owner to show me round so that I could make the necessary notes to enable me to value. This was the *modus operandi* in every case and resulted in a first class relationship being established which was essential if the job was to be completed as speedily as possible.

At Rutenga we commenced work, which was hard going for along much of the line of rail tractors, earthmoving equipment, lorries and tree fellers had been working and mud, felled trees and broken down undergrowth was the order of the day. Everyone was working too hard to take much notice of us, but whenever we required assistance to get across streams, gullies and the like, we only had to ask, and helped we were. Nobody enquired as to what we were doing, which was surprising, for everyone but us were dressed in dungarees, whereas we wore bush shirts with our trousers stuffed into gum boots. We looked very different, except for the mud we gradually collected on our gum boots, which was easily hosed off, but not so off our trousers. All in all, it was a plodding, muddy and wet business.

The reader may well ask why we bothered to tramp around under such conditions when we could possibly have obtained a good picture of the operations from the edge of the strip. The simple answer is that we wanted to see what was going on on the further edge of the strip and how the lands were affected and, more important still, so that I could say that I had inspected all parts of the project.

All went well until after we had passed the Nuanetsi (as Mwenezi was then called) River, when we had to get over the Sussonye River, which was not very wide, but was very

wet as I discovered when I missed my footing on some planking and went in. Whilst this did not require an air-sea rescue operation, I had no alternative but to carry on, after emptying the water out of my gum boots, walking around like a half-drowned rat until my clothing gradually dried off. It was pointless walking back to the car, then driving to the motel to change, for the car seats would have been saturated, and I would, in any case, have dried off by the time I arrived. The next river was the Inyetenga which although small, I made damn sure that I did not have another dip!

So on we tramped, or drove, until finally we completed the Lesanth Ranch inspection, at the southern end, at which was the Mtetengwe Communal Land, where my responsibility ceased.

Were I an engineer, or contractor, a story of the continuous difficulties they were having to surmount, would have evolved. However, Cuan and I were merely surveyors tramping and stumbling along with our clip-boards and pencils, endeavouring to keep dry. Even so, we feel we played a small part in this historical occasion.

# Lodge Salisbury Kilwinning – 75 Years On

By  
Roland C. Smith

*This is an address given on 28th October 1986 at Lodge Salisbury Kilwinning No. 1097 S.C. in the Freemasons Hall, Gaul Avenue Harare, on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Lodge by a Past Master, Bro. Roland C. Smith.*

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation of the help that I have received from Bro. Cyril Logan, a P.M. of this Lodge, the late Bro. Tony Tanser's book *Salisbury – A Scantling of Time*, Bro. Ray Morgan's enthusiastic support – and there will be others, who if not mentioned by name, have assisted – to one and all, my sincere thanks.

Well, Brethren (hereafter referred to as BB) it is the second half of the year 1911 here in Salisbury as Harare was then called – I wonder if all present tonight will readily appreciate what it was really like. Stand in the middle of Manica Road today between First and Angwa Streets and look around you – apart from modern facades and colours, most of the buildings are the same – but remember there were no macadamised roads, no traffic lights, no radio, TV, neon signs or the like – a mere handful of motor cars, a large number of bicycles – the odd ox wagon, with its span of twelve or sixteen oxen, might be making its way slowly up the road with the intermittent crack of a raw hide whip and raising a massive cloud of dust that covered all and sundry as it creaked past. The European women, who were shopping at Store Brothers further down Manica Road, would all be wearing full length skirts, and wide brimmed hats with parasols to protect them from the sun. Few shops or houses enjoyed the great comfort of electric light, as the rate payers were at logger heads with the Municipality over their charges – is it all that different today? – and a Mr W G McMuldrow, of whom we shall hear later, having just left the Cape Peninsula Lighting Co, was the Town Electrical Engineer. There were but a few double storey buildings – the Board of Executors building, still standing today on the corner of Manica Road and Angwa Street, was indeed a skyscraper, if such a word was then being used, as a third floor had been added on to it – one Frances Masey, more of him anon also, was the architect.

Masonically, and this is of prime interest to all of us, there was only one Lodge in operation – that of Rhodesia Lodge, No 2479 EC or Founder Lodge as we know it today. It had been erected, note the use of that word which holds such a special appeal, way back in 1895 and it now boasted a Temple of its own near the corner of Manica Road and Sinoia Street, almost where there is a modern Zimbank building of today – the Temple, incidentally, was frequently used for dances because of its proximity to the Kopje Club in nearby Albion Road.

So, by 1911 there was basically a realisation that the erection of a Scottish Lodge in Salisbury was long overdue. The Year Book of the Grand Lodge of Scotland carries the detail of there being three Lodges founded on the 2nd november of that year – they were Roof of the World, No 1094, Lima, Peru in South America, Mordustoun Castle, No 1096 (Lanarkshire Middle Ward) Motherwell in Scotland and our own Lodge Salisbury





**Masonic Temple, Sinoia Street, Vacated 1956**

Kilwinning, No 1097, (hereafter referred to as LSK) — the BB here this evening will be interested to know that we are exchanging greetings by agenda and telegram with our two true Sister Lodges. But, as many will realise, Salisbury Kilwinning was certainly not the first Scottish Lodge erected in the then Southern Rhodesia — it was preceded by Allan Wilson, No 851, in May 1897 in Bulawayo; Lodge Gwelo, No 876, in May 1898; Umtali Kilwinning, No 1054, in February 1909 and Lodge Lomagundi, No 1075, in August 1910 in present day Chinhoyi.

The Founder members were ten in number and the Founders meeting was held in Bro. Frances Masey's home in Union Avenue on 8th September 1911 — there were four BB present and apologies were recorded from three others. It is of particular interest to note that the ten Founder Members were all members of Lodge Cape Town Kilwinning which was erected in 1904 and of which Bro. McMuldrow was the Founder Master — however all except one, Bro. Flett whose Mother Lodge was Kilwinning No 0, had been initiated in other Constitutions — thus was laid the foundation of the long and happy association that this Lodge has always enjoyed in so many ways with our Sister Constitutions — as an example you will see how our Installations are known as the "Master's own night" in that he can invite whoever he likes from the Scottish and Sister Constitutions to assist in the ceremony provided they are of installed rank.

I would particularly like at this stage to refer to Bro. William McMuldrow — Salisbury Kilwinning was the second Scottish Lodge behind which he had been the moving light. We still possess some of his hand written note books that clearly indicated the procedures that he had in mind when Cape Town Kilwinning was erected and that were carried over to this Lodge — in fact until the receipt of the printed rituals, the BB worked from separate rituals that Bro. McMuldrow had prepared in hand written form for each of the Office Bearers of the Lodge — a few examples are here on the Secretary's table. From this spring two important details — firstly, our present day unique ritual which varies only slightly in one or two minor details from the original hand written version and is utilised only by three Lodges in Southern Africa, Pinelands Kilwinning, Cape Town

Kilwinning and ourselves; and secondly, the layout of the Temple for our workings with the Junior and Senior Wardens being positioned in the south west and north west as per the structure of the beautiful Die Goede Hoop Temple in The Gardens, Cape Town, used by the aforementioned other two Lodges, which is of a very long dimension from east to west and particularly narrow in width from north to south, leaving no space for the Junior Warden to be comfortably positioned in the true south.

There were certainly no delays once the Founders meeting had been held — consider the date of that meeting on 11th September and the receipt of the Charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland in advance of the date of Inauguration on St Andrews Day, 30th November. It must be fully appreciated that at that time there were certainly no air mail or freight services as we know them today — indeed, the first air crossing of the English Channel by Bleriot had only taken place three years before and there were certainly no aircraft on the African continent. The quickest line of communication then was a four day train journey from Salisbury to Cape Town, followed by a wait of another two or three days and then a two week voyage on a Union Castle mail ship to Southampton in southern England — and of course, the same length of the time for the return. In spite of his many endeavours and great enthusiasm, Bro. McMuldrow in modesty declined the Founder Masters Chair, explaining that with his knowledge of the Constitutions and Laws of Scottish Masonry, he would be of greater assistance to the Lodge overall in the office of Secretary — and so the first master was Dr Frank Harger who had been originally initiated as an English mason in Lodge of Unity, London.

At the Consecration meeting on St Andrews Night 1911, we again witness a further cementing of the association with Sister Constitutions in that the reigning master of Rhodesia Lodge, Bro. M E Cleveland, (Mayor of Salisbury 1903–05, 1910–12, 1920–21 and 1932–33) was elected as the first honorary member of LSK in recognition of all the help and support that had been so forthcoming from that only other Lodge in Salisbury. I wonder how many BB have heard of the Founder Master of Rhodesia Lodge, one Bro. J H Kennedy, later to be the first Master of the High Court — he was entertaining guests to dinner and after a violent rain storm at about midnight, he insisted that his last guest should be provided with a suitable storm lantern to see him home (there was no electricity supply in the town at that stage) — the request for the said storm lantern to be returned as early as possible the next morning led to our friend Kennedy being awakened at sunrise with a loud rattling of the front gate and when he staggered down to open it, there was his guest, clad in pyjamas and dressing gown, with a parrot's cage in his hand!

It will be noted that the Founders Agreement contains provisions limiting the class of applicant who should be accepted for initiation — namely that such a candidate should be a member of a recognised profession, a Serving Officer of the Crown, or Civil Service, etc. There have been, sadly, over the years criticisms of LSK because our affiliates had to also meet such requirements — there is no doubt a great deal to be said for and against professional Lodges, but tonight is certainly not a suitable occasion to enter into such a discussion. More than in comment and certainly not in any effort to defend, I would point out to ensure that candidates are compatible with the prevailing scene within the Lodge, is to act within the general principal which appears in Dr Oliver's own words that appear on nearly every masonic agenda and cautions the BB to be careful not to admit contentious persons among them. This is no more than a positive way to avoid discord and misunderstanding. I would stress however that the Founders Agreement gave latitude for

the Selection Committee to except from the provisions itemised such BB as they felt merited it and who obtained the unanimous approval of the members in open Lodge. I may add, too, that there appear to be no instances, save one, where affiliation has ever been refused to a brother who held no professional status. The fortunes of LSK have been such as to indicate that the Founders' principles were not misguided and I am glad to explain that in later years the Lodge has spread their net much more widely, and not, I believe, to its detriment. Certainly, it has always enjoyed a reputation for hospitality and friendliness and over the thirty five years that I have attended regularly, the visitors have nearly always outnumbered the members.

The close association with Lodge Cape Town Kilwinning continued to be maintained over the years that followed and that Lodge's Bye-Laws were adopted as our own in 1915 — I would particularly like to refer you to Bye-Law No 6 which reads as follows:—

“The Tyler shall be allowed to engage the services of a Serving Brother who shall keep the furniture, jewels, clothing etc in neat and proper order, and shall be most punctual in his attendance at every meeting to set out the same. He shall receive for his services the sum of ten shillings for each meeting.”

This links up with the old Masonic Temple in Sinoia Street where there was a permanent caretaker.

A swift period of consolidation followed the Consecration of the Lodge — note how the collection at that ceremony, at which there was a total attendance of 32 including the 10 founder members who were all Office Bearers, amounted to the princely sum of £3-17-6 in all and at the second regular meeting, the first charitable donation of 20/= was made to a distressed brother un-named. In the middle of 1912, the new Lodge received its Regalia, Books and other items and was able to appear in its livery of Palatinate Purple and Silver with the Office Bearers wearing their solid silver jewels which, I am glad to say, are still in regular use with the original set of hall marked silver working tools. It was at this stage that one of our more illustrious brothers entered the Lodge — one Godfrey Martin Huggins, a surgeon aged 30, who had arrived in Salisbury a few years previously — balloted for in early March 1914, he was initiated with a schoolmaster, Mr E R Thorpe, on the same evening, passed in mid May and raised to the sublime degree on 19th June — in these days when most Lodges try to extend the period between the initiation and the attainment of that sublime degree, this time scale seems very short — in any event Huggins was one of the first initiates to pass through all three degrees in LSK.

World War I was shortly to curtail the expansion of the Lodge, and indeed, in early 1915, Bro McMuldrow who had by then returned to the Cape, was appalled to receive a telegram from the Lodge Secretary enquiring the procedure to be adopted in the event of the Lodge wishing to go into recess, as it would appear there was not other alternative available in view of the depleted active membership resulting from war conditions. Bro. McMuldrow made a doughty and entirely predictable reply in that he would be prepared to make the four day train journey up to Salisbury and thus would be available for discussion — he believed that such a desparate action was in no way required and so again through his timely advice and guidance, the Lodge continued to be kept very much on the map, even if meetings were perhaps a little infrequent.

Following the signing of the peace treaty, the Lodge continued into its second decade — times were still difficult, but there was always the same outstanding support of the Sister Constitutions. When it was decided that a second Scottish Lodge should be erected in

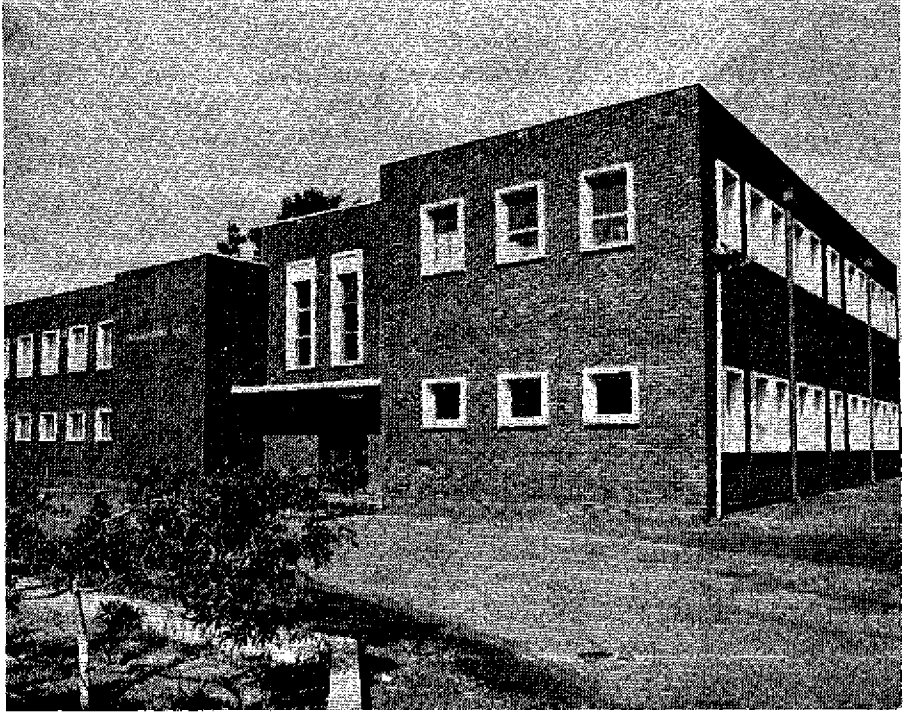
Salisbury, our members were much to the fore in assisting — the names of three former Past Masters stand out with John Lloyd Roberts as Consecrating Officer, James Bell Davidson as the Founder Master and Godfrey Martin Huggins handling the oil at the Consecration of Lodge Scotia No 1323, in February 1924. It is interesting to note that the new Lodge initially used the Salisbury Kilwinning rituals until their own Goudielocks copies were received. In 1928 the District Grand Lodge of Rhodesia was formed and this Lodge enjoyed the signal honour for two of its distinguished Past Masters, BB Lloyd Roberts and the Byron Moore each being nominated to become the first District Grand Master — both declined owing to their private involvement not permitting them to discharge the duties of this high office, and thus a further nomination had to be sought with Bro. David Ogilvie from Bulawayo accepting the post.

And so on into the thirties of this century — the Depression Years were to make a mark and considerably slow down any progress in the country yet alone the Lodge, but the BB soldiered on — “soldiered on” would appear to be particularly appropriate words because as the thirties drew to a close, there came a Second World War. Most of the available male population of this country tried to join the forces for the purpose of serving their country — conscription was introduced for a unique reason, not to increase the numbers joining up, but to retain certain men in key positions so that the national economy did not completely collapse. I am ashamed to say that in September 1941 a motion to adjourn the lodge was again tabled — happily this was rejected and the Lodge was able to stay afloat, although during that 1939/1945 period only 14 meetings were held. It was decided that in spite of our finances being at a very low ebb, serving members of the forces would be treated as country members for the duration of their service and their annual contribution was fixed at 10/6d. Another concession to wartime austerity was that the official Lodge dress would be “dinner suit and black tie” instead of the “full evening dress with white tie and gloves”, although the last mentioned was continued to be worn by the principal office bearers until well into the mid sixties.

With World War Two thankfully left behind, the Lodge was perhaps rather slow in attracting members and upon my initiation thirty five years ago this month in the old Sinoia Street Temple, I was not a little astounded to be asked by some of the visiting BB that night if I could read well — regrettably the Lodge carried the poor reputation of the ritual being openly read during some of the workings! Thankfully this state of affairs was soon to be remedied by the incoming masters of the early fifties, who quickly set about improving standards and attracting new members — Bro. Bob Truscott was a leading light in this revival and the Lodge suffered an untimely blow in his sad death only a week or two before the completion of his second year of office. The decision to build the new Temple here in Gaul Avenue was supported throughout by this small Kilwinning Lodge and even if our total financial contribution was not high when compared with others, per capita we were one or two of the more substantial supporters and this complex was designed by the architectural BB of the Lodge.

The impending break up of the Federation followed by UDI in the mid sixties, tended to slow down the activities of the Lodge a little, but even if our members were perhaps small, the enthusiasm always remained high and some of the reigning masters were known to undertake a nearly three hundred kilometre journey to rule over the Lodge and then make the return journey all on the same night.

The seventies saw the finalisation of two important features that had long been



**Freemasons Hall, Gaul Avenue. Consecrated March 1956**

missing in the Lodge — why they had not been attended to previously I do not really know, but I have a sneaky impression that LSK has always believed itself to be sufficiently unique not to have, firstly, a Past Masters Board and secondly, a Lodge Banner. Our “terrible twins” of the seventies, Bob Spall and Tom Bullen respectively, were the leading lights behind the realisation of these two important items.

It will be noticed too, how from the mid seventies onwards, several BB who had already occupied the Chair of King Solomon returned later for a second year of office. I would be failing in my duty if I did not refer to our present RWM, Bro. Tom Haddon, whose enthusiasm knows no bounds in the organisation, not only of this evening overall, but also, after numerous set backs, in the replacement of the Lodge’s regalia.

Now Right Worshipful District Grand Master, I would like to go back to your recent plea that the BB of the Scottish Lodges should be seen to be practising their skills in the principles of freemasonry, not only within the precincts of the Temple, but also in their activities in the neutral world — I would therefore like to take at random some items of interest and names from the Lodge’s Enrolment Book which reveals a total membership of only 163 BB over the last seventy five years, of which 57 were Affiliates including the 10 Founder members — let us see what they have done for the community at large.

First and foremost, the very close similarity of the Lodge’s crest on its banner to that of the town of Salisbury still appearing today above the entrance of the Town House in Julius Nyerere Way. Before the turn of the century, it was decided that the Salisbury

Sanitary Board, the then Local Government authority, needed its own crest and a Committee was formed to incorporate and include as many items as possible illustrative of the town's history — so you can imagine the ideas that were put forward. After much deliberation and argument, it was decided to have a shield with four quarters, and the Committee loaded it with a hotch-potch of ironmongery, weapons, and embellishments from the arms of the Cape Colony and of Rhodes, also the Cecil Family. The top left hand quarter was divided horizontally into three, the top section having three crossed Martini-Henri rifles and Pioneer Axes, below this a bar of gold representing the gold they hoped to find, and below that a kudu on a green background representing wildlife and the agricultural potential of the country. The bottom left hand quarter contains the heraldic emblems of the Cape Colony, portraying the Netherlands Lion, the Fleur-de-lis and the roundels of the Amsterdam Company. The bottom right hand quarter contains a mixture of weapons, three assegai of mixed parentage, a knobkerry, a Shona axe and a native shield of doubtful origin, all on a green background to match the top left hand quarter. The top right hand quarter is the most interesting, as this contains the two coats of arms, one on the left being that of Mr C J Rhodes, with the Lion and the two Thistles, with two bars of blue with white flowers. The arms on the right hand side were that of Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne-Cecil, the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, and Prime Minister of Britain in 1890, after whom the encampment at Fort Salisbury was named. This badge was sent over to the College of Arms in London, but they duly returned it saying that as it contained so many discrepancies from the rules of English Heraldry, they could not approve it, but the Council maintained they were not only pioneer people, but further, as they were a law unto themselves, they would all most definitely adopt the crest — and so it was used until 1939 when Salisbury was given City status — I sometimes wonder if such a rebel attitude has not on occasions made itself felt in LKS!

Back to Bro. William McMuldrow — he has already been mentioned in fair detail, his appointment as Town Electrical Engineer led to him being involved for a considerable period in a running battle with the Town Council, always a highly sensitive and very critical body, in his support of the Town Engineer over the siting of the Cleveland Dam, and finally, he was able to prove that the present position was ideal with the dam successfully serving its function for the next fifteen years or more.

Frances Masey, the first Senior Warden of the Lodge and one time partner of Sir Herbert Baker who made such an outstanding contribution to architecture in Southern Africa — Masey was one of the first to successfully design a building with the central court, a principle which was to govern many buildings in this country and as examples of his work, the old Lonrho Building in Baker Avenue and the Board of Executors building are still standing today. He also produced the initial plans for the Anglican Cathedral and his untimely death from blackwater fever in early 1912 was keenly felt.

Lewis Lezard, the Lodge's first treasurer, was a leading mining engineer for many years — Mayor of Salisbury at the outbreak of World War I, he was a driving force in the raising of relief funds and a road in Milton Park was named after him.

Lewis John Grant, the first initiate, headmaster of the Boys High School from 1910, did much for education long before one heard of the new name of Prince Edward that was to come in 1925.

J B Brady — the Lodge's first affiliate, served the community for many years as an Inspector of Schools, the first Headmaster of Milton High School (that fine institution that

both our RWM and I had the privilege of attending) – Brady also saw active service in two World Wars, the Brady Barracks in Bulawayo are named after him and some BB may perhaps have painful memories of that!

Dr Eric Nobbs, Master in 1917, the first director of the Department of Agriculture and founder of the present Agricultural Research Station at the top end of Fifth Street.

P V Samuels, master mind behind beer brewing in this country for two decades or more.

G M Huggins, for so long the leading light of medicine in the community and then serving the nation for so many years as its Prime Minister, establishing a British Empire record in his premierships of Southern Rhodesia from 1933 to 1953 and of the Federation from 1953 to 1956.

George Cameron, RWM in 1928, pioneered the growing of cotton as well as the first spinning mills in the then Gatooma.

Westcott Byron Moore, the American dentist and one of Kilwinning's great personalities — short in stature and a positive "Jimminy Cricket" character with his twinkling eyes — BB of the English Constitution might recall a sad period when BB Povall and Schierhout died in the mid 50's on the floor of the old Temple — at the next meeting of this Lodge, Doc Byron Moore got up in the middle of the Ceremony, asked to be excused and with his well known squeaky shoes retired from the Lodge; I was quickly sent by the Mater to ascertain that all was well and my hesitant enquiry was met with "Don't worry son, I just want to try out my god-damn new car radio to see if it will pick up President Eisenhower's election speech!"

John Lloyd Roberts — three times Master of the Lodge — a well known chemist and druggist, founder and first president of the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce.

Horace Wheeldon, the Government's leading poultry expert who spent over thirty five years building up that beautiful collection of Barberton daisies which he later presented to Ewanrigg Botanical Gardens to be admired and enjoyed by so many visitors.

The RWM for two years at the start of World War Two was Edwin Pallet, for long one of the city's best known architects.

And of course, John Hopkins — "Hoppy" to all of us — a plant pathologist, later highly decorated by the British Government for his outstanding services in that field — always in white tie and tails with a monocle in his eye — during his secretaryship, Lodge communications were not always of the best — a Mr Don Bullen, known to you RWDGM and no relation to our own Tom, received a call one Tuesday evening at about 7.15 that went like this:

"Is your name Bullen?" and receiving an affirmative reply "Hoppy" then went on with "You had better get down to the Masonic Temple in Sinoia Street within half an hour, because you are being initiated into LSK!"

Was it incidental that "Hoppy" always had to travel up to Inyanga at the beginning of October for at least four or five days to check on the potato seed fields — a task that took only three or four hours, but after all 1 October always the opening of the trout fishing season!

Another John — John McKinnon who was master in the early fifties — renowned for his own special style of floor work over many years in that never was his wording the same as the ritual when you followed it, and yet every detail was always covered — "I now present to you the secrets of the firrst degree!" — masonry was his life when he was not

travelling the length and breadth of the Federation of which he was the Chief Government Veterinary Surgeon.

Many here tonight will remember Bevis Barker — he did much for the first Polio Home, for fore-runner of St Giles as we know it today, and also was President of the Rhodesian Amateur Swimming Board for many years — he once drove from Salisbury to Kimberley in seventeen and a half hours to officiate at the Currie Cup Swimming Championships; returning the following weekend from the Consecration of the J S Dyer Memorial Temple in Hartley, he assured our Hugh Fraser all the way that he, Bevis, was quite happy to handle all the driving — the fact that the return journey back to Salisbury took more than three and a half hours was quite incidental! Bevis' toasts to "The Office Bearers of the Lodge", usually at Lomagundi, were legion in that towards the end of six course meal, he would be seen scribbling on the back of a cigarette box and then would stand to recite a brilliant and humorous alphabetical verse about each of the Office Bearers.

Hugh Victor Fraser, Treasurer of this District Grand Lodge for a lengthy period, and though a Grand Lodge Officer, he chose to help out for two consecutive years as Tyler of the Lodge, even if he had to be relieved and brought into the Temple for the RWM to extend fraternal greetings to all Grand Lodge Office Bearers — quiet and very reserved, few ever knew of the long hours that he put into his Honorary Treasurership of many charitable organisations, including that of Nomads Golf in his latter years.

Tony Browne, residing in Gwelo for more than half of his twenty five year association with the Lodge, he seldom missed a meeting — his tragic death was literally the result of his burning himself out with his long battle to control foot and mouth disease as well as anthrax in the Midlands during the mid seventies, a period when he also commanded the Midlands Police Reserve Air Wing, as well as chairing or presiding over various charitable organisations in and around Gwelo. Few will ever forget the experience of being welcomed into Tony's home, when anticipating your arrival, he would carefully watch for your car to appear at the entrance of his lengthy drive, whereupon he would dash inside and when your vehicle drew level with the verandah steps, he would reappear with a white serviette over his left arm and carrying an opened bottle of champagne on a tray with the correct number of glasses — your charged glass was handed to you as you climbed out of the car and then you would be welcomed!

Worshipful BB and BB — I hope that what I have recalled this evening will have been of some interest to you — doubtless there are relevant and important details that have been overlooked, for which I apologise. Nevertheless, I trust that I have, in some small way, been able to explain how well I really believe this LSK has served Freemasonry throughout the country and the community at large during these last seventy five years — may these examples serve to inspire all BB in the future.



# **The Lake McIlwaine Arboretum**

## **An address to the History Society**

### **in May 1986**

**by R.W. Petheram**

The dam at Hunyani Poort, later to be named Lake McIlwaine in honour of that outstanding conservationist Sir Robert McIlwaine, was completed in February, 1953. The History Society has been told of the excitement, tinged with anxiety, caused by the torrential rains which almost filled the lake before the tail race of the spillway was completed.

The surrounding hills were well wooded, with one notable exception — Signal Hill — rising immediately south-west of the dam wall. Prior to the building of the wall this hill was exploited unmercifully for firewood. It became a jumble of coppice growth which, in turn, was periodically slashed and mangled and presented to the eye a vista of stunted, distorted, deformed tree stumps and scrub. Annual fires added to the devastation.

As far back as 1938, the hill had been the subject of strong adverse comment in the Report of the Natural Resources Commission, of which Sir Robert McIlwaine was chairman. A certain amount of untidy regeneration took place between that time and the 1950's, but when the dam was built it was still an eyesore of rough scrub.

With the building of the dam, this unsightly mass became festooned with spider webs, with a formidable number of yellow-green spiders vying for pride of place in the gossamer maze. Presumably they awaited with keen anticipation, adventurous flights of exploration by insects hatching in, or attracted to the new lake environment at their doorstep. They gave some of the Tree Society members nightmares when Arboretum activities began. Fortunately, they disappeared over the years, although they exhibited no sense of urgency in doing so.

Not so temporary was the resident, voracious ant population. Their activities, their holidays and their feast days were governed by forces beyond human comprehension — except that on cold days they seemed less aggressive. It wasn't simply their disconcerting habit of going on "red alert" at the drop of a hat; they were suspected, in addition, of protecting and spreading woolly aphids. This was harming some of the more promising trees which the Society was trying to nurture, and killing some of the Mufuti trees when the attack was severe. Another un-endearing feature about the ants was the "sooty mildew" which seemed to be associated with them. It discoloured the trees and was unpleasant on clothes. Insecticides were tried, and there was some controlled spraying under rocks, but spraying in general was not favoured because of its possible impact on bird life.

I would like to be able to say that the hardihood of Tree Society members, in tolerating the attentions of these insects, was regarded with widespread sympathy and admiration. It was not always so! The Government Chief Entomologist was unimpressed. "Why get rid of them?" he wrote in March 1960, when advice was sought from him. "They are not usually considered noxious . . . they are merely pursuing their normal mode of life."

However, he did try to help later, when he realized how very uncomfortable the conditions were at times.

This is hardly the sort of introduction likely to encourage anyone to explore the Arboretum. I hasten to add, though, that while the ants are still with us to some extent, and are a bit of a nuisance at times, we have spent long periods there with great enjoyment and in comfort. They don't mind our moving quietly along to enjoy the scenery and the tranquility, and they are not always temperamental when we stop.

At the time the lake was formed, Sir Athol Evans was Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Federal Government, and Chairman of the National Parks Board. During an inspection of the newly formed McIlwaine National Park, he was distressed at the barrenness of Signal Hill, particularly so because of its commanding situation overlooking the Lake. From consultation with his Board and with the Tree Society, there emerged, in 1957, the concept of an Arboretum. Mr. Gordon Deedes, Chairman of the N.R.B., was also a member of the National Parks Board. He gave the project his powerful support, both in his official capacity and as an early committee member of the Tree Society. The Tree Society chairman, then, was Mr. David Bentley, Regional Road Engineer for Mashonaland. Mr. Bentley, now a grand young 88 years of age, never claimed to be an expert on trees in the botanical sense, but his love for them had led to his accepting office in the Society.

Through their collaboration, an arrangement was made — without any formal lease or registered document of occupation rights (as far as I have been able to ascertain) — for the area to be tidied up and planted to trees by the Society, while National Parks retained full proprietary control, and assisted with scouting, fire control measures, and caretaking in general.

Here I must dwell for a moment on the attitude of the Tree Society in its early days, towards indigenous trees on the one hand, and alien or exotic trees on the other. The attraction of our many lovely tree-lined avenues had long been a source of pride in the country, and in the eyes of the general public there was nothing to compare with the splendour of the exotics which were predominant in that sphere. The Tree Society to begin with shared that outlook (with one or two notable exceptions among its members — see Footnote) and its original thinking in the context of the Arboretum was to provide splashes of colour by the planting of exotics so that, from the waters of the Lake, Signal Hill would stand out to delight, rather than to assault, the eye. To that end, Jacarandas, Liquidambers, Robineas, Schizolobeurns, Spathodeas, Tecomas, alien Cassias, Bauhinias and Millettias, Tipuanas, Grevilleas and a host of other colourful flowering species were collected, and an infinite amount of planning went into their siting, both as regards flowering seasons and colour combinations and, doubtless, as regards the altitude assumed to be best suited to them within the gradient of 400 ft encompassed by the site.

It can be said to have been a courageous undertaking. Here we had a band of enthusiasts (with very little money in the Society's kitty) willing to tackle a hillside of fractured banded ironstone, steep, exposed, scruffy and unsightly because of past misuse, downright unsavoury in parts because of temporary occupation by construction gangs on the dam site, and totally unproved in relation to the type of plantings the Society had in mind.

It must be said that the "swathes of colour" concept did not quite work out. There were two reasons. One was that the site was not really suited to some of the species

introduced. Quite a few survived, but a lot found the conditions too harsh, or were taken out as a result of a change of policy.

That change was the principal reason. It altered drastically the Society's whole approach to the study, conservation and propagation of trees. It was realised — and this in a context far wider than that of the Arboretum itself — that it was necessary to disprove the popular idea that every indigenous tree took 100 years to grow, and was then useful only as firewood, or as emergency wagon material in the event of further "pioneering" endeavour.

Anyone who cares to wander over the site today will therefore see both alien and indigenous species, with a strong emphasis on the latter. There is, in addition, a three-quarter-mile stretch along the water's edge, that is particularly noteworthy.

The development of the site was a mammoth task, although its bland and tranquil appearance today might not give that impression. Weekends, public holidays and even hard-earned periods of leave were devoted by members over the years, to the gradual transformation of a scrub wasteland into something approaching a parkland.

One of the major aspects of a planned approach was that of surveying the site for pathways, for planting, and also for water reticulation purposes. It was a great day when the back-breaking chore of hauling water by hand to the seedlings along the slopes could be dispensed with, and the future water needs of all plantings could be seen to have been assured. To this end, Mr. Jack Reid, Director of Lands, and for a time Vice Chairman of the Tree Society, produced detailed contour plans for the reticulation system and further projected his survey to facilitate future extension to the cleared area. Jack and his wife Judy, each of whom could probably write a personal history of life in the unprepossessing jungle of Signal Hill, spent countless hours working on this project. Col. Kemp was a tower of strength from the outset, right through until his retirement in 1976. As Water Bailiff he lived close to the site and, fortunately for all concerned, he was whole-heartedly behind the scheme.

When Mr. Trevor Gordon of Darwendale became involved, there were no half measures about his participation. Particularly in the farming "off season" (so called before massive irrigation schemes changed the face of the farming calendar), sizeable contingents of Trevor's farm workers were trucked to the site and, under his direction, laid about them, clearing, stumping and preparing planting holes.

Mr. Ralph Palmer, from his farm at Serui, helped generously for a useful period in the same way.

Trevor Gordon and the late Douglas Aylen gained prominence in Tree Society affairs not only because of their wide knowledge of the bush and their feel for the land, but also because of their ability to pass on to others a true appreciation of the value and fascination of indigenous trees. The change of policy to which I referred earlier can, I believe, be largely laid at their door. They attracted enthusiastic support from members.

Douglas Aylen eventually succeeded to the chair. His memory is cherished in many parts of the country for his dedicated conservation work for the Natural Resources Board and his personal crusades for conservation. In Mashonaland particularly, there are monuments to his work in the legal protection given to the Palm Block, and in the very existence of the Mukuvisi Woodlands which, but for him, would have vanished into bricks and mortar. This Arboretum also owes a great deal to his knowledge and his sheer hard work. With men of the calibre of Bentley and Aylen at the helm, there was never any danger of the project faltering.

It would be unthinkable to record the achievements of the architects and developers of the Arboretum without paying tribute to Douglas Newmarch. His participation in the project as Senior Warden of the Lake Mcllwaine National Park was invaluable. His was not always an easy role. He had wide responsibilities over the National Park as a whole, and could not devote a disproportionate amount of time to a single project — no matter what priority-rating that project commanded in the Tree Society calendar. But the relationship remained excellent, and the Society found his official cooperation and his personal interest so stimulating that he was awarded Honorary membership of the Society (an honour he shared with Col. Kemp.)

Wherever stationed in National Parks, Douglas was known for his ability to contrive miracles of improvisation with minimal funds and with whatever equipment happened to be available. This almost proved his undoing on one catastrophic occasion when, as a result of his determination to take a hand in the officially un-authorized, and technically tricky, cutting of an access road to the Arboretum site, he found himself suddenly obliged, with Mike Kemp's sympathetic help, to winch a CMED grader from the waters of the Lake onto the half-made angled track from which it had inexorably slid. The mechanic sent out from HQ found half the lake inside the machine, and seemed distressingly unimpressed with the suggestion that it might have been the accumulation of heavy rains. Further explanations to CMED must have called for a great deal of ingenuity — and prayer.

These were, I believe, the principal actors on the stage, luckily supported by people such as G.M. McGregor (then Head of the Forestry Commission) whose fund of knowledge and field expertise was readily at the disposal of the Tree Society; Ronnie James, still prominent in the field of horticulture and garden management, the late Rudyerd Boulton, then Director of the Atlantica Research Station, and Chris Lightfoot, who succeeded Doug Aylen as an outstanding leader of the Tree Society. It is probable that W.J. Walkerdine, a predecessor of David Bentley's, was involved to some extent in the initial policy negotiations, and the infectious enthusiasm of J.B. Richards stands out in the memories of members of that period.

There are almost bound to be others who deserve specific mention; men and women members of the committee or of working parties who may well have contributed, individually, a great deal more than the files spell out. The most valuable of them were, of course, those whose *sustained* interest and industry carried the project through into the '70s.

During the long haul, there were errors and disappointments and frustrations, but there was also valued companionship and a shared sense of achievement. Some infuriating set-backs became amusing in retrospect. Even Sir Cyril Hatty's cattle were eventually forgiven for coming around the hill from his farm to sample newly planted seedlings for a change of diet.

The only threat of "dissension" I have heard of, arose in relation to the Comfort Station, concerning which there was friendly rivalry between Trevor Gordon and Rudyerd Boulton as to which wing should be called "Gordon's Convenience", and which wing "Boulton's Relief." Official recognition was given to neither.

An excellent little timbered shelter and store-room was built. It was named "David's Den" as a tribute to David Bentley's inspired leadership. A stone bench was constructed not far from the Den to give a commanding view of the lake and lake-shore plantings, and that was appropriately called "Doug's Seat" to commemorate Douglas Newmarch's

valued cooperation on behalf of National Parks.

The Arboretum was officially opened on the 10th. Sept. 1960 by H.E. the Governor of S. Rhodesia, Sir Humphrey Gibbs. The plaque commemorating the event bears the words "Who plants a tree here, plants it for Rhodesia."

It was singularly appropriate that Sir Humphrey should have performed the Opening Ceremony. His concern over the devastation of the trees on Signal Hill dated back to his term of service as a member — and ultimately as Chairman — of the N.R.B. He was also a long-standing member of the Tree Society (and is still a member); so the opening ceremony was, to him, by no means a mere formality, and the Society was appreciative of that fact.

(There had been an occasion soon after Sir Humphrey's appointment as Governor, when the Hon. Sec. of the Society had absently-mindedly — and to her abiding embarrassment — included in his Notice of Meeting the usual cyclostyled slip reading "Tea will be provided. Bring your own mug." That particular gremlin made no re-appearance at the Opening. Maybe it had been devoured by the spiders.)

While on the subject of powerful support, it may be of interest to note that so worthwhile was the project considered to be, and so high the regard in which David Bentley held, that, during the latter's chairmanship Lord Malvern made a handsome personal contribution to the fund for water reticulation, and so did Anglo American, R.S.T., and the S.A. Timber Company. H.M. Barbour also contributed. Sir Stephen Courtauld expressed interest in life membership of the Society and supplied tree seedlings from La Rochelle. Welcome financial contributions came from several other well-wishers, and Stewarts and Lloyds and Carnie and Maddocks gave exceptionally favourable terms for the supply of water pump (ram and fittings, piping, storage tanks and so on.)

Fund-raising schemes included that of "adopting" a particular tree. Its foster parent paid £10 (or Ten Guineas, if so moved) for the privilege. Trees and plants were donated by many individuals and Garden nurseries, and very substantial contributions some of them were. They came not only from the Harare area, but also from the Zambesi Valley, the S.E. Lowveld, Penhalonga and Chegutu.

As regards the size of the place, there are some 100 acres which could be thinned out and improved. The cleared and developed area covers about 10 acres, but as already mentioned, plantings along three quarters of a mile of lake frontage have been particularly rewarding. There is also a long path zig-zagging its way along the contours to the summit at 4871 feet a.s.l. The shore-line is 400 feet below. On the inner side of the access road which runs close to the shore-line, there are scores of indigenous trees which were either planted or selected for preservation. They, with judicious pruning and clearing, were given elbow room to spread their branches, and they have responded well.

This aspect of the Society's work extended well beyond the "laid out" area, right around the lower hillside as far as the gate of the Water Bailiff's house. Surviving plantings of exotics are still a subject of interest and potential study.

Aloes were also planted — twice, I think, in fairly considerable quantities, during the '70s, mostly on the curve of the hillside nearest the wall. Some of the later tree seedlings donated by members and friends were intended for a parking area which the Department had in mind near the turn-off to the Arboretum. I rather think the idea was overtaken by events.

A project of this sort has to be attended to constantly and in perpetuity to prove its full value, and I regret to say that the impetus of the early drive first faltered and then virtually

petered out during the '70s. There were other priorities in the minds of all; there was petrol rationing; there were escalating costs; security scouting was curtailed through lack of official funds; trees and buildings were vandalized, and materials, tools, piping and fittings stolen.

Work is required now to replace lost trees and to prune or shape damaged ones. Even more is required to thin out the rather dense regrowth bordering the cleared area, and it would be heartening to see the restoration of David's Den, which has fallen into a state of disrepair, and the replacement and repair of piping and toilet facilities. But these would need protection and policing as well as funds, so it is a tall order.

This dismal picture notwithstanding, the Arboretum is a delightful picnic area, well wooded, with a fascinating range of trees, and utterly transformed from the bleak landscape taken in hand by the Tree Society in 1957.

#### **Footnote**

Notwithstanding its early preoccupation with alien tree species, the Tree Society at its very first AGM in 1951, elected Mrs. Olive Coates Palgrave to office, and expressed strong support for the publication of her magnificent book, "Trees of Central Africa", which was then in draft form. The book, published by the National Publications Trust in 1956, has become a collector's piece.

#### **Addendum**

David Bentley visited the Arboretum on the day this address was given. It was his last visit. At his funeral service in March 1987, a sprig from one of his Arboretum trees was placed on his coffin, among other floral tributes.

# Mining in Mazowe District from the Ancients to the Present Times

by David Brownless

*This is the text of a talk given to members of the History Society of Zimbabwe during a tour of historical sites in Mazowe organized by the Mashonaland Branch of the Society.*

## **Ancient workings**

As in virtually all districts, most if not all of the gold mines worked since 1890 were pegged on ancient workings, those on the Alice being about 70' deep.

Cup and ball mortars, the oval shaped grinding stones, can frequently be found near the mines, some of them cut in granite rock in place and others cut in cortable rocks. There were a large number of these and also dolly holes in the granite now flooded by the Mazowe Mine dam.

## **After 1890**

The two main groups of gold mines in the area are the group of mines around the Jumbo mine and the Bernheim group. We will deal with the Jumbo group first.

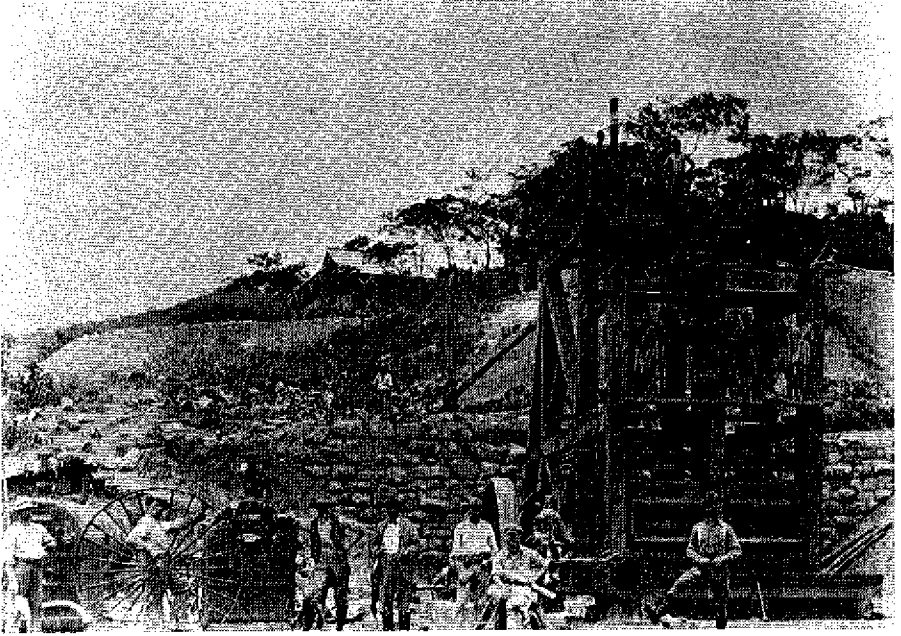
The Jumbo mine was the first of the group to be worked to any extent. It was first pegged in 1890 by Tom Maddocks, who was killed in the 1896 rebellion. It was re-pegged by Capt. C.E. Wells in 1899. According to D.J. Bowen in his book 'Gold Mines of Rhodesia 1890-1980' a law suit was filed by Maddocks's family for the removal of Wells and although no record of the verdict can be found it must be presumed that the claims lapsed.

Very little work was done until the Mayo (Rhodesia) Development Co. Ltd. floated the Jumbo Gold Mining Co Ltd. to take over the mine.

According to the Government Geological Bulletin a twenty stamp 1050lb battery was erected and stamps were dropped on 2nd May, 1906. At this time the mine had been developed down to the third level and the main incline shaft had been pushed down to the fourth level.

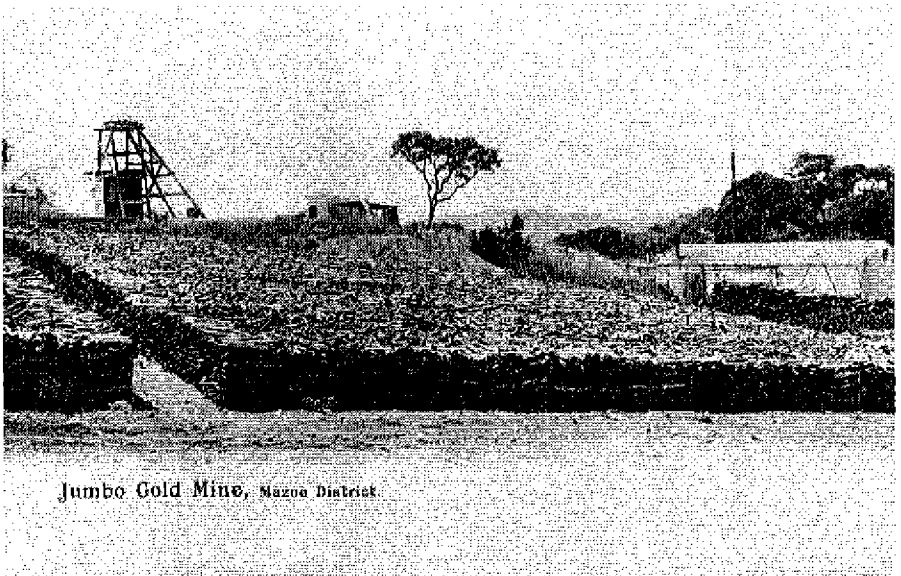
In 1907 a further 10 stamps were added. It is interesting to note that the Govt. Geological Bulletin mentions the mills as being 1050 lbs, that is the weight of each stamp would be 1050 lbs. Normally a 1050 lb stamp mill was used either as a prospect mill or on a property where a reef was small and rich. One would have expected the mills to be 1450 lb or 1250 lb. Possibly someone got their facts wrong in the Govt. Bulletin.

The mine remained in full production from this time until 1914. From 1914 production began to decline due to the values becoming patchy and the reef narrower on 6 level and in that year only 25 stamps were being used in August and this was reduced to 20 in September. In 1916 the mill was further reduced to ten stamps and then to five and milling stopped in 1917.



**Alice Mine 10 stamp battery in course of erection about 1987.  
J.W. Salthouse fourth from left**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*



**Jumbo Gold Mine, Mazowe District**

**Jumbo Mine Mazowe District about 1906, with timber  
for firing steam engines**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*



From 1906 – 1917, 322,800 tons (292,800 tonnes) of ore were crushed and produced 145,587 oz (4950 kg) gold a recovery of 9.1 dwt per ton (15.7 g/t), which is a very good overall recovery for a mine.

Very little work has been done on the Jumbo mine since then apart from the treatment of sands.

In 1953 Lonrho acquired Jumbo, together with Connaught and Bojum and also the Bucks reef which they bought from Joe Winter. In 1963, after Coronation Syndicate, now Corsyn, Lonrho's subsidiary had taken over, they bought Carn Brae and Nucleus mines from Murdoch – Eatons and succeeded in turning a group of small workings into a very successful medium sized mine.

To give the geology of the area very briefly the group of reefs which make up the Mazowe Mine complex have an E – W strike and dip North at angles varying between about 15° and 80°, the varying angles being due to the fact that the reefs are stepped. The country rock is mainly granodiorite, but the reefs tend to run into porphyry at the E. end.

There are also what are known locally as cross-over reefs striking generally N – S which consist of irregular blows of pyrite mineralisation in the grano-diorite carrying good values of gold.

The Bernheim group of mines consists of a series of parallel reefs striking E and W, most of them across the top of the Bernheim range of hills, the main ones being, from S to N Vesuvius, Gardner-Williams, Rothschild and its parallel, Bernheim and its parallel, Alice and lastly, but not least, what is now Stori's Golden Shaft mine but was originally pegged as, and was always referred to in the old reports as the Susie.

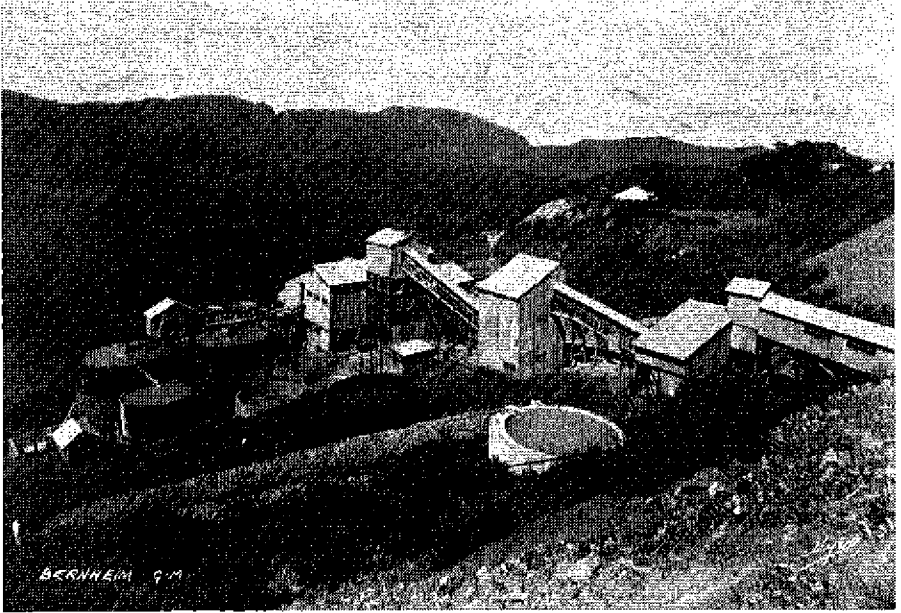
Alice and Gardner-Williams, and probably Vesuvius, were pegged in 1890. A considerable amount of work had been done on the Alice and Vesuvius mines by 1893 when they were visited by the B.S.A. Co. engineer. In 1894 a ten stamp battery was erected on the Vesuvius and presumably crushed ore from both the Alice and the Vesuvius. In 1896 the battery was moved down to the Alice and was in the course of erection at the time of the Mazoe Patrol, hence the presence of Pascoe, Faull, Stoddard and Fairbairn, who were erecting the mill.

Milling seems to have been a bit spasmodic until 1906 when regular milling commenced. The ore was brought from the Rothschild and Bernheim reefs, near the top of the hill to the mill on the Alice about 500' below, by light railway down the side of the hill, probably with the usual set-up of an endless rope-way so that the weight of the full cars coming down pulls the empty ones back up.

From this time to 1933 the various companies owning the mines seem to have done a lot of underground development, which is the hard, expensive, work, and then let the mines out on tribute, the tributers then stoping out the developed ore, milling it and presumably rolling in the money, the tributers around 1910 taking out 10,000 oz gold and the tributers from 1916 – 1923 taking out 8,957 oz.

In 1931 the group of mines was taken over by Lonely Reef Gold Mining Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of African and European Investment Co., Ltd., obviously an overseas company which I think accounts to a great extent for the sequel.

Extensive development work was started on the Bernheim and Rothschild sections. A 2000 – 2500 ton per month all sliming plant was put in and commenced milling in March, 1935 since the results of the sampling of the development were quoted as being 30,500 tons of ore averaging 8.1 dwt over 30" width. The mill closed down in November



**Bernheim Mine Mill, Mazowe District about 1935**

*Photo: National Archives of Zimbabwe*

the same year after running a mere 9 months, since their recovery rate was only just over 3 dwt and they were running at a loss.

Once again, in 1936, the mines were given out on tribute, this time to a local company, Banning Gold Mines Ltd.

A very large amount of money must have been spent on the underground development and the all-sliming plant, which judging by a photograph of it in the Archives must have been a very well put in plant with no expense spared. On top of this there was the cost of the steam engines, boilers and alternators or generators to run the mill and underground, since there was no E.S.C. there at that time.

There was obviously gross incompetence somewhere. It seems that while the underground development was going on from 1931 – 1935 no trail milling had been done to check that the results of the sampling worked out in practice, either in a pilot plant or in an existing plant elsewhere. Either the sampling was badly done, which is quite likely since sampling is frequently done by young learner surveyors since it is a boring, unpleasant job, chipping out channels in the roof of a drive with a 4lb hammer and cold chisel; or the stoping was clumsily done and a lot of waste rock was mined with the ore. The Government Geological Bulletin states "this low value being probably due to the narrowness of the reef, over a foot of waste having to be taken out as rule to make a stoping width", but this does not hold water since the result of the sampling was given as taken over 30", and any miner worth his salt can stop down to less than 30".

One must wonder what the share-holders 6,000 miles away thought about it all, or whether they even knew how their money was being wasted.

### **Other Minerals**

Iron pyrites has been worked on the Iron Duke Mine for many years for the production of sulphuric acid, by Anglo-American.

Scheelite was produced from the Scheelite King Mine in fairly large quantities, up to a bit over 20 tons per month during the Second World War, and has been worked in a small way, on and off, ever since.

Limestone has also been worked in various quantities in the area for agricultural lime, burnt lime and limestone for fluxes for smelting.



Harry Simons  
1914-1988

## Harold Arthur Bertrand Simons An Obituary

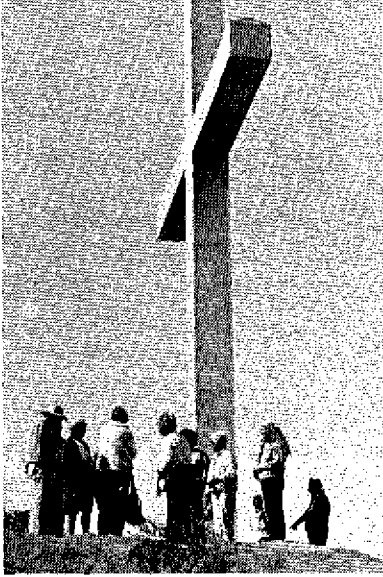
It is with regret that we record the death, in Cape Town on 15 June 1988, in his seventy-fifth year, of Harold (Harry) Arthur Bertrand Simons, a recipient of the Society's Gold Medal in 1975. (Citation: *Rhodesiana*, p.53 No.34, March 1976).

Harry had suffered a stroke in Bulawayo in December 1978 which damaged his ability to communicate although he continued to enjoy the use of his limbs. He was lovingly cared for by his wife Gerry, and some six months before his death they left Bulawayo to be with their two daughters, Dr Sue MacDonald and Jenith Shannon and their families, in South Africa.

Harry's funeral in Cape Town was attended by a number of ex-Bulawayans. The eulogy was given by Dr Jimmy Shee, a close friend and fellow member of the Rhodesiana Society of the previous decade. On 12 August 1988 his ashes were scattered by his wife during a simple ceremony in his beloved Matopos. This was conducted by Fr Odilo Weeger who shared his interest in rock art.

Harry Simons epitomised the ideal Society member: he had visited all the major historic places in Matabeleland; had an intimate knowledge of the many rock art sites in the Matopos; was a regular attender and a frequent speaker at Society outings; and, as an educationist, he fired youth with his enthusiasm and respect for our historical heritage.

Born in Hampshire, England, he was a wartime pilot with 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron, RAF Bomber Command, and had his introduction to this country as a pilot instructor at the Air Training School, Kumalo, Bulawayo. In 1946 he joined the SR Education Department. He served as headmaster of Hwange School, and Newmansford and Baines



The 10-metre high aluminium cross on Inungu hill, Matopos, where Harry Simons' ashes were scattered. The cross which may be seen from the Rhodes Grave/Maleme Dam areas was erected in 1982 to mark the centenary of Mariannhill in Africa.



Gerry Simons (*left*) with Fr Odilo Weeger who conducted the short service.

Junior Schools in Bulawayo. In the latter post (1957–1966) he did much to stimulate interest in artist-explorer Thomas Baines (1820–1875) for whom the school was named, and together with Mrs Dorothy Broom (later Mrs Kirk), a teacher on his staff and descendant of a benefactor of Baines, they built up a school museum of Baines oil paintings, books and memorabilia. In the school garden he propagated an aloe named for Baines.

He was three times president of the Rhodesia Teachers' Association. After retiring from the Education Department he took up a post as Education and Training Officer with the Hwange Colliery Company (1966–1971). Thereafter he returned to teaching for another eight years — at Milton High School, Bulawayo.

One of Harry's most significant achievements was as founder of the Matabeleland Branch of the Rhodesian Schools' Exploration Society of which he served as National Chairman for many years. The Society undertook field science surveys and mapping, mounting some forty expeditions of the which three were to neighbouring countries. He organised and led fifteen. Over 10 000 scientific specimens were presented to the National Museum. One group discovered the pathway followed by Hendrik Potgieter and his party through the Ndeleka Pass in the Baja/Fumukwe region of south-western Matopos in 1847. Another mapped and set beacons along many miles of the 1890 Pioneer road through southern Matabeleland.

Harry was a member of the Monuments Commission and an Honorary Warden of the National Parks. He was a man of boundless energy who gave freely of his services to advance his many faceted interests, among them also the establishment of the University of Zimbabwe. But nothing gave him greater pleasure than his weekend outings to the Matopos many of them in company with fellow-teacher Alan Morton with whom he once undertook a week-long tour with a donkey cart penetrating parts inaccessible to cars.

Members of the Society extend their sincere condolences to Harry's widow, Gerry, and his daughters and their families.

# National Chairman's Report for the Year Ended 31st March 1988

by Richard H. Wood

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the Society's activities during the past year.

The members elected to the Committee for the past year consisted of myself as Chairman, Mr. Zeederberg as Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ogilvie as Treasurer, Mr. Ford as Secretary and Miss Granelli and Messrs. Kimberley, Petheram, Rosettenstein, Tanser and Turner as Committee Members. The Mashonaland Branch representative was Mr. Franks and Messrs. Bent and Went were the Manicaland representatives.

I would like to thank the Office Bearers and Committee Members for the hard work and enthusiasm that they gave to their tasks and in particular Mr. Ogilvie who keeps an eagle eye on our finances and Mr. Ford who tries to record in intelligible form what we discuss and decide at our meetings.

The Committee met on five occasions during the year and the major matters considered are listed below.

## Heritage of Zimbabwe

Our editor, Robert Turner, has been busy on this project for several months and has been ably assisted in this regard by Mr. Colin Loades. Various difficulties have made it impossible for us to achieve our publication target date but Mr. Turner believes that the magazine which is the 1987 edition will be published and distributed at about the end of April. The advertising support for this edition has been excellent and the content of the journal will be of very high quality. Good things are worth waiting for and we look forward to receiving a quality publication within the next few weeks. Mr. Turner's movements over the next few months will make it impossible for him to continue editorship of the journal. Fortunately Mr. Kimberley has agreed to become the new editor supported by myself and Mr. Loades and we will do everything possible to maintain the high standard achieved by Mr. Turner and will make every attempt to bring out the 1988 journal before the end of the year.

## Branch Reports

I must congratulate Mashonaland Branch under the leadership of Mr. Zeederberg for another active year. The annual outing to Mutare was a particularly well run and enjoyable occasion supported by a very large number of our members and the itinerary and accommodation arranged by John Ford was very good. The Mashonaland Branch received assistance from several of our Manicaland members. Unfortunately Mr. Bent was out of the country when this trip was made but Harry Went, a nephew of Kingsley Fairbridge, was most interesting in showing us the Fairbridge Memorial Site and the old Fairbridge Homestead. I regret to say that previous efforts by this Committee to resurrect the Matebeland Branch has not been successful. I have just received a letter from Mr.

Vickery who was a leading light in the Matebeleland Branch who has very kindly agreed to send to us the accumulated funds of the Matebeleland Branch amounting to over \$900 on the basis that when the Branch resuscitates the National Committee will make funds available to it. For security and climatic reasons Bulawayo has had a tough time in recent years. We hope that the improved political situation and the good rains will assist us in regenerating interest in this Branch in the months to come.

### **Finance**

Lex Ogilvie will be presenting his report for the year ended the 31st December 1987, so I will not impinge upon his territory. It suffices to say that because of the increased costs of the journal *Heritage* and a shortfall on the provision provided for last year's edition the Society ran at a slight loss this year and its net current assets reduced by approximately \$1 500.

Another reason for the reduction in assets is the transfer of a special fund to the Historic Buildings of Zimbabwe Trust. These funds were largely used to contribute to the production of Peter Jackson's book "Historic Buildings of Harare". This book was very successful and the Trust receives the Royalties obtained on sales and it is likely that these Royalties will in due course cover the original contribution. Your Committee believes that this exercise has resulted in achieving the objects set for the Special Fund i.e. the preservation of historical buildings and will continue to foster this objective in the future.

### **Membership**

Our main source of funds is members subscriptions and the survival of the Society depends upon our success in recruiting new members. Members has risen from a total of 602 in December 1985 to 756 being the present membership. Your Committee is reluctant to increase subscriptions but can only avoid doing this if membership continues to increase. Two factors cause membership to increase.

- (1) The success of the outings organised; and
- (2) active recruitment by existing members.

I ask all members to make every effort to recruit new members.

### **General**

I would like to thank the Anglo American Corporation for donating to the Society during the last twelve months a total of \$1 000,00 I would also like to thank Mr. Ford who is stepping down as National Secretary for all his help during the year and Mr. Petheram who has also resigned due to poor health. I would also like to pay tribute to Mr. Turner and Mr. Kimberley who have served on the National Committee for 25 years. Their experience is invaluable to the Committee as a whole. As to the future I am confident that the Society will continue to flourish.

We have a busy period ahead of us. In particular because in under two years time this City will be celebrating its 100th birthday.

Mrs. Rosemary Kimberley continues to give the Society massive support in her roll as unofficial membership secretary and general worker. I would specially like to thank her for her great assistance over the past year.

*PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, OLD HARARIANS SPORTS CLUB, FRIDAY, 11TH MARCH, 1988.*

# **A History of the Enterprise District: Echoes of Enterprise**

**by Kathie McIntosh ed. Libby Norton  
(Published by Interprint. 227 Pages, Price Z\$30)**

**A book review by Miss V. Thwaites**

The short introduction which greets the reader on opening this book creates an eagerness to hurry on to its contents. "Echoes of Enterprise" is both an adventure story and an historical record. It tells of the growth of the now thriving Enterprise district from its pioneer foundations through 95 years. Graphically written, exhaustively researched and well indexed, it combines oral tradition and documentary source evidence with a shining local pride.

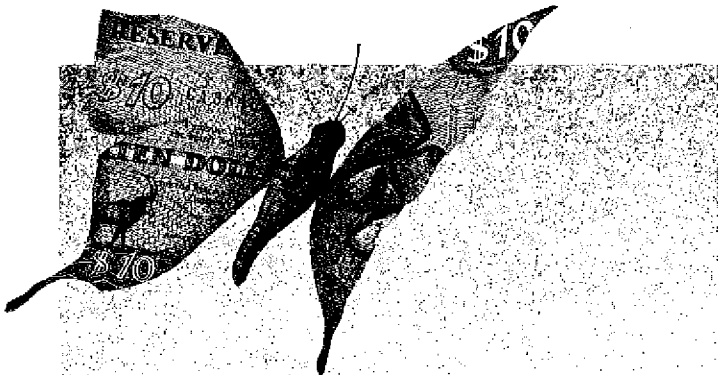
This book frequently broadens our schoolroom knowledge with less well known historical detail, and it traces the more serious aspects of agricultural development and community responsibility, as well as pinpointing the places, names and fortunes of the numerous mining ventures. But it is also a living story of the people who faced, with courage and initiative, the daunting hazards of the untamed bush. Their stories, many of which are personal accounts, are told with humour and affectionate recollection, with photographs from family albums adding to the reader's interest and feel of the times — the T-model Ford, the gradually shortening feminine hemline, Dr Huggins in the operating theatre, the first Ewanrigg aloes and many others.

Side by side with the ghosts of Swiswa Valley and Rumbavu, and the 5% discount allowed by the Arcturus store on promptly settled monthly accounts over £1, we have a solid narrative of the Mashona War in the north-eastern area, the rebellion tragically prolonged by European misjudgement of the nature of Shona leadership; also details of such matters and events as early farming implements, the Spanish flu epidemic, the establishment of the Chishawasha Mission and the multi-river watershed from Ruwa, which encircles and enriches the Enterprise area.

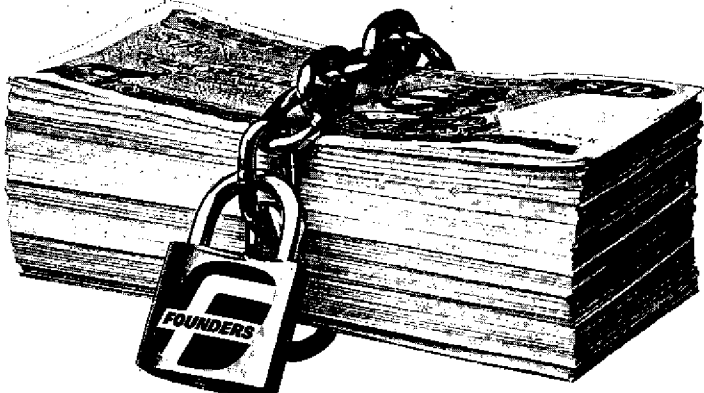
So this book is not just a collection of chatty memories, but gives a very comprehensive picture of all aspects of Enterprise life. There is plenty of body in it. The different facets are skilfully welded together into a cohesive whole by means of short chapters with informative, and often amusing, designations. Who could resist following up such a heading as "Orange pips growing in tins under swinging wagons" or "Ploughing in a dress suit" — or possibly taking up the invitation to identify ones forebears in a group photograph? The glimpse view in colour on the dust cover and the detailed 1930 map are added attractions, and the extracts from the minutes of the Enterprise Farmers Association meetings indicate the Association's lengthy, tenacious and active awareness of community welfare which continues up to the present time.

Kathie McIntosh and Libby Norton are to be commended on producing this most readable book, which no doubt will find pride of place on many bookshelves, and which deserve recognition as a valuable contribution to the locally written bibliography of our country's history. The generous sponsorship listed is an encouraging sign of interest in this type of book.





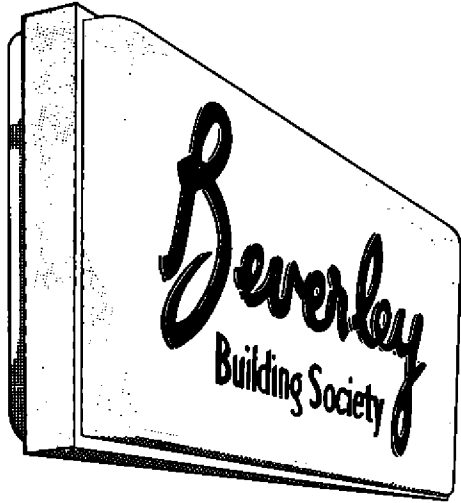
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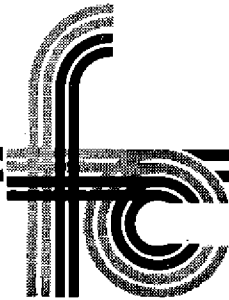


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