

**COMMEMORATIVE
PROGRAMME**

**TENTH ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL AIR SERVICE**

**G SQUADRON
RHODESIAN**

REGIMENT

1961

1971



WHO DARES WINS

Foreword

BY THE HON.MR. J. H. HOWMAN, I.D., M.P.,
MINISTER OF DEFENCE, PUBLIC SERVICE & FOREIGN AFFAIRS.



photo by courtesy Ministry of Information.

As Minister of Defence I am well aware of the calibre of our Special Air Service Regiment, the duties that it undertakes, its training, discipline and bearing.

I am proud that it forms an important part of the Rhodesian Army and my only regret is that the exploits of the S.A.S. cannot yet be disclosed to the Rhodesian public so that they could share my pride in full.

The S.A.S. is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its formation and in the last six years has borne a full share of the burden carried by the Security Forces.

I offer you my heartiest congratulations on your 10th anniversary and wish you the best of good fortune and success in the years that will follow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. H. Howman', written in dark ink on a light background.

Message to the Squadron from the General Officer Commanding.



I feel it appropriate that your tenth anniversary should be marked not only by the celebrations which you have planned, but also by this document which will serve as a memento of this important occasion.

From its inception in 1961, the fortunes of 'C Squadron have followed the ebb and flow of human affairs, till when at the end of 1963 only 40 odd men came down from Northern Rhodesia, to form the nucleus of 'C Squadron Special Air Service Regiment in the new Rhodesian Army.

Since that time the unit has grown from strength to strength, until now on this anniversary it stands in a better position than ever before.

There is no doubt that the S.A.S. plays an essential part in the defence of our country and it is of the utmost importance that the high standards of your unit are maintained and improved upon.

May I conclude by congratulating you on your 10th anniversary and wishing you every success in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. G. G. G.' or similar, written in a cursive style.



Commanding Officer
SAS

The attainment of our 10th anniversary marks, I believe, an important milestone in the short history of our Regiment. As with any human enterprise, the past ten years has seen its successes and its disappointments. However the greater value lays not so much in what has been achieved, in the past, albeit considerable, but what can be achieved in the future if we continue to apply the benefits and lessons of experience.

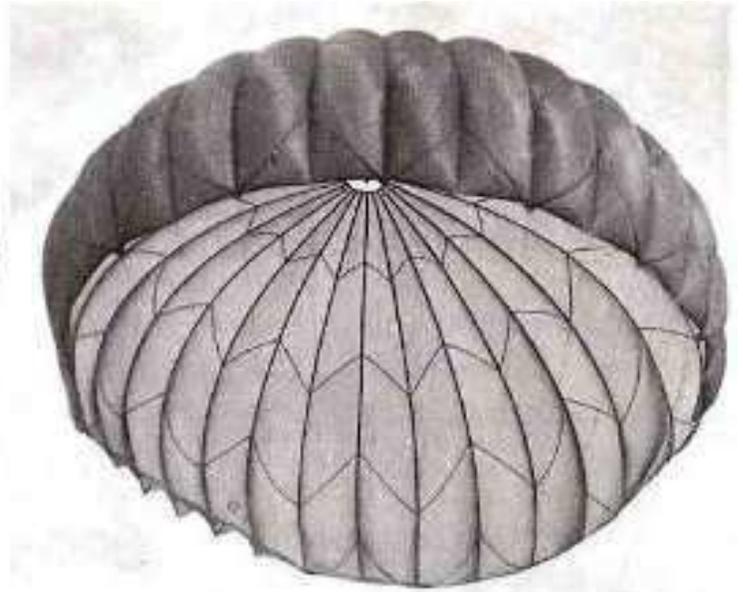
I am certain that our Squadron now stands at the threshold of an exciting and challenging future, which can only be met with success if we all continue, regardless of rank or station, to apply ourselves to the task with all the enthusiasm, determination and dedication for which our unit is noted and which it so richly deserves.

We are fortunate to have inherited the high reputation earned by those who have gone before us, let us therefore by our efforts today, justify and enhance our reputation tomorrow.

My best wish to you all for the future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert Bentley". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a dashed line.





History of the SAS

A soldier in the Special Air Services is selected for his ability to think, act and fight either as an individual or in compact fighting groups. This proud tradition had its beginnings in 1941 when the first Special Air Service Squadron was formed. Their subsequent proud record in North Africa and Europe is one of the epics of world war II.

All war-time Special Air Service Regiments were disbanded after the war and it was not until 1952 that the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment was formed. This unit was destined to carry out operations in Malaya against the communists. One of the Squadrons was composed of volunteers from Rhodesia who became the first Commonwealth troops to be trained in jungle dropping techniques and helicopter operations.

In 1961 it was decided to reform the Rhodesian Special Air Service Squadron and basic parachute training commenced at the Parachute Training School New Sarum on the 30th October 1961. Since then some twelve thousand jumps have been completed.

August 1st, 1971 marked the tenth anniversary of 'C Squadron Rhodesian Special Air Service Regiment. A great deal of water, some clean, some dirty, has flowed under the bridge since August 1961. The Squadron has gone from strength to strength until now in August 1971 it finds itself on the threshold of a great future.

To commemorate our Tenth Anniversary a Service of Re-Dedication was held in the Salisbury Anglican Cathedral. To 'Lili Marlene' and 'Marche des Parachutists Badges' the Squadron marched down Baker Avenue and halted in front of the Cathedral.

With a reverence seldom seen, the Squadron along with many guests and friends, took part in a very moving Re-Dedication Service:

Take our Regiment and transform it
By the power of Thine hand
To a sword of strength and valour,
To protect Thy people's land.'

Among the guests at the service was Sir Roy Welensky, the first 'father' of 'C Squadron Special Air Service.

After the service the Squadron descended en masse, each member with his entourage and proceeded to celebrate the Squadron birthday with great zeal. The Signals Band after their very creditable performance at the service added a tone of gaiety to an already festive occasion. It was gratifying to see so many ERE and ex-members of the Squadron, all of whom seemed to be enjoying themselves in the true tradition of the SAS.

On the 27th July for the first time since 1963 the Squadron took part in a simultaneous mass drop. The DZ was perfect and apart from one slightly grazed elbow, it made for an exciting and spectacular event, a fitting beginning to our Anniversary Celebrations. Few sights can ever equal that of sixty parachutes drifting down together.

To mark the end of our celebrations a fully fledged Wings Parade takes place today followed tomorrow evening by an all ranks Squadron Ball. The initiation of the new members normally the 'downing the yard' will take place during the course of the evening's frivolities. This memorable but terrifying experience has become as much a part of the Squadron history and tradition as has our motto—

WHO DARES WINS

'Take our Regiment and transform it
By the power of Thine hand To a sword of strength and valour.
To protect Thy people's land.'
WHO DARES WINS. '

SAS 10th BIRTHDAY PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 10th SEPTEMBER, 1971.

Parachute Drop at New Sarum Air force Base.

This will be the 10th and final qualifying jump of the present intake of recruits and marks the culmination of their basic SAS training. To celebrate the event they will be accompanied by detachments from A and B Troop who will also participate in the drop. The drop will take place at dawn.

Wings Parade at New Sarum Air force Base.

On this parade the coveted SAS wings are presented to the passing out squad by the Reviewing Officer. This ceremony marks the final acceptance of the men as fully fledged members of the Regiment.

The parade will take place at 10 a.m.

The Reviewing Officer will be the General Officer Commanding the Rhodesia Army, Lieutenant General K. R. Coster, I.C.D., O.B.E

Demonstrations at Old Cranborne Barracks.

These will consist of a series of static displays of the various skills at which SAS soldiers are trained.

The displays will take place after the Wings Parade at 11.30

a.m.

Luncheon.

SATURDAY 11th SEPTEMBER, 1971.

Our annual all ranks' Regimental Ball this year celebrates our 10th Anniversary as well as the passing out of the course.

This function is attended by high ranking guests from the Army and the Airforce as well as present and past members of the Regiment.

The Ball takes place at the Troopers Mess at 20.00 hours.

The music will be provided by the Band of the Rhodesian Corps of Signals.

SAS AT HOME





SAS AT HOME



SKILLS OF THE SAS

PARACHUTING

A skill which demands the same from all men and therefore a great leveller, essential part of our training it is merely another means of transportation.

Whilst it forms an essential part of our training it is merely another means of transportation.

SUB AQUA DIVING

This demanding skill is one to which not all men are suited. However all SAS soldiers do basic diving training and only specially selected men undergo advanced training. At the advanced stage the men are taught tactical diving, underwater demolitions, and mine-laying and mine-clearing on ships.

It can also be used as a method of infiltrating undetected into enemy territory, in a conventional war situation.

CANOEING

All SAS soldiers are trained to an advanced stage at this particular skill. It is most used in carrying out marine operations at night in conjunction with divers in a conventional war situation. All unit canoes have a seafaring capability.

CLIMBING

All SAS soldiers undergo basic climbing training and selected men are given advanced training. It is used to carry out cliff assaults to attack an enemy from the least expected quarter. It was used by commandos to great advantage during the last war.

DEMOLITIONS

Courses in this aspect of training are designed to enable the SAS soldier to carry out tactical and strategic acts of sabotage in conventional war.

DIVING

Every SAS soldier must eventually be able to drive most categories of military vehicles.

TRACKING

This skill is vital to the success of anti-terrorist operations in which this country has from time to time been engaged. The successful locating and following of spoor demands an extremely high level of training and mental alertness.

MEDICS

All SAS soldiers during basic training are taught the elements of First Aid. Later in the various courses of training which follow, those with aptitude are taught the more sophisticated aspects of medical treatment including minor suturing and the application of saline drips. This enables a medic to save life even under the most arduous conditions.

SIGNALS

Reliable radio communications are as vital to the SAS as blood is to the body. In both basic and more advanced training soldiers are instructed in such subjects as radio procedures, Morse telegraphy, antenna theory and set operating.

RECRUITS LIFE

The SAS is a small, selective unit of highly trained soldiers. As a result the primary requirements expected of a young aspirant, are that he should be enthusiastic, intelligent, of reasonable physical ability, and above all keen to join this fine unit.

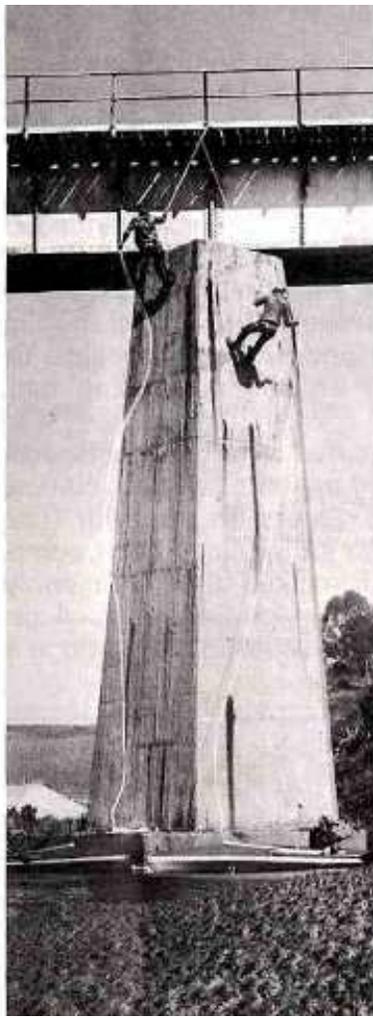
The standards of professional ability demanded of SAS soldiers are high, and training is therefore intensive and exacting as much as it is interesting.

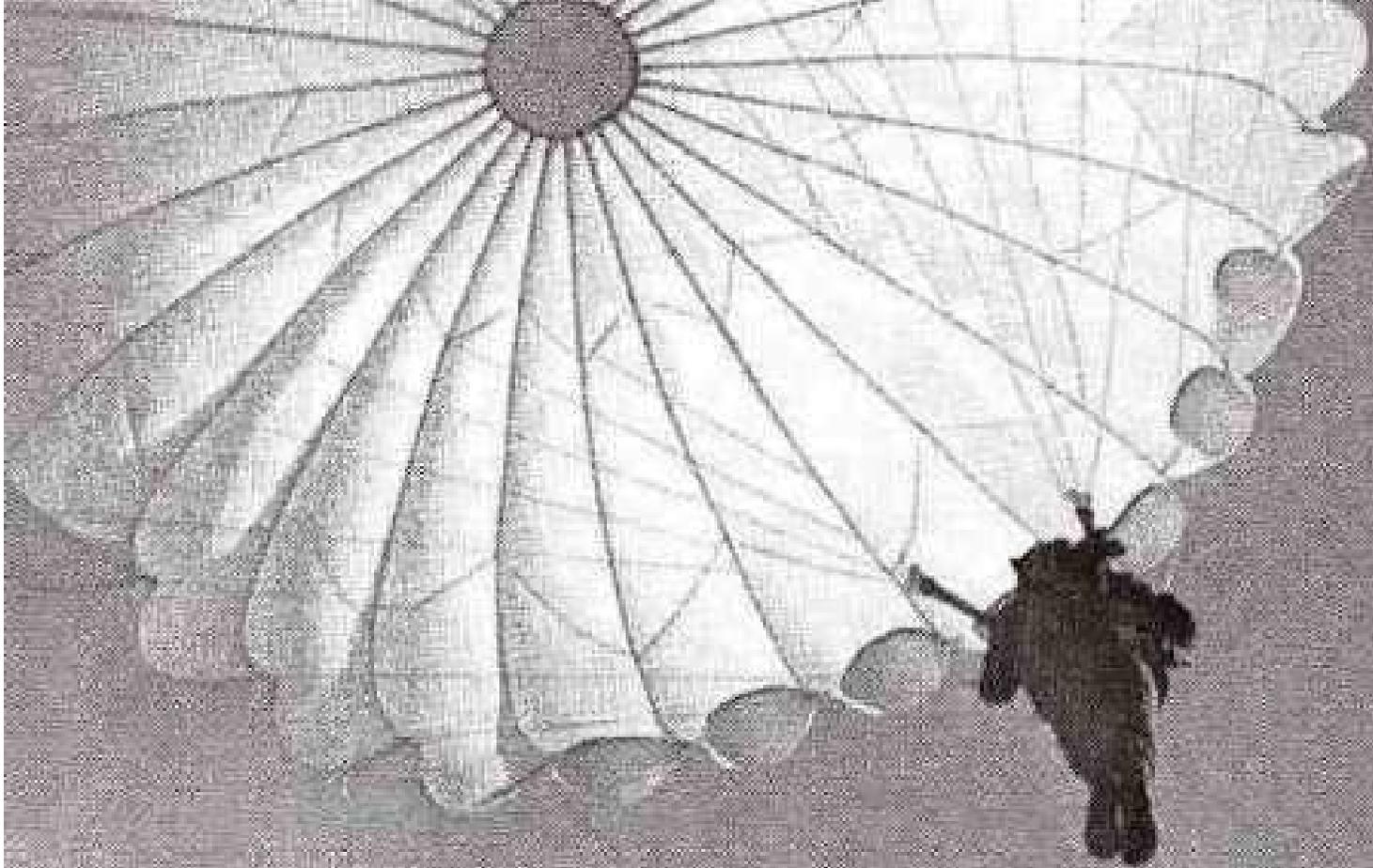
The training of a recruit is broken down into four main phases. Namely, Pre-selection, Basic training, Basic Specialist Skills training and Parachute training—the total period including selection course and various exercises covering some 26 weeks.

From the day that a potential recruit joins the Squadron his life is challenging and exciting. His first 2 weeks on pre-selection are spent in getting fit, learning the basic elements of map reading, how to look after himself in the bush and seeing something of the equipment used by the unit. It is primarily designed to prepare him for the selection course which follows and which lasts for approximately 1 week.

At any time during these 3 weeks a man may withdraw from the course voluntarily and without obligation to the Squadron.

The aim of the selection course is to ascertain a man's fundamental psychological approach, his determination, physical ability but essentially his desire to join the Regiment. If he is not keen he will not pass, but for many their enthusiasm overcomes whatever other temporary deficiencies they may have.





You're someone special in the S.A.S

A tough, highly-trained mobile fighting force — that's the Special Air Service. Keeping a watchful eye on Rhodesia's frontiers... moving in where the action is, by land, air and water.

Aqualung diving, unarmed combat, parachuting and rock climbing are just part of the varied training. Dealing with the toughest situations is just second nature

in the SAS.

It's a life with more than its share of thrills, and there's good pay and leave too. The SAS motto is "Who Dares, Wins". Are you the man we are looking for?

Think about it
(For your own good)

To: The Army Careers Officer,
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Address

Age Marital status

Qualifications



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