

## CHAPTER 10

The last Regimental Orders for the Northern Rhodesia Police read as follows<sup>1</sup>:

"           NORTHERN RHODESIA POLICE  
              REGIMENTAL ORDERS  
BY LIEUT.-COLONEL E.G. DICKINSON MC  
              COMMANDING

For the week ending 24th March, 1932.

### GENERAL

"213. NOTICE           It is published for the information of all concerned that as from 1st April, 1932, the Military and Civil Branches of the Northern Rhodesia Police will be reorganised as entirely separate departments. The Commandant will retain command of the Military Forces but will cease to hold the appointment of Chief Commissioner of Police. The Civil Police Branch, Criminal Investigation and Immigration sub-department will be reorganised as a separate department under the control of the Commissioner of Police.

The Stores and Transport sub-department will be attached to the Public Works Department. Pending the Secretary of State's approval to the renaming of the Military Force the provisional designation will be "The Northern Rhodesia Military Police".

### 214. SPECIAL NOTICE   Civil Police

Before relinquishing command of the Civil Branch, Northern Rhodesia Police, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to the Commissioner of Police, his officers and British personnel, as also to the native rank and file my high appreciation of the loyal co-operation and ready assistance I have at all times received from them during the period it has been my privilege to command that Branch.

It is with every confidence that I hand over command of the Civil Police to Captain Wardroper and I wish them all

prosperity in the future.

(Signed) E.G.DICKINSON,  
Lieut.-Colonel,  
Chief Commissioner of Police."

In June 1932 the Military used the occasion of the King's Birthday Parade for their formal farewell to Livingstone. At 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 July, after a ceremony at the railway station, Lieutenant Colonel Dickinson, with his headquarters and the troops from Livingstone, departed by train for their new camp, or rather the camp they were to build, at Lusaka. They took with them the Colours, the Regimental Silver, the band and corps of drums and the crested crane badge with the motto "Diversi generi fide pares"<sup>2</sup>. Although this may have now officially ceased to be the motto of the Northern Rhodesia Police, its words were to remain true of the Force to the end.

The Governor, in his annual report, strongly recommended that the military force "should take the title of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment". It was thought in London that such an apparent strengthening of the armed forces of the Empire might be regarded as a breach of the League of Nations One Year Armament Truce which did not expire until 31 October 1932. The change was accordingly delayed until 1 April 1933. In fact by the time the military left Livingstone its strength was down to fifteen officers, five British warrant officers and NCOs, and 403 African rank and file. On 1 April 1933 the strength of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment was even lower, 12 officers, 7 British WOs and NCOs, and only 376 Africans. These reductions reflected the effect on the Territory's finances, of the World Recession of 1929 to 1931, of which more will be said in the next chapter. All the East African dependencies were similarly affected. The strength of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment more or less kept pace with that of the battalions of the King's African Rifles which were all reduced to major's commands at this time.<sup>3</sup>

Lieutenant Colonel Dickinson left on leave pending retirement in February 1933. His Second-in-Command, Major G P Burton, acted as Commandant until he too retired on 31 May 1933. Then Captain B J Graham became Commanding Officer of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment. Graham held the post until January 1937 when he was succeeded by an officer of the British regular army, Lieutenant Colonel W A Dimoline MC Royal Signals<sup>4</sup>. Capt Graham had attended a Senior Police Officers' Course at New Scotland Yard in 1931 which suggests that he was keeping his career options open and may well have been a candidate for Capt Wardroper's job.<sup>5</sup>

The very existence of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment was in the balance for some years. In 1933-1934 Air Vice Marshal C L N Newall CB CMG CBE, Air Officer Commanding Middle East Air Force, and Brigadier C C Norman CMG DSO, Inspector of East and West African Forces, carried out a study of the requirements for the defence of East Africa in the light of modern airpower. They recommended the

amalgamation of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment and 2nd King's African Rifles to form one battalion, which, with a flight of aircraft, was to be responsible for the internal security and first line defence of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.<sup>6</sup>

The regiment may have been saved by the sentiment that if the Territory had to pay for a military unit it was going to retain a proprietary label on it! The run down of the East and Central African forces was brought to a halt by the anxiety caused by the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1935.

The Quartermaster, Captain Smith, was seconded to the Public Works Department in April 1932, but retired the following year to go into business as a contractor. He later became Chairman of the Kitwe Chamber of Commerce. Almost all the other officers and British ranks of the old Military Branch were replaced by British Army personnel in 1937. They either retired or, like Eddie Raubenheimer, transferred to other Government departments. Three obtained appointments in other Colonial Officer territories. Sgt N O M Burne was still serving the Northern Rhodesia Government as a principal forester in 1962. Four warrant officers and NCOs, including the Bandmaster, WO2 R P Arnold, were retained in the Regiment. Bandmaster Woods had died in 1933 after an acute attack of dysentery.

In March 1935 the military post at Mongu closed and the detachment of the Regiment there joined the main body at Lusaka, followed in April by the Fort Jameson Detachment. In November 1936 the military detachment was withdrawn from Kasama.<sup>7</sup>

One of the officers who served on with the Regiment was Captain Bagshaw. He commanded the Coronation Contingent in 1937. The Northern Rhodesia Regiment party was quartered in Chelsea Barracks. Regimental Sergeant-Major Chisangalumbwe was extended the privilege of drilling a party of guardsmen. He caused some consternation by giving the order "As you were!", after one movement which he did not consider up to Northern Rhodesia Regiment standards<sup>8</sup>. RSM Chisangalumbwe will be familiar to collectors of cigarette cards. He was portrayed on Card No.46 of the Players "Military Uniforms of the British Empire Overseas" series issued for the Coronation of King George VI.

When the 1st Battalion, The Northern Rhodesia Regiment saw its first action in World War Two, the only former Northern Rhodesia Police Military Branch officer with it was Major J D Giddings, commanding 'D' Company, the first to encounter the Italians at Hargeisa on 5th August 1940. He and his company fought a delaying action against 10,000 enemy troops before falling back on the main body of the Battalion at Tug Argan. Giddings had been commissioned from Company Sergeant-Major in March 1931 and was to finish his military career as a Lieutenant Colonel. He later served as Divisional Commandant of the Northern Rhodesia Police Reserve at Ndola.

Also with the Battalion in the defence of British Somaliland were four former members of the old NRP Service Battalion of 1918, RSM Chisangalumbwe, Company Sergeant-Major (later RSM) Mulenga, Sergeant Chibalili, who was killed at Tug Argan, and Sergeant Kaputula DCM.<sup>9</sup>

## NOTES CHAPTER 10

1. Nkhwazi Vol 12 NO.1 Apr 1964 p32
2. Story NRR p69 Nkhwazi Apr 1964 p33
3. Story NRR p70 History KAR Chap 16(iii) pp462-465
4. Maj Gen W A DIMOLINE CB CBE DSO MC, RSig Cmdt NRR 1.37 Brig 26(EA) Bde 30.1.42 22(EA) Bde 1.4.42 21(EA) Bde 10.8.43-30.10.43 28(EA) Bde 15.5.44 GOC 11(EA) Div 3.3.45
5. PRO CO799/9
6. Marshal of the RAF Lord Cyril Louis Norton NEWALL CB CMG CBE AM b15.2.86 s/o Lt Col IA ed Bedfd Sch RMC 2Lt RWar 05 Zheka Kel Expdn'08 2GR'09 RFC Sitapur'13 CO 41Wg RFC 10.10.17 T/BG VIII Bde RFC 1.2.18 DDPers Air Mnsty'19-22 DOps & Int & DCAS'26 AVM AOC Wessex Bombing Area'31 AOC RAF ME'31-4 CAS & Chmn CofS Cttee 9.37 Gov Gen NZ'40-45 d'64 Brig Compton Cardew NORMAN CMG 19 DSO 17 b'77 2Lt RWF SA'99-02 WAFF w'05 CO 2RWF Cmd 158(RWF) Bde TA'27 IG WAFF'30 & KAR'31 rtd'34
7. Exco PRO CO799/9 Story NRR p70
8. Story NRR p72 Bagshaw interview IWM
9. Story NRR p73