

CHAPTER 15

The dress of the Northern Rhodesia Police reached almost its final form in 1957. There were several orders of dress:-

European Officers:

Class I Full Dress: Khaki drill long sleeved jacket of service dress pattern with a flapped pouched pocket on each front skirt and a pleated and flapped patch pocket on each breast. The jacket was closed by four large Force buttons and had a step collar on each side of which was worn a small Force badge with the fish-eagle facing outwards. The initials NRP in chrome were worn on the khaki drill shoulder straps below any rank badges which were also white metal. All badges were worn over black felt backing, usually made from worn out fezzes. The pockets were fastened by medium sized Force buttons while the shoulder straps were secured by small Force buttons and three buttons of this size closed the opening behind each of the plain pointed cuffs.

The jacket was worn over a khaki-green Vantella shirt with detachable collar and a blue tie. Nether garments were khaki drill shorts reaching to one and a half inches above the knee, black ankle boots, blue woollen hoesetops and green garter flashes. The puttees were light khaki for Superior Police Officers and drab for others. In later years all ranks adopted the light shade.

Full dress headdress was the khaki Wolseley helmet with blue pugri and the Force badge in front. The helmet peak was bound with black patent leather. All European officers wore a black leather Sam Browne belt with steel fittings and one shoulder brace. Superior Police Officers and Chief Inspectors carried an Infantry pattern sword with a black leather scabbard, frog and knot, while more junior officers carried a malacca cane with a silver knob embossed with the Force badge. The whistle was carried in an insert in the left breast pocket and attached to a blue lanyard worn on the left shoulder in all orders of dress.

Mounted officers wore Bedford cord breeches with black knee boots and steel spurs. In winter mounted escorts wore the blue Class II (Winter) jacket with blue breeches and a white Wolseley helmet with one blue fold in the white pugri. The helmet, whether khaki or white was embellished with a steel spike and chin chain. The escort carried lances with pennons in the Force colours - blue, white and green. A blue shabraque edged with two white stripes and with the Force badge in the rear corners was placed under the saddle. Saddlery and harness was brown leather and headropes, white. Black leather gauntlets were worn.

Class II (Summer): The same jacket shirt and tie as in full dress, worn with long khaki drill trousers with turnups, khaki socks and black leather shoes and the blue

peaked cap. On less formal occasions and for office wear, a khaki drill belt with chrome buckle might be worn in place of the Sam Browne. When not wearing a sword, Superior Police Officers carried a black leather covered cane with a whistle at one end.

Class II (Winter): A blue cloth uniform of identical cut to Class II (Summer) but with no turnups on the trousers and worn with a white shirt, black tie, blue socks and white string gloves. The blue uniform had first been introduced in 1951 but fell into disuse until revived by Mr Fforde in 1954

Working Dress: Khaki drill shorts with a short sleeved khaki drill bush tunic with an open collar and fastened with four large Force buttons. The bush tunic had breast pockets of the same kind as the full dress jacket, but the pockets on the front skirts were not pouched. As an alternative a brown cotton patrol shirt could be worn except when attending court. This shirt, which made youthful officers look like boy scouts and others like Hitler's stormtroopers, was not popular. Officers took to having their own shirts made from khaki drill or wearing old Army shirts, until in 1958 a flannel shirt of a greenish drab was introduced. This in turn was replaced in about 1961 by the same grey shirt with miniature Force buttons as worn by African police. In working dress either boots, hoesetops, garter flashes and puttees could be worn or black shoes with Colonial Police pattern blue-topped khaki stockings without garter flashes.

Prosecutors and officers employed in offices might wear the khaki drill belt, but otherwise the Sam Browne was worn in working dress. Superior Police Officers invariably carried canes and members of the inspectorate normally did so.

On the rare occasions when it was required the .38 revolver was carried in a black leather holster on the left side of the belt. The blue revolver lanyard was worn round the right shoulder.

A V-necked khaki jersey-pullover of British Army pattern with shoulder loops could be worn with the shirt when required. In rural areas a khaki drill cover could be worn over the blue peaked cap and Superior Officers could wear a blue folding travelling cap of the type commonly called a side-cap, but more properly, a field service cap.

A khaki trenchcoat with brown leather buttons was the official wet weather wear.

Motor cyclists wore khaki breeches in working dress and blue in Class II (Winter) and all European members of traffic sections wore black leather gaiters in place of hoesetops and puttees, and white cap covers. Crash helmets were white with 'POLICE' stencilled across the front in black. White traffic sleeves could also be worn.

The Staff Officer at Force Headquarters and all officers of or above the rank of Assistant Commissioner wore black gorget patches in all orders of dress. Superior

Police Officers wore blue patrols on certain occasions. The patrol jacket had a closed collar and the trousers or overalls were decorated with a broad buff stripe down each outside seam. At the end of the decade a blue waist sash was adopted by Assistant Commissioners and above for wear with patrols on ceremonial occasions in place of the Sam Browne belt and on these occasions they carried their swords in steel scabbards suspended on slings.

Superior Police Officers wore blue patrols with cloth belt as Mess Dress in Winter. In warm weather the patrol jacket was replaced by a white mess jacket worn with a white shirt, wing collar, black bow tie and blue cummerbund. Miniature collar and rank badges were worn on the mess jacket.

Inspectors wore the mess jacket with wing collar, black tie and cummerbund whatever the season. This was to be worn with ordinary civilian black evening trousers, although the custom grew up of wearing blue uniform trousers with Mess Dress, since some officers were without civilian evening dress of a traditional pattern.

Badges of rank were worn on the shoulder straps in white metal as follows:-

Commissioner Crossed tipstaves surrounded by a wreath surmounted by a crown

Deputy Commissioner Crossed tipstaves surrounded by a wreath surmounted by two stars

Senior Assistant
Commissioner Crossed tipstaves surrounded by a wreath surmounted by one star

Assistant Commissioner Crossed tipstaves surrounded by a wreath

Senior Superintendent A star surmounted by a crown

Superintendent A crown

Assistant Superintendent Three stars

Acting A/Supt Two stars

Chief Inspector Three bars

Senior Inspector Two bars

Inspector One bar.

Assistant inspectors wore no badge of rank, but in the words of one constable in an

examination paper "just that big belt and NRP on his shoulder".

Caps of assistant commissioners and above were decorated with silver oak leaf embroidery on the peak, while those of senior superintendents and superintendents bore a band of plain silver lace 3/4 inch wide on the peak.

Badges of rank for African police were:-

African Inspector Two blue braid loops on each shoulder
strap

Sub-Inspector One braid loop as above

Sergeant-Major (from 1959 Head Constable) A white metal crown on the right sleeve (a sergeant-major with four or more years service in that rank wore a wreath round the crown)

Sergeant A three bar chevron worn point downward above the elbow, white tape in working dress, silver lace in full dress each on a dark blue background.

Entitled African police wore proficiency and specialist badges as follows, in white metal on black or dark blue backing on the right sleeve

Best shot in the Force Crossed rifles surmounted by a crown surrounded by a wreath

Best shot in Division or Member of Force shooting team Crossed rifles surmounted by a crown

Marksman Crossed rifles

Qualified in first aid Badge of the Order of St John

Bandsman A lyre surmounted by a crown

Bugler A stringed bugle

Driver A wheel

Wireless operator A box aerial within a circle

Armourer Crossed pincers and hammer

Dog handler An alsation's head within a circle

Farrier A horseshoe

Mounted Branch A horse's head.

At the Police Training School the orderly sergeant wore a scarlet infantry worsted sash over the right shoulder while the provost sergeant wore a similar sash in dark blue.

All ranks were issued with a steel helmet, a round metal shield and a long wooden baton, the size of a pick helve, a 1944 pattern respirator and a pair of anti-gas goggles, for use in riots. All European officers in the Force and all African police in the Mobile Unit were issued with 1937 pattern web equipment with waist belt, basic pouches, braces, haversack and straps supporting, water bottle and carrier, and, in the case of Europeans, pistol case and ammunition pouch. Web equipment was blanched khaki-green and steel helmets were painted blue with "POLICE" stencilled on the front in white. In the Mobile Unit, company commanders, platoon officers and sergeants-major had their steel helmets painted in the company colour for ease of recognition, for instance red for 'A' and green for 'C' Company.

Besides the .38 revolver issued to each European officer and kept by him in his quarters, all firearms were kept in station or formation armouries. Sufficient .303 Short Magazine Lee-Enfield Number 4 rifles with bayonets were held for issue to nearly every African policeman. For operations and drill a web sling and bayonet frog were used, but black leather slings and frogs were issued for ceremonial parades and guards of honour. Single barrelled Martini action Greener shot guns were available for use against snakes, rabid dogs etc and, during riots were normally issued to drivers to protect their vehicles. Bren light machine guns and Sterling sub-machine guns were issued on a scale of one each per Mobile Unit platoon and on a similar scale elsewhere.

An anti-riot platoon was normally organised into an armed section of six riflemen and two baton waves of approximately eleven men each. Each man in a baton wave carried a long baton, shield and a haversack of tear-smoke grenades. With the armed section the platoon commander had available two men carrying 1½ inch riot guns and a supply of tear-smoke shells and baton rounds. In the Mobile Unit these men also carried eighteen inch bayonets which were useful to clear hard extractions. The platoon was completed by two first aid men and a bugler.

In Working Dress African police wore a grey flannel shirt with shoulder straps, two patch pockets and Force buttons. The whistle was worn in the left breast pocket on a chain hooked over the top button. Khaki shorts were worn with black ankle boots and long black puttees, which were replaced during 1958 by blue hoes tops, green garter flashes and short drab puttees as worn by European inspectors. African sub-

inspectors and inspectors wore their whistles on blue lanyards like European officers and might wear black shoes and Colonial Police stockings. African police headdress was the small khaki covered cork 'polo' helmet with blue pugri and Force badge. On traffic duty a white helmet was worn with a white pugri. White traffic sleeves were also worn on such duty. African police wore a divisional number prefixed by a letter indicating the division over the right breast. In chrome metal with black backing the divisional number was replaced by the man's Force number by 1959. At night and in cold weather the shirt was replaced by a blue woollen jersey with leather shoulder patches. At night in winter long khaki drill trousers were worn in place of shorts, together with a dark blue single breasted greatcoat with black horn buttons bearing the Force badge. A blue single breasted raincoat was also issued to African police.

Constables and sergeants wore a black leather waistbelt with a white metal locket fastener bearing a crown and the Force title. This was in the process of being replaced by a locket with the Force crest. The short baton was worn on the right side of the belt suspended from a white metal detachable baton hook until the nineteen sixties when shorts were issued with a pocket for the baton. sewn into the shorts. The handcuffs were worn on the left side of the belt. Sergeants-major and above wore the black Sam Browne belt and carried malacca canes. Sergeants carried canes whangee (bamboo).

In riot dress the Force number was not displayed and the jersey was normally worn rather than the shirt.

In full dress African police wore a black fez with a black tassel falling to the right and the Force badge in front. A long sleeved bush tunic with detachable black shoulder straps replaced the shirt except for sub-inspectors and inspectors who wore a similar jacket to European officers but with a stand-up collar closed with hooks and eyes and bearing the collar badges.

Bandsmen wore the tunic with stand up collar with collar badges, black shoulder straps edged silver, black and silver wings and blue and silver dress cords. They wore white belts over blue cummerbunds and white spats in place of puttees. The fez tassel for bandsmen was black and silver.

Women officers wore blue peaked caps of the type then worn by women police officers in England, black shoes and khaki drill skirt with bush tunic or khaki drill jacket with greenish khaki shirt and blue tie. In winter women officers wore the blue Class II Winter uniform with a blue skirt. Women did not wear the Sam Browne belt. In 1959 women regular officers adopted a blue air hostess style cap and a khaki terylene Summer uniform the jacket of which had rounded skirts. The cotton shirt had patch pockets for working dress wear.

Members of the Northern Rhodesia Police Reserve wore the same Class II (Summer) and working dress as the regular Force, with shoulder titles "NRPR". Reserve assistant inspectors were not issued with Sam Browne belts and neither Full Dress

nor Class II (Winter) were worn by members of the Northern Rhodesia Police Reserve, except those attached to the Mounted Section.

Cadets wore a light blue band round their caps and a black cloth shoulder title with 'POLICE CADET' embroidered in white. Cadets did not wear the Sam Browne. Recruitment of European assistant inspectors through the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations in London was failing to produce sufficient numbers and new steps were taken to obtain suitable recruits in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. The European cadet system, introduced in 1956, had been limited to youths who were locally resident. The end of conscription in the United Kingdom meant that potential recruits had already embarked on careers by the age of twenty one. Accordingly, during 1958, recruitment of United Kingdom school leavers as police cadets was commenced through an appointments board provided by the Commissioner for Northern Rhodesia in London. The age for attestation as assistant inspectors was lowered to twenty.

In September 1958 the first African policewoman, Woman Constable Veronica Changu was attested. W/Const Changu was a 24-year old Tonga from Mazabuka District and had formerly worked as a nursing assistant. On completion of the recruit training course at Lilayi she was posted to Choma. A second woman constable was recruited during the year, but the number of African women in the Force was always to be very small. Women constables wore the same grey shirt as the men, with a khaki drill skirt and a dark blue felt hat with a round crown and a brim. There was a blue ribbon round the crown of the hat which was worn with the Force badge in front.
¹ By mid 1961 the hat was replaced by the blue peaked cap as formerly worn by European women of the regular Force and still worn by the Reserve.

In January 1959 the rank of African Inspector was abolished. Five of those who had held the rank were promoted Assistant Inspector Grade II and the remaining thirty-six, Assistant Inspector Grade III. European assistant inspectors were designated Assistant Inspector Grade I. This was the first step towards africanisation of the Force. Henceforth there were to be no references to European police or African police. Those of or below the rank of Sub-Inspector were to be known as "Other Ranks" while holders of the ranks of Assistant Inspector Grade III up to Chief Inspector were to be known as Subordinate Police Officers, abbreviated to s.p.o. to distinguish them from S.P.Os (Superior Police Officers) of gazetted rank. All grades of Assistant Inspector wore the same uniform without badge of rank. Rates of pay differed for each grade.

The most common police vehicle was the long or short wheel-base landrover with canvas canopy, although these were gradually replaced by the hard top variant. The Mobile Unit was equipped with the Bedford RL 3-ton troop carrier, introduced in the British Army in 1955, while until about 1960, other formations had to make do with older vehicles for troop carrying purposes. All troop carriers had the body of the vehicle protected against missiles by wire mesh. Bedford 3-ton load carrying vehicles, known as "flat tops" were also in use, together with smaller Bedford

vanettes, and closed vans for transporting prisoners to and from court. All the above vehicles were painted blue with "POLICE" stencilled in white on the doors. Wolseley saloons were used for traffic patrols and other work on tarred roads. By 1960 these had been replaced by Rovers.

To co-ordinate and promote sporting activities within the Force a Central Sports Committee had been formed in 1954 with Mr T M Davidson, Assistant Commissioner, as its first chairman. The expansion of the Northern Rhodesia Police brought plenty of good sportsmen into the Territory. Six members of the Force played in the Northern Rhodesia European Association Football Team which beat Bolton Wanderers three goals to nil at Broken Hill in May 1959. All three goals were scored by Assistant Inspector George Sharp, late of Darlington and Oldham Athletic. Assistant Inspector Derek Debell captained the Northern Rhodesia Team and was chosen as Lusaka's "Sportsman of the Year". Five members of the Lusaka European Police Football Team were selected to play for Northern Rhodesia against the Belgian Congo in August 1959.

Meanwhile multi-racial sport, in which the Force had always set an example, was not neglected. Lusaka Urban District were the 1959 winners of the Unsworth Cup with a team of four Europeans and seven African police. The cup had been presented to the Force in the early 1950s by Sir Edgar Unsworth, the then Attorney General and Minister responsible for the police. The Unsworth Cup was the Force's football challenge cup, competed for annually by teams from all formations and the larger stations. To ensure a proper racial balance, each team had to contain not less than two and not more than four Europeans.

On 13 September 1959 the NRP team, consisting of Sgt Nyrenda, A/Insp Steel and Sgt Namalongo of Training School, Band Constable Shamainda of Mobile Unit, Const Mwelwa of Matero and A/Insp Durose of Ndola, beat nine other teams in the first cycle relay race from Lusaka to Broken Hill and back. Sgt Nyrenda took the lead from the start at 0900hrs but after 15 minutes his chain broke and he was "Tail End Charlie" by the time he had replaced it. Nevertheless he was lying third when he handed over to A/Insp Steel who was soon in the lead which his team mates never lost. The police team covered the 172 miles at an average speed of 18.2 MPH despite Nyrenda's mishap with A/Insp Durose crossing the finish line at 1825 hrs.

The Northern Rhodesia Police played the British South Africa Police at rugby football each year, from 1956 until 1964, and never lost a match. In Lusaka a combined Military and Police team, Lusaka Forces, was prominent in the local league.

In each of the three years it was held, the Northern Rhodesia Police team won the Combined Services Hockey Tournament for teams from the Rhodesia and Nyasaland Army, the Royal Rhodesian Air Force, and the police forces of each territory.

In 1960 the Northern Rhodesia Police Shooting Team was to win the East and West Africa Police Cup for the first time although in 1956 a team consisting of sergeants-

major Mwachiaba and Yaladi, Sgts Mwendachabe, Mumba and Mubulo and constables Sampa, Namachila and Kamala had scored 664 points out of a possible 672.

On 6 August 1961 Constable Alfred Ngoma crossed the finishing line at the new Civic Centre, Lusaka, breaking the unofficial World Record for the 110 miles walk by nearly an hour. The first of 44 contestants in a race organised by the Lusaka African Welfare Office, Ngoma completed the distance in 25 hours and 3 minutes. There were only eight finishers. Some had given up through injury, some with blistered feet. Three gave up at the 55 mile post because they feared being eaten by a large lion they had seen on the road! Constable Ngoma was presented with two silver cups by the Mayor, Richard Sampson.²

On 3 January 1961 the Police Advisory Board was replaced by a Police Service Commission under the chairmanship of Sir Charles Hartwell, formerly Chief Secretary to the Uganda Government, who was also Chairman of the Northern Rhodesia Public Service Commission. The establishment of the Police Service Commission was in accordance with a recommendation in the Robertson Report. The Commission was to advise the Government on appointments, admissions to the permanent and pensionable establishment, promotions and discipline.³

In 1960 the Northern Rhodesia Police had celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the raising of the Barotse Native Police. On 28th April the Force Band beat retreat at Wardroper Police Camp, Lusaka. Colonel The Lord Robins KBE DSO took the salute and, as Chairman of the British South Africa Company, presented the Force with six silver bugles and a silver statuette of the drum-major.⁴

As a mark of the common origins of the Northern Rhodesia Police and the Northern Rhodesia Regiment the police now replaced their green garter flashes with a new felt pattern showing red over green, while the regiment incorporated a strip of police blue in theirs.

On 2 April 1962 His Excellency the Governor, Sir Evelyn Hone KCMG CVO OBE, opened the Northern Rhodesia Military and Police Museum in the Old Boma building, Cairo Road, Lusaka. The museum was administered by the Trustees of the Rhodes-Livingstone Museum through a sub-committee which included the Colonel of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment, the Commissioner of Police, The Mayor of Lusaka, the Director of the Rhodes-Livingstone Museum and representatives of ex-servicemen's organisations, under the chairmanship of Mr J Thomson OBE. Pride of place among the exhibits was given to 'May Jackson', the seven pounder muzzle-loading mountain gun which first saw service with the Pioneer Column in Southern Rhodesia in 1890 and was taken north by Percy Sillitoe in 1914 for use against the Germans in East Africa.⁵

On 29 June 1962, at a ceremony at Wardroper Police Camp, Lusaka, recognising the golden jubilee of the Northern Rhodesia Police, His Excellency the Governor

presented the Force with the following sterling silver band instruments, valued at some £4,000:-

Six side drums, one bass drum and one drum-major's mace, with sterling silver embellishments, the gift of the Northern Rhodesia Government, three bugles and one tenor drum, the gift of the Anglo American Corporation, and three bugles and a tenor drum, the gift of the Rhodesian Selection Trust.

The final strength of the Band was:-

1 Assistant Superintendent, C W G Hey, Bandmaster,
1 Inspector, Assistant Bandmaster,
1 Sub-Inspector, Drum-major,
1 Head Constable,
4 Sergeants,
54 Constables,
28 Buglers,

a total of ninety with the following instrumentation:-

1 Flute, 5 Horns, 26 Bugles,
1 Piccolo, 14 B Flat Cornets, 5 Bass,
2 E Flat Clarinets, 4 Tenor Trombones, 6 Side Drums,
1 Oboe, 2 Bass Trombones, 2 Tenor Drums,
11 B Flat Clarinets, 2 Euphoniums, 1 Cymbals,
2 E Flat Saxophones, 2 B Flat Saxophone, 1 Bass Drum.⁶

NOTES CHAPTER 15

1.Nkhwazi December 1958 p35

2.Nkhwazi Vol.10 No 2 Dec 62 p26

Richd SAMPSON Mayor of Lka, author 'So this was LUSAKAS', UNIP candidate'63 d.2018

3.Nkhwazi Vol 12 No.1 Apr'64 p51

Sir Chas Herbt HARTWELL Kt 60 CMG 54 b04 ed Cam CeylonCS 27 Pal 40 Ceylon 42 DEstabs Kenya 47 DChSec 52 Ch Sec Ugda 55-7.60 Chmn NR Pub & Pol Svce Comms NR 10.60-Min Overseas Develpmt 12.63 Advsr Govt Mauritius 66 Chmn Pub Svce CommHK 67-71 d31.8.82

4.Nkhwazi 1960

Thomas Ellis ROBINS KBE 54 DSO 19 BA 1st Baron'58 bPhiladelphia 31.10.84 s/o Maj Robt P Robins US Army ed University of Pennsylvania Rhodes Scholar Oxf, Asst Ed Everybody Magazine NY'07 PS to Earl Winterton & Lity Sec Anti-Socialist Union GB'09 City of London Yeo'14 PM EEF 2.19-1.21 Sec Conservative Club'21 OC CoLY Bty RHA TA'25-28 Res Dir BSACo Rhod, Lt Col Dir Int SR, CO 1RR'40 AA&QMG SR'43-5 Trustee Rhodes Livingstone Museum, Pres BSACo d21.7.62

5.Nkhwazi Vol 10 No.1 Aug 62

6.Nkhwazi Vol 12 No.1 Apr 64 p61