



The Rhodesian Light Infantry Regimental Association

Dear All,

MOVE OF THE TROOPER STATUE

I am aware of certain dissent in this regard, as well as a lot of support and generous donations.

I apologise for this happening, but the ExCo followed the same discreet route that the ExCo of 2007 did. When deciding to erect the Trooper in Hatfield House, they voted to do it, approached Lord Salisbury and once he approved, informed the members. We did the same this time, and the ExCo is now more representative, with all Branch Chairman on it. We voted on it, unanimously, approached Lord Salisbury, who understood our reasoning, and gave his blessing, for the move. In fact, he said he appreciated how we were looking to the future. We then informed the members.

The reason for the move is Access, Security, and to a certain extent maintenance. For those outside UK, you may not realise, but the Woke elements and Black Lives Matter, are threatening Colonial Monuments and have already destroyed one in Bristol and messed up others. Accordingly, Hatfield House, has denied RLIRA the right to have functions or group visits between 1 April and 31 October (individuals or families walking the grounds may visit it). This move is to limit the Wokes attention being drawn to The Trooper. Functions may only be held during the Winter, with prior approval.

To this end, it was decided that a move to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) was the logical move. It is the well-respected UK National Memorial site. It is secure, open 364 days a year, and it contains the National Wall of Remembrance, surrounded by avenues of Memorials. In the Rhodesian area, it already has the RAR, RhAF and BSAP Memorials and ours would be next to them. It has good car parking, disabled access, Café, Toilet facilities and Function facilities, and far more accessible than

our isolated Trooper Statue in Hatfield House, that, during the winter months, is very muddy. See www.thenma.org.uk

Maintenance, has to be done in Hatfield House as part of the deal to have The Trooper there. This has to be done by an ever-reducing number of the same, aging volunteers. Maintenance at the NMA is done by their staff.

None of us will live forever, thus, the sooner we have The Trooper in a more secure and accessible location, for all members, and ex Rhodesians, to visit, the better. We are not sure how long the Hatfield House access problem will last, as the Wokes are getting stronger, and will inevitably start targeting lone Colonial Statues, like ours, again, as soon as the pandemic and lockdowns are over. Even a UK Court found them *not guilty* of malicious damage in Bristol, so we need to get our Statue into a secure, accessible location, asap. The NMA is just that.

Bear in mind that this Lord Salisbury and probably his son has accepted the Statue, future one's may not, in much the same way that the new Duke of Westminster kicked our Colours (and RAR's) out of the Rifle Club. Will our children in twenty plus years time, have the interest to move the Statue, I think not. Thus, it is up to us to move it to a safe, secure location now, so it is secure, forever.

Please if you have any comments or suggestions, forward them to your Branch Chairman so that ExCo, which they are an integral member of, can know the feelings of the members. We must get this matter resolved for the safe future of our Trooper Statue.

March on the Saints

Ian Buttenshaw

Chairman
RLIRA

