

## ZIMBABWE — RHODESIA

Commonwealth troops, including Australians were deployed to Rhodesia in December 1979 as part of a Commonwealth Monitoring Force to assist in the control of a free democratic election to be held on 27, 28 and 29 February 1980.

Three members of 2/4 RAR (LT Paul Martin, LT Don Thompson and CPL 'Bones' Brady) left with the Australian contingent, arriving at Salisbury airport on Christmas day. Their task, with the rest of the Australian contingent, British, New Zealand and Fijian troops was to deploy to outposts throughout Zimbabwe and to encourage the ZANIA and ZIPRA guerilla forces to move into assembly areas and to discontinue their conflict with the Rhodesian Security Forces (RSF) to enable a democratic election to be held under peaceful conditions.



*CPL Brady (right) with one of the mine protected vehicles used by the RSF.*

Despite many incidents between the guerillas and the RSF the election was held as planned resulting in a victory for Mr. Robert Mugabe, leader of the Guerilla forces, otherwise known as the Patriotic Front. He has since formed a government in Zimbabwe and is the current leader of that country.

The Australian contingent returned to Australia on 8 March, 1980.



*CPL Brady (left) viewing a PF soldier shot in an incident prior to the elections.*



*A vehicle used by the monitoring force in Zimbabwe.*