

CHRISTOPHER BEAN 1936 - 2022

From his early years Christopher was interested in a police career. Commencing as a Cadet in the West Riding Police, it was followed by three years in the Military Police, returning then for another year with the West Riding force before being attracted to the Colonial variety of police work.

Accordingly he served in the Nyasaland Police from 1957 - 1964 and was stationed variously mainly in the southern region including Mlanje, Kasungu, Limbe, Bvumbwe, Chikwawa and Chileka. On leaving Nyasaland he served three years in the Bechuanaland Police before embarking on civilian life in the financial world of South Africa.

He returned to UK in 2003 but memories of Africa clearly remained with him and in 2006 he founded the Nyasaland Police Association and organised its work and activities, including the annual Reunions, for a period of 12 years until the end of 2018.

Without doubt the major achievement of his Nypol time was when he initiated support for his idea of a Nyasaland Police Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Assisted by Les Renno, the idea was brought to fruition with the dedication of the Memorial at an impressive ceremony in July 2011.

At the Reunion in 2019, I spoke of the debt of gratitude and appreciation which we owed to Christopher for starting the Association and Reunions and referred to him as being Mr Nypol – as indeed he was.

He is greatly missed but well remembered.

Reference:

- (i) In 2014, his autobiography titled “Bwana wa Polisi”, covering his Police service in Africa and earlier life, was published.
- (ii) Website: Galleries – The Memorial Dedication
- (iii) Website: Items of Interest – DVD National Memorial Arboretum
- (iv) Website: Then and Now
- (v) Website: Life and Work selections
- (vi) Website: There are Tigers in Africa (Chit-Chat 2016)
- (vii) Website: Christopher steps down (Chit-Chat 2017)

Ken Wilkinson
1st August 2022



Left to right: 2011 Christopher addresses attendees at the National Arboretum, the completed stone, enjoying the 2008 Reunion and stepping down from Reunion duties in 2017.