

HEROES DAYS 1984

Issued 8th August, 1984

(Extracts from PTC Bulletin No 3 of 1984)²

Three of the stamps in this issue depict important structures at Heroes' Acre which is situated on a subdivision of Warren, 3.5 kilometres from Harare on the Bulawayo road. The centre of the Heroes' Acre Memorial Complex is placed on a saddle between two rocky outcrops, one kilometre south of the entrance.

The basic concept of the memorial complex was provided by a team of North Korean artists and sculptors who were responsible for the design and construction of the artworks. These are

1. A central feature consisting of a three-figure bronze structure, 7.5 m in height standing on a 1.5 m plinth.
2. A symbolic flame cast in aluminium, 3.5 m high.
3. Two sculptured bronze bas-reliefs, 10 m long by 5 m high.



Other features of the Heroes' Acre Memorial Complex are as follows:

1. A stepped piazza at the foot of the outcrop containing the central feature, flanked by two horizontal features representing a symbolic flag, each displaying a mural and supporting a Zimbabwe bird on its leading edge.
2. A grand staircase ascending from the lower piazza to the summit.
3. A summit piazza with a centrally placed vertical feature supporting the symbolic flame.
4. Six burial terraces, providing for 60 graves in all, disposed in three terraces on each side of the grand staircase.

When completed the site included a public address system, street lighting and an artistic form of flood lighting. Tiered spectator seating was constructed on the northern rocky outcrop overlooking the complex. Ample landscaped car and bus parking is provided on the southern side of the Ceremonial Way which leads to the Place of Assembly, the Ceremonial Way skirts the northern edge of the Place of Assembly and turns south to provide vehicular access to the Summit Piazza.

9c Stamp: This stamp features the seven heroes buried at Heroes' Acre. Brief biographical details are given below.

11c stamp: Featured on this stamp is the Symbolic Flame which is atop the 42 m high octagonal tower which itself is on the Summit Piazza. The Tower is faced with polished black Zimbabwe granite.

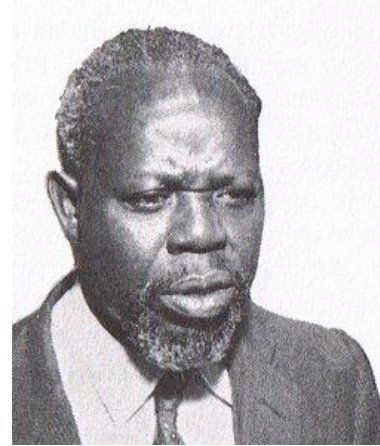
17c stamp: The three-figure bronze sculpture on this stamp stands on a base which incorporates cut natural granite stones and the base of the plinth features polished black Zimbabwe granite.

30c stamp: This stamp features a section of one of the two Heroic bronze murals. These murals flank the Place of Assembly, which is a flat paved area 100 x 50 m between the north and south rocky outcrops.

The artwork for the 9c stamp is by Nigel Pearce of Harare and the original photographs which form the basis for the 11c, 17c and 30c stamps were taken by John Akester, also of Harare.

LEOPOLD TAKAWIRA

Born in Chilimanzi, Mvuma, in 1916 and educated at Kutama Mission and Marianhill College in South Africa where he qualified as a teacher. He returned to Zimbabwe and was appointed headmaster of Chipembere Government School, Highfield. Resigning from teaching he joined the Capricorn Society eventually becoming its Executive Officer. The aim of the Capricorn Society was to reconcile blacks and whites and through discussions establish a government of consent based on the sharing of economic and political power. Leaving the Capricorn Society to become a founding member of the A.N.C. and the N.D.P. in 1959. In 1960 he was appointed the N.D.P. Secretary for External Affairs based in London. Discontented with ZAPU, Cde Takawira was instrumental in the formation of ZANU on 8 August 1963 and was elected Vice President of the new party. When ZANU was banned in 1964, Cde Takawira was detained variously at Wha Wha, Sikombela and Harare Prison. In detention he arranged classes for detainees and was a man of energy and charisma who wielded a lot of influence on those with whom he came into contact. Known popularly as "The Bull of Chilimanzi" he was a fearless man who defied any person or system he believed was unjust and oppressive. Cde Takawira died from diabetes in Harare Prison on 15 June 1970.



HERBERT WILTSHIRE CHITEPO



Born in Nyanga District on 5 June 1923 and educated at St. David's Mission Bonda, St Augustine's Penhalonga, Adams College Natal and Fort Hare University where he obtained a B.A. degree. He then went to London and worked as a Research Assistant in Shona at the London School of Oriental and African studies. Whilst in London he studied at King's College and Inns of Court and became a barrister in 1954. He returned to Zimbabwe and set up practice in Harare. Admitted an advocate of the High Court in 1954. Cde Chitepo dealt initially with criminal cases and from 1957 onwards defended African nationalists. In June 1960, he joined the N.D.P. and was made a member of its Executive Council. In June 1962, he left Zimbabwe for voluntary exile in Tanzania where he was made Director of Public Prosecutions. When ZANU was formed in 1963, he joined it and campaigned for it in Tanzania. That year, he was appointed ZANU National Chairman and eventually moved to Lusaka in 1965 and organised the external wing of the party. From 1971 onwards, he became increasingly involved in reviewing, planning and evolving strategies to prosecute the war. Together with Cde Tongogara he implemented the policy of political mobilisation of the masses. Cde Chitepo was assassinated on 18 March 1975 when a bomb attached to his car exploded killing him and his bodyguard.

JASON ZIYAPAPA MOYO

Born near Plumtree in 1927, he was educated at Mzingwane Government School and then trained as a builder and carpenter. In the 50s, he joined the trade union movement and the Bulawayo branch of the ANC becoming its Chairman. He held executive posts in the N.D.P. ZAPU and the P.C.C. (Peoples' Caretaker Council). After the banning of the P.C.C., Cde Moyo was sent to Lusaka as a member of the External Executive of ZAPU. He travelled abroad receiving military and political training as leader of the external wing of ZAPU. He built ZIPRA and organised the party on solid lines. In 1976, Cde Moyo was appointed second Vice-President of ZAPU and given full powers to deal with military affairs. He advocated unity between ZANLA and ZIPRA and worked tirelessly to achieve his goal. In October 1977, he began negotiations with Cde Mugabe which concluded with the creation of the Patriotic Front, an organisation embracing ZANU and ZAPU. He was a staunch supporter of the armed struggle in unity and under his leadership ZIPRA launched the north-west offensive with spectacular successes. Unfortunately, after returning from the Geneva Conference, on 22 January 1977, he opened a parcel in his Lusaka office, which exploded killing him.



JOSIAH MAGAMA TONGOGARA



Born in Nhema, Shurugwi, on 4 February 1940, he completed his primary schooling (standard six) in Zimbabwe before leaving for Zambia to further his education. During the liberation struggle, he attended Nanking Academy Peking in 1966 and returned to Tanzania where he taught guerilla war strategy and tactics. In 1972, he was made military commander of ZANLA and Chairman of the High Command. 1974 saw him being made Chief of Defence and member of the ZANU Supreme Council. In 1976, he attended the abortive Geneva Conference. Cde Tongogara played an important role in reaching agreement at Lancaster House and after the Conference was looking forward to the task of uniting ZANLA, ZIPRA and the Rhodesian forces into one National Army. He was being driven to Chimoio on 24 December 1979 to announce details of the ceasefire when his car was involved in a collision with another vehicle and he was killed instantly

TARCISIUS GEORGE MALAN SILUNDIKA

Born near Plumtree on 1 March 1929 and attended school at Empandeni Mission near Plumtree continuing at St Frances College, Marianhill, Natal, followed by Fort Hare College and Pius XII College Roma, Lesotho. On his return to Zimbabwe, Cde Silundika taught for two years at his first school, Empandeni Mission, before joining the Federal Broadcasting Corporation. In 1963, he left for Zambia where he assisted in the building and strengthening of ZIPRA. Between 1976 and 1979, his greatest task was to promote unity between the two parties and their liberation movements and to liaise with the external supporters of ZAPU. In 1979, he attended the Lancaster House Conference and returned to Zimbabwe at the end of the conference to campaign for the 1980 elections. Elected MP for Matabeleland South, Cde Silundika was made Minister of Posts and Telecommunications in 1980. In 1981, his post was changed to include Roads and Road Traffic and it was as Minister of Roads and Road Traffic, Posts and Telecommunications that he died after a brief illness on 9 April 1981.



SIMON CHARLES MAZORODZE

Born in Mhondoro on 29 November 1933 and educated at Hartley Mission, Waddilove Institute, Goromonzi Secondary School and Natal University. At the University of Natal, he qualified as an M.B. Ch. B and on his return to Zimbabwe, took up an appointment at Harare Hospital. In 1967, Dr Mazorodze was transferred to Ndanga hospital with responsibility for visiting hospitals in the Ndanga, Gutu and Bikita districts. Leaving Government service in 1974, he set up private practice in Masvingo. Having been a founder member of ZANU since 1963, he became actively involved in politics giving financial and medical assistance to ZANLA forces. In 1979, when he started organising for elections, he was arrested but later released on bail. Following his release, he worked at Harare Hospital and was heavily involved in organising the 1980 elections. In 1980, he was elected MP for Masvingo and made Deputy Minister of Health. In 1981, he was appointed Minister of Health, was instrumental in restructuring and re-organising the health services of Zimbabwe and was still heavily involved in this task at the time of his untimely death on 5 November 1981.

MASOCHA NDLOVU

Born at Tegwani Plumtree in 1890 and educated at various schools in Matabeleland and by private studies. In 1918, he left Zimbabwe for South Africa and obtained employment in Cape Town. There he studied by night in order to improve his knowledge and passed examinations at Matriculation level. Cde Ndlovu's political education began in South Africa and he returned to Zimbabwe in 1928 where he organised a campaign for RICU (Reformed Industrial and Commercial Union), a trade union movement with political undertones. In 1929, he was elected Secretary General of RICU. A vigorous campaigner in the 1930s for the improvement of educational and working conditions for the masses. In 1934, he was instrumental in the repeal of the discriminatory Act which forbade Africans to walk on pavements. In the 40s and early 50s, he worked as an interpreter in the District Commissioner's Offices in Shurugwi and Buhera. When the ANC and NDP were formed he joined them. In the late 50s, he worked for the NDP in Buhera and Marange and because of this he was detained in 1959. After his release from detention he continued to actively support the nationalist movements until his death on 2 July 1982.

Abbreviations

A.N.C.	African National Council
N.D.P.	National Democratic Party
P.C.C.	Peoples' Caretaker Council
ZANU	Zimbabwe African National Union
ZAPU	Zimbabwe African People's Union
ZANLA	Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army
ZIPRA	Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army

The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
643	67	9c	National Heroes
644	68	11c	Symbolic Flame
645	69	17c	Statue of Heroes
646	70	30c	Bas relief of freedom fighters

Technical details

Stamp size:	9c & 30c	42 x 28 mm
	11c & 17c	28 x 42 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (9c & 30c – 5 rows of 10 stamps; 11c & 17c -10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet	
Artist:	9c – Nigel Pearce, others photos by John Akester	
Paper:	ZSC paper type B – HS6, florescent coated paper with PVA gum with a blueish/greenish tinge.	
Print colours:	9c	Black, grey, brown-ochre, orange
	11c – 30c	Black, magenta, cyan, yellow
Perforations:	SG 14½, ZSC 14¼	
	9c & 30c -Top margin: Perforated through. Other margins: Imperforate	
	11c & 17c – Left margin: Perforated through. Other margins: Imperforate	
Printer:	Mardon Printers (Pvt) Ltd., Harare, Zimbabwe	
Printer's Imprint:	Bottom Margin. Imprint printed in black	
	9c & 30c – below Row 10 Columns 2 to 4	
	11c & 17c – below Row 5 Columns 4 to 7	
Cylinder numbers:	9c & 30c above R1/5; 11c & 17c below R5/1	
	Colours reading from left	
	9c	orange, ochre-brown, grey. black
	11c & 17c	black, magenta, yellow, cyan
	30c	yellow, cyan, magenta, black
Colour register:	Type TL 4 – round boxed –	
	9c & 30c right margin opposite R1/5	
	11c & 17c left margin opposite R5/1	
	Colours reading down	
	9c	Black, grey, brown-ochre, orange
	11c & 17c	Cyan, yellow, magenta, black
	30c	Black, magenta, cyan, yellow

Sheet Value: 9c & 30c – top margin above R1/1; 11c & 17c bottom margin, below R5/10: all printed in black.

Sheet Number: Type SN 4a with ‘PTC’ prefix,
 9c & 30c - opposite R1/1, reading downwards
 11c & 17c - opposite R5/10, reading downwards

Print numbers: 9c 1,000,000 11c 750,000
 17c 500,000 30c 500,000

Issue date: 8th August, 1984

Withdrawal from sale:

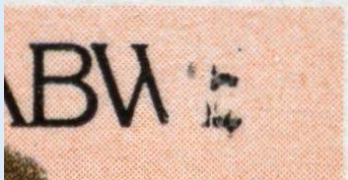



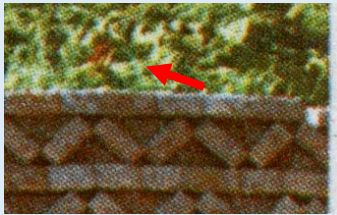

Demonetarisaton: 31st January, 1994

Listed varieties

No listed varieties are available for inclusion, if lists have been produced please forward

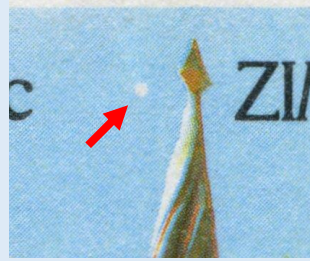
Unlisted varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. Some dots and specks shown below are a bit more distinctive, some may be constant.

 <p>9c: Damaged ‘WE’ of Zimbabwe</p>	 <p>9c: Black smudges around value</p>	 <p>9c: Lighter area of background next to J Tongogara’s head</p>
 <p>9c: Orange line between heads of Tongogara and Chitepo</p>	 <p>11c: Red dashes above wall to base of tower</p>	 <p>17c: Red mark left of base of statue</p>



17c: Red line in black granite base to statue

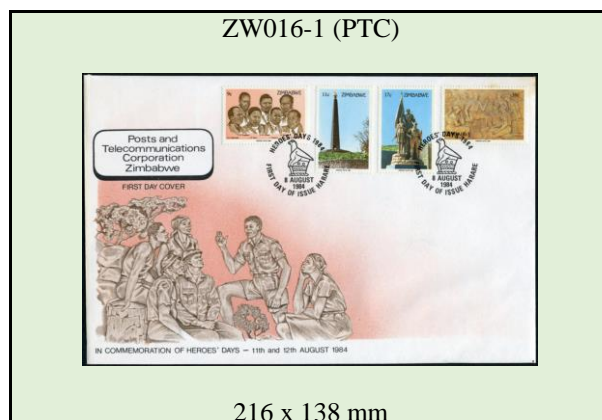


17c: White spot left of top of flag pole.

First Day Covers

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.



Bibliography:

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 3 of 1984.