

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

at

Rhodesians Worldwide
OLD HARTLEY

on

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 12, 1965

1865

Henry Hartley discovers
gold in Central Africa.

1965

Hartley Hill declared
a National Monument.

PROGRAMME

10.30 a.m.

Inaugural Address

P. K. F. V. van der Byl, Esq., Member of
Parliament for Hartley. (Parliamentary
Secretary to Ministry of Information)

Flag Raising

Cadets of Allan Wilson School, Salisbury

Service of Commemoration

Sermon by Rev. Canon David Jenkins

Historical Talks and Conducted Tours of Area

3.45 p.m.

Music by B.S.A. Police Band

(By kind permission of
Mr. F. E. Barfoot, C.B.E., Commissioner,
B.S.A. Police)

Retreat

Band and Cadets

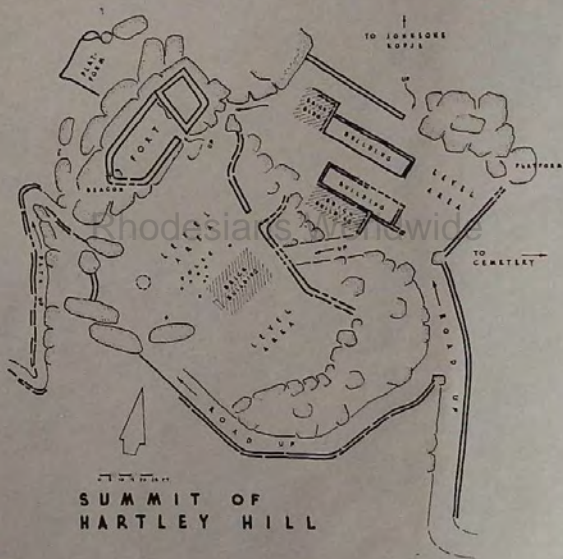
Henry Hartley's Hill

THE DISCOVERY of gold by Henry Hartley in 1865 was the event which attracted world-wide attention to this part of Africa and led directly to settlement by Europeans twenty-five years later and the development of our country as we know it today. This hill is the site of Hartley's most dramatic find, revealed to him when an elephant he had shot collapsed on a gold-bearing quartz outcrop. This historic incident is preserved for all time in the famous painting by Thomas Baines the explorer, artist and geographer who named this kopje Hartley Hill in honour of the old hunter.

Henry Hartley emigrated from England as a child with the 1820 Settlers. He trained as a blacksmith but moved to the Transvaal as soon as he was grown up and established himself as a farmer at Magaliesberg and became a burgher of the Republic. From his farm, Thorndale, he made hunting trips northwards almost every year in search of ivory and ostrich feathers. He achieved great fame as an elephant hunter and gained the respect of all who knew him. Both Mziligazi, who gave him the title "Keeper of the King's Elephants", and Lobengula, trusted him and liked him. Neither king ever refused Hartley permission to hunt and from 1865 on, the hill that now bears his name was the site of his annual camp at the end of the old Hunters' Road.

In 1866 and 1867 Hartley brought along Carl Mauch, the German geologist, who confirmed the discoveries and announced the existence of what became known as the "Northern Goldfields". Henry Hartley's remote outpost immediately became the focus of world-wide attention and concession hunters converged on the land of the Matabele as the old king, Mziligazi, lay dying. Out of the confusion that surrounded the death of one Matabele king and the subsequent succession of another, nearly two years later, there emerged (with Hartley's help) one man with a concession from the new king Lobengula. This was Thomas Baines, representing the South African Goldfields Exploration Company, who had been guided and advised by Henry Hartley.

Baines had accompanied Hartley along the Hunters' Road in 1869 and set up his headquarters on the site of the great discovery, had mapped the area and had, in that year, set down the name "Hartley Hill" on the map of Africa. The Baines Concession was a comprehensive document, freely given, properly signed and sealed, and never repudiated. But for Baines's untimely death our country would probably have been established under his Concession, in which case Hartley would certainly have been its capital. As it turned out, the Baines Concession was never taken up, Lobengula refused for twenty years to give another, and Hartley Hill remained a tantalising African El Dorado until the Pioneers established the town of Hartley on its slopes in 1890.



SUMMIT OF
HARTLEY HILL

Old Hartley

ON THE OCCUPATION of Mashonaland in September, 1890, Major Frank Johnson, commander of the Pioneer Corps, and many of the Pioneers, set off from the newly-proclaimed Fort Salisbury to peg claims at Hartley Hill. Johnson's group occupied the northern kopje, thereafter called Johnson's Kop, and later installed the first five-stamp mill. A settlement grew up and early in 1891 there was official talk of moving the capital to Hartley Hill, the "centre of industry". The suggestion was dropped because of the rough nature of the place and the prevalence of malaria: the Anglican nursing sisters who had intended to establish their hospital there were advised not to, and even the Native Commissioner found it wiser to live and work well outside the somewhat lively township.

The rebellions of 1896 brought tragedy. The Matabele had risen in March and the people of Hartley rightly anticipated a similar movement in Mashonaland. They formed the "Hartley Hills Defence Committee", received arms from Salisbury and built a small fort on the top of the Hill. In the middle of June the Mashona ran amuck. A number of Europeans, including the Native Commissioner and the Mining Commissioner, were murdered and the tiny force on the Hill was under siege and fired on daily from Johnson's Kop until relieved by a patrol from Salisbury on 22nd July. Hartley was abandoned until the end of the year when the Hartley Hill Fort was re-occupied and enlarged by a force of eighty men of the B.S.A. Police. They suffered terribly from malaria and a number died and lie buried in the little cemetery east of the Hill.

Partly for health reasons and partly the better to control Chief Mashiangombe—who was the real leader of the Mashona Rebellion—the garrison was moved off the Hill and some miles up the Umfuli River to occupy Fort Martin which had been sited by Captain Nesbitt, v.c., only a mile from Mashiangombe's kraal. With the rebellion over, the Police returned to Hartley Hill in 1868 and the Hartley District administration was re-established there. In the same year a telegraph office was established and in the following March a proper twenty-bed hospital replaced the temporary huts used earlier. These amenities could not dispel the gloomy air of impermanence caused by the failure of the place as a source of wealth from gold mining.

The decision to take the railway line from Salisbury through Gadzema, where gold had been found in promising quantity, was the death-knell of Old Hartley. At the turn of the century a new town was laid out where Hartley now stands and all administrative offices, businesses and the entire population moved in. The move was completed by the end of 1901 and Old Hartley was entirely abandoned and almost forgotten for fifty years when application was made to have it declared a National Monument.