

## Norman Carswell



Norman Carswell (14/8/1913 – 19/08/2004) was born near Hastings and initially went to sea with the Merchant Navy but came ashore with continued employment uncertain during the Great Depression of the 1930s. In 1936 he joined the Palestine Police serving there until the end of the British mandate in 1948. It was in Jerusalem, in 1945, that he married Edna Lily Burstow, generally known as "Jill". Among the photographs of him taken in Palestine is one with another Nyasaland, Robin (Matey) Martin. So, in 1948 he joined the Nyasaland Police – *he was not alone, as well as Robin Martin, other ex-Palestine Police arriving in Nyasaland included G.J. Morton, R.D.H. Holmes-a-Court, A.R. Lodge, H.J. (Paddy) Nolan, A.M. Kirkham, E.F. Mitchell,*

*D.K. (Danny) Morrison, A.M. Parry, J.K. (Jack) Humphreys, A.P. Shand, L.P. Acton, J. Holmes, and F. (Frank) Chivers.* Norman served in Nyasaland until December 1957 and was stationed variously at Lilongwe, Dedza and Blantyre and was in Cholo during the disturbances there in 1952 when members of the expat families congregated at his house for protection. Following Nyasaland he was employed by the Prison Service in Cyprus for several months until politics between Greek and Turkish population ended that. He went on to spend some four and a half years on contract with the Bahrain government based in the Manama Fort. The family moved to settle in Brisbane in April 1965 where Norman was employed by Mayne Nickless a security company. He eventually retired in 1978 at the age of 65.

His son, Brian (right), was born in London in 1946 and was two when the family moved from Palestine to Nyasaland in 1948 and age 11 when they moved on. His education in Nyasaland, after some correspondence schooling in Dedza with an establishment in Salisbury, was at primary school in Lilongwe and then St Andrews, either boarding at the Sunnyside campus or at the old school next to the mission and then, when it opened, the High School on the Chileka Road. Brian remains in Australia and is resident in the town of Huonville towards the south end of Tasmania.



Brian has dug into the family photograph albums and the following are some of the pictures he has forwarded:



Nyasaland ~ No1 uniform for the Queen Mother's visit in 1952



Feeling the chill in Palestine



Palestine, enjoying the sunshine  
Jill, Brian, Elaine (Brian's sister) and Phil Clewes



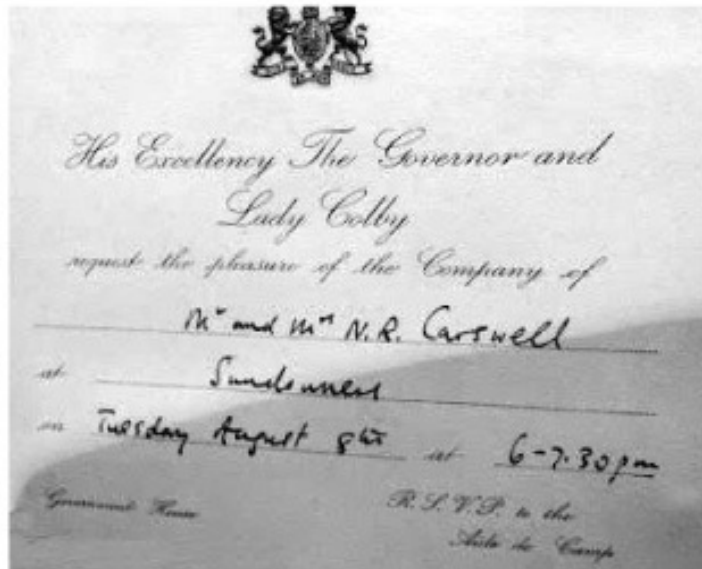
Palestine 1946 – Brian in the play-pen



Jill in Jerusalem 1944



Nice chipewa Norman



Geoffrey Colby – Governor of Nyasaland March 1948 – March 1956



DEDZA (Bush House) – Xmas 1951

5042.

M R

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE

**DRIVING PERMIT**

(Motor Traffic Ordinance, No. 1 of 1934.)

This is to certified that .....

**N. R. CARSWELL**

.....

**ZOMBA**

.....

..... photograph, signature or thumbmark have been placed hereon, having been tested and found competent is permitted to drive .....

**GOOD VEHICLES**

**PRIVATE CARS**

.....

..... to the following restrictions.....

.....


..... at Blantyre on 6 Jan 1949

*[Signature]*

(Signature of Licensing Officer.)

REGISTER OF MOTOR VEHICLES

16 JAN 1949





.....

(Signature or thumbmark of holder)

**N. R. CARSWELL**





  
**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT  
NEW SCOTLAND YARD**  



**This is to Certify that**

..... Assistant Superintendent Norman Richard Carswell .....  
of the Nyasaland ..... Colonial ..... Police Force attended a Course  
of Instruction at the Metropolitan Police Detective Training School, Hendon,  
from 1<sup>st</sup> January ..... to 10<sup>th</sup> March 1951 ..... and passed the Final Examinations  
in the theory and practice of Criminal Investigation.

Date..... 7<sup>th</sup> May 1951 .....  
Am Howe  
Assistant Commissioner.



SAC-7119-  
NYASALAND PROTECTORATE

  
**Certificate of Service**

Name of Officer Norman Richard CARSWELL

Details of Positions held and dates .....

Assistant Inspector of Police 28.10.48. to 1.1.49.

Assistant Superintendent of Police 1.1.49. to 22.12.57.

Total Period of Service: From 28.10.48. to 22.12.57.  
(Exclusive of any final period of leave)

Cause of Termination of Engagement Retirement on Pension

Efficiency Very Good ..... General Conduct Very Good

Am Howe  
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT  
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

Date 12th July, 1958. 19 .....

Am Howe  
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT

This certificate is issued without any erasure or alteration whatsoever.  
"Satisfied" "Fair" or "Indifferent".



Norman seated on the mudguard with baby daughter Elaine and Brian shading his eyes in about 1950.  
On the right Norman with Brian on Zomba Plateau in 1949.



Brian's sister, Elaine, aged about four, with baby Hugo Nolan, son of Paddy Nolan (Telecomms Branch) in Zomba in about 1954.



Brian with family: (L-R) Carol (former wife), Brian, son Danny and partner Semsi with their son Theo in August 2017. Taken on a visit by Brian to the Australian mainland meeting up with his son at the Maroochydore RSL (Returned Services League) some 60 miles north of Brisbane and some 1,570 odd miles from Brian's home in Huonville including a 10 hours ferry crossing from Devonport in Tasmania to Melbourne



**Left:** Son Brian plays tennis in Cygnet Tasmania Feb 2020,. **Right:** son Danny with Semsi in Jan 2020 with their son Theo (9) and daughter Naima (2) in Yeppoon, Queensland.

Back in now Malawi, whilst looking in vain for our house in Dedza (1951/52) I came across the Dedza Pottery company. I ordered two mugs with inscriptions which arrived here in Tasmania unscathed seven weeks later. Staff there were interested and were surprised at the wildlife then - leopards in the garden at night. Below is the "Dedza mug" and our house there, Jill is at the front steps. There was no electricity or schooling.

Below is John and Elizabeth Jeffreys with me (Brian) and Elaine Carswell. I was 5/6 and Elaine four years younger. She was born in Zomba in February 1950. With Elaine's nanny on the Dedza Road somewhere. We had been to the P.E.A. (Portuguese East Africa) border for an outing.

