



Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter #1 2005

PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand.

Web: www.rhodesianservices.org

All the best for 2005, many thanks for all the cards and e-mails sent to my family and myself.

I have been kept busy with pre Christmas sales of t-shirts, ordering re-supply of shirts and a few other exciting things which are reported in more detail in the Committee Report section.

There have been a number of new entries on the Guest Book on the website. I suggest you have a good look through, a long lost mate of yours may have left a message - who knows? There are around 200 messages on the Guest Book. Sadly I have to rely on a third party to run the Guest Book, and as such there is a bunch of 'pop up' advertising from them that is annoying. It can be eliminated (see the note on the gateway page). Also there is no index of who has been and left a message, I aim to try and do something to fix that.

Rhodesian Services Association AGM

The AGM was well attended on 24th October 2004 in Tauranga, at Keith Kietzmann's residence.

The committee was re-elected and is:-

Chairman/Treasurer - Paul Nes

Vice Chairman - Keith Kietzmann

Secretary - Hugh Bomford

Committee - Rob Bates, John Glynn, Colin Logie, Wolf Hucke Address for communication remains PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3030 email: hbomford@clear.net.nz

Committee Report

The Rhodesian Services Association has the following items for sale with profits going to the Rhodesian museum fund. All inquiries and orders to the Secretary, details at the bottom of this newsletter.

Lion & Tusk embroidered t-shirts as pictured in size S M L XL XXL XXXL.



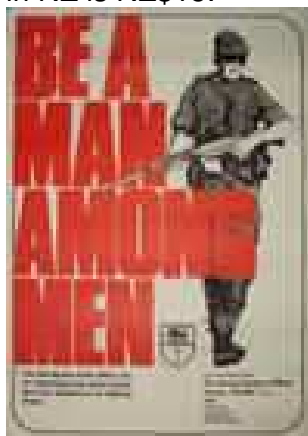
Price excluding P+P is NZ\$30 for all sizes except XXL and XXXL which are NZ\$35.

NOTE - a size chart can be supplied on request by e-mail

My poor photographic effort above does not do these shirts justice - they really stand out. The material is good quality, does not shrink nor lose its colour if treated according to the label instructions. The Lion & Tusk embroidered logo is of very high quality and fine definition. We hold stocks of the shirts in black only. Each shirt generates a small profit, this can be increased if we can avoid postage costs.

I can report that the shirts go like hot cakes and are well received. I am low on stock but expect a fresh supply to be delivered in the first half of Jan 2005

Rhodesian Army recruiting posters (Be a man among men) reproduced on 60lb ivory offset approx. 405mm wide x 575 high kindly donated by Rhodesia Was Super. The price delivered in NZ is NZ\$15.



Rhodesia Regiment blazer badges hand in Australia of gilt wire. The original drawing was done by Ken Palmer faggamoto@optusnet.com (who said Marandellasites were untalented?). He will also design and supply drawings for other units if required. The detail that has been captured in the blazer badge is stunning - you will not get anything like it anywhere else.

The picture below has been reduced in size and therefore does not clearly illustrate how good the badge is. The fine detail includes all the battle honours as well as the regimental colours on the bar that the Lion is standing on as well as jewels in the King's crown. The badges can be ordered as plain Rhodesia Regiment or they can have your Battalion or Indep. Coy similar to the picture below which is of a 4RR one which also incorporates the 4RR colours of blue and white on a bar. Price has not been set as yet and it will depend on numbers ordered. The price is likely to be around NZ\$80-\$90. If you are genuinely interested then please contact me ASAP we need to get numbers up around 30 for the order. Please do not delay you may miss out, do it NOW!!



4RR hackles as below.



For orders email hbomford@clear.net.nz

Museum Matters

The Hauraki Museum and Garrison Club on the corner of 11th Avenue and Devonport Road is open every Friday from 16:30 hrs.

The amount of material that we now have exceeds the available space. The committee is working on various plans whereby we can house and display all the material. Bottom line - we need money. Nothing is insurmountable - it just needs dedication and courage. If you believe that you have an idea that may be of interest to the committee please let us have it.

Please support the Hauraki Association with membership and patronage of the Garrison Bar. Also not forgetting the Movie Evenings every 3rd Friday at 7pm.

Items in the news and on the grapevine

This year the New Zealand Special Air Service will be celebrating their 50th anniversary. A monument is to be built in Auckland at Papakura incorporating the flags of the NZ SAS, British 22 SAS Regiment, Australian SAS and 'C' (Rhodesia) Squadron SAS. Mike Graham (former 2IC of the Rhodesian unit) is the Rhodesian representative in the project.

The NZ SAS was formed in June 1955 and went to Malaya to replace the Rhodesians who had left after completion of their two years, in 1953. The NZ SAS squadron was formed from a core of junior officers and NCOs from the NZ regular forces and the balance of the 130 strong unit was selected from the 800 volunteers. They served in Malaya from 1955 to 1957 when the Malayan Emergency was declared over with the granting of independence.

As a comparison, 'C' (Rhodesia) Squadron 22 SAS was formed in 1950 with a total of 100 all ranks. The Rhodesian unit was also formed from a core of regulars with the balance from the 1,000 men who had volunteered, initially for service in Korea, under the command of, the then 20 year old, Acting Maj. Peter Walls. The initiation of the Rhodesia unit was at the request of Lt. Col. 'Mad Mike' Calvert DSO the commander of the British SAS.

Interestingly, and not widely known, is that the man who created the SAS in 1941, Col. David Stirling DSO OBE, was living in the Rhodesian capital, Salisbury, in the late 1940's/early 1950's carrying out business.

There is a long history of military involvement between Rhodesian and New Zealand, dating back to the Boer War when some of the 10 New Zealand contingents heading to South Africa, acclimatised and trained in Marandellas on their way to South Africa from the port of Beira on the East African coast. In W.W.II there were two units in which Rhodesians and Kiwis featured, the Long Range Desert Group and the SAS. In the air, Rhodesians and Kiwis were also often together in bomber and fighter squadrons. Many Kiwis came to Rhodesia in the 1970's as well. "Good on ya and thanks".

Anyone interested in learning more about the historical information above should read:-

Kiwi versus Boer by Richard Stowers

New Zealanders in South Africa by Hall

Providence their Guide, LRDG 1940-1945 by Maj General David Lloyd Owen CB DSO OBE MC

LRDG Rhodesia by Pittaway & Fourie

Kiwi Scorpions by Brendan O'Carroll

Bearded Brigands by Brendan O'Carroll

Phantom Major by Virginia Cowles

Regular Soldier by Frank Rennie MC

SAS Rhodesia by Pittaway & Fourie

The Elite by Barbara Cole

Sky News broadcaster commentating on D-Day commemorations in the UK on 11/11/2004 announced "We've had a couple of emails from Rhodesia. I'm reminded that not only did they take part in the war, but, per capita, Rhodesia lost more men in World War 2 than any other country".

14/12/04 Sky News .com DENIED A BRITISH PASSPORT

A former British Army captain who fought in Kosovo and Iraq has been told he does not qualify for a passport. Warwick Strong was reportedly denied citizenship because he spent too much time abroad with the Army. The 29-year-old, who was born in Zimbabwe and moved to Britain six years ago, has served with the Royal Artillery. His passport application was turned down partly because he spent more than 90 days a year out of the country on duty.

His father, Colonel Jeremy Strong, and grandfather both reached the rank of Colonel in the British Army. Col Strong said the rejection was a slap in the face from the Government and said his son was "disgusted about it". "He's gone out to protect the interests of the country and the free world in Kosovo and Iraq and he's been denied citizenship through no fault of his own," he said.

In order to qualify for a British passport, the applicant must reside in the UK for five years and not be out of the country for more than 90 days in any year. Capt. Strong arrived in Britain in 1998 and attended Sandhurst Military Academy. He left the Army two months ago after serving with the Royal Artillery for six years and holds an ancestral visa, which has been renewed until October 2006.

A Home Office spokesman said it would not comment on individual cases.

From the ORAFS (Old Rhodesian Air Force Sods) Newsletter 21/11/2004 Mortar Nets Mike B on 15 November wrote:- "Greetings, As you know I am presently in Mosul, Northern Iraq, and we live on a US forward operating base, which is at the moment effectively under siege. Without going into great detail about the way our US friends operate generally, I got fed up with asking for overhead protection on our sleeping cabins - which are basically converted shipping containers - so we cornered the market in chicken and diamond mesh wire and strung our own cover over the pad, to the great amusement of the grunts and the annoyance of the base commander who wanted it taken down as it was "not authorised", and it was obviously not


going to work. The Americans had been running a competition with various stateside contractors to bid for providing overhead cover since last April. The various propositions were extremely expensive and complicated constructions that would have to be manufactured in the US and shipped over, arriving sometime next year. That was until our net caught three during a sustained IDF attack that killed two soldiers and seriously wounded another on the adjoining pad. The by-product is that everybody wants to sleep with us!"

From the C (Rhodesia) Squadron 22 Special Air Service Regiment website "At present there are about thirty former members of C Sqn working in Iraq"

The Bookshelf

'Mark of the Lion' the story of Capt. Charles Upham VC and Bar by Kenneth Sandford was first published in 1962. It tells of the remarkable Kiwi who was one of only three men in history to have been awarded the Victoria Cross two times. Upham was the only combatant to have done so, the other two, both British, Lieut. A Martin-Leake and Capt. N G Chavasse, were medics.

The book is an easy read and can usually be found in any second-hand bookshop for under \$15. Most second-hand shops keep a list of people and books they want if the book they want is not on their shelves at the time.

Do you know someone who does not get this newsletter and would like it? Let me know and Keep the Flame burning. 

Take care and hope to see you at the ANZAC parade at Hobsonville on 25th April or at the RV in November.

Cheers,

Hugh

The Secretary

PO Box 13003, Tauranga