

Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter

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**Please Note that all previous newsletters are available at
<http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm>**

Greetings

Welcome to 2008, I trust you all had time to relax over the holiday period and that 2008 will be a good year for us all.

Unusually for me.....I have made an error, ("yeah right" I hear some say), and I would like to bring to your attention a correction to the last newsletter. In regard to the memorial service held for Ian Smith with the photos, the venue should have read King's Park, Perth, not Durban. I apologise for the error and thank all those who wrote in.

As you read through this newsletter you will see that it covers things Rhodesian right from the formation of the country through to the present day, with two articles concerning the generation that were born in the twilight of Rhodesia and, while their lives were very much affected by the war, they were too young to take an active part. One of those pieces is very sad as it records the loss of a life and the other is on the other end of emotions where two people have begun a life together.

People often say to me that they hope that the 'younger generation' will continue with the spirit of their country of birth. Rest assured we have many subscribers who are that 'younger generation' (by which I mean that they were too young for active service). We have had these young people, as well as the following generation, who were born either in Zimbabwe or even their parent's adopted country, attending ANZAC Parades, our October RV and receiving this newsletter. Some are financial members, many have also supported our Association by making purchases and therefore helping with the development of various museum displays. These young people are very much part of our Association, a part which is to be encouraged.

Obituaries

A message from Louise Berry:

*My older brother **Graham Berry** was tragically killed in a car accident on 1st November 2007. He was only 33, the same age as my father Dave Berry when he was killed in action in 1982. It is a horrific sadness for us as a family to lose another good Berry at such a young age.*

I want to say a big thank you to all those who sent their condolences and the more than 350 people who attended the funeral in Fort Beaufort.

Condolences can be sent to Louise at louise@lbevents.co.za

Graham Berry 1974 – 2007

Pictured here at the SAS Wall of Remembrance where there is a plaque for his father



Tony Young writes:

*It is my very sad duty to report that on Tuesday 11th December in Wagga-Wagga (NSW), RLIRA Australasia Branch member **Rod Ellison** suffered a massive heart attack, and without regaining consciousness, slipped away early this morning (Saturday 15/12/2007) to join the band of our other "fallen" Saints.*

Our deepest sympathy goes to Rod's wife Jayne, and their adult children, Lorien & Kyle. Being a born and bred Aussie, Rod was one of RLI's "Foreigners" who, believing Rhodesia was being unjustly dealt with by the majority of the world, went to Rhodesia to aid in a "just cause".

Rod had distinguished service with RLI, having seen the majority of his service in 1 Commando where his outstanding combat leadership abilities were such that he steadily rose through the ranks and ultimately, became a commissioned officer. In the closing days of 1980, Rod was appointed OC of Support Commando.

As the ranking member present, earlier this year Rod led the RLI Contingent in it's proud march through the streets of Sydney at the Branch's inaugural ANZAC Day reunion.

I had the opportunity of talking at length to Rod a number of occasions after the 2007 reunion during which, Rod strongly expressed how proud he felt that (via the reunions) the memory of what RLI once was, and what the unit achieved, was not simply being allowed to fade away into oblivion and thus, was planning to attend the Brisbane 2008 ANZAC Day gathering.

I will miss you Rod, you were a good soldier and friend – Hamba Gahle old son.

Regards,
Tony Young

***They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.***

Rod Ellison 1947- 2007



Tony Young again writes:

*It is with sadness that I write to advise of the unexpected death of another ex-RLI ouen (Tpr, 3 Cdo, 1973-75) - **Phil Stubbins**, who died suddenly from a suspected heart attack at his home in Sydney on Christmas Eve, aged just 55 years old.*

Off the radar

I have had mail returned from the following people. If you are in comms with them please ask them to contact me or if you can give me their new address so that I can reconnect:

Mark Hellam

Graham and Audrey Cordy

Nick Tselentis

Dave Morley wants to contact a former comrade in arms **Steve 'Basil' Bowen** who is believed to have married a Kiwi and has moved to New Zealand. If you know of Steve, also known as Basil Bowen please contact Dave by email gcwagga@gmail.com

Rhodesian Flag for use at funerals

It has been a personal aim of mine to have a Rhodesian flag available for use at funerals in New Zealand. In 2001 our family was gifted a flag by former RLI Sgt., Tony Coom who lives in South Africa, for my father's funeral in New Zealand. Our family is forever grateful for this generous gesture. This flag is now used as the standard for the Rhodesian Services Association for parades and has been loaned out on occasion for funerals.

For some time I have been bouncing ideas around the Rhodesian Services Association committee. More recently I wrote to a number of Rhodesian linked association contacts to see what feedback and support there would be if our Association was to have a number of larger flags made. (We already stock Rhodesian flags but these are about 3' x 5' which is a little on the small side for covering a coffin.)

From the emails I sent out I had some positive feedback with ideas and offers of assistance, however the most positive offer was from Mike Vivier who has offered a flag on proviso that when used a donation is made to the Association. Mike has generously support the Association for many years now, with various donations as well as items loaned and donated to the museum collection – thanks Mike.



The History of the Rhodesia Regiment and the Royal Rhodesia Regiment



In the December 2007 newsletter we ran a competition to name this character in the Vic MacKenzie cartoon below. The winner is.....Colin Logie, whose entry of Comrade Honest Ncube was adjudged the most appropriate. Well done Colin, please contact me for your prize. Thanks for all the other entries.

The revolutionary comrades of the peoples' army of ZANL-PF shot down the whole of the Rhodesian Airforce and then wiped out two brigades of racist imperial pigs in one day



**If you don't record your history
other people will rewrite it for you.
If you have a story from the Bush
War record it NOW, don't wait!!!**

The object of this article is to remind you how important it is to record our history as it happened and not as Cde. Ncube would have it. Alex Binda has done a magnificent job of the RLI and RAR histories and with your support the Rhodesia Regiment history will complete a fantastic trilogy. Publication is set for 2010, but that is no excuse to delay your input, in fact it is not a long time at all considering the lead time required to sort photos etc.

This extract from Alex's manuscript gives you the background to the first use of the name, Rhodesia Regiment:-
"The first recorded use of the title "Rhodesia Regiment" occurred during the South African War, or, more correctly, the 2nd Boer War of 1899 - 1902. In July 1899 Colonel Baden-Powell came to Rhodesia tasked with raising two regiments for the defence of the borders of British Bechuanaland and Rhodesia. A month later recruiting had resulted in the raising of the 'Rhodesia Regiment' (the first time this title had been used) and the 'Bechuanaland Regiment'. Baden-Powell, in September, then took the Bechuanaland Regiment, commanded by Colonel Hore, with him to Mafeking leaving the Rhodesia Regiment under the command of Colonel H.S.O. Plumer (Plumer had previously served as commander of the Matabeleland Relief Force during the Matabele rebellion of 1896.)" Plumer went on to be part of the Relief of Mafeking.

Many of you spent some time as part of the Rhodesia Regiment. There are people out there who were in the last intake which went in on the day Mugabe was given the country, this in itself is an interesting piece of history. When you then consider all the TF companies you now begin to involve thousands of soldiers, all with a story. This is then your ideal opportunity to submit material for possible inclusion. I encourage you to take up this unique opportunity to have your memories recorded for posterity. You owe it to yourself and your future generations to be part of this book.

When you want to submit any material you can either write to Alex you can go to the Rhodesian Services Association website at www.rhodesianservices.org and up in the top right hand corner is a link entitled Rhodesia Regiment where you can record your memories which will be passed on to Alex. Using this link will also get you there <http://pub9.bravenet.com/forum/738626929> . Once there, click on the bar entitled 'Post' and away you go. When you make an entry you will need a verification process. This is a mechanism to eliminate spammers from leaving rubbish messages which I have to go and remove. If you have any photographs you can write to me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to find the best method of delivery. Alex has asked me to receive and store the photos for him. Please be assured that whatever you send in will be treated with respect and if used you will be given full credit. You do not have to be a proficient typist or a literary genius, simply get it down in the best way that you can and other people will sort it out.

Please note that Eddy Norris is also running a website which was primarily set up to record stories of a Rhodesian Air Force flavour but where there are now many diverse stories and photos, some of which relate to the Rhodesia Regiment. The links are:-

<http://www.ourstory.com/orafs> (Memories of the Air Forces' of Rhodesia)
<http://www.ourstory.com/TheBrowns> (Memories of the Armies that Served Rhodesia)
<http://www.ourstory.com/Umtali> (Memories of Umtali and its Folk)

Of particular interest to Alex is anyone who took part in **Operation Mardon** which took place in Mozambique at the end of October 1976 and involved elements from 1 Independent Company Rhodesia Regiment from Wankie.

I cannot stress how important I believe it is to get your memories down. What I do not want to hear when this book is complete is that there is bias in favour of any particular unit.

As I keep saying, this is a huge project and if we all take part it will spread the load and the end product will be something that we will all be proud of.

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated News

In January the financial members will be asked to vote on a revamped set of Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated Rules. The members will be asked to accept or reject them. The Rules have been revamped out of necessity to satisfy various clauses required by the New Zealand Charities Commission to whom we will be making application for our Association to be a Charitable Trust. We will keep you informed of progress.

From monies raised, we recently purchased a second hand laptop computer. This is being used to store photographs of every item that we have in the museum collection, as well as a large amount of other photos of interest. The portability of the laptop was a defining factor in choosing it over a desktop.

Work has begun on the two latest displays at the Classic Flyers Museum. One display is a tribute to the late Ian Smith's service during WWII and the second will be named the Simon Clark Display and will be a record of the service of New Zealanders in Rhodesia.

Lion & Tusk

The Lion and Tusk was chosen by this Association to be used as our badge. We chose it because it was one of the oldest symbols of Rhodesia and has been in common use since Cecil Rhodes and his British South Africa Company used it on their company flag. The BSAC flag was first raised in Salisbury in 1892.



BSA Company flag from Flags of the World website <http://www.crwflags.com/FOTW/FLAGS/zw-bsac.html>

Flags of the World record:

The flag consisted of a Union Jack emblazoned with the BSAC badge in the centre. The badge comprised a yellow lion holding an elephant's tusk and standing on a red and yellow wreath or torse; under the wreath were the letters B.S.A.C. in black. The badge was derived from the crest of the arms granted to the British South Africa Company twenty years after it received its royal charter.

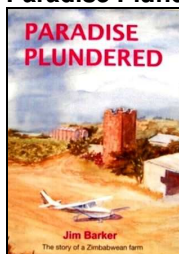
The description of the lion is "a lion guardant passant, supporting with its dexter fore paw an ivory tusk erect proper".

The Bookshelf

Glenn MacAskill wrote to me recently to advise that he and his partner Col. Michael Bowery (ex British Police, Nyasaland Police, and a case officer in the SA Special Forces) have formed a company to promote his three novels plus Michael's trilogy of novels about a British agent, Harry Canham. Please check their website at www.crestpublishing.co.za

Thanks to Eddy Norris of ORAFS for this information:

Paradise Plundered By Jim Barker.



Peter Petter-Bowyer wrote:-

I know there are many Rhodesian writers coming onto the market and all have great stories to tell. Nevertheless I want to tell you that Jim Barker's book, Paradise Plundered, is in a class of its own. I happened to be reading

another great Rhodesian work when this book arrived in the mail. I was going to put Jim's book to one side and pick it up when I had finished what I was reading. However I decided to read a few lines first - but could not then put the book down.

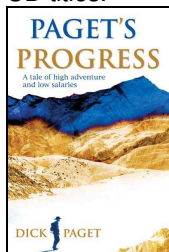
This is a book for Rhodesians who love to have memories of a wonderful country and its lifestyle illuminated in their minds. I cannot get over the number of people Jim talks about, and of the places, countries, schools and events, brought so vividly back into focus .
"Rhodies" will love it.

Orders may be placed through Bill Sykes email sykesbill@zol.co.zw who wrote:

It is the diary of a Zimbabwean family that were forcibly evicted from their Karoi farm during the highly controversial 'land grab'. It takes you back to Jim's birthplace in Malawi; Prince Edward School; Boss Lilford's farm; PATU and the Police Reserve Air Wing in which he was trained in aerial reconnaissance. It relives the emotional roller coaster of the daily challenges and upheavals: droughts, floods, the Bush War and even wild animals. It is the story of a tightly-knit family, in a close farming community, who all experienced the traumatic and often brutal farm invasions. The Barker family resisted this onslaught for eight long years before finally being evicted in 2003.

Jim allows the reader to travel with him to UK, Europe and the USA, interspersed with holidays in Mozambique, his delightful sense of humour comes out in the countless anecdotes.

Paget's Progress: A Tale of High Adventure and Low Salaries by Dick Paget is now in stock in New Zealand. See <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm> for more details as well as a full catalogue of books, DVDs and CD titles.

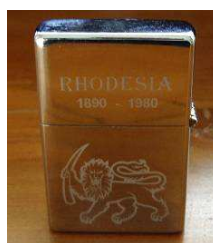


Unfortunately at the time of writing we are still awaiting stocks of *Masodja – History of the RAR* and *The Kevin Woods Story – In the Shadow of Mugabe's Gallows* which were dispatched a long time ago from South Africa. We are taking reservations, please email me with your order. No payment required until the stock arrives.

Rhodesian Services Association CQ Store

Visit <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm> to see what is in store for you. Profits generated from these sales is what is used to keep improving and developing our museum displays.

Just arrived!! 'Zippo' type lighters with the Lion & Tusk and Rhodesia 1890 – 1980 photo impacted on. Each one comes in a little tin. They are that smart I almost considered taking up smoking again!! Priced at \$25 which includes postage to any address in New Zealand I expect they will go out the door very quickly.



We are grateful to our suppliers **KC Graphics**, who are tireless supporters of our Association. Kieron and Carolyn Robinson proprietors of **KC Graphics** in Wrexham are a husband and wife team who specialise in printing business and wedding stationary as well as general gifts and Rhodesian speciality products. With the kind of service that we get, I can thoroughly recommend them to you. Check their website at <http://www.kcgraphics.biz/index.html> and give them your support if possible.

ITEM	PRICE in NZ\$
4RR Hackles	\$15
Berets	\$50
'Gun control' t-shirts	\$20
Lion & Tusk Baseball Caps	\$23
Lion & Tusk Beanies	\$20

Lion & Tusk Dog Tags 'silver' or 'gold'	\$30
Lion & Tusk Polo shirts - black or green	\$36.50
Lion & Tusk T-shirts - black or green	\$30
Lion & Tusk Women's shirts	\$30
Number plate surrounds	\$12
Regimental Badges – RLI, Intaf, RAR, RDR, BSAP, Grey's Scouts, RRR, RR, Service Corps, Staff Corps, RWS, DRR	Priced from \$20 – inquire for details
Rhodesian Army Recruitment poster copy "Be a man amongst men"	\$15
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size medal copy with ribbon	\$100
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size ribbon	\$10/length
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature medal with ribbon	\$35
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature ribbon	\$10/length
Rhodesian Light Infantry tie	\$35
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge	\$23
Various small embroidered badges (RLI, BSAP & Nyasaland Police)	\$5
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size copy with ribbon	\$50
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size ribbon	\$10/length
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature medal with ribbon	\$35
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature ribbon	\$10/length
NEW ITEM! 'Zippo' type lighter	\$25 incl postage in NZ

The Global Forked Stick

They were both born in Rhodesia and when **James and Tracey Brackley** got married on the 11th November 2007 at 11am they made sure that Rhodesia was very much a part of their wedding. I bet James never forgets their anniversary date! Tracey wrote:-

Both of us are Rhodies and as such, we planned much of our wedding day to include sentimental memorabilia. My bouquet had Flame Lilies in it and my very proud Dad and I walked down the aisle to the tune of "Rise O Voices of Rhodesia". The corsages were also flame lilies

Our anniversary will always be on the 11th November, a very special day to us both.

I hope you don't mind me sharing a little bit of our wonderful wedding day with you.

*With very best wishes,
Tracey Brackley*



Thanks for this Tracey, good on you both and may you enjoy many happy years together.

Chris Whitehead, editor of the Rhodesians Worldwide magazine writes:-

There is a shop online called CafePress which allows you to design your own t/shirts and so I have designed some Mount Darwin shirts. I thought that it was time that we had something of our own. My own Mount Darwin shirt bought at Darwin Traders in the 1990s is getting a bit long in the tooth. There is no obligation to buy, but please go ahead and look and make suggestions if you will. Some of the items also have images on the back so check it out at the following URL <http://www.cafepress.com/mtdarwin>

*I have also made up some Rhodesians Worldwide shirts at the following URL:
<http://www.cafepress.com/rhworldwide>*

If you like them, please pass the URL addresses along.

Best wishes for the New Year

Cheers

Chris Whitehead

fura@aznetgate.net

John Edmond has his new **Heritage** album on sale now. Please visit his online store at <http://www.johnedmond.co.za/> where you will find all his works in CD, DVD and book format as well as the ever popular Wrex Tarr CDs. This is the only place to shop for John and Wrex's very popular, very Rhodesian works.

I have been contacted by a renowned Victoria Cross historian who is seeking information on **Gerard 'Toy' Norton VC MM** who passed away in 2004. If anyone knew him or knows his surviving family please write to me at hbomford@clear.net.nz

Until next time - go well

Cheers

Hugh

This newsletter is compiled by Hugh Bomford, Secretary of the Rhodesian Services Association. It contains many personal views and comments which may not always be the views of the Association or Committee.

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