



Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter February 2007

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Greetings

This has been a very busy month for me - mainly cleaning and painting the container as well as fitting in my 'normal' work.

We have been sending a range of medals, ribbons and name badges off overseas. This raises much needed funds for our Association. Please check out what we have on offer on the CQ Store page <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm> as well as what I personally have on the Books for Africa page at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm> Profits from the sale of the Association items on the CQ Store go to the Rhodesian Services Assn funds which are mainly used for the various museum display projects and also the new storage container. The books are my hobby, and currently I pay for the website hosting and software from that account. The Lion & Tusk apparel is always popular and makes great prezzies.

RLI Regimental Association

The RLI Assn is going great guns as you will have seen from the recent emails that I have sent out. Please support them - if you were not RLI that is not a problem they welcome associate membership go to their website www.therli.com and register yourself.

The Australian branch of the RLI Assn is very proactive and has initiated the striking of an unofficial Rhodesian Infantry Combat Badge pictured below. Rather than me trying to explain please open the attached document which covers everything in exceptionally good detail. Click on this link <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/user/image/cibinitiative.doc> to open a new word document.

Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge



(Dimensions 21 x 43mm)

The Rhodesian Services Association in New Zealand will carry a stock of these badges. We will receive them towards the end of March to order email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz If you are in Australia please contact Tony Young ozemedic@bigpond.net.au to order. If you are elsewhere in the world give me a shout and I will organise supply or refer you to your nearest stockist.

The price in NZ\$ is \$22 each. Here in NZ we will be offering to have your regimental number engraved on the back - price not yet set.

The RLI Assn in Australia are directing profits from sales to fund repairs to the 'Troopie' statue which is in the UK under control of the Rhodesian Army Association. We understand that there is damage to the ankles. If you buy a badge here in NZ your money will be going in part to the Troopie repairs and in part to the Rhodesian Services Assn funds for maintenance and development of our museum projects.

Grey's Scouts 2007 Re-Union

Here is a message to all you former 'Donkey Wallopers'.....(before you burst into abusive emails - we all wished that we didn't have to walk so don't take me seriously)

"We would like to welcome our fellow men and women from Grey's to a Re-Union from about 22nd to 27th November. We have people coming from the United States, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Australia, UK etc. Special packages are being put together by Mark Hill and fellow countrymen. For further details please contact: Mark Hill mrh@wol.co.za South Africa.

It may well be the last opportunity for old comrades to come together. So we ask you to seek out our friends of "yesteryear" and give them all the good news."

ANZAC Day 25th April 2007

We will be marching on ANZAC Day with the members and returned servicemen and women at the Hobsonville RSA. You are invited to join us.

Format:

10:00 Parade assembles at Hobsonville School
10:30 Fall in
10:40 March Off
11:00 ETA at Hobsonville RSA Service and laying of wreaths including the Rhodesian wreath
12:00 Service Concludes
12:05 Our own service commences in lower car park
12:30 Service concludes
12:31 Socialising starts.

Jacket and tie to be worn. Personal medals worn on left and any medals in memorial on the right. Unit berets are also worn by many.

For further detail contact Paul Nes paulnes@xtra.co.nz or myself hbomford@clear.net.nz

October RV - Labour Weekend 2007

The RV and De-Brief (AGM) will once again be held over Labour Weekend. Please mark this in your diary 19th, 20th, 21st October 2007. I would recommend that you book your accommodation early so as to avoid disappointment.

In preparation for the auction we have been gathering items. So far we have a number of books on the way from authors Chris Higginson (Reluctant Assassin 1 and 2; Rhodesian Memories) and Tony Ballinger (A Walk Against The Stream). We have an autographed photo of Nick Price and a cricket shirt from Graeme Hick. Vic MacKenzie has also pledged his

support. We also have some iron on t-shirt transfers from Mike Vivier which we intent to get ironed on some t-shirts.

We are looking good so far. We do need more items. We aim at having 15 - 20 lots. We need items of quality. Please contact Paul Nes paulnes@xtra.co.nz or myself hbomford@clear.net.nz if you have something to contribute. Every year we raise between \$1,000 and \$2,000 so it is a very important part of our year.

Old Rhodesian Air Force Sods

The ORAFS have for years been keeping not only Blues in touch, but also some of us Browns, (who they have made most welcome) up to date with current events and historical material. They have now raised a website at <http://www.ourstory.com/orafs> which is well worth a look.

I thoroughly recommend that you check it out as well as list with them for their newsletters. Email Eddy Norris at orafs1@gmail.com to list for the newsletter.

Museum News

We have also done some upgrading of the Classic Flyers display with the addition of a painting of a Para Dak on loan from the Hartmans and upgrade to the parachutist himself. There is still a bit to go with cabinets for the framed paintings to be done and the Golf Bomb to be completed.

The main thrust has been the container which is looking very good. We intend to put a roof on it on the first weekend of March. The final coat of paint on the outside will follow and then we will start cleaning and preparing the inside.

The inside has a massive amount of plastic putty stuff that has to be removed and then shelving built. Carpenters and cleaners who can assist please contact me.

Tinka Mushett is going to paint a Lion & Tusk for the door.

We have had a very generous donation from the O'Rourke family and a couple of other pledges - great stuff folks - keep it coming, any amount helps.

We have taken the container from this:-



To this (so far):-



Each side takes about 12 man hours to repair, clean and paint. This last photo is fairly current.

Anecdotes from the Bomb Bay - Top Secret - For Your Eyes only – etc

Background for new comers or those who obeyed orders and forgot all they had been told.

So what I am about to tell you is Top Secret, and as the French Resistance often said "leesen verree carefulee, I weel say zis onlee wunse".

As part of the display at the Classic Flyers Museum on Jean Batten Drive, Mount Maunganui it was decided to make full scale models of the Alpha and Golf bombs that were developed in Rhodesia and used by the Rhodesian Air Force. These two bombs were quite unique, very innovative and demonstrated the Rhodesian attitude of determination to defy the odds. They were developed to improve on results the achieved from conventional bombs which were designed essentially for attacking buildings and people in trenches and not always effective in the African bush situation.

The Alpha was the spherical, soccer ball sized, bouncing bomb and this model is currently on display.

The Golf was the thousand pounder that was designed to burst one metre above ground. The Golf was basically a 90kg gas cylinder with a proboscis 1 metre long. It was charged with a fuel and fertilizer mix which gave it the unique property on detonation of exploding and then imploding which caused a huge shock effect to anyone in the vicinity. If you want more detail I suggest that you get a copy of Winds of Destruction and/or The Pride of Eagles which is listed at this link <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm> One of our members took up the challenge to build the models. To obtain information he was emailing all around the world and the titles of his emails normally included the word 'bomb'. His wife saw this and made the mistake of telling a couple of us what she would do to us if the men in black arrived with choppers, search lights and megaphones and took husband away in irons. Mr Le Bomba was born!!!

Mr Le Bomba works in a location so secret he often has difficulty finding his way there. To infer that this may be as a result of his having consumed some of the local brew is libellous and a slur on his impeccable character. Mr Le Bomba recently informed me (he speaks fluent Shackle - Rhodesian Army short period code for those readers who don't know or remember) that he had been on a trip (two in fact) on a Russian ship. I was very impressed - hell this guy gets everywhere!! If you don't believe me check out the back cover of the latest Rhodesians World Wide magazine - there is a picture of him there - suitably disguised of course. He said that he was in some discomfort after his trips, but all indications are that he is on the mend and we wish him a speedy recovery and resumption to the building of the bomb.

At this stage we intend to transport the 'bomb' to the Classic Flyers Museum on the roofrack of a Toyota. Keep an eye on the papers as we are sure it will be a good publicity stunt.

Until next time - go well.

Cheers
Hugh Bomford

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PLEASE NOTE:- 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.