



Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter March 2007

PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand.

Web: www.rhodesianservices.org

Greetings,

The 'Container Project' has been taking up a huge amount of my time over the last few months and I am looking forward to getting it to a state where I can have some of my 'spare' time back and perhaps get in a bit of paddling around in my kayak at the weekends again. The support has been great and we are very pleased with the result. At no stage did we perceive how much work there would be nor how good the finished article would turn out.

As always, we seek your financial support for the Association and also ask you to consider the people and businesses who support us. We have a quantity of clothing and other items that you can view on this page of the website <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm> Profits from sales go directly into the Associations funds. We also ask you to support our friends who are listed on this page <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Links%20to%20our%20supporters.htm>

ANZAC Day is looming - please join us at Hobsonville if you can. If you can't get to Hobsonville then join in your local parade I am sure that you will be made most welcome. This year the wreath at Hobsonville will be laid by Wendy Graham, formerly 147 Woman Patrol Officer Wendy Lunderstedt, who served in the BSAP from 1969 to 1973.

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 please. Personal medals worn on left; any medals in memorial on the right. Unit berets are also worn by many. We will be passing the hat around for donations towards the cost of the wreath and donation that we have made to the Hobsonville RSA with and surplus going to the general funds.

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

Museum News

The Rhodesian Services Association has recently been included in the will of a former Rhodesian serviceman living in Australia. He is leaving us his entire collection of memorabilia which includes a number of unique artefacts. We are most grateful to for this kind gesture.

The Golf Bomb full scale model is almost complete. We are planning an advertising and public relations drive incorporating the Classic Flyers Museum as well as the MASH Scenic Chopper Flights to deliver the product of Mr Le Bomba's dedicated work to the Classic Flyer's Museum where it will be added to the existing display.

The initial part of the journey will, by necessity, be shrouded in secrecy (we cannot afford to let anyone know where Mr Le Bomba's secret location is) but the rest of the journey will be on Easter Saturday the 7th of April. The convoy will wind its way around Tauranga and Mount Maunganui making various stops. There will be a competition running for a substantial prize that Classic Flyers will be offering. If you are in the area please support us and the associated businesses. Contact me if you want to help us on the journey.

Container Project

We have almost completed cleaning up the interior of the container and will move on to installing a work area and shelving in due course.

This photo was taken during the roof construction a few weeks ago:-



L-R Tony Griffiths, Colin Logie, Steve Kennedy

Since then the exterior is complete:-



The material for the shelving is being donated free of charge by Bill Gartshore of the Gartshore Group. We are grateful to help and assistance that we have had from the following businesses:-

Paul Selby of P R Selby Construction, Mount Maunganui

Alec Coorey of Rolec Construction, Mount Maunganui

Kevin Adlington of Tru Fold Group, Tauranga

We have received a number of generous donations from members for which, we are again, most grateful.

For some time we have been considering what to call "The Container". Names such as Picannin Kaia (PK) did come to mind but were inappropriate. (There may be some people reading this who I might explain that 'P.K.' was a colloquialism for 'toilet' - literal translation - "small house").

The door will soon have the Lion & Tusk painted on per kind favour of Tinka Mushett so we thought - why not "The Lion's Den"? This name has caught on - so from here on it is The Lion's Den.

We are planning some sort of 'grand opening' which will coincide with the RV in October. In keeping with the name we would like to know if there is anyone out there who has any association with Lion's Den in Rhodesia (it may have changed name by now?). If anyone was born there, lived there, drank beer there or bought biltong there, can they please contact me.

Combat Infantry Badge Initiative

At the time of writing this I understand we should have our stock shortly. The response to my previous emails about the CIB has been very positive with an increasing list of people asking me to reserve a CIB for them. Prices and details will be confirmed when the stock arrives.

New web site for Engineers

Mark Craig has recently launched a site at www.sasappers.net The site is dedicated to the South African Engineer Corps and the Rhodesian Corps of Engineers. Please feel free to have a look at it and give him your views.

Off The Book Shelf

There are a number of books that will be released this year. 'The Saints' will hit the shelves around June I think, and following that is 'Masoja', the history of the RAR, in November. Both books have been written by Alex Binda and published by 30° South Publishers.

I have recently read the two books below. They are excellent books. Please note that I do not stock them and you will need to purchase direct from the author or agent whose details are below.

'Of Land and Spirits' by Alan Thrush



Alan Thrush served as an officer with the Rhodesian African Rifles. He was awarded the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia for gallantry. The book is described as a novel, but in my opinion, it is a very accurate portrayal of the Bush War in Rhodesia during the 1970's through until the country became Zimbabwe. The book is well written and easy to pick up and put down without having to back track. I thoroughly recommend that you get a copy. It can be purchased from Books of Zimbabwe in the UK whose web site is at <http://www.booksofzimbabwe.com> or you can email them at info@booksofzimbabwe.com

'Never Quite a Soldier - A Policeman's War 1971 - 1983' by David Lemon



This is another very well written book. David Lemon has at least 8 other books to his name from what I understand. David served in the BSAP as a uniformed policeman holding a number of posts in Kariba, Marandellas and Macheke. He transferred to the Black Boots for a couple of years and finally ended up back in Marandellas in uniform when the country became Zimbabwe. Of particular interest to me are his recollections of his time in Marandellas and Macheke with many well known names popping up and details of some incidents that fill in gaps

in my memory or provide more insight into what happened in an area that I was closely associated with.

I am currently half way through *Never Quite a Soldier* and have no hesitation in recommending it. Please email David at Lemonfolk@aol.com to order a copy direct from him.

Flags on TradeMe

For a number of years now there has been a trader selling Rhodesian flags on TradeMe. I bought one a while back which is currently on a display at the Classic Flyers Museum (not our main exhibit, that has a genuine William Smith & Gourrock one on loan from the Logie family). It cost around \$20 and is a very inaccurate depiction of the Rhodesian flag. The colours are all wrong.

I have looked around for reasonable priced Rhodesian flags. I have found a source of 100% Polyester Rhodesian flags 3' x 5' with eyelets top and bottom. They are of a perfectly acceptable standard. If there is an interest I will add them to the CQ Store inventory. They will be around \$40. The Rhodesian Services Assn will also hold one to loan out for funerals although I would like to get a bigger one for this purpose.

Seeking Mrs Shay

I recently received an email from a Mr Mark Griffiths who said that he was trying to trace an elderly lady, who must by now be in her 80s and who is living in Christchurch, New Zealand, possibly in an old peoples home. She left Rhodesia, most likely during the period 1979-1981 after it had become Zimbabwe. Her surname is Shay (or possibly Flynn). She was born in Waterford, Ireland then moved to Rhodesia. Her husband was a farmer in Rhodesia, Thomas William Shay, and fought in WWII, most likely in a Rhodesian unit. He is probably deceased. She has a son, Thomas Shay who was educated by Jesuits in Rhodesia and left for the USA in the early 1960s. If anyone has any knowledge of Mrs Shay please contact me.

Until next time - go well.

Cheers
Hugh Bomford

PO Box 13003
TAURANGA 3141
New Zealand
Wk +64 7 576 9500
Fax +64 7 576 9501
Cell +64 21 045 8069
E-mail hbomford@clear.net.nz
Web www.rhodesianservices.org

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.