



Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter June 2006

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Web: www.rhodesianservices.org

Greetings

Before I get started, it may be that this email is intended for your husband or father who may be computer illiterate. If this is the case please print this off for him and sit him in a corner somewhere out of the way with a beer to read it! Thanks.

Welcome to my long overdue newsletter. As usual work is to blame. I am also in the process of reworking the website and so this newsletter is not in the normal format. There is always a lot going on and I find the overload of 'stuff' from the internet is sometimes overwhelming (I am sure you all find it the same).

The website is still at <http://home.clear.net.nz/pages/hbomford/> I have a number of plans and ideas that will be implemented when I have the time.

A number of people have dropped off my email lists because they have not updated me with new addresses. I simply do not have the time to go looking for them anymore. A number of others always have a "mail box over quota" message coming back to me. There is not a lot I can do about that either. I believe that my newsletters contain subject matter that is of interest and so I urge you to talk amongst your mates and if the post is not getting through, then get in comms with me one way or another. If you do not wish to receive any emails from me please let me know and I will delete your entry on the mailing list.

October RV Saturday 21st October

After experimenting with having the RV in November it was decided to return to the Labour Weekend in October.

The RV will be on Saturday 21st October. There will be activities on the Friday and the Sunday. The golf is one thing that will be on again.

As we proceed with arrangements I will broadcast it. For now get your accommodation booked. In the past we have tried to recommend various places but it has always been very difficult to arrange so I will be leaving it entirely up to you. If you need some help let me know. But PLEASE do not leave it to the last minute as you may miss out.

The venue will again be at the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regiment and the Hauraki Assn will be running the Garrison Bar. We will have the AGM on Sunday but will advise where, closer to the time as Keith has moved up north.

Immigration matters

Recent changes to immigration procedures in New Zealand mean that people are being asked for their service records. Recently one ex Rhodesian serviceman was asked what "operations" he was part of. The word "operations" was posed by a non-military person and so could have been taken out of context. This person answered the questions in a simple and concise manner highlighting the areas of his military service that pertained to the employment he was seeking. He was granted his work permit.

We, as Rhodesians, do not stand accused of anything. The immigration procedure has to be followed in order to try and identifying potential terrorists and undesirables.

6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regiment

Lt Col John Dick ED has retired as CO and our association wishes him well with his future.

I have met with the incoming CO, Lt Col Warren Banks. Our meeting was very positive and he is keen to continue with the association and good will that has been the feature of our relationship in the past.

We have a 'movie night' on the 3rd Friday night of every month. Everyone is welcome and it would be nice to see bigger numbers supporting the Hauraki Association. We have a gold coin collection with the proceeds going to the Hauraki Museum. The Hauraki Assn has recently purchased an audio visual projector which means we can always guarantee the showing on a big screen. Please contact me if you are not already on my local mailing list. Various 'lift clubs' are springing up so lets not have any more excuses about not supporting the movie nights!!

The Book Shelf

A new book has been published called 'Assignment Selous Scouts' by Jim Parker and published by Galago (aka Peter Stiff). **Word of warning.** Parker has stretched the truth - he was never SB nor Selous Scouts. This comes from the highest authorities. Stiff himself is also known to be unpopular with many people for his other recent publications of dubious accuracy and authenticity.

If you want to read a new book written by a Selous Scout of note then you should get 'Only My Friends Call Me Crouks' by WOII Dennis Croukamp BCR.

This book is dedicated to "the children of all Rhodesians". It is a no holds barred, honest account and provides a lot of new material. It is a book everyone should read. Written by a soldier, in soldier's language. Dennis does is not afraid to air his mistakes (and his successes) and he gives people that he has criticised the opportunity of reply.

To get it you will either have to get a mate in South Africa to help you or you can order on line from this website <http://www.crouks.co.za/>

We have a good stock of books on hand. You can email me for a list of titles or visit the website at <http://home.clear.net.nz/pages/hbomford/books.htm> (currently under review but that page should be complete shortly). We will soon be carrying books from 30 Degrees South Publishers. You can preview their website at <http://www.30degreessouth.co.za/home.htm> to get an idea of the books. Of note are the titles 'Winds of Destruction' by PJ Petter-Bowyer, 'War Dog' by A J Venter and 'Fire Force' by Chris Cocks. 2 books that 30 Degrees will be publishing shortly are 'The Saints - The Rhodesian Light Infantry' and also 'Masodja' - the history of the RAR. 'Masodja' is due for release around ANZAC Day (and the RAR's Regimental Birthday) next year.

Rhodesian Services Assn Stocks

The Association now has a wide range of items in stock some of which make great gifts. Profit from sales goes towards the Rhodesian Services Assn. Museum Fund. All prices in NZ\$

4RR Hackles \$15 each plus postage.

Black Lion & Tusk t-shirts \$30 - \$35 depending on size, plus postage

Name badges \$15 incl postage in NZ

Various lapel badges \$5; and key rings \$10 plus postage. *These items donated by Kieron Robinson of K.C Graphics in Wales, email k.c.graphics@btinternet.com

RGSM Ribbon \$10 per 15cm length incl postage in NZ

Various miniature medals. RGSM and Zim Indep are \$35 each plus postage each. Others are price on inquiry

Rhodesian Army Recruitment posters \$15 incl postage in NZ. *These items donated by Bill McDonald www.rhodesiaissuper.com

Please contact me for orders of any of the above. Every item we sell helps us towards our goal of housing and displaying all our museum exhibits in a place we can call "ours".

I can thoroughly recommend Ken Palmer (ex Marandellas so naturally a good bloke) who is producing the very highest quality, well priced, hand made bullion wire blazer badges. He can do all the Army units, all the RhAF Squadrons and the BSAP. You will not get anything like it anywhere and be guaranteed of quality and service. More importantly your money is not going to a 3rd world place with an unpronounceable name and no guarantee they will not 'puzza' your money. Ken is also donating from his sales to our Museum Fund.

Museum Matters

As above it is our aim to have a place we can call our own in which to house our museum and be a focal point for this association. It is a high bar but it is achievable. Various ideas are being worked on. The key factor is money. We are currently working through some ideas. If there is a lawyer in NZ, in our ranks or a supportive Kiwi, who would be willing to donate some time please would he/she contact me.

Currently we have far more material than we can exhibit at the Garrison Club.

We have donations of items coming in all the time. The latest donations are:- Grey's Scouts print and scroll by David Laird donated by Veronique and Brian Turner, Papamoa NZ

These items need to be framed. We have a person who can do the framing at cost but we need sponsors. What about members of the unit in the prints getting together and donating for the frames for their unit's print?

Freedom!!

As you will know the 3 men who became known as the 'Harare 3' were released last week. There was typical African style drama right to the end when they crossed the border and spent the night in Messina. Amongst the problems:- no papers so missed the flight; flat tyres on the transport; running out of fuel at Fort Vic etc etc.

I understand that Philip Conjwayo elected to stay in Zimbabwe.

I cannot begin to imagine what these men and their families must have gone through in the 18 years they were imprisoned and the tortures they endured. Not forgetting that Smith and Wood's wives and children were also imprisoned and tortured. A number of readers of this newsletter will know and have served with them. The 2 photos below speak louder than words

On release L-R Philip Conjwayo and his son, Kevin Woods, Mike Smith



L-R Kevin Woods, Barry Bawden, Mike Smith somewhere in South Africa



I have had a number of requests for contact by former comrades and this can be done if you send me your request.

Until next time.....go well and take care.

Cheers
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