

## Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter June 2007

PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand.

Web: [www.rhodesianservices.org](http://www.rhodesianservices.org)

Greetings

There is always so much more to do these days don't you think? The pace of life seems to increase on a daily basis. You are bombarded with information to the extent that you end up ignoring a lot of it otherwise you will go mad. I hardly watch any TV these days - most of it is rubbish, and anyway, if I sat around watching TV I would not be able to keep my business going as well as see to the Rhodesian Services Assn matters. I hope that you treat this newsletter differently to the way I treat my TV. Ignore me at your peril!! As you will see this newsletter has a great deal of interesting pieces on offer.

There are 2 links to separate documents. Please use the links in context

We currently have 327 members in New Zealand, 166 overseas and 16 Associates. The 'Associates' are mostly other organisations who we correspond with. This list grows on a daily basis. As covered in our previous newsletter, there is no fee for being an ordinary member and receiving the newsletter by email, however, if you want to vote at the AGM and/or to support us, then we will be a \$5 per annum membership fee from October 2007. If you attend the RV, the \$5 will be built in to the RV subscription.

I have also been working on the website at [www.rhodesianservices.org](http://www.rhodesianservices.org) and would like you to note that the old newsletters can be accessed under the 'Newsletter' tab the direct address is <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm> There are still a few newsletters from 2003 - 2005 that I have to add. I have also finished updating the Memorial page at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Memorial.htm> I still have a quantity of material to bring over from the old website which I do as and when I have the time.

### **'Blood Diamond' and Golf in Tauranga**

For a number of years we have been getting together once a month to watch a movie at the Hauraki Association's Garrison Club in Tauranga.

At ANZAC Day I was approached by some Aucklanders who suggested that they would like to come down and make a weekend visit to Tauranga and that some of them wanted to combine a game of golf as well. After due consultation and rumination we have decided that 15/16 June will be the weekend.

As we feel that people in the Waikato and greater Bay of Plenty area would be interested I am including it in this newsletter.

### **Details:-**

On **Friday 15th June starting at 7pm** we will be showing Blood Diamond starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Danny Archer.

Set in Sierra Leone in 1999 Archer is a Rhodesian, whose family were murdered by terrorists during the Bush War in Rhodesia in 1978. This movie is, in many of our opinions, a very good one, well researched and DiCaprio does a very good job (for a Yank) with the Rhodesian accent. We will be showing the whole movie and then if the audience wants we can show parts

of the Special Feature DVD which shows background to the making of the movie. Most of the movie was shot in Mozambique and South Africa. (One of the cameramen for the film was Harmon Cusack of <http://www.rhodesianvideos.mazoe.com> who incidentally supplied the DVD that we use as part of our display at Classic Flyers).

Colin will put on a braai beforehand. Remembering that the beer is always cold and very reasonably priced at the Garrison we will have 2 intermissions - now you do not get that at the regular theatres!!

We will be taking a gold coin collection which goes to the Hauraki Museum

On **Saturday the 16th June** Greg O'Carroll has offered to make arrangements for the golfers. To help Greg plan, and this is important - please could you contact him by cell 021 7210 42 as soon as possible if you intend to play. Greg will need to make various bookings so please make your plans early and get in touch with him.

There is plenty of good shopping and much to see and do in Tauranga, Mount Maunganui and Papamoa, so bring the whole family. A visit to Classic Flyers Museum and the Avgas Cafe on Jean Batten Drive, Mount Maunganui would also be recommended and you can see what additions have been made to the Rhodesian display and what new aeroplanes are on display. There is always the MASH chopper for a ride as well for a bird's eye view of the Bay.

Please discuss this with your friends and keep me posted if you intend to be with us so that we can have an idea of numbers to cater for at the braai.

### **Returned Mail**

The following subscribers email has recently been returned:-  
Sean & Serita Barrett-Hamilton  
Hans & Susan Brits

If you are in touch with them please ask them to send me their current email address.

### **Paying for goods**

Recently we have been involved in a lot more sales from the CQ Store. The question of payment is always coming up.

We do not have credit card facility which makes it a bit of a problem for overseas people. Local sales are simple as most people can now do internet banking or have the old fashioned cheque book.

Our objective is to always keep the costs, mostly in the form of bank fees down, because generally, we are dealing with very small amounts of money. We are able to accept personal cheques in the local currency from England, USA and Australia without a problem. For South Africa we can take cash, but the bank will not accept personal cheques. South Africans have a number of problems sending money overseas as I understand.

Quite a few South Africans I have dealt with recently used PayPal to pay us. PayPal is an internet based facility which if you have a credit card you can use to pay for purchases from someone like us who does not have credit card facility. I have used it for many years and have found it to be perfectly safe to use as long as you do not get scammed into giving up your password which is the same for any online banking these days. If you want to learn more about PayPal go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)

**Museum News - also see [#1 Attachment](#)**

The Golf Bomb has been installed at the Classic Flyers Museum as shown in the photos below. This is a full scale model and it is as close to the original as possible. It has been a long haul trying to work from one old photo and the memories of 3 people being cast back 30 years. None of the people who were hands on in the project had any connection to the Rhodesian Air Force and had never seen the bomb in the flesh. We were quite surprised from our appeals for information just how little information there is on these unique Rhodesian inventions and how few people volunteered their knowledge when we thought that there would be more Air Force armourers around who would have been able to help and give advise.

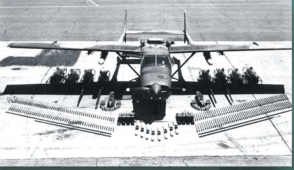

The bomb is in close proximity to one of the Hawker Hunters on display which is great, as it was developed exclusively for use by the Hunter. See the photo below of our display area.



Up close.



We had this magnificent backdrop (pictured below) made up by Anthony Brodie of A2Z Imaging Ltd. (they also did the other ones in the main displays) It is 1.5m x .7m. The full text is at <http://rhodesianservices.org/user/image/publication06-2007attachment1.pdf> Please read it as it is very interesting.

#### BACKGROUND TO THE GOLF BOMB

*Small text in the background image, partially legible:*

**General Case:** The Rhodesians attempted to produce better explosives (FAE) bombs, which American military journalists describe as having 'extra punch' effect. One military action was supported by chemical engineers in the field production of an AC (acid) neutralisation bomb just one of these FAE bombs. However, distribution of this type was not America's real interest in FAE. The weapon had been developed to clear large passages through enemy minefields by detonating hidden mines with a wave of pressure or ground.

**Ethylene oxide** was the reaction the Rhodesians employed. There were two reasons for the choice of this liquid gas. Firstly, it explodes with as little as ten per cent of air and is as much as 50 per cent of an explosion, whereas most other gases will only explode with a very sensitive gas to air ratio. The second advantage of ethylene oxide is that, when ignited, it produced gas volumes many times greater than any high speed explosion, such as TNT.

Each American FAE bomb was required to accurately hit the target and detonate by ground or in a pressure. A typical device usually contained a pressure die to release the bomb's compressed liquid contents at about 20 feet above ground and immediately fired back contents. The cap and downward flight time of the bomb allowed the ethylene oxide gas to settle to about 50 metres in level before the front of the bomb compressed the gas and set off a 30 second explosion. Initial on-ground use from a main line gallery of ethylene oxide dispensed and detonated in the way selected very beyond the edge of the gas jet.

With other the produce product of Comminex, Terraco (CN) firing but details but was not known and Rhodesians had to judge, though they could produce better effect over relatively large areas to cater for such situations. FAE seemed to offer a perfect solution in this on-going problem.

Comminex first effect was used and Project Echo during which the Rhodesians succeeded in making large explosions behind enemy lines, which were only seen by the Rhodesians. The first FAE bombs were developed in the Rhodesian Air Corps, and the Rhodesians (AR) took up to 100,000 tons of the gas, which was up to 45 metres high from that earth. The ground around was prepared and provided in a depth of 200 metres. The sound of each detonation was not a clear bang, as from TNT, but a sharp hiss, as if the gas was being compressed into the ground by the force of the explosion.

Ethylene oxide is a very dangerous substance to blow and with Rhodesia being under UN sanctions it was also very expensive and difficult to obtain. Considering these issues and having to fulfil requests that Rhodesian ground forces would be obliged to deliver on-demand, given the limited stock available, a new device to dispense the FAE (gas) was designed. The device was designed to produce high pressure bursts. They decided to use the gas use ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate) which is a more common and safe form of blast force.

Project Golf was initiated by making a direct comparison between an improved 500 lb. TNT-filled medium capacity bomb and an ANFO-filled bomb using casing (steel) and a rear booster. Both were developed for use in three feet, ground penetrating shells for terminal obstacles from 15 metres. The improved bombs were developed first. It was of both the small light tank, black smoke and a very loud bang and plenty of dust setting deep in the wind. The ANFO bombs were not only the best but also the most reliable. The explosion was a loud bang, not a bang, as from TNT, but a sharp hiss, as if the gas was being compressed into the ground by the force of the explosion.

Production of the steel showed that they had a problem in ANFO (Gas) being built as a reactor from lightning, as the product of high energy releasing to atmosphere. In the case of tanks filled with high flame jet explosives, bright flames and loud bangs of surface bursts are products of a sudden energy release; the composition of steel cases, when used against buildings, bridges and other targets, are not so easily destroyed as when used against structures, the same energy is highly destructive, but not as in the uncontrolled conditions of open bush.

In the case of ANFO, the steel containers were first used as the high explosive containers, but ANFO being a much slower 'burnable', intention to having detonation and beyond case fragmentation. An ANFO tank, when contained in a steel container and given a timely jolt by a remote charge such as Plastic, which is normally used for remote detonation. The explosive is then contained in a steel container, which is normally used for the ground gas tanks. The two ends immediately creating a void into which the air flows at enormous speed, causing an explosion.

The explosion forces on an armed bomb had caused more damage to structures than the most explosive. In the case of ANFO, explosion and explosion are equally effective.

The production of ANFO, a commonly used explosive, simply involves the thorough mixing of a small quantity of diesel fuel into dried ammonium nitrate. It is important the new mixture is kept in a small quantity, the process that is required to produce a mixture of energy released to large quantities to be large quantity production.

ANFO is used as a component, from the steel the Rhodesians realised that it should be contained in a steel container (rather than the case of ANFO) to be used against buildings, bridges and other targets. The Rhodesians realised that it had to be made in a steel container (rather than the case of ANFO) to be used against buildings, bridges and other targets.

Further detail 500 lb. ANFO tanks were considered before making a direct comparison between an improved 1000 lb. tank and an ANFO unit of equivalent mass. The comparison was based on the ground force, the Rhodesians realised that the ANFO unit was more effective and was able to penetrate 20 metres into the ground. The Rhodesians realised that the ANFO unit was more effective and was able to penetrate 20 metres into the ground.

Following fabrication of the ANFO unit, the Rhodesians had a medical success in the field of mines and traps that were fitted on the surface following enemy mine (ANFO) operations. All of these operations were successful, and the Rhodesians realised that the ANFO unit was more effective and was able to penetrate 20 metres into the ground.

Curious that ANFO bombs produced weight 450 kg, which was equivalent to the improved 1000 lb. tanks and ANFO units required these to be a more effective and was able to penetrate 20 metres into the ground.

**Operational considerations:** Rhodesian military needed a heavier bomb than the Rhodesians had, as they found that the Rhodesian Hunter FG4B (which was a heavy (2000 lb) weight aircraft. To increase the effect each tank was fitted with a 30-metre long propeller driven motor. To increase energy (power) and to be able to penetrate 20 metres into the ground, the Rhodesians realised that the ANFO unit was more effective and was able to penetrate 20 metres into the ground.

During early tests each pair of bombs (up to 1000 lb) was fired by the Rhodesians (which was a heavy (2000 lb) weight aircraft. To increase energy (power) and to be able to penetrate 20 metres into the ground, the Rhodesians realised that the ANFO unit was more effective and was able to penetrate 20 metres into the ground.

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450 kg Golf bombs were issued for operational use in March 1977. Testing continued for some time thereafter, resulting in the ANFO bombs being improved with double line cylinders containing thousands of pieces of chopped 10mm steel rod and (a) flat aluminium foil by the over-pressure booster. Although the Rhodesians realised that the ANFO unit was more effective and was able to penetrate 20 metres into the ground, they still used the ANFO unit.

This information is extracted from 'Winds of Destruction' by P.J.H. Palmer-Dwyer.



The 450kg Golf Bomb employed double steel plating to sandwich thousands of pieces of chopped 10mm steel rod. The double skin and chopped rod driven by the high-pressure gas generating explosive, ANFO, when added to shored-up vegetation proved Golf Bombs to be a truly devastating weapon. A pair of these bombs gave a bush flattening-pattern 90 metres wide by 135 metres in the line of attack with lethal effects extending beyond.



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Involved in the project, besides the now (in)famous Mr Le Bomba, were a number of people to whom we are most grateful:- PB Petter-Bowyer, Art Smith and Mick Dunwell, former members of the Rhodesian Air Force;

A number of friends of the Classic Flyers Museum;

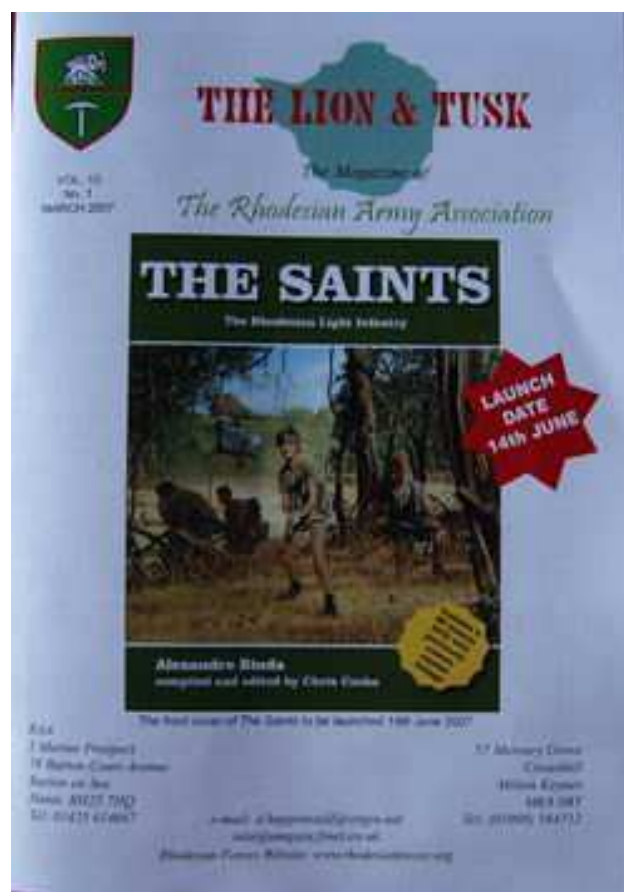
The local Rhodesian Services Assn museum coordinators Tony Fraser, Colin Logie, Tony Griffiths and myself.

The display is almost complete now. The last thing that we have planned is to build cabinets to house the 3 framed Digby Sinclair paintings. These paintings are framed but not behind glass. Currently they are in storage as we have not wanted to display them until we can keep them free of dust and dirt. These cabinets will sit above the main cabinets.

We have started to get the shelving installed in the Lion's Den (our converted refrigeration unit which will be used for storage of our museum collection items awaiting space to go on display). Steve Kennedy has been coming over from Rotorua to help Colin and myself. Once complete (hopefully next weekend) we can start moving things in.

If anyone has a reasonably up to date PC in working order to donate we would be very interested. We intend to have a PC in the Lions Den which we will use to run a removable hard drive. The removable will contain the inventory as well as digital material that we have gathered. We have a lot of paper and documents as part of the collection which we intend to scan and also have available for viewing.

## Lion & Tusk Magazine



The Lion & Tusk (latest one pictured above) is the official magazine of the Rhodesian Army Association, based out of England, with a worldwide membership. It is a very good magazine and I recommend that you subscribe to it. They are moving towards more colour and have

always been renowned for the high quality articles that they produce. Please contact Iain Harper [iain@umgusa.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:iain@umgusa.fsnet.co.uk) for more detail regarding subscription.

## **The Winged Stagger**

I have reproduced this request below which is aimed at all former SAS operators and their families:-

"On the first of April 2007 The Winged Stagger email newsletter was launched. Its aim is to bring news pertaining to 1 (Rhodesian) Special Air Service Regiment, its people, their families and our old home grounds. This news will be interlaced with stories of interest about Zimbabwe or South Africa and a photo section with pictures from the past and the present. We also will commemorate members who have passed away.

We aim for a monthly or bi-monthly appearance and more importantly when members get into trouble through illness or other reasons we can flash the message through to all our email addresses. Regretfully we had to use this facility already twice.

We are not in competition with the existing SAS Association and their annual Winged Chatter magazine, but through the nature of our newsletter we can eliminate the time gap and become a quick reaction unit. We have been approached by the Association and we both have agreed on exchanging material and information.

So far two issues have appeared in which there was news on Mike Smith, Norrod, Jelliman, Hodgson, Ratte and many others. We still have some copies available. Any ex member or the families of the men who have passed away can submit their email addresses for placing on the mailing list. The mailing list and the newsletters are restricted documents and must be handled accordingly.

We now have about a hundred addresses and would welcome anyone eligible joining us and making us stronger.

Kind regards

Dutch Huiberts

Email address: [sunray@quicknet.nl](mailto:sunray@quicknet.nl) or [winged.stagger@inet.net.au](mailto:winged.stagger@inet.net.au) "

## **Australia Branch of the RLI Regimental Assn**

The latest newsletter can be viewed at

[http://www.medmall.co.za:80/Medmall/2006/Medmail/NewsletterRLI/rliira\\_newsletter240507.htm](http://www.medmall.co.za:80/Medmall/2006/Medmail/NewsletterRLI/rliira_newsletter240507.htm)

You just need to be connected to the internet and click on the writing in blue above and you will view the whole newsletter.

I would recommend that you read it as it is packed with interesting articles and photos. I would also recommend that you also use the link in the newsletter entitled 'Sydney Reunion Feedback' after which is a link to click on. This has comments and photos from the recent Sydney ANZAC Parade and the RLI reunion. I found these comments mirrored the comments that I get every year from people attending ANZAC parades in New Zealand, in particular the one at Hobsonville where we are out in force.

## **Hail The Intrepid Few - [#2 Attachment](#)**

Rhodesian born Ross Dix-Peek recently sent me this excellent article that he has researched and written. Entitled "Hail The Intrepid Few! Southern Rhodesian-born Airmen in the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force during World War One, 1916-1919" it concerns an area of our history which I have never seen covered to this depth before.

You can download it from <http://rhodesianservices.org/user/image/publication06-2007attachment2.pdf>

The receipt of this article is very timely. We were aware of the air battle between Bulawayo born David G "Tommy" Lewis and Manfred "The Red Baron" von Richtofen which is depicted in a painting by Digby Sinclair and will be part of the display at the Classic Flyers Museum which I have covered elsewhere in this newsletter. Other than that the rest of Ross' article was new territory for me.

I hope that you enjoy it and learn as much as I have from it.

### **ANZAC Day Feedback**

We received an official "Thank you" from the Hobsonville RSA for our attendance. They were glad that our own ceremony had gone well and hoped that we enjoyed the post parade socialising.

It was a very good turnout this year and I hope that we can get more of you along next year.

### **October RV**

In case you forget..... Keep Labour Weekend (19th - 22nd October 2007) free. If you intend to come to Tauranga I would suggest that you organise accommodation as soon as possible. We are lining up a lot of good things for the weekend starting on the Friday night with movies down at the Garrison Club and finishing with the De-Brief at the Classic Flyers Museum on the Sunday.

I believe that a number of our friends from Australia intend to get over which will be excellent.

### **Author's Request**

This request from Eddy Norris of ORAFs on behalf of an unnamed author.

"Hello Everybody ORAFs has been requested to assist with the search for photos relating to the SAS and anything that might work on the cover of a book about the Rhodesian SAS. Please direct your replies to [orafs@isdial.net](mailto:orafs@isdial.net) At this time I am unable to give further details other than saying it will be good one to read and own.  
Best Wishes Eddy Norris"

### **Obituary**

This is also from Eddy Norris, ORAFS editor:- "I am sorry to tell you that Peter Corbishley died in Bulawayo on Wednesday (23 May 2007.)

He had suffered a stroke on Monday which he did not recover from, but had not been well for some time.

Peter was the boss-man of the VR Squadron based in Bulawayo throughout the 60s and 70s. He is survived by his children Peter and Amanda (in Cape Town), Carol in Welkom and Sue (Sydney).

Rest in peace, Pop.

Regards Charles Harrington-Johnson"

### **CQ Store**

You can view what we have in stock in the CQ Store on the website at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm> Most popular items recently have been the Unofficial Rhodesian CIB which we are currently out of stock. We are taking orders which

we will be able to fulfil from the new stock expected at the beginning of July. We had a big run on medals around ANZAC. The Lion & Tusk apparel - caps, t-shirts and polo shirts continue to be popular along with name badges and number plate surrounds.

## **We Didn't Fight For Fun**

Thanks to Ian Kirkman (ex BSAP) for supplying this. I am sure many of you will have seen it before or have in on a copper plaque like I do.

In World War One, when things were bad, and England needed men,  
We rallied to our countries flag - Rhodesians answered then.  
And many asked us as we went, "Whose battle do you fight?"  
"Our country needs us", we replied, and fought with all our might  
And some came back, but hundreds not; but you must understand  
We didn't fight for fun, my lad, we fought to save our land.

Two decades passed and once again the call to arms went out.  
Rhodesians answered as before, was ever there a doubt?  
Where did we go? Why everywhere! On land and air and sea,  
We fought in every battle and helped to set men free.  
And some came back, but thousands not; but you must understand  
We didn't fight for fun, my lad, we fought to save our land.

The years rolled by, and once again, the battle cry is made.  
This time Rhodesians fight alone - few come to our aid.  
Both young and old, both black and white, we'll keep our country free  
And make it safe for everyone - not just for you and me.  
Yes, some will live, and some will not, but you must understand  
It isn't any fun, my lad, to fight to save our land.

Poem by Sydney E. Lassman, Rhodesia

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.*