



Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter July 2006

PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand.

Web: www.rhodesianservices.org

Greetings once again (and so soon after the last newsletter!)

I have recently updated my address list so some of you may be getting this Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter for the first time.

If you get this 2nd hand please contact me to get it direct.

Whenever I send the newsletter out there are a number of returns. Either someone has changed address or in a number of instances the recipient's mail box is full. When mail is returned to me from a dead address I simply delete the address. I do not have the time to go looking for a new address for that person. If a mail box is full there is nothing I can do - it's like ringing their phone when it has been left off the hook, somewhat frustrating as you cannot blow a whistle down the line as with the old party line phones! I do not have time nor sufficient memory space in my cluttered brain to remember to resend the returned item so they miss out.

Some of you may be getting a 'double tap' - if so let me know which address to take off the list

It helps me if you people out there talk amongst yourselves and if someone is not getting the Rhodesian Services Assn emails who would like them, then tell me and they will be added to the list.

For 'first times' receiving this newsletter, the Rhodesian Services Association was formed in New Zealand to encompass all branches of the Rhodesian Security Forces. This newsletter goes out to all interested parties throughout the world. This association needs to have more people offering skills and ideas to the mix. If you think you can help in any way please contact me.

Museum News

We have been invited to do a display at the Classic Flyers Museum in Tauranga. To get a idea of this museum and the other incorporated facilities please visit this website www.classicflyersnz.com

We will be doing a display with the emphasis on the Rhodesian Air Force it's history and its roll in ground support.

We will still be maintaining the display at the Garrison Club in the Hauraki Regiments Museum and History Room as well as our relationship with the Hauraki Association. This opportunity at the Classic Flyers Museum means we can put more of the items that we currently have in storage, on display and broaden the awareness of our history and demonstrate the common ground between Rhodesia and New Zealand to a wider audience.

To give you some idea of our plans:-

The case will be approximately 2m high and 2m long. The background will be of various photos and paintings. Foreground of a parachutist just landed and picking up his chute. We intend an audio and visual sequence simulating the flash and sound of detonating bombs followed by the sound of a Hunter striking with canon and screaming Avon engines together with air to ground

radio conversation. In a separate audio and visual displaying on a TV screen we will have some short film sequences together with a voice over of Rhodesian history. We would also like to have models of Alpha and Golf bombs on display.

We have some material but we need more. We have received a quantity of photos and information from 'PB' Petter Bowyer as well as 8 more paintings from Digby Sinclair.

We would very much like the following:-

Pilot's helmet

Pilot's survival vest

Pilot's flight suit

First hand information from armourer/s of the Alpha and Golf bombs

Red static line

Parachute risers

Bata light weight boots

Webbing

Any items of equipment and uniform that you have stored away that the Mrs keeps wanting to throw out.

This is a very exciting project. Currently Tony Fraser, Colin Logie and I are working on it in our spare time. Any other people wanting to be involved are most welcome.

Book review

'Tsanga' by Heather Powell



Tsanga Lodge was one of the facilities in Rhodesia where soldiers (and some civilians) went to receive rehabilitation treatment. Tsanga was quite different to other rehab. units. Situated out of the way in the Eastern Highlands of Rhodesia and run by a husband and wife team of Dick and Anne Paget. Dick, a retired army medic and Anne his very organised and calm wife, saw qualities in the author, Heather Powell, that were needed at Tsanga.

Heather Powell, an immigrant from Ireland, initially lived and worked in Umtali which is where the book starts. The book is a very easy read and for those people who were familiar with Inyanga you can almost smell the bracken and wattle again. Tsanga was unique, as were the people who worked there trying to mend the bodies and minds of our friends. Many of the locals were also unique and they too are part of the whole 'ecosystem' that evolved. It is a cliché, but Heather has written about the best of times and the worst of times in a most amazing book. I thoroughly recommend it and urge you to buy a copy.

To purchase in the Southern Hemisphere:-

Contact Heather Powell telephone 61 (Australia) 2 4472 6896 email powellh@acr.net.au

To purchase in the Northern Hemisphere:-

Contact Dick and Anne Paget telephone 44 (UK) 1434 220048 email pagets2000@btopenworld.com

Price is approx \$25 Aus or 15 quid in the UK but email the above to check. You will not regret buying it - believe me.

Website update

I am continuing to add to the Rhodesian Services Association website at www.rhodesianservices.org as and when time permits. Keep checking back to see what is new. I have made some recent changes to enable the navigation bar to be more visible in light of some very valid comments.

October RV 2006 Update

I hope you have got your accommodation organised for **Labour Weekend 20th to 23rd October**. I will be sending out full details by separate email, hopefully within a week. It is important that we get all registrations done as quickly as possible. We need avoid late registrations please. There is a lot of organising to be done and we all have very busy lives so your cooperation is necessary to keep our stress levels down and to enable myself and the other organisers to also enjoy this once a year event. Additional help, ideas and suggestions are much appreciated.

The programme so far:-

Friday 20th - Audio/video showing at the Garrison Club, Hauraki Regiment, Tauranga start 7pm
Saturday 21st - Morning golf tournament organised by Greg O'Carroll. RV in the afternoon and evening at the Garrison Club

Sunday 22nd - AGM, venue to be confirmed but most likely will be the Classic Flyers Museum, Aerodrome Road, Mount Maunganui.

Stuff for sale

We have plenty of stuff for sale. If you visit the Assn website at www.rhodesianservices.org then go to the CQ Store page and you will also find the sub page to the Books page. The Association is carrying a variety of stock of various and as well Diana and I have a range of books. Our book titles are being added to with the arrival of stock including Fire Force by Chris Cocks (4th reprint with new photos), War Dog by A J Venter, Winds of Destruction (2nd reprint) by PB Petter-Bowyer, So Far and No Further by Prof J R T Wood, The 1879 Zulu War - a reprint of the Illustrated London News articles that covered that war, Rugby Stories from the Platteland by Graham Jooste. Due out in November is The Saints by Alex Binda and compiled and edited by Chris Cocks. This will be a coffee table pictorial format book of the Rhodesian Light Infantry. There will be a limited edition (150 copies) leather bound personally signed by Ian Smith. Inquiries for that need to be directed to this email address info@30degreessouth.co.za

Relief Organisations

I have sent out emails about this recently and there may have been some confusion. For a list of individuals and organisations that have been 'vetted' to the best of our ability please check the web page <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Relief%20Funds.htm>

SAS Audio visual presentation

Wayne Holah the New Zealand Special Air Service Association's Archivist and Historian will be giving a presentation on Friday 15th September starting 7pm at the Garrison Club, Hauraki Regiment, Tauranga. Locals will be on a separate mailing list concerning the 'Movie Evenings' in Tauranga. If anyone from outside the area wishes to attend please contact me.

Until the next time - stay well

Cheers

Hugh Bomford

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