



Rhodesian Services Association September 2007 Newsletter

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**Please Note that all previous newsletters are available at
<http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm>**

Greetings

Firstly, to comply with the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act 2007, I need to ensure that I have your consent to send you emails. If for any reason you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to hbomford@clear.net.nz with the word 'remove' in the subject line or body. If you are happy to continue receiving emails, do nothing.

Thank you, as always, for all your positive feedback about the August Newsletter. It certainly puts fuel in my tanks when I am running short of energy and inspiration to know that my long hours are being appreciated.

Recently, while watching the TV3 News article showing the celebrations in Te Kaha for Cpl Apiata VC, it really struck home to me just how short changed decorated Rhodesian soldiers were/are in regard to their recognition and respect. New Zealanders returning from Vietnam who were shunned by sections of the public will also know the feeling. I hope that through this newsletter I can bring a degree of awareness to as many people as possible about the endeavours of our servicemen and women.

I have had a number of responses regarding my suggestions in the last newsletter for potential articles of interest. If you have any material or recollections about animals that were part of Security Force units, please contact Grant Matthews (grant.francesca@xtra.co.nz). Bruce John (washebru@hyper.net.nz) is looking for any information on the two Rhodesian school boys who were decorated for their actions in separate incidents - Jamie Scott 15 and Derrick Hattingh 16. Grant and Bruce are both young members of the Assn. who were not directly part of the Bush War, please give them your support. It is important that our Assn. covers all ages and genders in order to keep our history alive.

I am indebted to John Lomas who is now editing these newsletters and is therefore directly responsible for the greatly improved finished product. If anyone has anything they would like to submit please send it through to me, extra material from readers is always appreciated. This newsletter is not written up in a few hours, it takes a lot of time and the next month's newsletter begins the moment the current one has been sent off. You would be amazed at the quantity of Rhodesian Security Force related material that comes through my computer every day. The country, as we knew it, may have ceased to exist nearly 30 years ago, but there is no faltering in the interest and spirit that lives on.

Condolences

David Holman passed away suddenly in Binga, Zimbabwe, on 18th August 2007. Our condolences to his family around the world.

ORAFs advised:

It is with deep regret that I must advise you all of the passing of **Rodney Simmonds** in Somerset West, Cape Town, during the early hours of the 26th August 2007, after a long battle with illness. Rodney served, as a Pilot, during WWII on 238 (Spitfire) Squadron. His Squadron Commander was Archie Wilson. Rodney was also a Member of Parliament in Rhodesia, being the MP for Mtoko which included New Sarum.

ORAFs records its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Simmonds (Meagan), Peter, Ant and Christopher. Messages can be sent to rosim@iafrica.com

RSM Boyd passed into Higher Service on 12 September 2007 in Durban, Natal. Details of death are not known. Eddy Norris recalls that RSM Boyd was the C Company Company Sergeant Major when he completed his National Service at Llewelin Barracks in 1963.

Grant Williams passed into Higher Service in the UK over the past weekend (1-2 September). Grant joined the Air Force in the mid 70's. He had already been working on choppers somewhere in the Middle East (Abu Dhabi, I think) so he went straight into 7 Squadron. He left the air force in the early 80's.

Anthony Coom, former Sgt. in the RLI, advises that his uncle **John Coom**, ex Pilot Officer 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron, a Lancaster pilot, passed away in Cape Town on Saturday 1st September 2007.

Harmon Cusack wrote saying that **Bernie Brower**, well known in the Rainbow group, passed away on the 8th September in Harare.

Brian Ruff wrote this to his family and his father's friends:

*Dear Everybody, Please allow me to introduce myself; I am David Ruff, eldest son of **Brian Ruff (BSAP 5244)**.*

I am very sorry to have to tell you that my Dad passed away, on Monday 30 July 2007.

Sadly, his passing was avoidable, hastened by the prevailing situation in Zimbabwe; in this case, the parlous state of the country's medical services. Virtually every doctor and nurse, of any competence, has left. Those who remain - including the one or two good ones - are woefully underpaid, if they get paid at all. And, like everything else here, the country's medical system is heavily politicised and, thus, access to patients can be limited by Party membership and/or colour. Dad's quite excellent GP is white, and apolitical.....

And so, when my Dad had a stroke at 2114hrs on 20 July, followed by two terrible falls brought on by the stroke - which cracked the skull of an already haemorrhaging brain - he did not receive the right treatment..... He was taken by ambulance to A&E at Parirenyatwa Hospital. The one doctor and two nurses were struggling to cope with the usual Friday night flood of drunks, accident victims, etc. They eventually saw my Dad after several hours; the doctor stitched his wounded head and promptly tried to discharge my Dad. As he was still bleeding from the ears - a classic sign of internal skull cavity bleeding, known by even the most basic first-aider - my Mum insisted that Dad be given a CT scan, or at least an x-ray. The doctor refused, claiming the ear bleeding was superficial. Dad was brought home, only to deteriorate badly over the weekend; his behaviour went from lucidity to aggressive irrationality, to hyperactive childlike misbehaviour, to sudorific sullenness. Mum coped with all of this till she finally managed to get him seen by another doctor on the Sunday (22/7); this doctor was appalled at the preceding misdiagnosis and promptly conducted CT scan etc. Dad had major swelling of the brain, compounded by bleeding from the brain, into the cranial cavity.

To cut a long story short, over the succeeding week, he appeared to be making very slow progress; to the point that the neurosurgeon discharged him to a convalescence clinic, on 29/7. When he took a very bad turn the following morning, the clinic staff were too busy eating biscuits in the nurses station to notice; they last saw him at 0700hrs. Three hours later, at 1100hrs, my Mum discovered his condition as she arrived to visit. The "clinic" did not have its own doctor, none could be found. Eventually, my cousin (not the clinic!) contacted the neurosurgeon who arrived at around 1600 hrs; he worked furiously on my Dad, sadly to no avail. Dad died at 1730hrs, and was pronounced dead at 1745hrs.

We now know that Dad suffered a major stroke; the falls caused a separate injury to the brain, a subdural haematoma. The latter could be fixed by surgery, the former would have left him as a vegetable. In the event, nature took its own course; the physical stress of his injuries induced a coronary, which is what actually took him.

His funeral will be held at the FCS Chapel, 136 Herbert Chitepo St. Harare, at 1100hrs on Monday 6 August. All friends are welcome to attend I would be grateful if you would not reply to this email, as I will soon be closing Dad's account. In fact, to save his ISP account being overwhelmed I would be grateful if you would please delete Dad's email address from your address book, immediately.

And, as I do not know if I have included all my Dad's ex BSAP mates and contacts out there, I would be very grateful if you would please disseminate this message as you see fit. Thank you.

If you would like to express your sympathies, please write to my Mum - Mrs Dawn Ruff, PO Box BW 145, Borrowdale, Harare, Zimbabwe Alternatively, you can contact me by email at david_ruff@hotmail.co.uk Or you can call me anytime on my (UK) cell phone, which is +447812042653 I'm pleased that you guys out there kept in touch with my Dad; the BSAP Assn. was very much one of his major windows on the world, from this once proud and beautiful country. He always signed off "Post Nubila Phoebus" - after darkness there is light/sunshine. Thank God that Dad is now back in the sunshine.

David Ruff

Off the radar

The following people's emails have been returned. If you know them please ask them to contact me with their current address. Your assistance is appreciated.

Nicolas Jackson an ex RLI Major from Australia

Deon Nothnagel and **Anita Nothnagel nee Cotton**

Anne and Nick Jackson, ex Royal Air Force and Rhodesian Air Force, who were in Spain, then Nhill, Melbourne, are being sought by Mike and Sheila Hamence michael_hamence@hotmail.com Please contact the Hamences if you can help.

Medals and Citations

Following on from the piece in the August newsletter I requested a number of citations from those mentioned. This month I will begin to publish citations.

I hope that no offence is taken from the order in which I am publishing these. Every one of these people is very special to their families. Nothing should be taken away from what they did for their fellow soldiers under extreme duress and with no regard to their own future. Their families and friends have every right to be proud of them.

While I am making note of those people who were decorated, it must also be remembered that many acts of selflessness went unrewarded and unrecorded. Many of the people who sent me citations made it very clear that they regarded their award as being part of a team effort. Every Rhodesian has a right to be proud of what they stood for. Those who were awarded for dedication and bravery are people who should be accorded our respect.

The first is my late father **Peter Bomford's** citation as it was published in the Rhodesian Herald in 1946.

RHODESIANS' BRAVERY IN BURMA

In recognition of great gallantry in the face of heavy odds, Lieut. Peter Bomford, Gurkha Regiment, attached to a Northern Rhodesia battalion, receives the Military Cross. On November 3 last year Lieut. Bomford's platoon attacked a very strongly held Japanese position on the crest of a precipice and accessible from only one direction. Utterly disregarding his own safety he led the charge and personally killed three Japanese in the face of accurate fire from three machine-guns and countless grenades.

The position attained, he grenaded the enemy who then launched a counter-attack. Just then an air attack came in and to avoid casualties from our own aircraft, he withdrew.

After the air strike he again attacked, but the enemy had been reinforced and owing to casualties Lieut. Bomford was ordered to withdraw. He was the last man back, having covered the withdrawal of his platoon with a Bren gun.

His medal group is below. The Military Cross is the first medal on the left the others in order are the 39-45 Star, Burma Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Zimbabwe Independence Medal. The oak leaf (MID) on the War Medal indicates that he was Mentioned in Despatches. In broad terms, the Military Cross is equivalent to the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia. The MID is equivalent to the Rhodesian Military Forces Commendation medal.



Graeme Trass is a Kiwi who came to Rhodesia to join the fray. He was commissioned in the Rhodesian African Rifles and served with distinction until the end of the Bush War. He received the country's second highest award (equivalent to the British Distinguished Service Order). Graeme lives with his family in Taupo. This is his citation:

Silver Cross of Rhodesia

SECOND LIEUTENANT GRAEME LESLIE TRASS 2ND BATTALLION THE RHODESIAN AFRICAN RIFLES

Second Lieutenant Graeme Leslie Trass has served as a Platoon Commander in the Second Battalion, The Rhodesian African Rifles, since March 1978. During this time he has been involved in numerous contacts and has been responsible for the elimination of a large number of terrorists.

On the 10th August 1978 Second Lieutenant Trass and four patrols of men were parachuted into a contact area during a fire force action. Immediately after landing he led a sweep line towards the terrorist position. Contact was made and all six terrorists were killed. Shortly afterwards a patrol of four men were pinned down in open ground by four terrorists hiding in a rocky outcrop. Second Lieutenant Trass and three men were directed to assist. Without hesitation he left his position, the whole time being subjected to intense terrorist fire. All four terrorists were killed. In this engagement, a total of 13 terrorists were eliminated, due largely to the coolness and aggressive leadership of Second Lieutenant Trass.

On the 28th August 1978 a patrol of four men, commanded by an officer, was fired on by two terrorists at very close range. The officer was wounded and the patrol forced to withdraw in the face of heavy fire. Repeated air attacks failed to dislodge the terrorists. Second Lieutenant Trass and one man skirmished across open ground, under fire, and assaulted the terrorist position, killing both terrorists at close quarters.

On the 7th December 1978 a patrol of four men was fired upon by three terrorists entrenched in a narrow and thickly wooded re-entrant. The officer was wounded and the patrol forced to withdraw. Subsequent air attacks failed to eliminate the terrorists. Second Lieutenant Trass, leading seven men, attempted to sweep through the terrorist position. At ten metres range, the terrorists fired upon his men, seriously wounding the machine gunner, who fell within yards of the terrorists. His men were forced to withdraw to cover. In fading light, and believing that the machine gunner was still alive, Second Lieutenant Trass crawled forward and extricated him, under fire and from within a few metres of the terrorists, showing great personal courage in so doing.

On these, and other occasions, Second Lieutenant Trass has shown complete disregard for his own safety, displaying courage and aggressive leadership of the highest order. His conduct has been an inspiration to all who have served with him.

This is the Silver Cross of Rhodesia (SCR):



Steve Geach is a third generation Rhodesian. His family had served with distinction in WWII with one of his uncles paying the ultimate price. Another uncle, a Rhodesian, received the American Silver Star, and another, also a Rhodesian served with the French Foreign Legion. Steve did his National Service in the RLI and was awarded the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia while serving as a territorial in 5RR. Steve lives with his wife and children in Auckland. This is his citation:

The Bronze Cross of Rhodesia

RIFLEMAN STEPHEN DAVID GEACH FIFTH BATTALION THE RHODESIA REGIMENT

On the 21st of April 1979 Rifleman Stephen David Geach of the Fifth Battalion, the Rhodesia Regiment, was a member of the protection party for a mobile polling station which was operating in the Dande Tribal Trustland.

Whilst returning to its base in convoy, his protection party was ambushed by 16 terrorists using small arms and rocket fire. The vehicle in which he was traveling was hit and immobilized in the middle of the killing ground and all personnel had to debus. Two members were killed instantly whilst another three were hit and fell in open ground where they were exposed to heavy enemy fire. Without thought for his own safety Rifleman Geach ran forward to assist these men. Being unable to move the three men on his own, he called for assistance and with the aid of Lance Corporals Chifamba and Da Costa, Rifleman Geach recovered the wounded members to safety.

Although he is not a medical orderly, Rifleman Geach administered first aid and applied a drip to one of the wounded. Requiring more drips and other medical stores, Rifleman Geach ran approximately 15 metres across open ground, under enemy fire, to retrieve a medical pack from the open vehicle within the killing ground. He then ran back to the wounded, gave further first aid and remained with them until they were evacuated.

Rifleman Geach's selfless and brave action undoubtedly saved the lives of two men. He displayed courage of the highest order.


This is the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia (BCR):



Bill Ludeke is a third generation Rhodesian. Bill was Intake 154 and went through the LTU course. He later signed on as a regular with the BSAP as well as being involved with training. He lives in New Plymouth with his wife and family. This is the letter that he received advising him that he had been awarded the Police Decoration for Gallantry (equivalent to the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia)

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS
SHOULD NOT BE ADDRESSED
TO INDIVIDUALS
TELEPHONE: 700101 SALISBURY

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
REF. No. *R/S10041*



SALISBURY RURAL DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS.
BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA POLICE,
Mashonaland Province Headquarters,
P.O. Box 8002, Causeway.

6th September, 1979

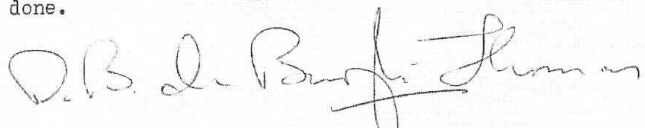
No. 10041 Patrol Officer LUDEKE,
B.S.A. Police,
NORTON.

Dear *Bill*

I was most pleased to recently learn that the President had approved the award of the Police Decoration for Gallantry to you. I consider it a most fitting award which I think you most highly deserve, in recognition of all the courageous and hard work you have undertaken whilst at Norton.

I am most proud, as your Officer Commanding, to have men such as yourself under my command. You are an inspiration to all of us.

The Officer Commanding, Mashonaland Province, wishes me to convey to you his congratulations to which, of course, are added my own. Well done.



(D.B. DE BURGH-THOMAS) Chief Superintendent,
Officer Commanding Police,
SALISBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

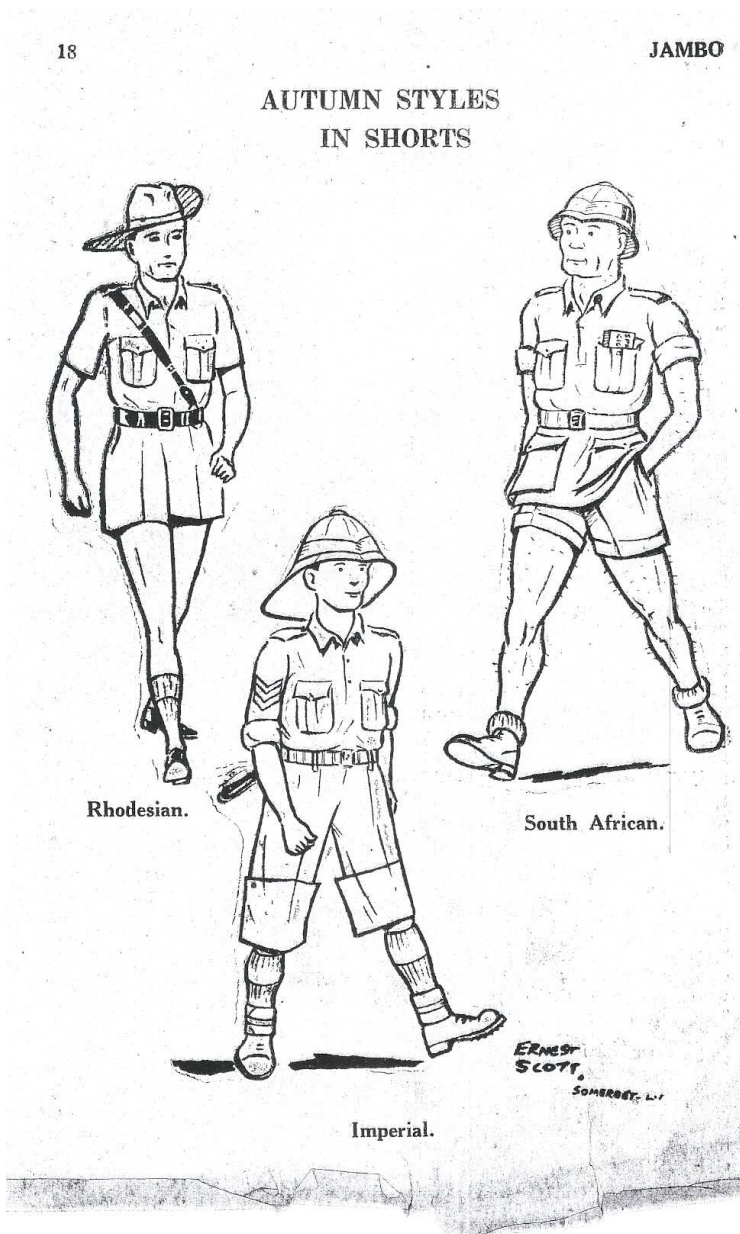
DBDEBT/PM

This is a Police Decoration for Gallantry medal:



Flashback to 1942

Rhodesians have always been famous for their attire on the battlefield. It was t-shirts and shorts in the late 1970's. This picture is from Jambo, a WWII broadsheet that was issued to the forces dated November 1942. It clearly defines the difference in uniform and appearance of some of the colonial boys.



Museum News

We continue to work on the displays in our spare time. Currently we are planning to make display cases in which to house the three framed paintings by pilot/artist Digby Sinclair.

Some of you may have noted that 'Trevor', the manikin who is the centre piece of the Hauraki display, is currently on leave. He is being 'cloned'. Manikins are very expensive and we are fortunate to have been loaned 'Trevor' and his counterpart 'Fred', in the Classic Flyer's display by Paul Selby a local collector. Copies of 'Trevor's' body are being made in fibre glass for use in other projects that our curator Tony Fraser is involved in. The sign is up on the Lions Den and it looks good!



We are busy shifting bits and pieces out of various locations and putting them in boxes in the Lion's Den. We will then need to continue with the job of photographing and cataloguing which we started two years ago.

The October RV

We need you to register with us as soon as you can. It all takes a lot of sorting out and to have the whole thing run smoothly it really helps to have your registrations in hand well before the event so that Diana and I can also enjoy the weekend.

So far we have two of our mates coming over from Australia this year - Wally Insch and Mike Botha - so this is a good chance to catch up with them as well as all your other friends from around the country, plus meeting up with some new ones while enjoying the great area we have here in Tauranga, Mount Maunganui and Papamoa.

On **Friday the 19th October 2007** we have some great entertainment set to kick the weekend off. Down at the Garrison Colin will be cooking up his famous hamburger sandwiches from about 5pm and then we have about two hours of audio visual material to show you starting at 7pm. This show is not to be missed. We will be showing you Tama Tu, a silent short NZ film about a section from the Maori Battalion in Italy during WWII. Then we will show a selection of Msasa Productions' material starting with 'What a Time' which visits various parts of Rhodesia's history up to 1978 to the accompaniment of songs by the late Clem Tholet. We will then show the DVD 'The Saints' which is a brand new production made for the book by the same title and incorporating footage of external operations that has never been seen before. We will finish the evening off with Kum A Kye the BSAP recruitment film which has some light moments aimed to amuse you all. We will, of course, be pacing ourselves with ample refreshment breaks. Now you will not get a show like this at your local Cinema 6! Don't miss it! A collection will be taken for the Hauraki Museum

On **Saturday the 20th** anyone keen on golf can link up with like minded souls and have a round at the Otumoetai course (not as rugged as the Oropi Road course I am told) Tee off is 10am, contact Paul Nes or myself for details. Start to assemble for registration for the RV at 2.30pm with the welcome and some presentations at 3.30pm sharp. Then the socialising will commence with the auction followed by the BBQ in the evening. The auctioneer this year is again Steve Geach. The RV is our main fundraising event of the year so please come prepared with loose strings on your wallet.

On **Sunday 21st** we will clear up at the Garrison at 10am and then move to the Classic Flyer's Museum for the Debrief which will kick off with a brunch starting at 11am, followed by the AGM which is an important one this year as we become an Incorporated Society and we therefore need a show of strength to record good numbers for the records. A collection will be taken for the Classic Flyer's Museum.

Ticket price for the RV is \$30 for adults, which includes your annual membership of the Rhodesian Services Association of \$5. You will also get a complimentary lapel pin and a registration pack with an introductory copy of Rhodesians World Wide and other material including maps and things to do around the area. Under 12's are \$10 and, unless requested, they will not get the membership or lapel pin. If they want that then the price is \$20.

Please do not delay - get your registration fee off to me ASAP. A cheque to Hugh Bomford, PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141 or a direct deposit to ASB Bank 12-3209-0239761-51. If you do a direct deposit please email me the details.

You are encouraged to buy Rhodesian Services Association name badges for \$15. One of these will last you for ever and they are useful anywhere you go to let people know who you are and help them remember that your name is not 'hey' or 'mate'.

The Garrison Club does not have EFTPOS, the Classic Flyer's does.

Billets for the RV

Tony and Lila Griffiths have room for a couple in their house at Mount Maunganui. Please email Tony on dr_g5@hotmail.com

If anyone else in the area has spare room for guests please let me know.

The Bookshelf

I have a small business selling books. This hobby is completely separate from the Rhodesian Services Association's CQ Store. I use a page on the Rhodesian Services Assn. website to list my stock. This page is <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm> Profits from the CQ Store go to the Assn; the book sales are all my affair.

I stock '**The Saints**' by **Alex Binda** and I have been hard pressed to keep up with sales. As far as I can see you will not get the book with DVD any cheaper than from me. Price is \$130 plus postage and includes the DVD which is worth \$55 alone!! I have seen some ridiculous prices on eBay and also here in NZ where a book shop quoted \$250 to one person in the South Island. Stock will not last for ever. Once the first edition is sold out it could be some months before a reprint is done so get your order to me as soon as possible.

I have recently taken delivery of the full range of **Msasa Enterprises DVDs and CD**:

Rhodesian Forces - One & Two Double DVD

The Final Chapter DVD

The Flame Lily Collection Double DVD

Isandlwana - Zulu Battlefield DVD

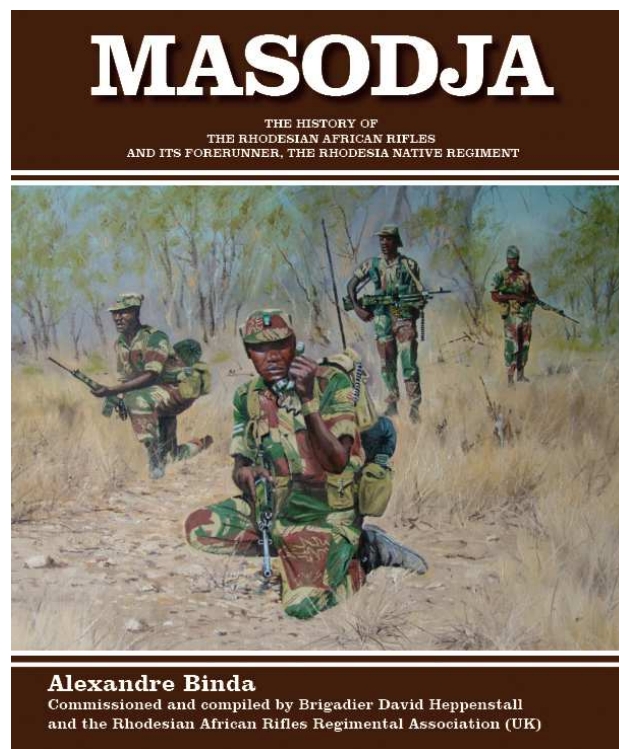
The Saints - The Rhodesian Light Infantry DVD

Rhodesian Forces - A Tribute in Sound COMPACT DISC

Prices: the Double DVDs are \$75, single DVDs are \$55 and the CD is \$45. You can preview some of the footage from Msasa Production's website <http://www.rhodesianvideos.mazoe.com/> Please email me with any inquiries hbomford@clear.net.nz

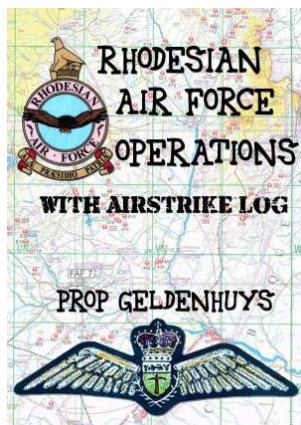
- **Piracy is theft please do not copy these disks.**
- **Honest, hardworking Rhodesian families have risked their hard earned money making this material available in a very professional manner.**
- **If you make copies or use the material in an unauthorised manner, you are stealing from them.**

I will also be stocking '**Masodja**' by **Alex Binda**. Alex recently sent me this image of the front cover featuring a painting by John Hopkins. As I understand it, the book is due out in November. I will be carrying stock so keep watching your email In Box.



The Bookshelf

Last month we covered **Prop Geldenhuys'** book '**Rhodesian Air Force Operations**'. Prop has offered to make a donation to the Rhodesian Services Association in return for sales generated. So please folks, support Prop by buying his very good book and you will also be helping your association. Please note that I do not stock it, you will have to buy it direct from Prop by emailing him at pey@lantic.net



Chris Higginson informs me that his '**Rhodesian Memories**' E-book is now available. He writes:

The book is now twice the size of the original printed version, and so it is too large and expensive to print and post, and also it is too large to pick up and read. For these reasons the book is now instantly available as an e-book at a fraction of the original cost of the printed version.

The book consists of over 140 chapters from a broad spectrum of contributors, all of whom have close ties with Rhodesia. If you would like to know more about the contents of the book, please email rhodesianmemories@gmail.com so that a few extracts and a list of chapters can be sent to you.

The e-book is about 5 megs and can only be downloaded onto a PC but not a MAC, as it is operated by a Windows programme. At present the book is supporting four charities/funds listed below, to which 35% the purchase price for each e-book may be directed. Please be specific which fund, if any, you wish to support when you order.

The e-books can be bought using PayPal which is also the means by which these funds will receive their donations. An individual e-book costs \$10 USD; £5.00 or Euro7.50 The book makes a good present with quick delivery, no postal charges and at the same time supports a charity. And think of the trees we are saving!

The four funds that are to benefit from the sales are:

- *Edith Duly Nursing Home in Bulawayo*
- *Support Old Age Pensioners in Bulawayo*
- *Rhodesian Services Association Museum in New Zealand*
- *Rhodesian Forces Memorial in South Africa (Flame Lily Foundation)*

Memories can still be submitted for the book, and if accepted they will be included in the book, of which you will receive a free copy.

Dick Paget is the amazing man who ran Tsanga Lodge where many of our mates were rehabilitated. Dick's long awaited book 'Paget's Progress' can be purchased via this link: <http://www.authorhouse.co.uk/BookStore/ItemDetail~bookid~44823.aspx>

You may be able to get it from other sites such as Amazon. The ISBN Number is 143430532. If you have any problems sourcing a copy please email Dick's better half Anne pagets2000@btinternet.com

CQ Store <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm>

You can do your bit to support the Rhodesian Services Association by making a purchase from our stores. Click on the link above and see what is available.

Winter is still around and you never know when a cold wind will attack your ears and in some cases, thinning hairline. I am not troubled by a thinning thatch but I will never be without a beanie at hand. We have extended the Lion & Tusk range of beanies and now have them in green, black and blue. Most are polyester but we do have some wool ones as well. They are very good value at \$20 plus P+P.

Birthdays are always there and Christmas is just around the corner. Our stock makes great gifts, go on line today and let your family know what you want for your next 'surprise'.

We will be getting replica Rhodesian General Service Medals made. Notice of this will be going out by separate email very shortly. We have plenty of the unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry badges in stock. For eligibility and purchase check the CQ Store or email me for details.

The Global Forked Stick

Geoff Cooke (ex Rhodesian Intelligence Corps) advises that on the 11th November the Rhodesian Army Association will again be holding a Service of Remembrance in the gardens of Westminster Abbey in London. This year the former Bishop of Matabeleland, R. Rev. Robert Mercer, will be conducting the service. Afterwards, a luncheon will be held at a nearby hotel.

All former members of the forces, and their relatives, including BSAP, Intaf and Air Force, as well as the Army, are welcome. Please contact Geoff at gepeco.rhodesia@virgin.net for all further details.

Peter Garratt (email pccgarratt@iinet.net.au) advises that some ex PTS types are having a reunion in Busselton, Western Australia, January 4-5-6, 2008. If anyone is interested in joining them they have a Cessna 182 and a Britten Norman Islander at their disposal for scenic flights and also to accommodate those who wish to leap out of serviceable aircraft and descend on bits of cloth and rope.

He also writes:

Hello Everyone, As some of you know I am in the process of writing a book about the Rhodesian Parachute Training School (PTS).

Any photos or other relevant information that could be passed to me would be greatly appreciated. I will credit and acknowledge the senders of information and photos in the book. I intend to produce a very broad account of the PTS involvement. Photos in regard to parachuting with the following units are welcome, particularly actual jumps, airborne or landing shots:

SAS, RLI, Selous Scouts, RAR, SADF, Recces, Air Force.

PTS worked with all these units.

The writing of this book is supported by former PJI's Paul Hogan (1975-1980), Tony Hughes (1965-1980), Dick Gledhill and Derek de Kock (PJI 1961-1970 and CO PTS 1970-1979).

Thanks.

Cheers,

Peter Garratt

Email pccgarratt@iinet.net.au

Website www.rhodesianmilitaria.com

Darryn Foster writes:

Hi Hugh, I came across your website recently and would like to enquire whether you have any 4RR specific photos that may include my late father, Dennis Foster, who was a Major in the regiment until around 1979.

If you don't have anything, can you point me towards any other resources that may be worth looking into?

I look forward to hearing from you, and thanks in advance for your assistance.

Regards Darryn Foster

Darryn.Foster@mxitlifestyle.com "

If anyone can assist Darryn with any recollections of his father, please contact him.

Rhodesia Regiment - Alex Binda has made a start on this massive job. The first chapter has been written and photographic material has started to come in.

Please support the compilation of what will be the biggest piece of military history of Rhodesia covering 1898 to 1980. We need all material pertaining to the Rhodesia Regiment and Royal Rhodesia Regiment - photos, copies of documents, anecdotes, records etc etc. Being part of a book like this is hugely satisfying, hop on board. Nearly every one of you would have some connection to the Rhodesia Regiment, so let's hear about it. Contacts for this project:-

Alex Binda abinda@tiscali.co.uk

Hugh Bomford hbomford@clear.net.nz or PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3141, New Zealand

This is going to be like eating an elephant - one bite at a time and the more people taking bites the easier it will be.

And Finally.....

The infamous and relentless comic Vic Mackenzie recently received one of our polo shirts. This is what he responded with:

"Thank you very much for the shirt which arrived on Friday. It is a perfect fit. I will wear it while I watch the rugby. As it is black I will have to support you sheepshaggers. Take care, Vic"

He ended his note with this little gem

*A bloke walks into a bar in New Zealand and orders a shandy. The patrons raise their eyes.
The barman says, "You ain't from around here, are ya?"
"No, I'm from Canada."
The bartender says, "What do you do in Canada?"
"I'm a taxidermist."
"Aah! You drive a taxi?"
"No, I mount animals."
The bartender grins and announces "He's okay boys. He's one of us"*

On that note - until next time - go well

Cheers
Hugh

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.

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