



Rhodesian Services Association Newsletter #3 2003

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Web: www.rhodesianservices.org

I started off the year with the intention of doing 4 newsletters a year. I have reviewed my intentions in order to fit in what is feasible and practical. I believe that I can cope with doing 3 a year spread thus:-

1st one sometime in January

2nd one sometime May (after ANZAC Day)

3rd one sometime in November (after the annual RV)

Anything of importance in between these newsletters will be communicated by email as in the past.

My apologies for any omissions in this newsletter.

October 2003 RV Report

Once again it is my pleasure to report that this years RV was huge success.

We assembled at the Hauraki Regiment Hall in Tauranga on Sat 25th October. At 13h00 we were welcomed by the immediate past CO, Lt Col Ken Brown ED. The CO Lt Col Dick was unable to officiate as he had a prior army commitment in Waioru and tendered his apologies. Hugh Bomford replied on behalf of the guests. Des Anderson, President of the Hauraki Assn then invited the guests up to the Garrison Bar.

We had issued 90 tickets making the numbers much the same as last year. We were honoured by the range of people attending. Rhodesians from the late 1920's to recent arrivals and their children were present. Unless I am mistaken the most senior person (by age) was Kathleen Clayton who had been a WPO in the BSAP during WWII. There were 2 decorated soldiers present, Graham Trass SCR and Steve Geach BCR along with their families. All branches of the services were represented - BSAP, Airforce and Army. As well as those who had seen service in Rhodesia there were some who had also been part of the Zimbabwe Army and Police. Among the army units represented were - DRR, RhASC, RhE, RhMP, RAR, RIC, RLI, RR, RRR, SAS (and probably much more). Kiwis who came to Rhodesia to join the fray were Graham Trass SCR (RAR) and Steve Kennedy (RLI). Once again Norman Bradfield a TF in Rhodesia and now a TF with the Hauraki Regiment was there. Some members of the Hauraki Assn also attended and one was taught some valuable lessons in "how to cook a bloody 3 foot long sausage".

Last year a local brew called Shaggy Ale had found favour with some of the troops. It was also known to leave it's mark on the unwary. The consumption of too much Shaggy Ale generally left the consumer very 'shagged' the next day. One of the Hauraki Assn barmen is related to the brewer of the Shaggy Ale. Since the last time the Rhodesians hit town the brewer has come up with an alternative to Shaggy Ale. It is called Terminator and boasts 8% alcohol content. One old soldier of note found that Terminator was to his liking, so much so that he drank the bar dry of Terminator. The next day he arrived at 10h00 sharp for the clean up and found that the bar had already been restocked. He promptly bought another flagon for the road. I guess that if a man can survive 4 or 5 conflicts around the world a few beers won't do

him any harm. I understand the brewers are going to name their next brew after him and they expect it to be a howling success.

In the afternoon the auction was held. Keith Kietzmann officiated, and his explanation of how he would run things was simple and easy to follow, "the rules of this auction are.....my rules". A great time was had, many items changed hands and in the finish we raised in excess of \$1200 for the museum fund. This included the very generous basket of goodies donated by the Bates family that were raffled. I hasten to add that the raffle was won (fair and square) by the husband of the ticket drawer.

Top price was by a proxy bid for a cap with a Rhodesian flag embroidered on. It went to a Kiwi who saw service in the BSAP - well done that man, lets hope you can make it in person next year.

Prior to the RV I had been inundated with emails of support and apologies for absence. The list and messages were too long to read out so they were passed around for everyone to read. One message was read out and that was from Lt Gen Peter Walls and his wife Eunice. They wished us all well and that they could be with us in Tauranga for the RV. Thank you General Pete and Eunice, we hope that you will one day have your wish which is shared by us.

The help that was freely given before, during and after the RV was wonderful and lightened the load for us - well done, hope to see you all next year. Don't forget - mark Labour Weekend in your calendar, save your pennies and don't let 'someone arrange something else' that weekend.

AGM 2003 Report

After the Hauraki Hall had been cleared by a large group of volunteers, we arrived at Keith Kietzman's place to indulge in a hearty feed of boerie and eggs. I didn't count heads but there must have been 30 or so present. Sorry for the blockage to your waste removal system Keith, but at least we had a plumber of sorts on hand to effect repairs at no charge.

The meeting was opened by Paul Nes who explained various background details to what has been known as the Rhodesian Army Assn (NZ Branch). There is a bank account in that name and Paul gave us details.

It has always been the general feeling that any formal association in new Zealand should be representative of all branches of the armed forces of Rhodesia through out our history up until the flag was pulled down in 1980. To this end a the elected members were tasked to find a suitable name and logo.

The elected members:-

Chairman/Treasurer - Paul Nes

Vice Chairman - Keith Kietzmann

Secretary - Hugh Bomford

Committee - Rob Bates, John Glynn, Colin Logie, Wolf Hucke

Address for communication:- PO Box 13003, Tauranga 3030 email: hbomford@clear.net.nz

Museum News

I have been lucky enough to have known some really good people in my life (along with some real bastards), and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce one of the 'good ones' I recently came across some drawings by Digby Sinclair via the ORAFS (Old Rhodesian Air Force Sods) newsletter. I was never a Blue job and I will not hear a bad word about them - be warned - good blokes the Blues.

I am unable to draw and my handwriting is not flash either and so whenever I come across good pictures I am terribly envious of the talent of the artist. On this particular occasion not only was I take with the picture but also the history behind it.

In the ORAFs newsletter, there were a number of pictures but the one which struck me was of a WWI dogfight. It portrayed Baron von Richtofen (the famed 'Red Baron') downing his 80th and last victim (see below). This last 'victim' survived the resultant crash was made a POW. This man was a Rhodesian born in Bulawayo on 15/10/1898 by the name of David Lewis - he was known as 'Tommy' Lewis. Not only did he survive the Red Baron but he also walked away unscathed from an ambush in the '70's where the gooks shot up the vehicle he was driving.



His family farmed near Gwanda. He returned to Rhodesia after the war where he joined the Native Affairs Dept. In 1938 he was invited back to Germany to attend the opening of the Richtofen memorial. He retired in 1958 at the age of 60 from his post as Under-Secretary (Administration) in the Government of Rhodesia. He died on 10/10/1978 in Salisbury, Rhodesia.

On seeing the picture I made contact with the artist, who was himself in the Rhodesian Air Force, and Digby has very generously offered to send 3 paintings on permanent loan to the museum in Tauranga.

We now have on display paintings depicting Sqn Leader Nettleton VC's Lancaster, Tommy Lewis (see above) and the artist himself in a Harvard over Vic Falls.

This museum display of ours is turning into something very special and quite unique. We have other items of special significance and historic value:-

- The personal weapons of a Selous Scout;
- Parts of the 3rd landmine that destroyed a civilian's car near Mana Pools including a photograph of the car;
- May items of military equipment and photographs;
- A stable belt collection of almost all the Rhodesian units;
- And the list goes on.

Visitors are welcome and if they go to the Hauraki Regiment Hall during normal working hours they can ask to see the displays. Please note you will need to ask to see the Executive Officer or the RSM and ask to see the Hauraki Regiment History Room. The Rhodesian display is in the Garrison Bar area. Access may be restricted because of operational commitments ie: shortage of staff. There is no charge but a small donation to the Hauraki Regiment would be appreciated. You can always contact me and organise a private viewing (this will cost you plenty though!!!!!!!).

Remembrance Parade in Canada November 2003

Its always good to hear of others who are 'keeping the Flame burning' and I have included this report from Ron Zager (formerly a TF in 8RR) now living in North Bay, Canada.

"On Sat 8th Nov, Ken Peake (10 Batt RR) and I attended the first Remembrance Day Service earlier today at the local mall. At the commencement of the service, the parade commander read this out:-

'We have with us today veterans from the Rhodesia Regiment. The military contribution of Rhodesia is a history of Rhodesia's participation in wars fought on behalf of Britain, the mother country. In the Great War Rhodesians went to war in Europe, East Africa and South West Africa. Rhodesia supplied more troops per head of population to the allied war effort than any other country in the Empire. One in ten of the Rhodesians who served overseas were killed or died on active service.'

At the service was the local MP and MPP plus the mayor. The service was taped by the local cable company for later broadcast. The Green and White was given place after the Canadian flag and Union Jack and before the provincial, UN and Legion flag. No flags were dipped for the anthems to accommodate the Green and White with all flags dipping at the last post.

After the parade a member of the pipe band came up to me to show me a medal for serving with Canadian forces in the Congo in 1963 and told him how the Rhodesia Regiment helped rescue Belgian nationals from the Force Publique in the Congo The second parade on the 11th Nov started from the local armoury and marched to the Memorial Gardens hockey rink. It was a cold day and it was snowing. We were led by a pipe band and the Rhodesian colours were on parade. We marched behind the air force veterans and in front of the police. We marched into the gardens and all the seats were taken up so there were about 3500 people present. North Bay has a population of 56,000.

Quite a touching ceremony followed with school choirs and a high school band participating. The anthems were played and there was a wreath laying ceremony which took about 20 minutes. The Rhodesia Regiment wreath was laid after the local army regiment and before 40 or so other organisations.

The service lasted about 65 minutes then we marched on to the local cenotaph (about a 20 minute march). The snow had now turned to rain but spirits were not dampened.

There was a front page story in yesterday's newspaper about the mall service on Saturday that we attended also. The headline read "Rhodesians praised for war service" and the reporter quoted the speech read at that service which as you know mentioned the Rhodesian participation during the two world wars.

The legion want us to join as full military members so I think we will after such good treatment from them."

You may have people in Canada who you would like to put in touch with Ron. His address is 935 Airport Road, North Bay, Ontario P1C 1A5. (North Bay is 300 or so km from Toronto and is considered to be in Northern Ontario.)

Did you know?

400 Rhodesians served in the Royal Navy during WWII

Various Application Forms

I have the following application forms for anyone that wants:-

Hauraki Assn membership form - \$20 for the first years membership and \$15 per year after that, renewal due 1st April each year. A small amount to pay to support the people that are supporting us.

Hobsonville RSA - again support those who support us. \$35 per year. All memberships are renewed on 1st January every year.

Rhodesian Army Assn (UK) membership forms for Full Members, Associate Members and Honorary Members. (I have no idea of fee amount - there is no mention on the form.

Lion & Tusk magazine of the Rhodesian Army Assn in the UK - 2 issues per year cost includes airmail - 15 Pounds (approx NZ\$45). Please note I have some free copies of this very good magazine for anyone who wants to subscribe.

Rhodesians World Wide quarterly magazine - NZ\$34 per annum. A worthwhile subscription which makes a good gift. Complimentary copies available for potential subscribers are with various people in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay and Canterbury - email me for details.

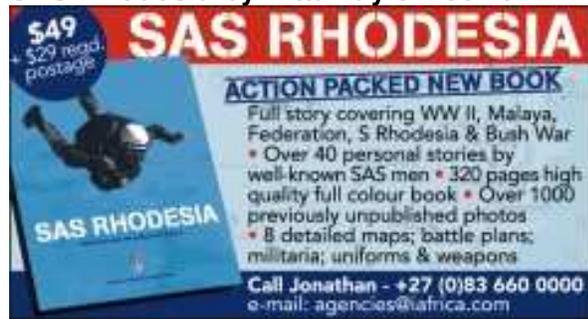
"Christmas Box" Section

With Christmas fast approaching here are some good ideas for you.

In addition to the books that Diana and I have in stock, we now also have the "Lest We Forget" CD which features many of the regimental marches of the Rhodesian Security Forces played by the bands of the BSAP, The Rhodesian Corps of Signals and the Rhodesia African Rifles. The CD also incorporates the Green Leader communications and the Selous Scout parade on 16/6/1978 when the unit paraded at full strength for the first and only time. The CD is priced at NZ\$20 plus \$5 p+p. For a full list of books and prices contact me or click here.

These two books below have recently been released. Please note that the authors of SAS Rhodesia will donate 10% of the book price for each book purchased from them to our museum fund. When ordering please say that you saw their advert in the Rhodesian SF Newsletter and that way the museum will benefit.

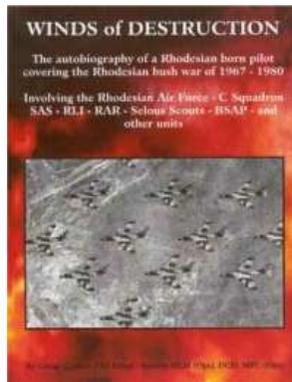
SAS Rhodesia by Pittaway & Fourie.



This companion book to the earlier 'LRDG Rhodesia' is now out and can be ordered from:- Jonathan Pittaway, Box 50178 Musgrave, 4062 SOUTH AFRICA email: agencies@iafrica.com Price is US\$49 plus US\$29 for registered postage. This converts to approx NZ\$125.00.

My advise is to get in quick as stock may be limited and you wouldn't want to miss out, and don't forget to quote this newsletter when ordering this book.

Winds of Destruction by Group Captain PJH Petter-Bowyer MLM (Ops), DCD, MFC (Ops)



Winds of Destruction is the story of the author's life before and after joining the Royal Rhodesian Air Force. The book tells of the writer's pride in being a member of the most cost effective Air Force of all time and his operational experiences in the thirteen year war against communist puppets, Marxist Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, who sought to gain power by force of arms.

Author's Note – this book has now been reprinted by 30 Degrees South Publishing and is in stock and can be purchased off this website go to:

<http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm>

The cover has also been changed

Hauraki Assn Christmas Social

This will be held at the Tauranga RSA on Sunday 30th Nov starting at 11.30. Cost \$15 per head. All welcome. Please contact Penny Burgess ASAP to give her an approximate idea of numbers. Her ph/fax is 07 577 6480.

November Braai (Auckland)

The 'November Braai' in Auckland, previously organised by David and Clare Turner, is to be organised this year by Warwick Hojem and will be hosted by Milton and Sheila Gibson at their residence 27 Galaxy Drive, Mairangi Bay, Auckland. It will be on 30th November 2003, starting at 11h00 and going through to 15h00 or thereabouts.

BYO everything. Paul Nes will have books for sale. For more details contact Warwick 09-479-7842 (home).

If you know of anyone not receiving this newsletter please tell them to contact me.

Have a Safe Christmas and a Prosperous New Year and let us not forget those who cannot be with us.

Cheers,
Hugh
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