



Contact! Contact!

May 2010

A monthly sitrep. for the

Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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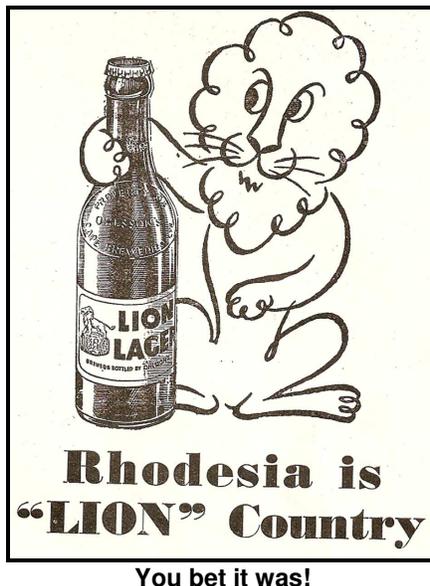
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Please Note that all previous publications are available on line at
www.rhodesianservices.org/Newsletters.htm

Greetings, This publication is a bit later than usual, principally on account of ANZAC Day for which a number of us took three days out to attend. It was a great day and you can read all about it further down. At this point, before anyone else gets the rumour mill turning, I am most grateful to my ever suffering wife Diana and ever willing and patient Blue Job, Chuck Osborne, for combining to get me out of an embarrassing situation whereby some of my kit was left behind on the eve of the parade! My excuse is that I am burdened with the affairs of CQ, remembering people's late orders for medals and paraphernalia, as well as the Assn. Secretarial affairs (not to mention my own work related matters); others just say that I am losing it.

Please be aware that while I try to get this publication out in the first week of the month, this does not always happen. This situation may not improve any over the rest of this year on account of my commitment to the book that I am involved with - '*The Rhodesia Regiment*'.

As I compile this month's **Contact! Contact!** I see many references to the Rhodesia Regiment, and 5 RR is of particular note this month. This leads me to ask you all to pay particular attention to the section on the Rhodesia Regiment book project. We have worked through the first draft and need input from all of you out there who served with or had connection to the Rhodesia Regiment.



Obituaries

Please Note that the Rhodesian Services Association holds a large Rhodesian flag for use at funerals. Please contact me at hbomford@clear.net.nz if required.



Mike Leask died in Que Que in April 2010 from emphysema and a heart attack. He was aged about 80. He had been a staunch member of the Field Reserve and PATU.

Gerald Spanton passed away in April 2010. Details about his service with 10th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment are required for his school magazine. Please email any information to Brian Hayes brian_hayes@umvoti.co.za and copy to hbomford@clear.net.nz

Peter Lovemore died on the 26th April in Cape Town from emphysema. Many will remember Peter as a crazy auctioneer and horse racing enthusiast.

Sgt-Major **Chris Pretorius** passed away on the 10th April 2010 after a very long illness, compounded by a fall and head injury.

Extracted from ORAFS

Ian Dixon died in Natal, South Africa on 27th March 2010. Ian had served in the Rhodesian Air Force in the 106 (VR) Squadron and earned his commission. Previously he served with the BSAP and subsequently worked for the Rhodesian Broadcasting Corporation and Ministry of Tourism. He was also a member of the Quill Club of Rhodesia

Off The Radar

The email addresses of the people listed below have bounced the last communication sent. If you are in comms with them could you ask them to contact me.

Please remember to let me know if you are changing your email address.

- **Gordon Paterson** – Australia
- **Bill Turton** – Malawi

ANZAC Day Parade – Hobsonville, New Zealand

I am grateful to Lindy Payne for the photos in this article.

The Rhodesian Services Association is honoured by the fellowship that exists between our organisation, and the Hobsonville Returned Services Association. This fellowship has existed for around twenty years. We encourage all former Rhodesian servicemen and women, in New Zealand, to belong to an RSA. We recommend that you affiliate through the Hobsonville RSA and by so doing, support those who support us. Membership inquiries should be directed by email to hobbyrsa@xtra.co.nz or by writing to:
Hobsonville Returned Services Association (Inc)

114 Hobsonville Road,
Hobsonville,
Auckland.

ANZAC Day was on Sunday the 25th of April so a number of us set off from various locations on the Saturday and did not get home until Monday night. Around eleven of us stayed in the motel adjacent to the Hobsonville RSA. Three were from Australia and the rest from around New Zealand. Each year we book a couple of rooms and share the costs which makes it very reasonably priced and with the RSA a short walk away there is no need to drive and risk a DIC ticket.

This year the weather was perfect which no doubt contributed to the record turnout. The Rhodesian squad marches immediately behind the Hobsonville Returned Servicemen and with all other veterans, servicemen and women behind us. We are honoured that the Hobsonville RSA give us this privileged position. This year just under 60 Rhodesians marched and with around 100 at our assembly after the main service I can report to you that this was the biggest turn out ever. Well done everyone. Next year we look forward to even more of you being there. As you can see from the pictures below we have set a reasonable standard of dress for this parade and we will continue to ask people to turn out smartly dressed and behave in a manner that is a credit to Rhodesia.

In response to the new members who are not familiar with the background to our flag and standard, the story behind the Rhodesian flag, the standard and the standard belt that is used at this parade, it is as follows:

In 2001 when my father, Peter Bomford, became terminally ill he set about drawing a picture of the Lion & Tusk to be made as part of a standard that would be used on ANZAC parades. He completed the drawing and his sister living in England, Penelope Edwards, had it carved in wood. The carving was returned to New Zealand just before my father's death in November 2001. Parallel to this Tony Coom, a former sergeant in the RLI heard about what was happening regarding my father and sent over a Rhodesian flag.

After my father died the family had the wooden carving made into a mould from which the bronze Lion & Tusk was cast. John Fortescue who was importing various hard woods to New Zealand supplied us with the Rhodesian Teak for the standard pole. Tony Fraser and Dean Scott made the fittings for mounting the Lion & Tusk and that the standard pole could be screwed together. Our daughter Karmen Bomford did the necessary sewing. Tony Fraser made the standard belt and fitted it with the brass badges that were part of my father's WWII uniform – the Rhodesian Lion & Tusk cap badge and shoulder badge 'Rhodesia'.



Forming up



On the march



Rob Bates (on right) delivers his address to the Rhodesian assembly.

Once again Lt. Gen Peter Walls took time to send the following letter of support to us for ANZAC day:

"Hey you guys,

Please pass on to the people who may know Eunice and me our best wishes for the ANZAC weekend and congratulations to you and yours for having the integrity to honour, forever, the memory of those who fell, by continuing loyal service and dedication of those still honouring them.

Stay strong

Peter and Eunice Walls"

Once again Rob Bates addressed the Rhodesian assembly. We are most grateful to Rob. Below is the content of his address.

"Good morning everyone, and welcome to the Rhodesian Services dedication.

Once again we confirm our loyalty to New Zealand and thank the Hobsonville RSA and we honour the many ANZAC soldiers who served and gave their lives for New Zealand.

In the past year or so, thanks to the initiatives of Wolfe and Alison Hucke, we have seen an increase in our activities here at Hobsonville and at Massey Archery Club with regular gatherings and we hope that these will continue.

I would like to give special thanks to Denis Davison for laying the wreath today. Denis started his National Service in 1968 in Intake 104. He soon reached the rank of Sergeant in the RHU after which he was transferred to 8RR where he remained till the war ended. Denis' courage and abilities saw him rise to the rank of Captain in 8RR where he served with distinction. In 1980 he was awarded the Military Forces Commendation (Operational). The commendation is awarded to: "denote an act of bravery, distinguished service, or continuous devotion to duty" - in Denis' case on active operational service and we know that Denis saw considerable amounts of action under fire.

We think firstly today of our injured and disabled, our elderly and those in distress and hardship, people who fought or went through the wars and who still suffer the consequences so many years on. Again we are reminded of the elderly in Zimbabwe. A number of our local members (Steve Geach, Mel Clements and Butch Mawdsley amongst others) are active in events and moves to raise funds to try and ease their hardship.

As always, we remember too those who served in and survived war, but who have passed away in recent times. The names I have in date order are:

- † **Tony Cannon**, Rhodesian Air Force, died on the 14th March 2009 in South Africa.
- † **Sqn. Leader Charles Connolly**, died in Christchurch on 22nd June 2009.
- † **John Fahey**, Rhodesian Air Force, died in the UK as a result of an air accident on 8th July 2009.
- † **Joan Bradfield**, Joan was the mother of Janine Walls and died on the 9th July 2009 in Harare after a short illness.
- † **Chris Wepener**, Rhodesian Air Force died on 10th July 2009 as a result of a heart attack.
- † **Peggy Stockton**, wife of Norman Stockton, SAS, who was with the unit in Northern Rhodesia died on 13th July 2009.
- † **John McKenzie DMM**, (Kutanga Mac) Rhodesian Air Force, died on 20th July 2009 in Swaziland after a long and painful battle with cancer.
- † **'C.G.' Tracy**, well known farmer and businessman, passed away on 20th July 2009 in Harare at age 85.
- † **Lance Corporal Dane Elson**, aged 22, was killed in action whilst on patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was born in Zimbabwe and joined the Welsh Guards in 2004.
- † **Johne Fletcher**, Selous Scouts, died on the 7th August 2009 from a heart attack.
- † **Bob Reith**, ex Director of Military Police, died at the Athol Evans Hospital in Cranborne on 12th August 2009.
- † **Colin Mason**, son of Mike, one of our local members here in Auckland. Colin died suddenly while working in Afghanistan. He served in the Rhodesian Light Infantry as a sergeant.
- † **Gordon Nicol**, aged 80, died in Durban on the 19th August 2009. He managed the oil refinery at Feruka near Umtali.
- † **Isobel Putterill**, whose husband, General Sam Putterill, was the Commander of the Rhodesian Army from 1964 died on 25th September 2009.
- † **Denys Theuma** died on 16th October 2009 here in Auckland.
- † **Scotty Fraser**, a long serving pilot with Jack Malloch at ATA died on 16th October 2009.
- † **Robert Kidson Hart DFC**, 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron died 21st October 2009. During an attack against Konigsberg in August 1944 his aircraft was subjected to four attacks by enemy fighters assisted by searchlights. The rear turret was put out of action, but in spite of this, due to his skilful combat manoeuvres, the attackers were driven off, but only after further damage had been inflicted. The port aileron control was severed, the flaps damaged and both turrets unserviceable, but he set course for base where he made a skilful landing. Throughout he had set a magnificent example of steadfast determination and devotion to duty.
- † **Squadron Leader Keith Leask Rayne**, also B.S.A. Police Field Reserve, died on 2nd November 2009 from a heart attack in South Africa.
- † **Mike Pelham**, SAS and Director of Engineers in the Rhodesian Army died on the 4th November 2009 in Kenya.
- † **Rick Nel**, D Troop Rhodesian Artillery. Rick was tragically killed in a boiler explosion at Orewa College, New Zealand where he was Grounds Manager.
- † **Les Belstead**, SAS, died on 7th January 2010.
- † **Nigel Pyle**, SAS and RhASC armourer, died on the 8th January 2010 in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.
- † **Nobby Clarke**, Rhodesian Air Force Volunteer Reserve, died on 9th January 2010 at the Whakatane Hospital here in New Zealand.
- † **Doug Elliot**, founder member of the Mashonaland Flying Club and pilot in the Bush War, died in the UK on 17th January 2010 after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease.
- † **Bert Blackbeard**, C Squadron SAS in Malaya, died 8th February 2010.
- † **Dick Christie**, Volunteer Reserve Pilot in the Rhodesian Air Force, Professor of Law at University of Rhodesia and University of Cape Town, died on 9th February 2010.
- † **Rod Rushforth**, SAS, died 13th February 2010.
- † **Mike Mason**, SAS, died in Zimbabwe of a heart attack on 15th February 2010. He had farmed near Tengwe before being thrown off and went on to film and report for the international press.
- † **Walter 'Wally' Godwin**, died in Brisbane, Australia, on 25th February 2010.
- † **Bradd Kietzmann**, SAS, died 5th March 2010.
- † **Erica Barton**, died in Canada.

There are no doubt other names we don't know of. We honour them all and think especially of their families and loved ones today.

I'll turn now to our dedication to those who served and died for Rhodesia in War. I think for a month or two in advance of this talk about subject material. One morning, sitting on the step in the sun having a coffee and thinking

(as you do), I was taken back to 7th March 1979 (over 30 years ago). It was towards the end of the War and then, as now, I was sitting on the step at Sipolilo base camp waiting to go out in the Pookie.

Suddenly, the radio started going and I could hear that there was a serious punch up going on down in the Valley. It soon became clear that a Department of Internal Affairs (INTAF) convoy, which I had heard leave Sipolilo an hour or so before, had been ambushed on the road to Mushumbi Pools. The outlook was not good. One of our own people dead and several injured. We deployed immediately and went down to the scene. Andy Sainsbury, the Assistant District Commissioner at Sipolilo, a well-liked and professional man, was dead. Just a few days before on the 19th February 1979, I received news that a family acquaintance, ADF pilot Byrne Gardener, and a number of INTAF personnel, had been killed when his aircraft taxied over a mine on the airstrip at Mrewa. I was attached to INTAF at one point and worked with Rob Caruthers the DO at Dotito, north of Mt. Darwin. In the short time I worked with him I could see he was a fine leader. He died in action on 28th November 1978. These and a number of other names ran through my mind as I sat there and so I decided to pay tribute to them today.

These were brave and daring people, often operating in small numbers, in remote locations, with unsuitable vehicles and usually lightly armed, they went about their work, in spite of the threats they faced. Driving around in well-armed convoys in the Pookie, I would often pass the local District Officer in seriously hot country, going the other way in a solitary Land Rover with an Uzi on his lap and one District Assistant beside him, as if there was no war going on. Crazy maybe, but the job simply had to be done. They demonstrated a high degree of fearlessness.

And of course sadly, many died. I want to acknowledge the INTAF website run by Dudley Wall. The Roll of Honour on the website lists 334 members who died between 1965 and 1980. The majority of them were African members. Sadly a high number of the African members were murdered while on leave. If it became known they were in the armed forces they and their families were highly vulnerable targets. The Roll of Honour makes sobering reading but it also reflects the respect that others held for those who died.

- † **Mirams, David**, District Commissioner, Mrewa. KIA, 2nd January 1979. Killed when his vehicle detonated a landmine. Three thousand local people attended his funeral.
- † **Rukara, Martin Rudo**, Cpl. DSA. He was the Senior Intaf member in Matsai TTL, south of Bikita. He is described as a good, loyal and courageous man. When the DC at Chiredzi asked for temporary reinforcements in October 1979, the Bikita DC sent his best man, Rukara, as he wanted to keep up the good reputation of the Bikita District. Cpl. Rukara was killed when his Puma was hit by 9 RPG-7 rockets, south of Chiredzi. There were few survivors. Combined Ops released the casualty list over a few weeks so as not to spread alarm.

Gallantry in the field was rewarded with the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) due to the fact that the Bronze Cross and other bravery medals were only awarded to members of the Army, Air Force and to a lesser extent to Guard Force. The website has a long list of citations and awards, a good number for the MSM. One was awarded to Russell Kilner, a pilot in the Air Wing who I flew with on occasions. He was shot down and survived an emergency landing. He went on with his flying and, as I understand it, in a separate incident was shot in the stomach while flying.

The website states that as far as is known only one member of INTAF was awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal (MCM) for bravery. He was Senior District Officer Iain Fyfe. Whilst serving in Nkai, SDO Fyfe was responsible for the formation and training of the Nkai Reaction Unit, which established a reputation as an aggressive, loyal fighting unit. Despite injuries received in a contact Iain Fyfe returned to the station where he continued to inspire and lead his men until his untimely death in action on the 20th July 1979. SDO Fyfe displayed brave and gallant conduct over and above the call of duty.

So today we pay special tribute to those of the Department of Internal Affairs INTAF who served and died in the Bush War. We remember them.

Our poem today is by B. J. Lewis a modern day poet who served in Iraq. It is a poem that reminds us we will all (one day) be joining the ranks again but in doing so, we will be rewarded with the good company of fallen friends once more. It's called 'The Fallen Kindly Wait'

Should I expire on foreign soil
mourn for me you must not.
First recall all else who fell
lest they be forgot.

I'll weep for those I leave behind
but don't you weep for me
for I'll have joined my brethren
and be in good company.

In service of their country
all of their dues were paid
but there are empty ranks to fill

on the grand final parade.

*If God wills that I should join them
I will accept my fate.
But I'd rather God delay awhile,
as the fallen kindly wait.*

So let us not forget those who died. Remember them with great pride and affection. Please now stand in silence for all of our Fallen and during the silence our Sgt. will take the salute to the flag.

*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

We shall remember them"

This was followed by the Lord's Prayer which concluded our assembly.

We went back to the RSA and renewed old acquaintances and made new friends for the rest of the day. Our collection was well supported, as always. Pictured below is our new Collection Hat. It is a post WWII style slouch hat as used by Rhodesians (this is not a Rhodesian one as it would have been sacrilege to do this to an historic item). It has a period Rhodesian Lion & Tusk brass hat badge on it. If you scroll to the bottom of the page you will see the same picture there, the difference being that the one at the bottom contains a link whereby if you have a PayPal account you can make a donation by clicking on the hat. It will be on the bottom of every future **Contact! Contact!** and on our website.



In the evening we 'Motel Dwellers' were joined by a few locals for a braai back at our digs. This was an excellent time to relax and have a chat after a long and initially very stressful day for one person who left his kit behind.

Rhodesia Medal

Once again it has been brought to our attention that Rhodesians are being offered and encouraged to buy the Rhodesia Medal as pictured below.



This medal was only issued to the Commonwealth Monitoring Force consisting of troops from Britain, New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. Anyone who is entitled to this medal would know and have received it.

It is not for Rhodesian forces at the time of the 1980 ceasefire and elections. Anyone telling you that you are entitled to it is a liar and if they are set to make pecuniary gain from selling it to you, then they are also guilty of fraud, as is the case of anyone not entitled to it wearing it.

Rhodesian Services Association Museum News

The FAF Display at the Classic flyers Museum has progressed with the installation of the glass front which meant that we could put 'Para Pete' – compete with MAG, main and reserve 'chutes, and 'Dan the Dispatcher' resplendent in his "the Rhodesians are coming!" t-shirt and RLI beret, in place. (See picture below). On the side of the cabinet

we have installed an electronic picture frame which runs a slide-show of pictures of the 'Bush War' era of choppers, planes and paratroops. This is still a work in progress with the main bulk of work still to be done being the 1:48 scale models that will be housed in the glass case on top of the cabinet.



British Labour Party Delegation Visits Rhodesian Light Infantry Museum

On Monday the 14th April 2010 Bob Ainsworth, Britain's Secretary for Defence, together with Patrick Hall, Labour MP for Bedford and Adrian Beardsmore, Labour Council Mayor for Kempston were doing a question and answer session with local service personnel at the Bedford Royal Air Force Association. They were then escorted through the Rhodesian Light Infantry Museum by Martyn Hudson. Below are some pictures that would have Harold Wilson turning in his grave.



L-R Martyn Hudson, Patrick Hall, Bob Ainsworth.



Patrick Hall gets a steadying hand from Bob Ainsworth in front of the RLI Colours while he signs the Visitor's Book.

Regimental Rumours by 'Stompie'

Editor's note: Stompie left a rather garbled message on my answer machine while I was away. The gist of it was that Stompie has had 'computer issues' and has left it with the "Greeky oke next door to fix". My interpretation is that the offending computer is not with the Greek neighbour, rather with a computer 'geek'. Hopefully Stompie has not attempted to change its ribbon again (the difference between a computer and a typewriter has not quite sunk in yet). The message ended with "off to shoot ducks, will attend to Auntie's letters once current hatred of computers has passed and larder is stocked for winter". Let us hope that once Stompie has bagged a few ducks and the computer bloke has set the machine to rights we can expect a resumption of normal transmission.



Grunter's Good Oil

Greetings everyone,

As I write this the Super 14 is shaping up quite nicely, unless you are a Kiwi supporter. There is a good chance that for the first time ever there will be no Kiwi teams in the semi-finals and that is worrying a lot of people here in the Land of the Long White Cloud. Next month I will give a full report on the Super 14 as I saw it, once the finals are over (including the fallout in NZ).

This month I am using an interesting recollection on a rugby series between Zimbabwe and Russia, as seen by one of the players.

Kevin Graham, more commonly known as "Hog", played for Zimbabwe at the first Rugby World Cup here in NZ in 1987. Kevin has done very well in business and I think I am correct in saying that he is President of Subway in Russia and is based in St. Petersburg in northern Russia. He was asked by someone involved with rugby in Russia to send him his memoirs of the Russia vs. Zimbabwe series in 1987. He has kindly shared them here.

"For the first game against Russia in Bulawayo, we as players and our coach did not really know what to expect, since we knew very little about our opponents. Their players were large, strong and athletic, but we were completely unprepared for the ferocity of their game and how foul they played. I suppose we were naive but none of us had ever before been subjected to such deliberate kicking, gouging, punching, scratching and kneeling. Unfortunately, the ref. (Phil Went, a Zimbabwean) did not have a grip on the game, and seemingly was afraid to

offend our quests, and therefore did not take firm enough disciplinary action by sending someone off. Those were the days before yellow cards, so it was usually a warning and then a sending off for the next offence. One tactic they used very successfully against us was, as the ball came into the scrum, they wheeled it 90 degrees and then "charged" over our scrum, kicking and raking as they went. Obviously very dangerous, since our front row were bucked under and trodden all over. Luckily no serious injury to necks occurred, but it was a very painful lesson. They did this for the first five or six scrums before we came up with a plan to counter this, but by then we had conceded several tries and were basically intimidated into submission. The game was also marred by several bouts of open brawling, mainly due to our frustration at the ref. not taking action against Russia.

As I said, I accosted the ref. in the tunnel after the game and gave him a serious earful, but I actually think he was lucky not to have been punched, either by me or one of my team-mates, such was the anger and frustration at his ineptitude!

In the second game in Harare, we were far better prepared for a physical game, and our coach, Brian Murphy, specifically instructed us to "99" at the first hint of any Russian foul play or punching. We won the toss and elected to kick-off to our opponents which we did and our tight five mowed their ball receivers down, setting the tone of the game thereafter. I have an excellent photograph of this moment of impact, which clearly shows our intention! There were one or two incidents of open brawling, but this time, it literally was a "99" with all 15 of us piling in! The ref. (also a Zimbabwean, Kingsley Went, brother of Phil who refereed the first game) did eventually send one of the Russians off for arguing and answering back after we scored a disputed push-over try late in the game. Kingsley was then actually punched by the guy he sent off, which had all 15 of us Zimbabwean players climbing in again. I clearly remember one of our locks, Grant 'Jumbo' Davidson, punching a Russian from behind me and over my shoulder, which sent him sprawling! A veritable haymaker! I also have two photographs taken from behind that scrum, firstly as we went for the pushover try and secondly as the ref. raised his arm to signal the try. One incident I clearly remember as I ran to catch up with play on the shady side of the field (Police Grounds), I booted one of the Russians as I ran past him - he was lying on the ground after being floored by Jumbo in another incident! The linesman behind me on the sunny side of the pitch was Phil Went who clearly saw what had happened, but chose not to report me to Kingsley, perhaps because of what I had said to him after the Bulawayo game.

I heard later from a mate that was sitting with my younger sister in the stands, that when she saw the incident, she said "that's not my brother, that's not my brother!" The strange thing about this game, was that having drawn the series one-each, the Russians were actually quite good guys and enjoyed a good pint after this game, unlike the first one where we were more interested in "taking them out" than socializing with them. I also remember that each of us was given a large hand-painted Russian ladle as a gift from our opposite numbers, which I still use today."

Please send me your stories and thoughts to fourstreams@clear.net.nz

Hopefully this month's article from Kevin Graham will inspire others to send in their memories. There must be hundreds of good stories out there and it would be great to share them here.

Till next month go well & go the Stormers.

Cheers,
Grunter

What's On In New Zealand?

AUCKLAND

If you reside in the Auckland area please email Wolf and Alison Hucke at whucke@slingshot.co.nz for more details of the monthly social meetings in 2010. Generally these are on the third Saturday of the month either at the Hobsonville RSA or the Massey Archery Club, Redhills Road, Massey. All are most welcome.

TAURANGA

The Garrison Club run by the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group Regimental Association, is open every Friday from 16:00 hrs and welcomes visitors. 'Curry and Movie Evenings' are held on the 2nd Friday of every month with proceeds being donated to the Hauraki Museum. Email me at hbomford@clear.net.nz to get on that mailing list to see what is on and notification of any changes.

HAMILTON

Hamiltonians - please contact Tinka Mushett mushett@slingshot.co.nz for details of socials being held in your area.

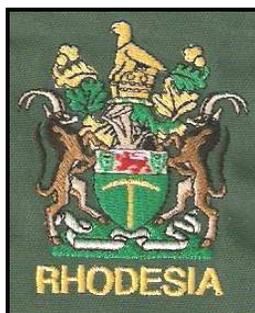
CQ Store visit www.rhodesianservices.org/The%20Shop.htm to see what is in store for you

Please give our CQ Store consideration when buying a present for friends or family. Above is the web page link and below is a list of our stock. On the CQ Store web page you can now download and print off a catalogue of the entire store. This is useful to pass on to people who do not have computer access.

If you want medals that have to be engraved and mounted, we need a couple of weeks under normal circumstances and longer if someone in the chain is off sick or on leave, so please allow time when placing your orders.

Rhodesian Coat of Arms embroidery

We now have recently developed the Rhodesian Coat of Arms pictured below, that can be embroidered on our regular stocked garments. The colours in the Coat of Arms lend themselves best to a green background. It looks fine on black but some details get lost – like the sable's tail. Prices are the same as for the Lion & Tusk embroidery.



Cuff Links

A new project that we are working on is quality cuff links with the Rhodesian Coat of Arms. Your committee would welcome your comments.

CQ STORE INVENTORY

ITEMS EXCLUDING POSTAGE	PRICE in NZ\$
4RR Hackles	\$17.50
'Bumper' Stickers, Rhodesia/NZ or Australia flags; Rhodesian flag; Rhodesian Services Assn Lion & Tusk	\$3 each or 2 for \$5
Business Card Holder – stainless steel with Lion & Tusk engraved	\$20
Berets	\$50
Lapel pin - Para Wings – gold plate or Enamel	\$15
Lapel Pin – Rhodesian Flag	\$10
Lion & Tusk Aprons	\$30
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Baseball Caps	\$25
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Beanies green or black	\$22
Lion & Tusk Dog Tags	\$30
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Polar Fleece jackets – long sleeved in green, black, navy	\$65
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms Polo shirts - black or green	\$38
Lion & Tusk or Rhodesian Coat of Arms T-shirts - black or green	\$30
Lion & Tusk Women's v-neck stretch shirts - black	\$30
Medal Ribbon Devices – MFC, Commissioner's Commendation, bars etc.	\$30
Name badge – resin coated	\$15
Number plate surrounds – 4 styles to choose from	\$12
Pocket Insert Medal Holder	\$15
Poster "Be a man among men"	\$25
Poster "Rhodesian Bush War"	\$30
Poster – Rhodesian Map accurate as at Oct. 1977	\$60
Poster "Terrorism Stops Here!" 2 in series	\$50 ea
Regimental Cap Badges – RLI, Intaf, RAR, RDR, BSAP, Grey's Scouts, RRR, RR, Service Corps, Staff Corps, RWS, DRR and more	Priced from \$20 – inquire for details
Regimental ties – Rhodesian Light Infantry	\$40
Regimental ties – Rhodesia Regiment	\$45
Regimental ties – Rhodesian African Rifles	\$40
Regimental ties – SAS (badged SAS only)	\$55
Rhodesian General Service Medal copy (silver plate bronze) full size	\$100

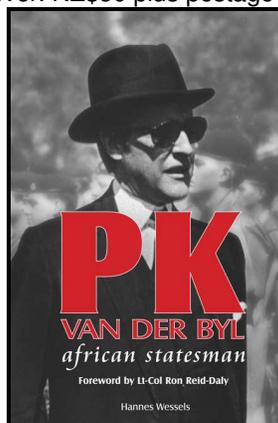
medal with ribbon	
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$125
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon – full size	\$10/length
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature (solid silver) with ribbon	\$40
Rhodesian General Service Medal ribbon - miniature	\$10/length
Rhodesian Medal for Territorial or Reserve Service full size copy (solid silver & gold) with ribbon	\$150
Rhodesian Police Long Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$160
Southern Rhodesia War Service Medal full size copy (solid silver) with ribbon	\$150
Rhodesian Flag 3' x 5' (900mm x 1500mm) ready to fly	\$40
Rhodesian Flag, embroidered 110mm x 50mm	\$20
Rhodesian replica rugby jerseys – short or long sleeve	\$125
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge full size	\$22.50
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge miniature	\$15
Various medal ribbons – please inquire	POA
Various full size & miniature medals – please inquire	POA
Various small embroidered badges (RLI & BSAP)	\$5
Zimbabwe Independence Medal copy - full size with ribbon	\$50
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size ribbon	\$10/length
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature with ribbon	\$35
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature ribbon	\$10/length
'Zippo' type lighter – “Rhodesia 1890 – 1980” with Lion & Tusk	\$25

Books for Africa

I again remind you that all the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm. These sales are my own hobby and income from sales is directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However, the Association does benefit indirectly from these sales. A great selection of books can be found on the link above.

This month's new title and recommended read is:

PK van der Byl by Hannes Wessels. Soft cover. NZ\$50 plus postage



This is a fascinating book and very easy to read.

The narrative gives the reader an overview of the history of the white man in southern Africa with detailed emphasis on the Rhodesian story through the life and times of PK van der Byl; one of the major players in a political drama that ended in the accession to power of Robert Mugabe under the auspices of the British government led by then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

PK was Minister of Defence in the Ian Smith led government. He never shirked his responsibilities. Having served in WWII and seen action in Italy he was always keen to get to grips with the enemy - to the point where he took part in a Fireforce action and went on night ambush. His choice of weapon – a heavy calibre hunting rifle which he did have cause to 'use in anger' (with apparent relish). He was respected and liked by the general Rhodesian troopie - black and white. Simply put - there are no politicians of his ilk in the world today, more is the shame. This is a wonderful book on an interesting man who lived in interesting times and whose family had one hell of a history.

Please use the page link www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm to view our stock of excellent books.
When buying for someone else you cannot beat a good book as a gift.



The Rhodesia Regiment – Book Project



This project began a long time ago for me. It emerged from a conversation with Dave Gordon, the son of my Dad's half section in Burma during WWII. Dave Gordon's Dad, Ginge Gordon, was often a topic of conversation in our household. I met Dave for the first time when he was doing his National Service with Intake 147 – 3 Indep Coy and I had been called up for Intake 152. 3 Indep. had a torrid time and sent many of Rhodesia's enemies to their maker. Dave and I had a common bond through mutual friends such as Dave de Courpalay who I mentioned in the last issue of **Contact! Contact!** About 18 months ago the project hit a bump in the road when the chosen author, Alexandre Binda, did not want to work with the publisher Chris Cocks and myself any more.

Alexandre Binda has recently sent out emails that have confused some people. To set the record straight - I have no connection to Alexandre Binda's work other than the original concept of anything that he may publish relating to the Rhodesia Regiment being mine, as well as the countless hours that I spent helping him with that material.

From my opening paragraph you can see that my connection to this project is personal. I am not driven by trying to make money from this book, nor is our author who seeks no publicity and writes under the pen name, Harry Myland. We know that these sorts of books are not going to sell in the tens of thousands. But it is a record that must be made and left for future generations - this is our commitment to the soldiers who served with the Rhodesia Regiment and our forefathers. The group of people who work on this project on a daily basis has been increased to include Geoff Higgs, who will be doing detailed illustrations depicting period uniforms and weapons. Geoff is being assisted by the Rhodesian Services Association Curator, Tony Fraser. John Pile, former officer in 4RR, Chris Cocks and myself form the editorial section.

The Rhodesia Regiment incorporated soldiers from all walks of life - butchers to bankers; rich and poor; black and white. Some very notable people served in the Regiment, as well as a great many more who would consider themselves very ordinary. No matter who you are or what you did in Rhodesia, you will almost all have had some connection to someone who served in the Rhodesia Regiment. This is your project as much as it is mine. This is possibly the one and only chance that you will have to have your recollections or family record set down. We welcome your input.

We are currently working through the draft manuscript and need input in certain areas. The editorial team have read the manuscript and are very excited by it. There were parts that brought a tear of pride to the eye; there are parts which made me laugh; there were parts that made me angry, and over all there was a hell of a lot to be learned and this can only be improved upon with your input.

Before I list our requirements let me share this excerpt from the Boer War period where elements of the Rhodesia Regiment were under siege near Elands River by the Boers and perhaps you can understand a little of the spirit which drives me and see fit to lend your shoulder to the wheel.

"All of this is the stuff of legend, indeed the stuff upon which the multi-layered mythology of nations and societies are built. The Australians, an older nation than the Rhodesians, but younger than the Boer, still lay claim to the event as being largely their own. But part of the Rhodesian myth of intractability, self reliability and bitter-ender individualism has been born from just such situations as this. The popular version sees the British ruling classes cringing in their bunkers, the granite jawed Boer taxing their limited intelligence with strategy while the die-hard colonial adventurers refused, no matter what, the inducement to capitulate. 'Rhodesians never surrender!' came the call from the parapet according to the Rhodesians; and 'Australians never surrender!' came the same cry according to the Australians. Each, nonetheless, sat comparing notes in the shallow depth of a slate lined trench while the Boer gradually wearied of hurling canisters and thought up no better solution than to sit and wait it out.

In the end the matter became a blight on the conscience of the commanding generals and had to be concluded in the favour of the Empire before face was lost - a loss that carried more weight in many quarters than its material value, a few stores and the lives of a handful of determined colonials. A week after having left the defenders of the Elands River Post to their fate, Lord Roberts heard that they were still holding out. Astonished he ordered the 2nd and 3rd Cavalry Brigades, a mounted infantry and two infantry battalions to Elands River. Five miles behind, a further brigade under Maj. Gen. A.S Hart followed. At 8.30am on 16th August 1900, Gen. Lord Kitchener himself arrived at Elands River at the head of a substantial column. By that evening as many as 10,000 troops had passed through the Elands River Post. Kitchener's convoy alone was over ten miles long. As the steel eyed and

humourless general appraised the desperate situation he glanced at a ragged, encrusted, unshaven and filthy individual greeting his arrival with a cheer. "Who are you?" he asked. "A Rhodesian!" came the reply. With a typical dearth of humour Kitchener spurred his horse with the parting comment: "You look dirty enough to be Boers."

We welcome input with regard to the following:

- During WWII the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Rhodesia Regiment did not leave Rhodesia. There was an Intelligence Section of the Rhodesia Regiment during WWII and we have some interesting information that we want to follow up. We are looking for any family who had a member in the Regiment at this time.
- In 1947 the Rhodesian Armoured Car Regiment was deployed to Northern Rhodesia in reaction to civil unrest on the Copperbelt mines - we need more information.
- We have two contributions from soldiers who attended the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953. We would like more and in particular are looking for anecdotes pertaining to members of the Rhodesia Regiment who were there.
- We have some good material concerning the deployment of the Regiment during the Nyasaland Emergency in 1959 but we need more. In particular if anyone has information on Colonel Ken Harvey ICD, DSO, MBE, ED who was a Major in command of the Royal Rhodesia Regiment and on Operation 'Wet Dawn'
- Input from those deployed in Northern Rhodesia during the 1960 Congo Crisis.
- Technical unit structure etc from the period 1950 – 1960
- Anecdotes and information from those deployed in support of the BSAP during the period of riots in 1964.
- Information on deployments during the early stages when infiltrators came across the Zambezi resulting in Operations Pagoda I and Pagoda II
- Individual recollections relating to the following operations in 1968/69 - Nickel, Breeze, Cauldron, Cosmic, Griffin, Mansion and Gravel
- Individual recollections of the beginning of Operation Hurricane in 1972.
- Individual recollections of deployments in Mozambique prior to that country's independence.
- We have many reflections of training at Llewellyn but we need some more in depth information on the technical background to the training, the organisation and the structure of Depot Rhodesia Regiment.
- Were any elements of the Regiment involved with Operation Mardon which was a series of co-ordinated attacks on bases inside Mozambique between 20th October and 2nd November 1976?
- Comments and reflections on the Indefinite Call Up period.
- Comments, reflections and strategies on general patrolling, OP, ambush and garrison duties
- Were any Regiment elements part of the first response to the Viscount Disasters?
- We believe that elements of 10RR were involved in 'Operation Favour' post the elections that saw Muzorewa come to power in 1979. A number of Sithole's 'Auxiliaries' were contacted and killed near Gokwe. We would like to get in contact with Henrick Ellert and also Captain Andy Samuels who was GSO2 at 2 Brigade as well as anyone else with information.
- Were any elements of the Rhodesia Regiment used in support on the Rhodesian side during Operation Bastille in 1979 – the raid on Nkomo's house by the SAS.
- Were any elements of the Regiment used in support of Operation Uric September 1979 when Mapai was occupied
- Recollection from deployments during the cease fire and 1980 election and the period after that.

Your input is essential to this book. We welcome material from anyone who was connected to or served with the Rhodesia Regiment or who has pertinent material to share - don't live to regret not doing something now!

You do not have to present your information in a well written format - we will sort that out. If necessary I can do recorded verbal interviews over Skype if necessary.

Photos in 300DPI please. If you do not understand scanning – we can help, alternatively you can send the photos to us and they will be returned. All input will be acknowledged.

Material can be sent to:

- Hugh Bomford hbomford@clear.net.nz
- Chris Cocks info@30degreessouth.co.za

The Global Forked Stick – Snippets and Requests

Steve Geach BCR request for information

Steve Geach would like to know what became of the men whose lives he saved and of those who assisted him on the 21st April 1979. Below is his citation. Please would anyone who was there or has any knowledge of the incident (Steve does not even know who put him up for the Bronze Cross of Rhodesia) contact him at email sgeach@xtra.co.nz (a copy to hbomford@clear.net.nz would also be appreciated)

"On the 21st 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 travelling 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 aide of Lance Corporal 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.

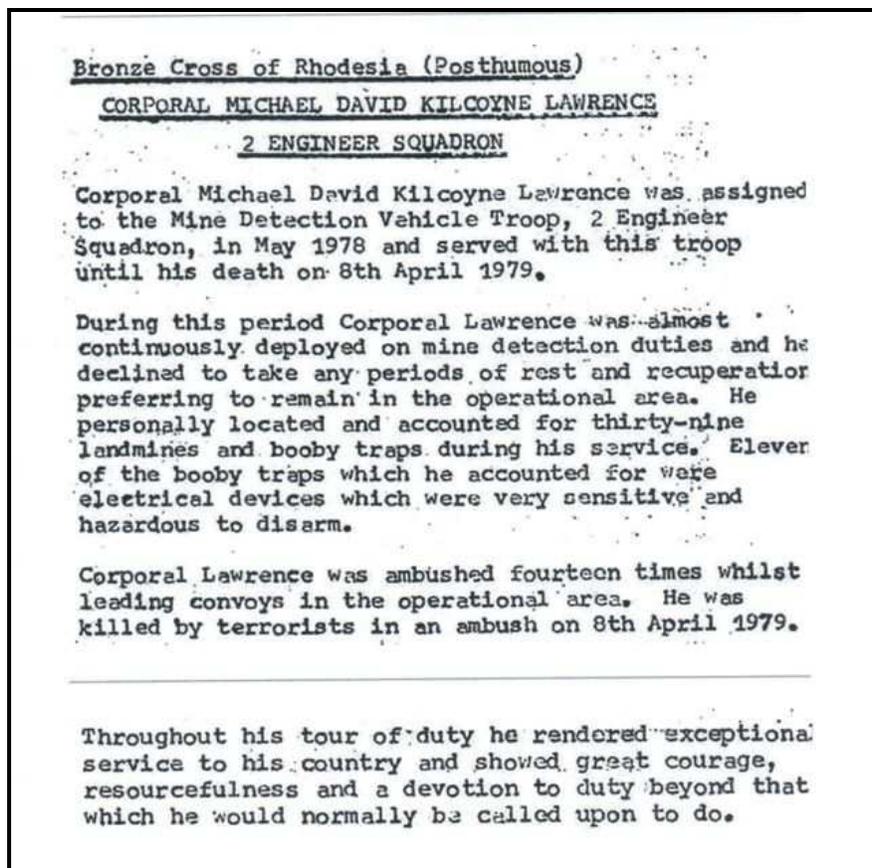
Rifleman Geach's selfless and brave action undoubtedly saved the lives of two men. He displayed courage of the highest order."

Rhodesian Corps of Engineers birthday

This item was seen in an ORAFS publication but was too late for publication in the April issue of **Contact! Contact!** "Greetings all, Tomorrow, 1st April is (in case you had forgotten) the Corps Birthday. A time for celebration and reflection, over the last year.

May I (with respect) ask you all to reflect on who of our fellow Sappers have left for higher service in the last year and any who may be in need of help. We should also celebrate with traditional Sapper exuberance (as in any excuse for a party!) the Corps Birthday, in whatever way you feel appropriate. Attached, is a copy of the citation for one of our departed Sappers who was KIA a few days after the Corps Birthday 31 years ago. I have included it more for those who never knew Cpl. Mike Lawrence to read how he epitomised, as did many others, the "traditions" of being a Sapper. So, let's celebrate in fine style.

Regards to you all,
Cheers,
Terry Griffin"



"Good afternoon Hugh

In January 1980, an officer of the 5 Battalion South African Infantry, 2nd Lieutenant Andrew Trevor Leigh, was sent to Rhodesia to assist where he could in the closing stages of the conflict. He was part of a group which had been sent up in civvies and on a civilian flight. Their brief was that they would be seconded to Rhodesian SF units to assist with Assembly Points and the control of Pfumo re Vanhu. He was initially sent to the Cranborne Barracks, and kitted out with RLI beret and stable belt. He was then sent out to a 5th Battalion Rhodesia Regiment facility in the Magunje Growth Centre just north of Karoi, but here he was given Rhodesia Regiment insignia and stable belt. Any reference to their origin and the use of Afrikaans was forbidden.

In March 1980 he was flown out at night, from an airfield in Karoi. All Rhodesia related material had to be left behind.

Andrew has contacted me and asked if there is any way one could possibly find out if his brief attachment to the SF was ever recorded or remembered by anyone in either the RLI or 5 RR. He does remember receiving a Rhodesia Army ID Card and Service Number, but cannot remember what the number was. Might there therefore have been an enlistment of sorts?

Any information would be gratefully appreciated.

Kind regards
Gerry van Tonder"
Email g.van-tonder@sky.com

Coenie Marneweck Trophy

Des Archer, a former Corporal in 1 Cdo. RLI holds the world record for operational parachute jumps (73) and was the initial recipient of the Coenie Marneweck Trophy for the best paratrooper in 1 Cdo. This was a floating trophy in memory of Sgt Marneweck who was killed in action in August 1978. Des wonders who won it after him and what became of it. Please email any information to hbomford@clear.net.nz



Cpl. Des Archer



Coenie Marneweck Trophy

Roan Antelope Music – John Edmond

Calling all friends with footprints on the earth.

In 1975 John Edmond was very aware of the impact of man's disturbances of the ecology and wrote the album "Wild and Beautiful and Free". In 1979 he and John Varty (renowned wildlife filmmaker) edited a project called "The Circle of Life" (long before Elton John's song of the same title). John Varty took it on tour around the U.S.A. in a slide and audio visual show to create awareness.

Today, 35 years later, the buzz words are "climate change" "global warming" and "fossil fuels". World leaders have met, protesters have protested but the world marches on, not caring for planet earth or worrying about tomorrow.

This month's special – this fabulous and very different CD "The Circle of Life" - will be a giveaway with any CD except "Wild & Beautiful & Free" purchased from the Roan Antelope catalogue. The script for "The Circle of Life" is written by John Edmond and John Varty; songs by John Edmond and narration by legendary Springbok Radio personality Peter Lotis. "The Circle of Life" CD is a collector's item and is being given away to create more

awareness in the fight to save our animals, forest, reserves, resources and man's continued existence. Let's stand together and make a difference!

The CD also features great sound effects and animal calls recorded by wildlife photographer the late great Dick Reucassel, together with four rare tracks of John playing "unplugged."

Take this opportunity to get the "The Circle of Life" CD for free and to create awareness of what's actually happening on our planet.

Order now from Roan Antelope Music See website for prices www.johnedmond.co.za E-mail: info@johnedmond.co.za Fax: +27 86 601 1817 Phone: +27 14 735 0774

ANZAC Parade 25th April 2010, Melbourne, Australia

This was extracted from an email by 'Bert' Furmston

"I went to the ANZAC day March in Melbourne where there were four of us from various Rhodesian units and eight from the RLI. There were about fifteen South Africans ahead of us.

The surreal moment came when a black guy came strolling up. He had dreadlocks to his shoulders, a brown beret on, and a full camo uniform I didn't recognise and looked just like many of the terrorists did during the war. He said, "I'm looking for the Rhodesians?" One of the guys said, "over here Stanley". It seems his Dad was an RAR soldier and Stan grew up at Llewelin Barracks. He is a musician and plays around Australia. He lined up next to me after we had a quick chat about how much we hate the current regime.

Our march came to an early end after about 500 meters as 100 metres ahead of us a vintage 1949 truck got out of control and knocked over five or six WWII Veterans."

Viscount Down

Craig Bone writes:

"Please could you ask around if anyone has a large photograph or has negatives that I could use for reference from the Viscount Disasters.

I am attaching an image that you may send out, (see below) unfortunately it is of a low quality, and the negatives were taken in a robbery so we are left with very little to go on. Perhaps someone has their own images of this occasion or something similar that I could use.

Many thanks

Craig

Email craigboneart@gmail.com



Intake 159 - 1 Indep Coy RAR

If anyone has a unit photo of Intake 159 when they were at Llewelin (complete with names would be good). A good quality scan would be preferred. Please email hbomford@clear.net.nz

Award winning DVD – 'Rhodesia Remembered'

The DVD 'Rhodesia Remembered', that is sold by the Rhodesian Light Infantry Regimental Association recently received an award at the 43rd Annual WorldFest - Houston International Film Festival. The WorldFest is the 3rd oldest International Film Festival in North America.

The award was the Special Jury Remi in the Independent Short Subjects - Films and Video - Historical Film and Video Productions - Charitable/Non Profit division. More than 4,400 category entries were competing from 33 countries. There were over 50 entries in this category of the competition.

Rhodesian Air Training Group

"I am ex BSAP GC and am at present researching the possibility of writing a book on the Rhodesian Air Training Group, and was wondering if you could put something in the newsletter requesting anyone who might have photos, logbooks, documents, reminiscences etc relating to this group, to share their info with me.

Kind regards,
Garyth Hart"
Email Garyth@mml.co.za

For Sale - This is not our usual line!

Caravan – 1975 lightweight Chevron 1300. 3 berth, stove, fridge, porta loo, main tent, day tent etc. New tyres. Done 120 kms only in the last 2 years. It will have current warrant of fitness, electrical warrant and registration done for the buyer.

Contact Hennie Schoeman, 320 Clarks Beach Road, Pukekohe, New Zealand. Ph 09 232 0046 Cell 0210791515
email barsonwheels@xtra.co.nz

Supporter's Website

Mike Vivier is a solid supporter of the Rhodesian Services Association. His website is now on line at www.bucklesandtees.co.nz In addition to his belt buckles and t-shirts he has biltong and droe wors.

Until next time - go well.

Cheers
Hugh



Celebrate 'Rhodesia Day'* on the 11th November each year.

*The concept of 'Rhodesia Day' was brought to my attention by Eddy Norris and family. During the 90 year life of Rhodesia we experienced the best of times and the worst of times. I encourage everyone to use this day to remember the good times and to spend time remembering those who are no longer with us.

You can make a donation to the Rhodesian Services Association by clicking on our 'Collection Hat' below which is a typical slouch hat of the type used by the Rhodesian Army up until the 1960's. Click on it and if you are registered with PayPal the process will be immediate. If you are not a PayPal member you will be given instruction on how to make a credit card payment via PayPal. Thank you - every bit helps.



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.

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.