



Rhodesian Services Association November 2007 Newsletter

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

Greetings

There is no rest for the wicked, apparently, and so October has been a very busy month with the RV over Labour Weekend and a huge amount of correspondence and sales to deal with. Every day we add new members to our list and now have close to 700 individual email addresses receiving the newsletter.

We currently have 71 paid up members. This year, for first time, we are taking membership fees because we now have to be able to define eligible voters as a requirement of becoming an Incorporated Society. In the past we did not view membership subscriptions as necessary. We have set the subscription at a very modest NZ\$5 per annum. Looking at the figures though, if everyone who is listed for the newsletter was to pay NZ\$5 it would certainly make an impression in our bank account and place us in a far stronger position to take advantage of any opportunities that might arise.

Please do consider becoming a paid up member. If you are overseas, the simplest way to pay us is by PayPal. Contact me for details of how to pay.

What sort of opportunities, you may ask? My aim has been that we eventually have a building where we can meet and operate from. A year ago we only had the idea of a storage unit for our surplus items. In the ensuing months we have ended up with the Lion's Den, which we are immensely proud of. We started with a budget of \$2,500 and ended up spending nearly twice that, not because of poor planning but because we wanted to make the best job we could and because of you good folk out there, who supported us with donations and by purchasing goods from the CQ Store.

Please continue to support our fundraising whenever you see us collecting and also whenever you are wanting a gift or if your shirt or cap get a bit tatty. There is more on the CQ Store further down this newsletter.

In the October newsletter I published a poem that had been given to Silvia Logie for her work with the Air Force prisoners falsely accused of destroying the planes at Thornhill. Digby Sinclair wrote to me in response: *"Apropos the poem in the newsletter: In case you might be interested, it's called 'High Flight', written by John Gillespie Magee. He was American by birth, educated in the UK and a pilot in 412 Squadron, RCAF, based at Wellingore, Lincolnshire. He was killed on a training flight in a Spitfire on 11 December 1941, aged 19. I've a copy of said poem in the front of all of my log books."*

Feedback like this is much appreciated. This newsletter is aimed to interest and increase the reader's knowledge. To this end, I find that in writing it I am up against one of today's biggest problems, which is the overload of information that we receive on a daily basis. We are bombarded by so much extra information that most people become overwhelmed and dump everything in an effort to decrease the stress levels. I recently opened a number of bills. I made one pile of the bills and the other was the envelopes and other paper and advertising. To my utter annoyance the 'recycle pile' was much bigger than the 'bill pile'.

I am sure that many of my newsletters are sent to the Delete Bin without being read. This is a great shame in my view, because I have some interesting and important material for the readers. It certainly takes a lot of effort and time to assemble. I do have to reiterate that the encouragement received is a very good tonic and keeps me going. So really I am in the same boat as the people whose material ended in my 'recycle pile' unread. Everyone is competing for your attention and a slice of your precious leisure time. All I can say is, "read my stuff and bin the rest"!

Following the recent RV and AGM ('Debrief' as we like to call it) I have thought long and hard about the role I play in the Rhodesian Services Association. Much of the work I do is computer based and what systems exist are mainly stored in my head. A dangerous set of circumstances. I should therefore write up how certain things are done, but where do I find the time in an already overloaded schedule?

It would be of great assistance to me if I could get:

1. Contributed articles for the newsletter. Do not worry if they are not written to the highest literary level – I will tidy them up and John Lomas will add the finishing touch. Just to have incoming material would be a big help
2. Is there someone who could do reports on ANZAC Day and the RV? This would also help to spread the load.

So come on folks – don't be shy, we need your help.

Off the radar

Does anyone know where Ernie Patterson is? He was in Auckland at Placemakers.

Medals and Citations

Towards the end of Rhodesia and the beginning of Zimbabwe things were in a state of flux. This letter below, to Denis Davison dated 24th March 1980 (less than a month prior to the British Commonwealth supported handover to the communist backed Mugabe), illustrates this uncertain time in our history.

Here a man has been decorated with the Military Forces Commendation (Operational) for his bravery, but he received no citation and his investiture was a private affair. I can only imagine that Denis, like so many others who I have talked to in New Zealand, feels a certain emptiness at the lack of recognition in relation to his decoration.

The issue of decorations is complex. In Rhodesia, medals were generally very hard won, unlike in some other armies. Medals were even harder to get over this period when our futures were in the hands of the politicians, but when the war saw some of the heaviest fighting. I know of one man whose bravery has been well recorded (I will refer to him as 'W') but due to the nature of his operations his actions were kept secret at the time. An effort was made to get him decorated, but the approach was made along the incorrect chain of command and then, when his unit was disbanded overnight, it was shelved. 'W' has been left 'empty handed'. If 'W' had done what he did in Rhodesia, say in WWII, Malaya or Vietnam, he would have been highly decorated, very highly decorated.

This 'lack of recognition' is a feature of what this section of this newsletter aims to address. We cannot change what has been done, but we can try to influence what happens in the future. We can ensure that our history is recorded and that future generations know that Rhodesians fought with pride and honour. We can inform the future generations of what the various decorations mean so that they are better informed and can pass that knowledge on.

Telegrams: "RHODARMY" Salisbury
Telephone: 707431

Extension: 333



ARMY HEADQUARTERS,
PRIVATE BAG 7710,
CAUSEWAY,
SALISBURY,
RHODESIA.

FIN/9
AC/6
Reference: _____

24 March 1980

Captain D.R. Davison,
8th Battalion The Rhodesia Regiment,
P.O. Box 8230,
Causeway,

Dear Sir,

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations and those of the Army on your richly deserved award of the Military Forces Commendation (Operational). This is an outstanding achievement and you may wear your decoration with justifiable pride.

Notification of your award has not been made in a Government Gazette for reasons which I am sure you will appreciate, but a certificate commemorating the award will be printed and sent to you as soon as possible. Notice of the award will be made in General Orders although a copy of the citation will not be published as had been the custom in the past.

Your award will be presented to you at an informal private investiture which it is hoped will be held in the near future. Regrettably there can be no publicity of the event, again for reasons which will be obvious to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A.L.C. Maclean".

(A.L.C. Maclean) Lieutenant General,
Commander of the Army.

ALCM/MT



The Military Forces Commendation

"A silver or bronze pick emblem to denote an act of bravery, distinguished service, or continuous devotion to duty in the operational or non-operational sphere. This emblem will

either be displayed on the ribbon of the appropriate General Service or Campaign Medal or will be sewn on the tunic immediately following other awards. Otherwise it will be displayed in a central position on the left breast where a ribbon would be worn."

Museum News

Prior to the RV we completed the construction of two new display cabinets which we mounted on top of the existing cabinets in order to house the three Digby Sinclair paintings that depict Bulawayo-born David Lewis (soon to become Baron von Richthofen's 80th and last victim) in a dog fight; the artist himself in an RhAF Harvard over Victoria Falls; and Sqn. Leader John Nettleton VC's 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron Lancaster. We built and painted the cases and the Classic Flyers Museum paid for the frames and glass. We have a few more bits to do in order to complete the displays. It is difficult to get a good photo of the displays on account of the glare off the glass. This here is the best I could do by standing on the steps of one of the Hunters.



Over the period of the RV we were given a number of new items to add to the collection:

Mike Botha – “The Rhodesians are coming” t-shirt, book – ‘Shadows of War’

Wally Insch – 4RR photos.

John Lomas – Rhodesian issue clandestine boots and PATU shoulder patch

Roan Michael – 4RR ashtray

Grant Matthews – plaque

Mike Vivier – a number of items including match boxes, a replica fragmentation grenade, framed print of Ian Smith

Mike and Kevin Woods – collection of all the Rhodesian Security Force cap badges

Roly Woods – Rhodesian Corps of Signals beret and stable belt

We are most grateful to all of you.

We have identified a number of things that we need help with:-

1. The archiving needs someone with time and a few computer skills (nothing too scary). Is there someone in the Tauranga area or from outside who can travel to Tauranga for the odd day to gather photos and information and then go back and work on the database? Once we have got on top of the project the ongoing maintenance would be a breeze.
2. We would like to find an Alouette III and a 25 or parts thereof in order to make museum displays. Neither machine was used in New Zealand as far as we know. The closest and most likely place is Malaysia. Does anyone have any contacts or ideas?
3. We need manikins. Does anyone have contacts we can get them from cheaply?

October RV 2007

We started the weekend off on Friday night with approximately 30 people attending the ‘Movie Night’. Chef Colin was on hand with his assistant Ray to assemble the best and cheapest hamburgers this side of the Black Stump. Proceeds from these went to the Hauraki Association. Colin also had his turban on and made up a batch of samosas. These were so good that many thought we were lying to them about their origins. Proceeds from these went to our Association. Well done guys – excellent graze.

We began with a short silent film depicting a section of Maori Battalion soldiers in Italy during WWII titled ‘Tama Tu’. We then showed parts of Msasa Enterprise’s double DVD titled ‘Flame Lily Collection’. We saw ‘What a Time’ which is Rhodesian history in pictures and film clips with a backing of the late Clem Tholet’s music and songs. Personally, Clem’s song ‘Another Hitler’ makes you really think, more especially in today’s climate of the world’s so called ‘War on Terror’. We then saw the BSAP recruitment film ‘Kum A Kye’ The main feature was ‘The Saints’, a 90 minute documentary which is the definitive story of the Rhodesian Light Infantry. The quality of the DVDs meant

that the 'projectionist' had a stress free night. Ample breaks were taken in order to refill glasses and empty bladders.

Saturday dawned clear but quite windy. Colin and his merry men, Percy, Tony and Tony's son in law (whose name escapes me – sorry) put up the marquee that had been borrowed in preparation for the Debrief on Sunday out at the Classic Flyers. The wind was to have a big effect on proceedings with a number of repair trips being made to secure the marquee and the rest of our stuff out there at the airport.

While this was happening half a dozen golfers were doing what golfers do best at one of the local courses. One year I think I will slip along and see if you guys actually play golf. I suspect that you find a pub somewhere and sit there making up a story.

The 65 or so attendees started to gather at 2.30pm. Name badges and any late fees were sorted out by Terri and Bryony. At 3.30 Major Malcolm Helyar of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regiment welcomed us all to the Regiment. Major Helyar commented that were it not for his wife's insistence that he stay in New Zealand, he would have come to Rhodesia in the 1970's. He had been recruited to go to Rhodesia but his wife had given him different orders!! Mrs Helyar was seen to be thoroughly enjoying herself during the afternoon and I heard at least one person say to the Major "you see what you missed out on?" Good on you Malcolm, thanks for your time, you and your wife are welcome to join us next year.



The assembly area.

After Major Helyar's welcome our President, Paul Nes, replied and then presented Wally Insch - who had travelled over from Australia for the RV (as had Mike Botha) - with a certificate signed by Lt Col Ron Reid-Daly and an unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry badge. It had been decided to do this for Wally as a token of the high regard in which he is held and for the work that he did for the Association when he lived in New Zealand and the ongoing promotion of us he does around the world. We also wished to acknowledge the sacrifices he made and the brave and honourable manner in which he served his beloved country, Rhodesia.



L-R Major Helyar, Wally Insch, Paul Nes.

Wally accepted the gifts and in turn said a few words about the set of mounted Rhodesian Regimental Badges that he had been asked to bring over from Australia by Mike Woods on behalf of himself and his brother Kevin which has become part of our Museum Collection.



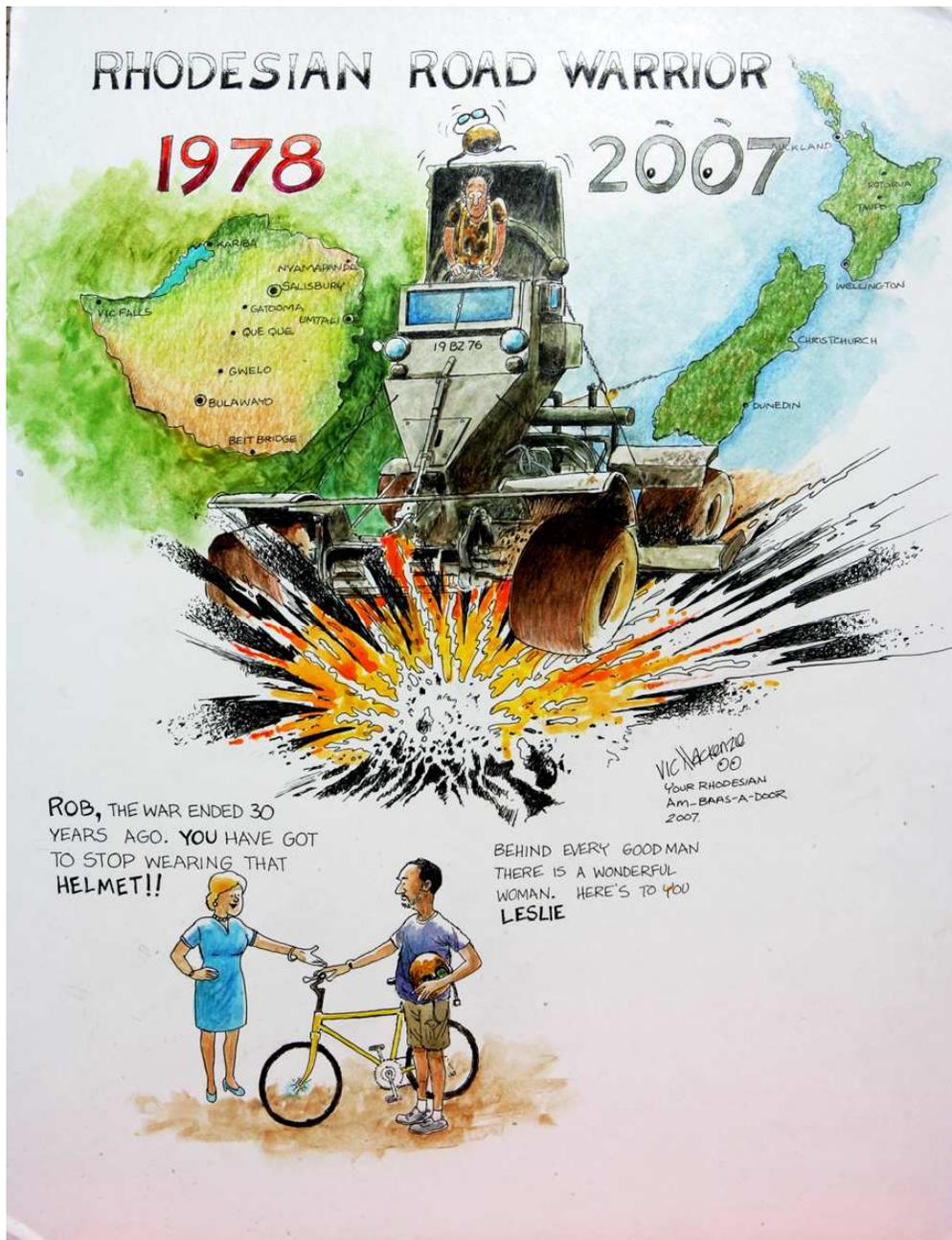
Some of the assembled guests.

The final presentation was to Rob Bates who has stood down from his position on the committee. Rob was presented with an original Vic MacKenzie cartoon specially commissioned for Rob in commemoration of his service with the Rhodesian Engineers as a Pookie driver.



L-R Rob Bates, Paul Nes.

For those of you who do not know, the Pookie was a Rhodesian invention which utilised parts of the VW on a special chassis with Formula 1 tyres to produce minimal loading on the road surface. It was equipped with two metal detector 'wings' and was driven at the front of a convoy to clear the road of mines. In simple terms – a bloody dangerous job. Because the roads were rough and the heavily armoured cockpit was small, Rob used to wear a motor bike helmet to protect his head from banging on the sides. This is the basis of the cartoon, together with the registration number of his favourite Pookie and recognition of his wife Leslie. Our thanks to Vic MacKenzie, your cartoons always bring us pleasure.



The Hauraki Association President Des Anderson then invited us all up to the Garrison Bar where the next phase of the RV got under way.



Centre - Mike Botha over from Australia chats with Steve Geach (on right) prior to the auction.

The auction was once again a huge success. We are most grateful to the contributors, but without an auctioneer with the character of Steve Geach we would be high and dry. I can tell you that the auction is worth the ticket price alone. Steve won Rhodesia's 3rd highest award for bravery - but it is an even braver person who so much as scratches when Steve is on the lookout for bids!



Steve Geach BCR in full flight extracting another dollar from an unsuspecting bidder. From L-R Deb Clarke, Keith Kietzmann and Percy Purcell.



More humour from the auction.



You cannot hide around the corner either.



This lot look serious. Note the firmly folded arms of a number of them to ensure that no gesture is mistaken for a bid!

Diana and Lila had been preparing the food from Friday. Colin had been preparing the meat donated by Percy and Yvonne from mid week and it all came together perfectly for the braai which Colin and Tony cooked up after the auction.

The raffle was drawn with the first prize being a copy of *The Saints* kindly donated by 30 Degrees South Publishing. This prize was won twice with both winners putting the prize back in for a re-draw as they already had a copy. Third time lucky was John Glynn who has subsequently donated the full value of the book back to our Association. Good on you John. This just serves to illustrate the generosity that prevails every time Rhodesians gather in New Zealand. In all we raised close to \$3000 from the auction, the raffle and subsequent donations. This is a hell of an effort from a small group of people – well done folks.

During the course of the evening the conversation in one group was based around the opening of the museum display in the Garrison Club by Gen. Walls in 2002. Wally Insch, former Sgt. in the Selous Scouts, suggested that it might be a good opportunity to ring Gen. Walls. Not knowing his number in South Africa, calls were made until the right number was found. The initial link up went something like this:

Ring ring....."Hello"

Wally: "Hello is this Peter Walls?"

Gen. Walls: (a bit terse on account that he was at the time watching the Air NZ rugby final on TV and some inconsiderate individual has just rung his phone) "What?"

Wally: "Hello is this Peter Walls? This is Wally Insch"

Gen. Walls: "Who?" (remember that disturbing a man's rugby viewing is not advisable)

Wally: "This is Wally, Wally Insch sir, calling from New Zealand"

Gen. Walls: "Wally! Is this Wally Insch? Bloody hell, let me turn this TV off?!"

A number of people then had a word with Gen. Walls. It is certainly something that will be talked about for years to come with a good deal of laughs. Where in the world in the past or in the future could a group of rank and file call up the man who was head of the armed services to which they belonged 30 years before, to pay their respects to him? And for him to respond in such a manner? Nowhere – it could only have been Rhodesians and only someone like Wally would do it! A week later I heard a number of Haurakis talking about it. "You should have seen them. They called up their General and when they talked to him they all stood to attention and called him sir". Well I guess that just shows that a little discipline and respect in one's formative years does not do anyone any harm.

On Sunday the wind had only grown in strength and an early inspection of the marquee showed that the emergency repairs during the night by Tony had lasted but more needed to be done. While most people were watching the final of the Rugby World Cup, one person who was smarting from the early ejection of the All Blacks and now supports Synchronised Swimming instead of rugby, went and carried out repairs to the marquee in order to avoid further sporting anguish. After the game, Rob Bates once again supervised the clear up which was accomplished in good order.

Approximately 40 people gathered for AGM (better known as the Debrief) out at the now very windy Classic Flyers Museum.

This year we were sited next to the Lion's Den and with our own marquee, thanks to the efforts of Colin and Terri Logie, we were able to get under cover. Colin and Ray put two BBQs into Colin's big trailer to protect themselves from the wind and, barring a small fire which fortunately caused no damage, produced the finest of meals for us under adverse conditions – well done guys. Best breakfast I have had in a long time. It was a damn shame that the wind caught the last of it and tore it out of my hands.

The meeting was kept to the point with the main feature being the collecting of signatures in order for our Association to become an Incorporated Society. Tinka Mushett, our Treasurer, explained that this will give us a better profile in the community and allow us to become a Charitable Trust which will mean that donations made to us will be tax deductible. It will also assist us if we are to apply for any funding in the future.

The committee and officers were returned unchanged, with the exception of Rob Bates who has stood down.

A special thanks must go to Steve Geach the auctioneer and entertainer extraordinaire. I am also grateful to everyone who helped out – thank you. Diana and I had a far more relaxed RV and we were able to talk to a few more people than usual. As time goes on more of you learn the general pattern to which the RV runs and you get stuck in and help. Good on you all.

This is the list of contributors to the auction. Please support those who are authors or who have commercial interests:

Tony Ballinger - to order a copy of his book A Walk Against The Stream email tony@ballinger5422.freemove.co.uk

Rob & Leslie Bates – massive hamper for the raffle

Bryony Bomford – lamp and other items

Hugh & Diana Bomford – books donated visit <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm> to support

Mel Clements – two weekend sets of holiday accommodation at Mangawhai, Bay of Islands. This is the biggest contribution to the auction – thanks Mel.

Chris Higginson – to order any of his books - Provocative Verse, Reluctant Assassin or Rhodesian Memories - email rhodesianmemories@yahoo.co.uk

Alison Hucke – painting of a Flame Lily

Dave Lemon – to order a copy of his book Never Quite a Soldier email Lemonfolk@aol.com

Colin & Terri Logie – Troopie t-shirt and mug printed via Photo Max internet based photography support email clogie@clear.net.nz for more information.

Alan Thrush – his book Of Land and Spirits can be ordered through <http://www.booksofzimbabwe.com> or by emailing Simon Bolze info@booksofzimbabwe.com

Terry McEnery - RLI cap and golf hats

Mike Vivier – tea towels and t-shirts

We did have a number of late donations; these have been rolled over to next year's auction.

This year was a huge success – next year will be better still. Get your priorities sorted out and keep Labour Weekend 2008 free so that you can be part of an amazing experience in the Bay of Plenty

ANZAC Day 25th April 2008

Next year's ANZAC Day falls on a Friday, which is excellent news for those of us who travel a long way to get to our chosen venue. Here in New Zealand our biggest organised gathering is at Hobsonville, a small Returned Services Association in an Auckland suburb. Hobsonville has a strong Air Force influence, but they do not seem to mind a bunch of us Browns (and a few of our own Blues, but not enough, hint, hint) attending.

The connection between Hobsonville RSA and what is now known as the Rhodesian Services Association goes back to the early 1980's when the late David Turner and others used to gather as the New Zealand Branch of the Rhodesian Army Association. Hobsonville RSA has always been most supportive of us and affords us the great honour of marching directly behind their veterans. This puts us in front of all currently serving service men and women. While there are big gatherings in the various state capitals in Australia, I do not believe that they are afforded such honour. We generally have between 30 and 40 Rhodesians and supporters marching, sometimes outnumbering the NZ Veterans.

Marching at ANZAC is a very fulfilling experience. In New Zealand and Australia we are treated in a manner that is not experienced anywhere else in the world, as far as I know. Our presence is fully accepted and indeed encouraged. We Rhodesians may not have direct links to the commemoration of those who fell at Gallipoli, but as former servicemen and women, together with our families, we have a common bond – honouring our friends and family who served and sacrificed.

Generally we have a committee meeting on the night before ANZAC which means taking a day off work for those of us who travel to Auckland. I usually take the day after ANZAC off as well. This is then a three day event with only one of them being recognised as a Public Holiday. One of my friends who often changes jobs always tells his new employer "book me in for a day off sick after ANZAC Day". Most reply with "you cannot book days off sick in advance, how do you know when you will be sick?" His response, "trust me, I am always sick the day after

ANZAC". This year, my friend will be travelling to Perth to attend ANZAC there, so if any of you in Perth want to meet up with him, email me.

So as we say – make a plan for ANZAC 2008. Join your local RSA or, if you really want a great experience, come up to Hobsonville.

The Australian Branch of the Rhodesian Light Infantry Association advise that they will be attending (or is that descending) en masse, the ANZAC Parades in Brisbane. Please contact Jack Lamont lamont4@digisurf.com.au or Tony Young ozemedic@bigpond.net.au for more details.

Stand Proud Rhodesians

I am grateful for 'PB' Petter-Bowyer and Alex Binda for bringing the information in the article below to my attention.

Nearly 30 years have passed since our country was taken from us but still we have an influence on today's world. I have not done as much research as I would have liked and have relied on outside input for this article (perhaps someone would like to take it a stage further – hint hint). In the past I reported to you from an ORAFS newsletter how Rhodesians in the Middle East overcame the requirement for overhead shelter from mortar attack by using their knowledge gained from the FAF airfields and erected wire netting. Initially they were laughed at apparently until the effectiveness of it was seen and then all and sundry sought refuge under it. Up to that point the Americans, in true style, had spent millions on research and development of high tech. systems for countering this problem.

In the 1970's Rhodesia had developed an extensive range of vehicles with which to protect the occupants of the vehicle from anti tank mines and small arms fire. The South Africans also had a development programme which would have been better funded than the Rhodesian one and obviously ran on after Rhodesia ceased to exist. For those wanting more information there is none better than the book *Fighting Vehicles and Weapons of Rhodesia 1965 – 80* by Peter Locke and Peter Cooke (which is one of the titles that I carry stock of).

In America the company, Protected Vehicles Inc www.ProtectedVehicles.com is headed up by Garth Barrett, former Commanding Officer of the Rhodesian SAS Regiment. Garth introduced the Americans to the South African company Mechem's, Mine Protected Vehicles (MPVs) in the late 1990's. He found it hard to sell MPVs to the Americans until 9/11 when the first *Buffalo* vehicles went to Afghanistan and then to Iraq.

Progress has been painfully slow in getting the Americans to use MPVs. The *Buffalo* and *Cougar* have done excellent work in Iraq and Afghanistan and Garth says that it is unfortunate that the American Department of Defence has taken so long to comprehend the strategic and tactical needs of MPV's and only late last year did the current MRAP Program become a reality. Garth notes that Rhodesia had about 6,000 MPV's and SA 16,000 and the US had only a couple of hundred at the end of 2006 and now the US will now buy in the region of 20,000 MPV's from a variety of vendors. Protected Vehicles Inc has a number of different vehicles and with one called Ridgeback we know that the roots of this company can be traced back to Rhodesia.

On the 16th October 2007 the UK House of Parliament was in debate and Anne Winterton Conservative MP for Congleton was commenting on the fact that the RAF is financially bogged down with the Eurofighter, the Royal Navy's spending is now totally dominated by the two new aircraft carriers, and the Army, under the future Army structure programme, is being reconstructed for the Future Rapid Effect System, FRES. Everything is geared towards providing a high-tech expeditionary rapid reaction force, but no one has asked why that should be so, or has asked what has been omitted in the meantime.

Anne Winterton said "The military seem to be obsessed with fast jets, yet history has proved that small and slow is far superior for close air support. For the price of one Eurofighter we could have a squadron of Super Tucanos. They can carry the same ordnance as a Harrier, with its loud bang, but unlike the Harrier, which can be over the battlefield for no more than 20 minutes, Tucanos can loiter overhead for hours on end, ready for use in a ground attack at a moment's notice. We also tend to go in for expensive and complicated helicopters, which soak up manpower, like all complicated equipment. There appears to be little understanding of how light helicopters can be used effectively for ground attack.

In the book review section of the August edition of Soldier magazine, which I am sure that most people read avidly, there is a tribute to one of the "most effective counter insurgency units of all time".

The reference is to a book entitled "The Saints: The Rhodesian Light Infantry" by Alexandre Binda, which should be required reading for all top brass, so that they can appreciate how the Rhodesians used their limited helicopter resources to devastating effect. There are plenty of helicopters on the market today that can be hired at one fifth of the cost of our own aircraft, so there really is no excuse for helicopter shortages."

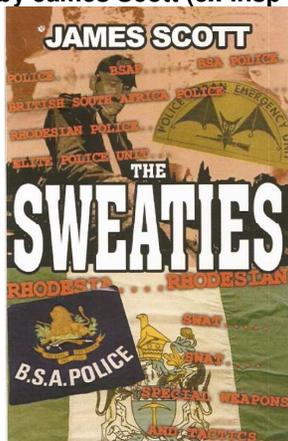
She went further saying "I would like to raise the issue of money and manpower. We constantly hear about not having enough money and that our forces are overstretched almost to breaking point, so let us take a few lessons from history. I refer again to the Rhodesian forces. They had little money and equipment, due to sanctions, and very small numbers of men, yet they succeeded beyond all expectations. They used what they had wisely, implementing ideas from the bottom up. The only battle that they lost was the public relations battle."

The Bookshelf

Recently there have been a lot of new Rhodesian based books being published. I am always happy to promote them and in return I ask the authors to donate a signed copy to the Rhodesian Services Association Annual Auction. Sometimes that is the last I ever hear from them!! Others are more reasonable and willing to give the offer a go. Books promoted in this section are not necessarily stocked by me so please make a note of the author's details if you are considering making an order now or at some stage in the future.

All the books and audio visual disks that I stock and sell are listed at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Books.htm> I would like you to note that income from sales are directed to me and not the Rhodesian Services Association. However the Association does benefit indirectly from my sales.

'The Sweaties' by James Scott (ex-Insp John Larn 7727)



I have not seen the book yet, but there is a copy on the way for next year's auction. I understand that it has been written as a novel but carries the authenticity of being written by someone who 'was there'. It is centred on the BSA Police Salisbury S.W.A.T. team in the final days of the war. Facing impossible odds, the 'thin blue line' was never thinner as they and the Special Branch faced the threat of armed insurrection in the city, the horrors of Communist-backed terrorism, and the ultimate atrocity.

It is also the story of a country in its death throes. Former Inspector Peter Gibson, O.I.C Salisbury S.W.A.T 1978-1980 writes '... Gives an insight into the enormity of our situation at the time. Whoever you are, whatever you did, recapture it in this book. It deserves to be read.'

This book is available from these South African phone numbers: (011) 873 2731 or 083 305 5675 or (011) 475 5808 or email johno@computec.co.za or from www.amazon.com or www.pegasuspublishers.com or Pegasus Elliot Mackenzie Publishers, Cambridge, UK Fax 01223 370040.

The following books have been published by 30 Degrees South Publishing and stocks are on the way to me at the time of writing this newsletter. Please note that the prices quoted below are the opening sales prices in NZ\$. These prices may vary in the future depending on exchange rates:-

Masoja - The history of the Rhodesian African Rifles and its forerunner the Rhodesia Native Regiment by Alexandre Binda, commissioned and compiled by Brigadier David Heppenstall and the Rhodesian African Rifles Regimental Association (UK) Price will be \$140 plus postage and includes the award-winning documentary DVD *Frontline Rhodesia* by Richard Cecil and Nick Downie. This is the first time this extraordinary documentary will be available commercially.

Originally formed as The Rhodesia Native Regiment during World War I, this fine regiment first saw action in East Africa, pitted against the wily von Lettow-Vorbeck and his army of German askaris. Disbanded and later re-formed, the regiment was to distinguish itself during World War II in the North Africa and Burma campaigns. Using the counter-insurgency experience gleaned from the Malayan Campaign of the 1950s, the RAR provided the front-line troops in the battle for Rhodesia in the country's bitter civil war of the 1960s and 1970s.

In the spirit of The Saints—The Rhodesian Light Infantry, collectors and military enthusiasts will now be able to add to their collection of leather-bound, limited editions. 150 limited, leather-bound copies of Masodja will be available for purchase through 30° South Publishers. The response to this has already been very encouraging with many collectors matching their numbered editions of The Saints to that of Masodja. This limited edition will carry book plates signed by the author, Alex Binda, and Brigadier David Heppenstall. To order your limited edition contact Jane Lewis at jane@30degreessouth.co.za

The Kevin Woods Story - In the Shadow of Mugabe's Gallows by Kevin Woods in hardback with dust jacket Price \$55 plus postage.

Kevin worked as a double agent for the South African apartheid government and Robert Mugabe's Central Intelligence Organization in the 80s. He was incarcerated in the notorious Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison (Harare) for 20 years, five of which were spent naked on death row. His release was pleaded to Mugabe by none other than Nelson Mandela in the 90s but this fell on deaf ears. Finally, a year ago he received a presidential pardon. Kevin now lives in South Africa and has launched a well-received career in motivational speaking. This is his story. You can listen to his first interview on the day of the book's launch from this link <http://www.2bctnd.net/swradioafrica/podcasts/1107/bth011107.mp3> it is very worthwhile listening to.

Lost in Africa by Stu Taylor in paperback priced at \$26 plus postage.

'Lost in Africa' is a colloquialism from the Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI), meaning 'a state of bewilderment or cluelessness', which Stu Taylor uses to describe his disjointed life. The parallels are clear as Taylor's life in many ways mirrors the white Diaspora of central-southern Africa, particularly from Zimbabwe, and the subsequent fallout they have endured after the demise of colonialism and rise of brutal tyranny.

Born in South Africa and raised in Southern Rhodesia to nomadic parents, Taylor's early years were unsettled as he was shuffled from school to school during the 1950s. Describing himself as marginally above "really thick", he signed on in 1967 with the RLI and served with that crack airborne unit for thirteen years, always at the forefront of hostilities during the bitter Rhodesian bush war.

In 1980 he demobbed and slid into Civvy Street, at times an easy, and at times, a difficult transition, as he tried to find his place in the newly independent Zimbabwe. Again, in the late 1990s, he found himself on the 'front line' - this time in the security business, desperately facing off against Mugabe's 'war veterans' in their notorious land-grab campaign of farm invasions.

Ultimately homeless, stateless and jobless, Taylor never gives up. This is his remarkable story.

Shadow Tracker by Keith A Nelson is a novel in paperback priced at \$36.

It is the story of Kurt Christianson who is a natural military strategist and survivor. Independent, unorthodox, resilient and resolute, he displays skills which flout established procedures. His courage and insight whilst in Special Forces in 'Nam' unwittingly unravel a traitorous alliance, making him a threat to his superiors and placing his life in mortal danger.

This threat, combined with his inability to adjust to civilian life, spurs him to leave his beloved and beautiful Maine coastline and embark on a path of revelation and serendipity. He crews a boat being delivered to the oil fields in West Africa, where he becomes embroiled in covert action and again demonstrates his innate and inspired tactical abilities.

A hunted man, his journey leads him to bitter combat in a brutal landscape, tragic loss and to fulfil a San prophecy whilst wrestling with his alter ego - Mad Medic - and his Viking ancestry. The merciless and barbaric slaughter of a little girl and her family by terrorists move him to astonishing, crucial and shocking acts which change the course of a ravaged and savaged country. Kurt is also driven to revenge, a deed which violates his code of ethics and irreversibly affects his destiny. Ultimately, Kurt faces the inescapable and irrefutable knowledge that heroes are human and therefore fallible and that glory, however hard-won and merited, is illusory and hollow.

Shadow Tracker, an adrenaline-charged adventure, engages the reader in events which remain unknown to most of the world and leave one breathless.

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

In case you cannot access our website I have reproduced our price list here below for you. If you have any questions or wish to order please email me hbomford@clear.net.nz All prices are in NZ\$ and exclude postage. The website carries full photos of the items

ITEM	PRICE in NZ\$
4RR Hackles	\$15
Berets	\$50
'Gun control' t-shirts	\$20
Lion & Tusk Baseball Caps	\$23
Lion & Tusk Beanies	\$20
Lion & Tusk Dog Tags 'silver' or 'gold'	\$30
Lion & Tusk Name Badges	\$15
Lion & Tusk Polo shirts	\$36.50
Lion & Tusk T-shirts	\$30

Lion & Tusk Women's shirts	\$30
Number plate surrounds	\$12
Regimental Badges – RLI, Intaf, RAR, RDR, BSAP, Grey's Scouts, RRR, RR, Service Corps, Staff Corps, RWS, DRR	Priced from \$20 – inquire for details
Rhodesian Army Recruitment poster copy "Be a man amongst men"	\$15
Rhodesian Flag 3' x 5' polyester	\$35
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size medal copy with ribbon	\$100
Rhodesian General Service Medal full size ribbon	\$10/length
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature medal with ribbon	\$35
Rhodesian General Service Medal miniature ribbon	\$10/length
Unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badge	\$23
Various small embroidered badges (RLI, BSAP & Nyasaland Police)	\$5
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size copy with ribbon	\$50
Zimbabwe Independence Medal full size ribbon	\$10/length
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature medal with ribbon	\$35
Zimbabwe Independence Medal miniature ribbon	\$10/length

Christmas is approaching fast so do not delay.

The items moving fastest this last month are the unofficial Rhodesian Combat Infantry Badges (there is a qualification requirement for these – please enquire), the Rhodesian General Service Medal copy, various Lion & Tusk clothing and the Lion & Tusk dog tags 'silver' or 'gold' finish

The Global Forked Stick

If you are interested in what happened to the **Rhodesian Air Force Hunter and Canberra that crashed during Op Miracle in October 1979** and whose crash sites were never found, I strongly recommend that you visit <http://ourstory.com/thread.html?t=290507#296121> to view a recent article covering the discovery of the remains of the Hunter in Mozambique by former Rhodesia Air Force members who have been carrying out a lot of diligent research over an extended period of time.

Alf Herbst is busy with a project on the Rhodesian Corps of Engineers. He reports that it is nearly finished but he still needs more information such as any personal stories, photos, pictures and articles. He was in the Corps for 13 years and would be grateful for any assistance. His e-mail is alfh01@ananzi.co.za

Intake 155 – Anyone from this intake please could you contact Rob Pickers on email pickcadd@sai.co.za Rob is contemplating doing what Intake 152 has done with a webpage at <http://www.rhodesianservices.org/Intake%20152.htm> and regular contact between some of the surviving members.

Unit pages – please note that I encourage and will assist any units to put together material for a page along the lines of the Intake 152 one and host it on the Rhodesian Services Association site. I would need the material all written up and ready to load up to a web page

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.

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.