



Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated

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Greetings to our newsletter subscribers around the world,

We have issued this special bulletin in response to the mass murder in Charleston and the alleged disrespectful association of the Rhodesian flag with the accused.

This Association deploras in the strongest terms the mass murder that took place in Charleston on 17 June 2015 and our sympathy goes out to all those who lost family and friends there.

Ensuing media attention on a jacket worn by the perpetrator that bore images of the South African and Rhodesian flags, which allegedly appeared on his Facebook page, bringing disrepute to our flag along with inaccurate reporting. We immediately set out the following statement on the opening page of our website:

This Association deploras the alleged actions of Dylann Storm ROOF. He does not have, nor has he ever had, any known connection to our Association. That he has chosen to bring the Rhodesian flag (along with others) into disrepute is deplorable, but unfortunately beyond our control.

His ignorance of Rhodesia is blatantly obvious. We wonder if he would have chosen the Rhodesian flag had he known that 80% of the Rhodesian Security Forces were black. The war in Rhodesia was not a racial war, but against terrorism. We fought to protect the innocent. We honour our fallen black comrades equally alongside all those who fought for Rhodesia.

Our heartfelt sympathies go to the victims and families of those affected by this senseless act.

Currently there are reports that the flags on the jacket had been placed there using computer image manipulation. Wherever the truth lies, it does not alter the fact that the Rhodesian flag has been brought into disrepute.

Of course the media made no mention that on 19th July 2015, a memorial to the Rhodesian Native Regiment and the Rhodesian African Rifles will be unveiled at the National Arboretum in England. This monument is a result of private subscription, hard work and donations in order to give lasting recognition to the black soldiers who served in those units and fought loyally and bravely for the Crown and Rhodesia in a number of wars around the world in the 20th century.

The media will always look for sensationalism and have scant regard for the truth. Rhodesians over a certain age will recall how the British press sought to make

mischief in the 1960s by publishing images of “dead bodies of black people lying unburied in a park in central Salisbury” and of “starving black children scavenging in dustbins” when in point of fact the “bodies” were office workers taking in some sun and relaxation during their lunch break and the “starving children” had been tempted into the dustbins by cash money thrown in by the reporter.

No one will ever escape gutter journalism and we should not detract from the fact that another mass murder has taken place with race hatred as its basis. Responsible journalists should focus on that and how to remedy what appears to be a serious issue in the United States.

What is brought home to us once again is the essential need for there to be a reliable and factual source of information on the history of Rhodesia. To this end this Association has been working diligently for many years towards the construction of a museum building in Tauranga, New Zealand. We are also close to launching a number of exciting projects that will be openly available on the internet.

The internet projects involve searchable records covering Rolls of Honour as well as individual names and regimental numbers. We are endeavouring to emulate what is done by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as well as other searchable databases. We will also be making publically available “virtual museum displays” using our collection of archives and objects.

It is imperative that we do all this to preserve a publically available and accurate record of our history.

All these initiatives take up a lot of time and work and to this end we urge you to support our efforts in any way that you can. In our last newsletter we made these suggestions:

- Become a financial member - we need a large percentage of our 2,000 plus listed subscribers to this newsletter, and the 1,900 plus members of our Facebook group, to show their support and belief in our aspirations and make the small individual commitment of NZ\$10 per annum (on current exchange rates approx. £5, US\$7.50, R90) for financial membership. Email Assn Secretary, Chuck Osborne thesecretary@rhodesianservices.org for details.
- Remember us in your Will.
- Purchase from our CQ Store.
- Encourage the younger generation and descendants of Rhodesians to become involved.
- Introduce philanthropic investors to our cause.

Warm wishes and best regards to you from the Committee of the Rhodesian Services Association.

Saturday, 20 June 2015