



## THE NYASALAND POLICE ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER No 1/2020

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Email: nyasa.police@gmail.com

Website: www.nypol.com

### GREETINGS



Greetings to all our members, our friends and families and I take this opportunity to wish you, somewhat belatedly, a very Happy New Year. Whilst we are in midwinter here in UK with more rain than snow, we must be very grateful that we have not suffered the fires that have ravaged parts of Australia or the drought in southern Africa.

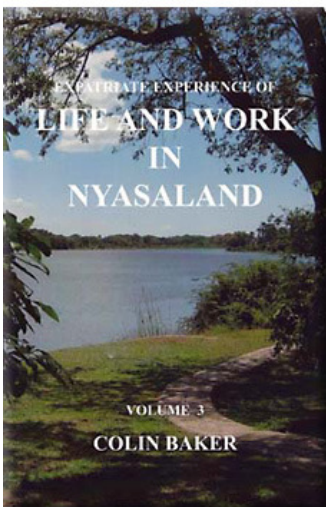


#### Lest we forget ~ the National Memorial Arboretum

Looking back to July 2011 and the dedication of the Nyasaland Police Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Professor Colin Baker made an excellent speech about the force and its history. Colin was a great friend of the Association and his words are worth reading again. There is from a link on the website (Chit-Chat 2019) but on request I would be pleased to post a copy to those not on-line – see my contact details below.

#### Life and Work in Nyasaland

Colin Baker also put together these books about expatriate experiences of life and work in Nyasaland, a series that extended to six volumes. I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who possesses any of the volumes 2 - 6 and to know the names of those Police officers whose contributions were included.



#### Nyalugwe

Another publication of which I am very keen to locate and which I'm sure would be of great interest to our members is that of the Nyasaland Police magazine '*Nyalugwe*'. My memory suggests that there was only a limited number produced and my efforts to trace a copy have so far been unsuccessful. Any information which would help me in this search would be very much appreciated.

#### One year as Organiser

I have now completed a year as Organiser of the Association. On taking over I set two objectives: (a) endeavour to increase contact with and amongst members, from whom I will always be pleased to hear and (b) attempt to maximise attendance at our annual Reunion. These objectives remain ongoing.



#### REUNION 2020 - GOOD NEWS!

NO PRICE INCREASE ~ Yet again, no price increase at the Holiday Inn, Coventry, for the NPA Reunion this year - 9th July 2020. It is encouraging that the level of attendance has been maintained over the past three years and it is hoped to achieve similar results this year. It is always a pleasure to see our valued regulars but If you have not attended before and are in a position to do so, you will be particularly welcome so please contact me.

## Writers Cramp

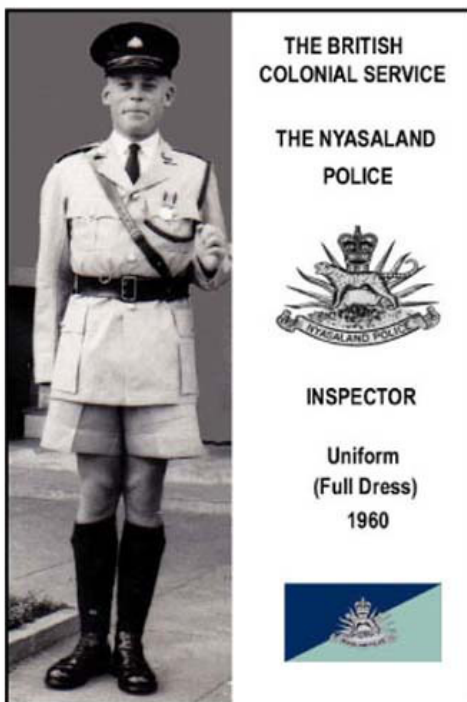
With so many of us having had such rich and varied lives it is inevitable that there are those among us who have decided to go into print. Some have chosen the autobiographical channel whilst others have used their experiences to produce novels. David O'Neil was a prolific writer of mainly seafaring fiction and Barry Thorne, as well as his own story ('A Varied Life') also ventured into fiction based on his own experiences. Colin Beer opted for a specialist book ('On Revolutionary War'). Christopher Bean's ('Bwana wa Polisi') is a specific autobiography as is that of Sheila Bevan ('The Parting



Years: A British Family and the End of Empire'). Ongoing at the moment is the work of Victor Sibale putting together the 100 years history of the Malawi Police. I am sure there are others out there, no doubt some already published but others underway.

Please let me know what I have missed. Have you written your memoirs or are you in the process of doing so? I would be most grateful to hear from you should any of the foregoing apply.

## NYPOL'S GOT TALENT! (Added by the webmaster)



### THE NYASALAND POLICE REMEMBERED

Composed and sung by Ken Wilkinson at the 2019 Reunion  
The tune "When I was a lad" - (Gilbert and Sullivan, HMS Pinafore)

It's almost 60 years to a day,  
When I felt stuck back in the old UK,  
After happy times under the Kenyan sun,  
I longed to return to Africa again.  
So I looked in the papers and what did I see,  
But loads of vacancies for the colonies,  
Elephant control Officers for Tanganyika,  
Mounted Teachers for the Falkland Islands  
Inspectors of Police for Hong Kong, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.  
Nyasaland for me sounded a lot better,  
So off to the Crown Agents I sent a letter,  
Following an interview to which I went,  
Through the post came an offer of appointment.  
As Inspector Grade 2 on a salary of £705 pa, on a 3 year tour,  
Rising to £1200 with £45 increments  
An allowance of £50 for buying an outfit and £20 allowance for camping kit.  
The contract I signed without delay, then it was off to Hendon within a few days,  
Twelve weeks later the course was at an end and off to Nyasaland I went.  
Over five happy years followed for me, enjoying life in the NP.  
So as we look back with nostalgia (sic), on those happy times long ago  
Remember how fortunate were we,  
To have had a great time in the Nyasaland Police!!



## Staff Lists – Nyasaland Protectorate

The Government Staff Lists during our time contained details of our Police service both in Nyasaland and elsewhere as well salary, DOB and posting. I have the Staff Lists for the years of 1957, 58, 60 and 62. These show most former colleagues and can provide this useful information to any of our members who may be so interested.

Although most of this Newsletter is available on the Nypol website we have a fair number of members who are not on-line and rely on copies by cleft stick – I hope this goes some way to redress the balance.

I will close by saying that I am always very pleased to hear from members at any time so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

*Ken Wilkinson*

Email: nyasa.police@gmail.com  
Postal address: 81 The Bassetts, Stroud, Glos, GL 5 4SL  
Telephone No: 01453 766794