



NEWSLETTER No 22 ~ 1st DECEMBER 2015



GREETINGS

I wish you all greetings in this my last Newsletter this year and one carrying Christmas greetings to all of you and your families. I thought to begin this letter I would include a photograph of all those who attended the Reunion this year in July in Coventry. I could include a legend identifying the members present but thought it would exercise your minds to see who you can recognise.

VALE

It is with great relief that I am able to report that, to the best of my knowledge, we have lost no colleagues or wives since the date of my last Newsletter.

AGES OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

In view of the last above item, I thought it would be an interesting little exercise to carry out a survey of our membership to date, and to the best of my knowledge. I am not in touch with all ex-members of the Force still alive. It is interesting to see that we have three members over the age of 90 years and twenty one over the age of 80. Adding in the younger members such as myself, 80 next (!) I arrived at an average age of all members of whom I am aware, of just over 83 years. It obviously did us good to spend part of our lives in the tropics!

ATTESTATION

Following an enquiry from Colin Baker, I have been carrying out an enquiry to determine if anybody can remember the oath of office we took on joining the Nyasaland Police. I asked Eric Bult, Malcolm Llewelyn and Ray Punter, all of who were past Staff Officers and several other members with whom I am in touch. To my amazement it seems clear that there was no Oath of Allegiance or similar administered when we joined up. It is very strong in my memory that on my first day in Zomba, Eric Bult took me into the library type office behind the Staff Office and he swore me in. He is adamant that no such "ceremony" took place and his stand is supported by everybody else I spoke to. In the UK I twice was attested as a constable and even when I went to Bechuanaland after Nyasaland, I was sworn in again. How otherwise could one assume the powers

of a police officer? Presumably they were just “assumed”!

Obviously my memory has let me down but I would appreciate any comments from any of you who have something to contribute.

LIFE AND WORK IN NYASALAND VOL 4.

Colin Baker’s fourth volume mentioned is now out and available. As before I can only recommend this one for your interest. I find the books a fascinating reminder of our life in Nyasaland. Details of how to purchase are available elsewhere on the website.

Speaking of the website, I would like once more to thank and congratulate Terry Young for the excellent job he is doing with our website. It is a very live and entertaining website, and frequently it serves to bring together people who have not communicated with each other for many years. Well done Terry.

BITS AND PIECES

I speak by one means or another with many of our ex-colleagues during the year. Too many to list really but I will just mention a few for you. I speak to Paddy Chevallier regularly and she is keeping well, bearing in mind her age. She is always cheerful and loving. Ray Punter comes through from New Zealand quite often and he is well. Amongst others he had a visit earlier this year from Tony Drynan, with whom I also speak often, and quite recently Ray had a visit from Sylvene Palliser who was on a tour of New Zealand. Jon Dennison seems quite well but his lovely wife Mary is not too good I’m afraid. I could however say a similar thing about several members or their wives but will forbear from going further on this road. As Colin Baker says, we are all just “dwindlers”! Creaks and groans, but we are still here.

REUNION 2016

Just a reminder that our Reunion in 2016 will take place once more in Coventry on 16th July. More details and an order form will go out in February in my next Newsletter and on the website.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS

I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a few happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Kindest regards

Christopher and Elizabeth Bean