



NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE  
OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION (INC)

P.O. BOX 79-371, ROYAL HEIGHTS, AUCKLAND 1230. PHONE: (09) 416 8662

## NEWSLETTER No. 103

SEPTEMBER 1999

ROUTINE ORDERS

### LAST POST:

30011 Lt Gen Sir Leonard W Thornton, KBE, CBE

10 Jun 99 at Wellington.

1817 F.B. (Zig) Schroder

20 Jun 99 at Coff's Harbour, NSW.

37027 L.J. (Leo) Brady

25 Jul 99 at Devonport.

1645 W.E. (Emil) Jennings

16 Jul 99 at Christchurch.

1573 Maj A.J. (Dutch) Holland

14 Aug 99 at Papakura.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

L.J.A. Murphy to

Unit 77, Longford Park Village, 1 Longford Park Dr,  
Takanini 1703.

Capt J.J. Hanvey to

Green Valley Lodge, 4-10 Green Valley Rise,  
Glenfield, Auckland.

H.G. Fantham to

C/o Windsor House, 47 New Brighton Rd, Christchurch.

Maj R.O. Meyer to

42 Laurence St, Manly, Whangaparaoa.

### ADDRESS E-MAIL:

Maj Gen R.D.P. Hassett

rdphassett@xtra.co.nz

Brian J.L. Hewitt

hewittb@cogent.com.au

Lt Col Matt Beattie

m.beattie@xtra.co.nz

Larry English

english@ihug.co.nz

### LIFE MEMBER:

Mr A. Boyd w.e.f. — 10 Jan 99 (better late than never!)

Maj R.S. Wait ED w.e.f. — 10 Jun 99

Mr R.A. Harris w.e.f. — 13 May 99

Capt J.J. Hanvey w.e.f. — 10 Mar 99

### NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs Daphne Schroder — 2/21 Diggers Beach Rd. Coff's Harbour, NSW (Associate)

207087 Brig J.L. (Lin) Smith, CMG, CBE, 37c Milton Rd, Tauranga.

4554537 L.W. English, 10 North Ave, Devonport, Auckland (Associate)

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING .:

This will be held at 1000hrs on Saturday 9 Oct 99 at Birkenhead RSA.

## EDITORIAL

We did not realise that the Army is to suffer the infestation of consultants common in other Government activities. An advertisement in the daily paper was headed "Request for Proposal For The Provision of Management and Consultancy Services For The Implementation of Change To The Current New Zealand Army Structure and Operating Methodology... Proposals are sought from appropriately qualified consulting agencies..." etc. Details are available from the Army General Staff. We are not making this up, and will provide the full turgid prose on request. This invitation is obviously for more sophisticated outfits than our Association: much money will be involved, no doubt attracting the circling fin of a failed Territorial.

Coincidentally, the NZ Defence Quarterly explains "Future War: the Army Gets Ready". The central idea is high-tech wide-ranging recon, intelligence, surveillance and so forth, backed by mechanised infantry, and designed for very low-intensity warfare. The supporting philosophy is dug from Capt Liddell Hart, whose works we devoured in the 1930's. It disregards the subsequent lessons of WW2, particularly the "blitz krieg", which established the

deadly effect of the tracked armoured vehicle, and the battle-winning power of artillery, of which the El Alamein fire-plan was only one example. Both these elements were crucial in saving an Australian infantry company in Viet Nam, facing fearful odds at Long Tan in Aug 66, when two RNZA officers, the FOO and his BC, were responsible for the life-saving application of fire. The Defence Quarterly journalist, with unconscious honesty, states that in future "conflict enters the realms of philosophy, and force will no longer be the only solution". Just as well, when one hasn't got any firepower. Tested by the Principles of War, this concept fails under the headings of Offensive Action and Security, and, in particular, disregards Concentration of Forces. The principle of Mobility is emphasized, and there will be a lot of Surprise — with our chaps on the receiving end. Stand by for more dismay and despondency, troops. When consultants meet Army Headquarters, a horrible bullshit is born.

<http://OurWorld.compuserve.com/HomePages/RiversPartners/OldComrades/index.htm>

#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPONSOR, ANGUS RIVERS:

I would like to have the loan of a copy of anyone's notebook, handbook, or official manual that deals with any aspect of New Zealand artillery throughout its history. We would be glad of all references dealing with (in no particular order) Gun Maintenance, Gun Histories, Gun Calibration, Gun Drills, Firing Tables, Fire Discipline, Fire Planning, Observation of Fire, Survey, Recovery, Command Post Drills, Battery manoeuvres (such as Action Front, Action Rear); Duties and Diaries, reports and reminiscences of all ranks from gun numbers to artillery Commanders at all levels, Artillery Intelligence Officers, Artillery staff at all levels, stores lists, and so on and on. Everything is of value, since it is irreplaceable, and is of interest to present and future gunners. We will be very glad to scan and return original materials to their owners in good condition. Unfortunately, such things are often thrown on the rubbish tip by surviving relatives when we pass on, so we would be really grateful for any such items that members could make available now. Copies of materials we receive will be made available through the Association, on compact disks, in full, in due course, to be readable on any modern home computer equipped with a browser and an appropriate image viewer. Some items will be displayed on the website, as appropriate.

Webmaster, Catherine advises our site now comprises 400 pages: she's constantly revising to solidify content.

You can find 16 Fd Regt now from our "What's New" section.

Welcome, Little Sister!

#### FROM & ABOUT MEMBERS

Lt Gen Sir Leonard Thornton is lost to us. A towering figure, literally and figuratively, he was the last survivor of the senior officers who gained their "red hats" in World War 2, becoming CRA of "the Div" in Italy in Jun 45. A Life Member and for many years Patron of this Association, he was, with Lady Thornton, a constant attendee at annual reunions. Bill Thornton was proud of being a Gunner, entering in his record, "Commissioned RNZA in Dec 1937", with "RNZA" heavily underlined. He supported efforts to obtain sufficient resources for defence of the country, but concluded sadly —

*"I have tried in the past, and today am inclined to feel that we deserve whatever may be in store for us."*

The full text of Maj Gen Ron Hassett's eulogy as delivered at Gen Thornton's funeral is a mighty work, obtainable on our website and from the secretary (phone: (09) 416 8662).

Dutch Holland, a pillar of our pre-war RNZA, was farewelled at a well-drilled military funeral at Papakura on 18 Aug, taking with him kind memories from many of us. Speakers revealed his real name: Allan John, and some light remarks recalled the sense of humour so characteristic of that well-known and respected soldier.

Jeff Waters appeals for Gunner memorabilia such as puggarees (OK, "Q" purists, bands, hat) qualification badges (layers, surveyors, etc), helmet plates, for incorporation under solid glass on a table to be presented to the Papakura RSA from all Gunners, hopefully on St Barbara's Day next. As this

THE GUN.

By Wally Ruffell.

Continued from NL 102.

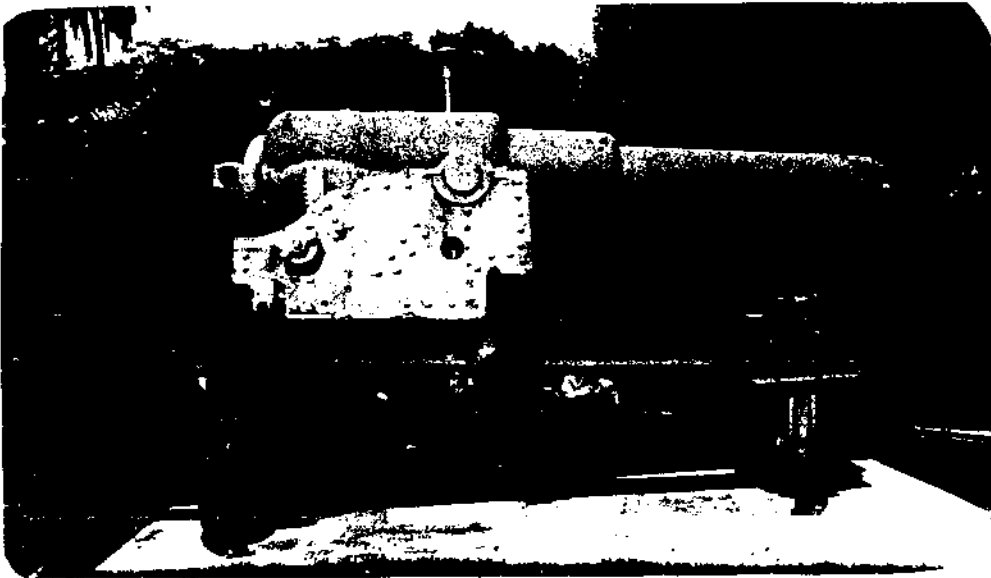


Fig. 96: 7-inch  
ex-Fort Cautley,  
North Head.

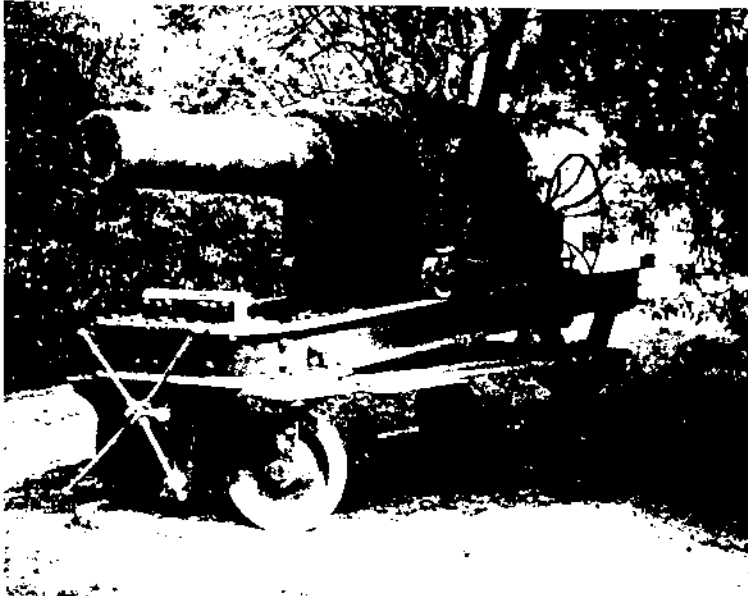


Fig. 97: A 7-inch displayed  
in a South Island park before  
the 'peculiar people' got to  
work. Note the carriage  
trucks and breeching rope hole  
bush still in place.

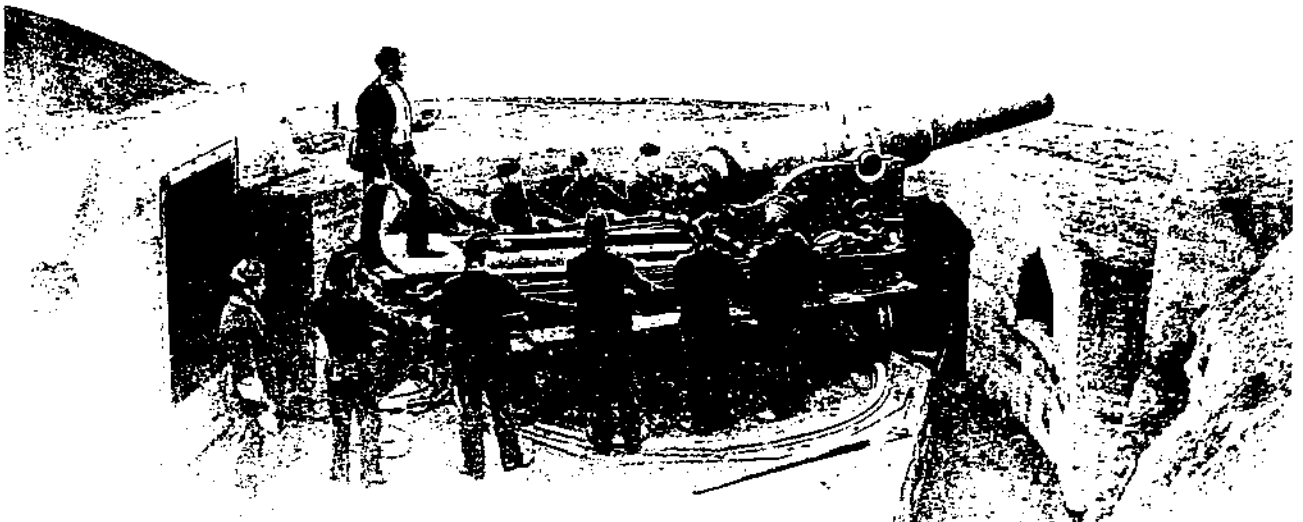


Fig 98 (See over)

Fig. 98: NZ Armed Constabulary detachment at gun drill on a RML 7-in 7-ton gun, the emplacement for which they constructed, at Summit Battery, Fort Cautley, North Head, in 1886. They are manning tackles to bring the carriage and gun back to the loading position. The instructor is an RA NCO.

From 1 Sep 1886 NZAC Field Force and Reserve personnel were given the option of joining the the NZ Permanent Militia or the NZ Police. Those who joined the former and were posted as Gunners became members of the NZ Permanent Artillery, which in turn became the RNZA in 1902.

Note that the glengarry was an item of headdress worn by the NZAC, and they had a special badge to go with it.

#### HEAVY FIELD AND SIEGE ARTILLERY:

ORDNANCE: As already mentioned, after Britain's decision to revert from RBL to RML ordnance, the production of heavy Naval and coast guns took priority, commencing during the late 1860s. The introduction of RML field guns did not take place until the 1870s

No conversions of RBL guns to RML were made.

RML 25-pr: The smallest of the class was the RML 25-pr 18-cwt (4.75-in) gun, proposed in 1871 as a 'gun of position,' e.g. coast artillery, and as a light siege piece. However, the decision to introduce it into the service was not made until 1874.

In construction the 25-pr resembled the RML 16-pr mentioned below. It was rifled according to the Woolwich system, three grooves with a uniform twist of one turn in 35 calibres. See Fig. 99.

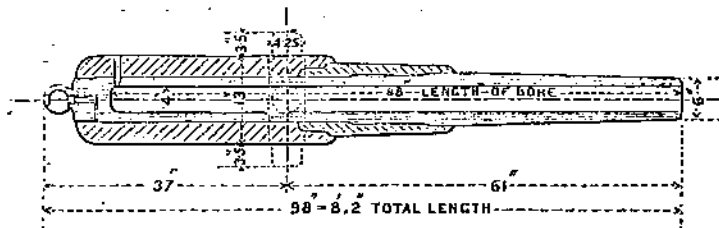


Fig. 99: RML 25-pr 18-cwt  
Calibre 4-inch.

RML 40-pr: Two marks of this gun were made. The RML 40-pr 34-cwt Mark 1 (4.75-inch) was intended to replace the RBL 40-pr (4.75-inch) but did not shoot consistently owing to incomplete combustion of the propellant charge. It was therefore replaced in 1874 by a Mark 2 version of 35-cwt and some 20 inches longer. See Fig. 100:

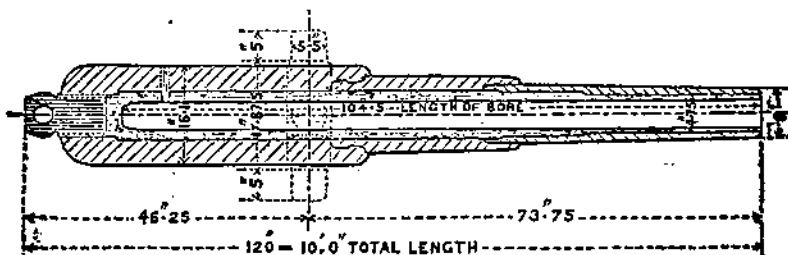


Fig. 100: RML 40-pr  
35-cwt Mark 2  
(4.75-inch)

Superseded the  
Mark 1 of 1871.

(TO be continued.)

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#### A PARTING SHOT

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**"In a case of ultimate extremity:: Better be cheerful than parallel::  
For attitude is the art of gunnery."**

Sun Tsu