



**NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE
OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION (INC)**

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

NEWSLETTER No. 104

DECEMBER 1999

ROUTINE ORDERS

~SEASONS GREETINGS~

Our President and Executive send all members their best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

LAST POST:

31042 A.C. Kilmore	26 Aug 99 at Auckland
33726 R.J. Jacques	4 Sep 99 at Papakura
464557 Maj E.G. (Ted) Willbond MBE	25 Sep 99 at Hastings
1756 A.J. (Alf) Smith	28 Sep 99 at Auckland
Mr Neil McMahon	17 Jun 99 at Taupo (Husband of Helen, our organist)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

B.R. Edmonds to	PO Box 2643, Cairns, Queensland, Australia 4870
J. Fallon to	27 Kate St, Woody Point, Redcliffs, Brisbane, Australia
R.A. Harris to	Lintin Hostel, 26 Mount St, Yass NSW 2582, Australia
Mrs I. McLean to	Greendale Rest Home, 169 Tait Dr, Greenmeadows, Napier
G.L. Brennan to	13 Dalzien Pl, Feilding
R. Hughes to	7/201-392 Bradman, Maroochydore, Queensland, Australia
T.S. Young to	10 Wharu Rd, Oakura Bay, Northland
Capt J.J. Hanvey to	1/3 Kawerau Ave, Devonport
R.V.G. Wilson to	PO Box 886, Whakatane
Col R.H. Dyson, MBE, ED to	2/36 Norris St, Tauranga
R.J. Gunn to	Fergusson Home, Randolph St, Rotorua

ADDRESS E-MAIL:

Lt Col J.M. Masters	jmmasters@xtra.co.nz
A.B. Tustin	tonyt@mlb.planet.gen.nz

LIFE MEMBERS:

Capt W.H. Russell w.e.f. — 1 Jun 99
R.J. Crawley w.e.f. — 29 Jun 99
R.O. Robinson w.e.f. — 6 Oct 98
R.J. Gunn w.e.f. — 11 Jun 99

NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs Joyce Holland	2/25 Ashdown Pl, Papakura (Associate)
Mrs Clare Kilmore	25 Alison Rd, Surfdale, Waiheke Island (Associate)
Mrs Catherine Rivers	108 Henderson Line, RD3, Marton 5460
	Elected Honorary Member (Rule 4ci) at AGM 99 for services as webmaster.
H43569 Hugh Gibson	Unit 17, RSA Village, 48 Clarke St, Tauranga
V55978 Capt Andy R.N. Shaw, RNZA	22 Dell Rd, Raumati South, Kapiti

RESIGNATION:

Mrs Mollie Crichton resigns as Lady Associate, due to failing health w.e.f. — 12 Sep 99

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING :

This will be held at 1000hrs on Saturday 27 Feb at Birkenhead RSA.

EDITORIAL

STATE OF THE SERVICE:

Brig Ray Andrews Patron of the Association, supplies the following summary on his return from a visit to Wellington. "There are 4300 RF soldiers now serving, and they are backed by 3000 TF. There are 15 missions overseas (UN and multi force organisations) currently involving over 900 soldiers — the Army is the major supplier of manpower. The major contribution Army makes is East Timor and this number is in excess of 700 troops, a commitment which could last for three tours each of 6 months. However nothing is finalised yet. The situation at present is relatively quiet but militia are still present and do have the potential to intimidate the local population. On the Gunner scene there are no artillery elements deployed apart from a few individuals filling staff appointments. 16 Fd Regt has had a busy time in meeting its training commitments, involvement in APEC, and acting as mounting unit for IRNZIR (in Timor). The Air Defence live firing at Kaipara was very successful (Barney Harrop was there). Last week I was in Waiouru watching the gunners complete their ARTEPS (I still don't know what this stands for! — read training tests) "Happy St Barbara's Day!"

HISTORY OF THE NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY:

Alan Henderson, contract historian commissioned to produce "a full-scale history of the New Zealand artillery in its various manifestations from the 1840s to the present day" attended the Reunion Dinner, and briefed the gathering on this project. As R. Burns, famous Scottish poet would have said — "*A chiels among you takin' notes, And, faith, he'll prent it!*" He made enough contacts to keep him busy for some time. Anyone with particular views or material on this subject can contact Alan at the Historical Branch, Dept of Internal Affairs, PO Box 805, Wellington.

GUNNER'S OWN WEBSITE

Note particularly the new short call-sign — www.riv.co.nz/rnza/

Webmaster Catherine points out that it does contain a membership list, so members who do NOT wish their names (or address changes) published on the internet should advise her or the Secretary. She is also extracting more detail for the "Guns Around NZ" section, requesting the address and general description of any pieces of ordnance which come to the attention of members. She also seeks historical material, reminiscences etc from ex members of 6 Fd Regt, 2 NZ Div.

Angus tells us that the site now has over 500 pages, attracting up to 250 visits per week, from as far as USA, Commonwealth countries, Singapore, Europe and Japan, and he seeks more contributions. At the AGM he presented the Secretary with an archived copy of the website on a CD. Members present unanimously approved the form the site has taken, adding a new dimension to the Associations activities.

THE TAUPO WEEKEND: 12 TO 14 NOV 99

PART I: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: by Des O'Connor

Ladies & Gentlemen of the NZPFOC I am pleased to present my report for the past year.

Roll of Members — 1999: The current membership figures are: Associate 45; Life 59; Honorary 5; Ordinary 216. The numbers of honorary and associate members have remained constant during the past year. Life members have increased by four and now represent slightly over 18.1% of total membership (27.3% of ordinary members).

We recorded a net loss of 22 members. Of that number 20 died during the year, including one of New Zealand's most distinguished soldiers, Lieutenant-General Sir Leonard Thornton — a long time member and former Patron of this Association.

Looking to the Future: Your committee is grateful for the support of the 21 serving artillerymen (including one officer seconded to the Royal Artillery) who are listed among the 216 ordinary members. However, that figure of 21 is a very small percentage of the total number of serving soldiers, both men and women, who are eligible to join. I believe we need to attract many more of these people if our Association is to survive, in its present form, well into the future.

The Internet: Our Association now has an extensive presence on the internet, thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of Angus and Catherine Rivers. We are indebted to those two professionals for having donated such an extraordinary amount of time, energy and expertise in creating and servicing a website that has attracted much favourable comment at home and abroad. And Catherine has acted gratuitously, as our Webmaster.

Angus has agreed to address the AGM on 'matters internet'.

Committee Members & District Representatives: I wish to thank the members of your committee for their support and loyalty throughout the year and in particular your hardworking Hon. Secretary, Jim Ross and Hon. Treasurer, Barney Harrop. Thanks also to the District Representatives for fostering the interests of our Association nationwide.

The Office of President: Finally, Ladies & Gentlemen, in keeping with last year's undertaking that my second term of office as president would be a brief one, I am standing down this year. And, without any thought of pre-empting the election of officers, I am pleased to report that a well qualified, much younger person, currently serving on your committee, has agreed to accept nomination for the position.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

Reports were received from Jim Gilberd (Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay) Angus Rivers (Wanganui, Manawatu) Roger Newth (Wellington, Marlborough), Matt Crawley (Tauranga) and Joe Hanvey (Auckland North) in person, and by letter from Harry Honnor (Northland) and John Masters (Canterbury)

RESOLUTIONS:

The following resolutions were passed.

- (a) Treasurer's report and balance sheet were approved.
- (b) Annual subscriptions would be unchanged.
- (c) Secretary's honorarium would be \$300 for 98-99
- (d) **Officers:** 98-99 all officers and Executive Committee members were reappointed, with the following amendments.
President: Mr R.G. Blankley MBE will replace Mr D.P. O'Connor.
District Reps: Mr R.J. Crawley is appointed District Rep for Tauranga.
Executive Committee: Mr R.H. Mitchell is appointed a member.
- (e) **Web Site:** The trial period specified at the 98 AGM being now concluded, the site is to continue on the present basis as the official website of the Association.
- (f) **Votes of Thanks:**
 - i To Rivers Partners for success in establishing the NZPFOCA website.
 - ii To Des O'Connor for his long service to the Association in office, and in particular as President 98-99.
- (g) **Next Reunion:** This will be held at Taupo on the weekend 10, 11 and 12 Nov 2000.

PART II: REUNION DINNER

EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION: 163 FD BTY

At the Yacht Club, from 1700hrs, members were able to examine some up-to-date equipment, including a 105mm Light Gun and a Mistral Air Defence missile, manned by Lt Warren Koia and men from 163 Bty, Waiouru. We have to thank the BC, Major Shay Bassett, for this exceedingly welcome display.

ATTENDANCE: As the Guests of Honour, Col and Mrs Tom O'Reilly were unable to attend, Maj and Mrs Shay Bassett stood in. Also taking part were: Ray and Laurie Andrews, Doug Adams, John Bellamy, Bill and Jasmine Beveridge, Graeme Black, Iris Boyto, Blackie and Shirley Burns, Matt Crawley and Rita, Bill and Betty Davidson, Mike and Elva Dakin, Leroy Forrester, Ian Foster, Bill and Emma Giles, Jim Gilberd, Joe and Grace Hanvey, Barney Harrop, Ron and Mike Hassett, Alan Henderson, David Hughes, Jack Kearney, Don and Noeleen Kenning, Bob and Betty Kerlake, Ted and Nes Lile, Frank and Denise Lupo, George and Patti Miln, Bill and Tui McLeay, Helen McMahon, Brian Meyer and Linda, Vic and Audrey Meyle, Bill and Estelle Morland, Roger, Lois and Catherine Newth, Des and Bunty O'Connor, Bill and Joyce Powrie, Dave and Marie Roberts, Jim and Ruby Ross, John and Jan Rout, Wally Ruffell, Lin Smith, Tony Tustin, Gordon and Norah Weaver, and Roger and Jean Wylde. Angus and Catherine Rivers, who were at the AGM, were unable to come to the dinner. This attendance continued the increase noted last year, being approx 20% greater again.

TOAST TO HER MAJESTY: The loyal toast to our Captain General was conducted by Des O'Connor, Dining President, and Ian Foster as Vice President.

THE REGIMENT: Leroy Forrester, who had spent some time in Ireland, delivered some good new Irish jokes particularly appreciated by Desmond Patrick O'Connor, Dining President. Leroy then waxed more serious on the subject of the Royal Regiment.

REPLY: Shay Bassett replied in masterly fashion, with accounts of the activities and future outlook for the Corps. We hope to be able to provide the text of both these addresses in the March Newsletter.

ABSENT COMRADES: Dave Roberts had us laughing at some superbly — acted humorous memories, then administered an antidote — “On a more serious note, we have all had friends and mates who were casualties in distant places in times now long gone, I recently read a poem written by an anonymous 4th century Chinese poet. And although I do not believe that there is any glory in death, particularly an early death, I thought the last few lines convey some of thoughts that I am trying to express:

*They that fought so well — in death are warriors still;
Stubborn and steadfast to the end, they could not be dishonoured.
Their bodies perished in the fight; but the magic of their souls is strong —
Captains among the ghosts, heroes among the Dead!*

Ladies and Gentleman I ask you to charge your glasses, be upstanding and drink the toast to Absent Comrades.”

GUN RAFFLE: As in previous years, Wally Ruffell had made a brass model of a SBML 24-pr piece and carriage to be raffled. The proceeds were used to provide refreshments for the “One For The Road” gathering on Sunday morning, etc. Neil Rhynd, who had probably travelled farthest, from Amberley Beach, to attend the reunion, was the popular winner.

PART III: CHURCH AND DISPERSE

CHURCH PARADE: We were fortunate to be able to use once more the historic meeting house, Te Tiki O Te Tamamutu. Padre Bill McLeay's excellent sermon, full of modern instances brought the parable of the talents right up to the present day. We were also grateful for Tui's singing and Helen McMahon's organ accompaniment.

ONE FOR THE ROAD: At the Spa Hotel's Suite “A” whistles were wetted before leaving. Our last sight was of the rearguard (post of honour in a retreating army) Boytor, O'Connor and Ruffell, smiling among the bottles.

FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS

Matt Crawley had “a couple extra” for Tom Chapman and R.O. Robinson, whose cheery faces he missed at Taupo this year (As did others — Ed). He also issues a Warning Order for a proposed *Gunner's Day Luncheon At Tauranga RSA* on Friday 26 May 2000, for any old Comrades and partners from anywhere in NZ. They should contact Matt at 2/159 16th Avenue, Tauranga: phone (07) 577-0502. He calls this transmission “Long Range Info. For Long Range Snipers”.

Joe Hanvey following an enquiry from Blackie Burns, seeks information on the whereabouts of Roy Barlow, probably 20 Wing, who served in 9 Coast Regt at Motutapu 39-40. He is thought to have taken extreme measures to go overseas (There's a small bottle of Scotch for anyone who can solve this mystery — Ed).

Barney Harrop after carrying the Treasurer's sporrán at Taupo, attended a live firing on 17 Nov of two Mistral AckAck (sorry — VLLAD) missiles at Kaipara Heads, on which he reports enthusiastically.

Bob Harris from his new address in Yass, NSW sends best wishes and is “proud to hold the “Aussie Award” of the OBE — Over B...y Eighty”.

EVENTS AND REUNIONS

ST BARBARA'S DAY CELEBRATIONS:

- (a) A lunch-time gathering at Birkenhead RSA on 2 Dec was attended by Bob Blankley, Alan and Elsie Boyd, Iris Boytor, Joe and Grace Hanvey, Barney Harrop, Bill Morland and Estelle Spence-Morland, Des and Bunty O'Connor, Jim Ross, Wally Ruffell and Joan Transom. Yet again Lady Luck and Justitia, the blindfold goddess, conspired to award J. Ross first prize in the raffle.
- (b) At Papakura RSA gunners past and present gathered on 4 Dec from 1600hrs onwards. Jeff Waters reports that about a dozen were there, including Graeme Williams, back from Croatia.

GUNNER'S DAY, 2000:

Jeff Waters Issues a Warning Order for the Ladies' Dining in at Papakura RSA on Friday 26 May 2000. Mark calendars NOW.

NOTICE

The *Rangiriri Battle Site Heritage Centre* is for sale. This complex is situated immediately North of the Rangiriri Hotel on the old main road, opposite the graveyard, and comprises a flourishing cafeteria and souvenir shop business, plus a unique collection of memorabilia — weapons, artifacts, documents and pictures connected with the battle of Rangiriri and the Waikato war. An audio-visual show (3 projectors — automatic operation) on this subject is shown in the attached theatre. Internet buffs can catch it on <http://teararoa.org.nz/walk26.html>

The Centre is the concept and creation of Mr Pat Gaitely, who can be contacted on (07) 826-3663, Fax: (07) 826-3744, and who wishes to sell it only to a buyer who will maintain the unique historical magic of the place. He has developed links with 94 (New Zealand) Battery Royal Artillery, which won that honour title at the battle, where Capt Mercer RA was killed.

THE GUN.

By Wally Ruffell.

Continued from NL 103.

RML 6.6-inch: In 1876 in an attempt to increase the power of the 64-pr 64-cwt (6.3-in) gun a number were converted to 6.6. The conversion consisted in boring out the 'A' tube to the full depth of the grooves (0.3-inch), to a diameter of 6.6 inches, and re-rifling it with a polygroove system of 20 grooves with a twist increasing from one turn in 100 calibres at the breech to one in 35 at 13.2 inches from the muzzle.

The strength of the gun was not reduced to any extent for the reduction in thickness was balanced by the advantage of the shallow polygroove rifling which distributed the stresses caused by firing more evenly.

The calibre of 6.6 inches was also selected to enable the same projectile to be fired in the 6.6-inch howitzer, manufacture of which was about to begin.

Those 64-pr guns converted were not successful so new pieces of 6.6 inch calibre were manufactured. Although primarily intended for service in the siege train some of the 6.6-inch guns found their way into forts.

Projectile weight (shell) was 100 lbs, MV with full charge of 25 lbs gunpowder 1410 fs. See Fig. 101.

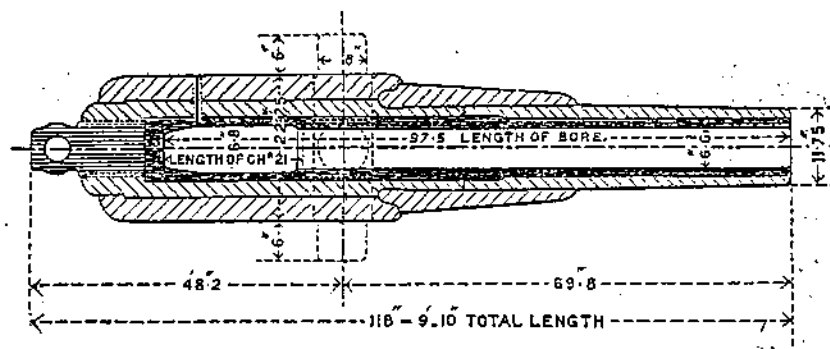


Fig. 101: RML 6.6-in gun.

CARRIAGES: Of iron and steel these were heavier versions of field types. The RML 25-pr was mounted on the same carriage as the RML 16-pr which in turn was slightly heavier than that for the RML 13-pr depicted in Fig 108. Fig. 102 shows a carriage intended for the RML 40-pr as well as the 6.3 and 6.6-inch howitzers, while Fig. 103 shows a carriage (less wheels) for the 6.6-in gun.

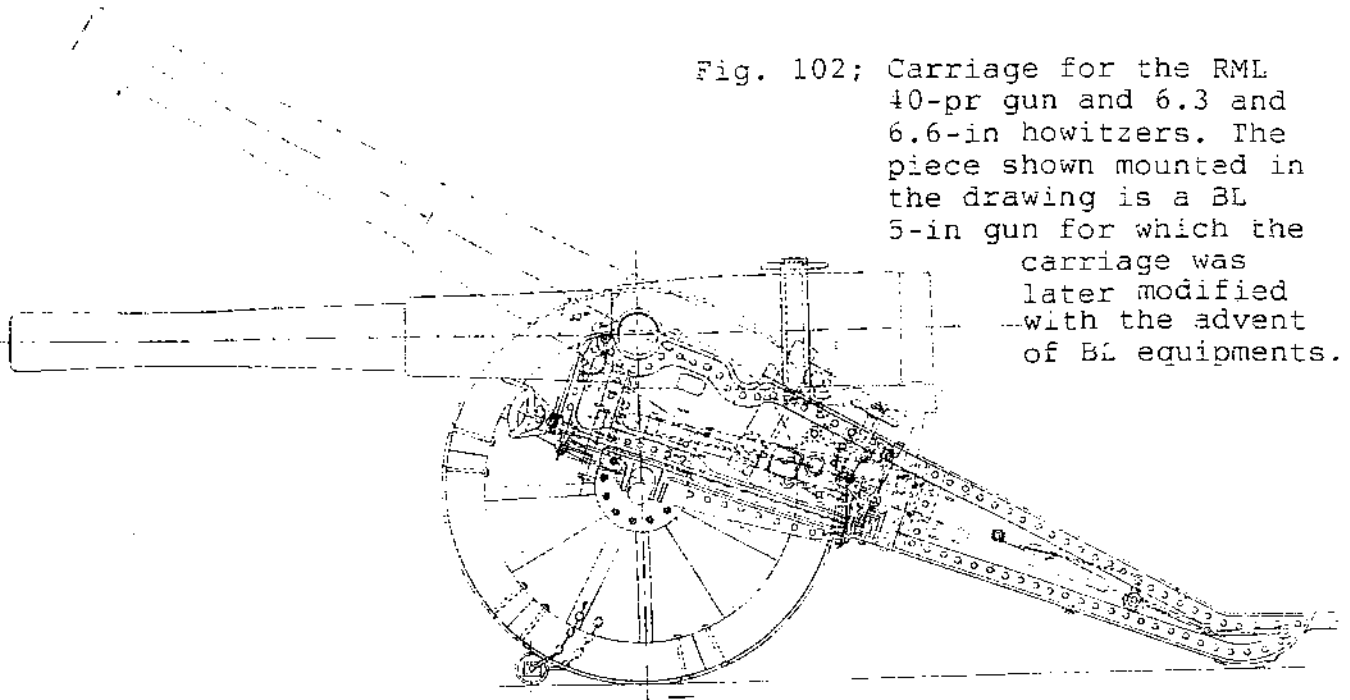


Fig. 102; Carriage for the RML 40-pr gun and 6.3 and 6.6-in howitzers. The piece shown mounted in the drawing is a BL 5-in gun for which the carriage was later modified with the advent of BL equipments.

Note extreme angle of elevation was only 30° even for howitzers.



Fig. 103: RML 6.6-in gun on siege carriage. Wheels are missing.

Sieges were usually short-range affairs; high trunnions were to enable gun to fire over parapet at low angles of elevation.

MY LAST SHOT FOR 99

“...and the nimble gunner with linstock now the devilish cannon touches, and down goes all before them...”
King Henry V : Shakespeare— as quoted in “The Battle of Long Tan” — Lex McAulay.