

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION. ::

Registered at G.P.O. NEWSLETTER NO. 32 :: DEC. 1979 :: P.O.Box 33-710  
Wellington as a Magazine, TAKAPUNA.  
AUCKLAND. 9.

1. NEW MEMBERS :

WO2(S) L.J.Skinner, 16 Pd Regt, Papakura Camp,  
R.N.(Roger) Wylde, address not given,  
Major(S) A.F.(Oigle) Taylor, 48 St Johns Tce., Tawa, Wgton,  
Col(S) J.O'B.Horsford, c/- Army GS. HQ.NZDEF, Wgton,  
H.A. LAING, Major(Ret'd) c/- Radio NZ, Box 3062, Wgton,  
K.D.White, 41 Hargreaves St., Wgton.  
R.E.Adkins, 108 Ceramie Hill, Titahi Bay, Wgton.  
D.C.(Don) Allison, 10 Loches Rd., CHCH. 4,  
G.(Graham) MacDonald, 16 Bencard Place, CHCH.2.  
T.P.McCormack, "Weem", Patoka, Hawkes Bay,  
WOI (S) T.J.Higginson, c/- HQ.NZLF, Takapuna.

2. C.T.(Cyril) Jarden, now - 10 Quo Vardis Place, OREWA,  
H.G.(Harry) Bigg-Wither - c/- Waitiki Tourist Services, KAITAIA,  
WO2(S) P.J.Duggan, 32 (E) Bty, Burnham Camp  
Ssgt (S) B.Culhane, " " " " "  
Ssgt (S) J.L. Hubbard, HQ. 3 Pd Regt, " " "

3. RE-UNION AND A.G.M. 1979 --- TAUPO :

The Spa Hotel, tucked down in its little thermal valley, with its boiling hot stream running through the grounds - search the map as I might, I can't seem to find its name - . The gardens, particularly the roses, were just at their best, and as the weather was so kind, the setting itself assisted greatly in the enjoyment of the occasion.

The Dinner - superbly prepared and presented, consisted of some exotic dishes, wild pork, venison, and a fine complimentary dish of trout in wine. It was a resounding success.

Guest speakers at Dinner were :

Our Guest of Honour, Brig R.S.Park, one of our most distinguished and Senior Members, and past Colonel Commandant RNZA.

Toast List included :

The Queen - Our Captain General" Dining Vice President, Capt.D.Roberts, "The Regiment" - Capt R.J.Healey, - a very appropriate proposal, as Dick as well as being one of our oldest Members, is intimately connected with the Spa, as his father served there in The Armed Constabulary.

Reply to "The Regiment" - Capt D.Roberts, only recently retired, and is closer to the present day Regiment than any other present.

"Absent Comrades" was most ably and feelingly proposed by I.A.(Big Mac) McLean.

Those attending were, Bill and Valda Baker, Terry and Joan Transom, Cliff and Pabs Bragg, Ian and Iris Rowntree, Wally and Ailsa Ruffell, Bill and Joyce Powrie, Gordon and Nora Weaver, Alf and Vickie Smith, Pat Hall, Dick Healey, Jim and Dorothy Gilberd, Len and Cora Woods, George and Ella Sutherland, RO and Joyce Robinson, Bill and Win Langevad, Arthur and Noanie James, Jack Gilcoly, Des and Bunty O'Connor, Tony and Helen Parkes, Ian and Rene McLean, Dave and Averill Jones, Dave and Marie Roberts, Dave and Flo Sweeney, Jack and Mollie Cumming, Harry and Mona Dudfield, Dave and Mollie Crichton, John and Leonie Meikle, Morrie(Dad) and Sybil Phillips, Henry and Thelma Salt, Bill and Barbara Winter, Mrs Marie Pearson, George Salt, Maj-Gen McKinnon, Brig. Page, Darkie and Mrs McWhinney, Jack Baigent.



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And for those who wrote in and expressed regret at not being able to be with us :-

Lt-Gen Sir Leonard Thornton, Laurie Adam, Charlie Anmiss, Joff Adams, Eric Bickerton, Harry Bigg-Wither, Bob Blamkley, WOI(SMA), David Bowler, GSO2, RNZA, Tom Brown, Sgt S. of A, Bob Calder, Russ de la Cour, Noel Ede, Dan Foley, Jack Hickson, Tom Hedley, Emil Jennings, Las Kitney, George Norris, Reg Nutsford, Jim O'Meara, Tom O'Reilly, Major NZLF, Bill Round John Rout, Capt, 3 Fd Regt, John Spring, Andy Strang, Rick Turner, Major NZDEF, Tan Vine, Doug Warden, John Wasson, Capt, (in Israel), Lt-Gen Sir Richard Webb, Mike Wicksteed, Major NZLF, "Action" Williams, Dick Wilson, WOI, NZLF, Ivan Wilson, Les Wright, Brig, Ret'd, Alec McDonald, Gordon Morley, George Coe, Stu Leighton, Morrie Charteris, Eric Collett, Morrie Cochrane, Eric Autridge.

The Church Service on the Sunday morning at Opepe Cemetary, was conducted very feelingly and well by Padre W.N. Drake of Taupo.

(Note : NZ Guide, Almanac 1952 - there may have been a more recent publication - on pp. 470-471, gives an account of the "Action at Opepe". Later members of the Armed Constabulary Garrison at Taupo who died of sickness are also buried there)

Again, the weather was perfect, and from where we, the Congregation stood the scene was reminiscent of that of any great Cathedral; the backdrop of the magnificent old pines, the warm morning sunlight filtering through their foliage presented a picture of a great natural nave, even better than that of cold stone and stained glass windows.

The memory of that hour, because of the beauty of the morning, and of the occasion and the place, we shall carry with us for the rest of our lives.

Later, the usual gathering of 'one for the road' held under the trees in Spa's garden was a perfect setting, those who were driving that day sensibly observed that 'one'; others staying over until Monday, did tarry a little longer. It was an enjoyable farewell hour.

To close - from your Committee - and in fact from all the Family of Gunners, we wish you all, and your families, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 1980.

All the very best of health and happiness,

Yours,

*Terry Transom*

N.Z. PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Gentlemen,

Welcome to Taupo and the Spa Hotel, onetime headquarters of our forbears in the NZ Armed Constabulary.

On behalf of your executive I have pleasure in presenting this the 44th report on the activities of the Association over the past year.

OFFICE BEARERS:

Patron: Lt Gen Sir Leonard Thornton KCB CBE.

President: W.L. Ruffell

Vice-Presidents and District Representatives:

Auckland:	L.E. Autridge
South Auckland:	E.T. O'Neill
16 Fd Regt RNZA:	WO2 L.G. Jackson
Waiouru:	Secretary, Waiouru Gunners Club
Taranaki:	G.E. Sutherland
Hawkes Bay/Taupo:	J.G. Gilberd
Wellington:	A.J. Baigent
Hutt Valley:	J.L. Gillooly
Otago/Southland:	S. Morrison
Canterbury/W. Land:	W.E. Jennings
Secretary:	J.T. Transom
Treasurer:	D.P. O'Connor
Auditor:	W.A. Wordsworth ACA

Executive Committee:

A. Boyd  
E.T. O'Neill  
A.F.W. Powrie  
H.G.C. Salt  
A.J. Smith  
W. Winter

FINANCE:

The Association is in a sound financial position as will be seen from the Treasurer's report and balance sheet circulated to all members.



WELFARE:

This year the Executive have been informed of several Old Comrades who have not been enjoying the best of health; members will recall reference to them in newsletters. In keeping with Rule 5 of the Constitution we have in certain cases dispensed comforts. However we feel that one of the best medicines is a visit from an old friend, and we urge as many members as possible to visit sick Comrades.

ROLL OF HONOUR:

With much regret we have to record the passing of the following Old Comrades since our last Reunion:

- 1626 W.T. (Shiner) Shields on 28 May at Christchurch.
- 30002 Maj Gen G.B. Parkinson CBE DSO and Bar (Life Member) on 10 Jul 79 at Christchurch.
- 1761 Lt F.R. (Frank) Blue on 15 Jul 79 at Hamilton.
- 1314 Lt Col R.J. (Jack) Eyre (Life Member) on 22 Aug 79 at Nelson.

It is also fitting to remember that exactly 41 years ago occurred probably the worst accident ever to befall the Regular Force when four young gunners met their deaths at Hihitahi when the bridge over the Hautapu Stream collapsed. They were: L.J. (Les) Bourke, B.W. (Bas) Colwill, A.N. (Alf) Davidson, and M.T. (Morrie) Moore.

(Members stood for a few moments in silent tribute.)

MEMBERSHIP:

Present effective membership is as follows:

Life Members:	12 (14)	(Figures in brackets are for
Associate Members	12 (12)	1978)
Ordinary Members	345 (288)	
Totals	<u>369 (314)</u>	

Thus there has been an overall increase of 55 over the last twelve months. This increase has been brought about largely by the efforts of our District Reps who are to be highly commended. It is gratifying to see the younger serving and retired gunners joining, thus preserving a link between old and new orders.

These figures do not include the "gone no addresses" of which unfortunately there are several outstanding. May I remind members that notification of change of address is one of the few things obtainable for nothing these days - the Post Office supplies a card free of charge for the purpose.

RULE BOOKS:

A revised edition was printed and copies sent to all members during February 1979.



ANZAC DAY PARADE 25 Apr 79:

Once again the Association was well represented. At the parade and ceremony held under the auspices of the Takapuna RSA, our headquarters, 30 members turned out. Our special wreath made by Henry Salt was duly laid by your Secretary, Terry Transom, and myself.

GUNNERS DAY PARADE 26 May 79:

Eighteen members paraded at the Auckland Cenotaph for the Annual Memorial Service. We combined with the Officers Club to form a troop under 16 Fd Regt RNZA who conducted the parade and who had invited us to attend.

A suitable wreath was laid by Terry Transom and myself.

VISIT TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II ARMY MEMORIAL MUSEUM 13-14 Oct 79:

As the Museum has no Gunner on its staff, and having joined as an Associate Member at its inception, I offered to assist the Director at that time in any artillery matters. My offer was accepted, I have been asked for advice and information on a number of occasions, and my efforts are appreciated.

During the October visit I was accompanied by Terry who has similarly offered his services also.

I say this not to blow my own trumpet as it were, but in the hope others of you will follow our example.

No establishment is more worthy of support than the Museum, for now we have a repository where artefacts depicting our history will survive for all time, not be buried, sold for scrap, or merely allowed to rot, as so often happened in the past. The Director still seeks photographs, books, equipment etc pertaining to all Arms of the Service, and we and RF of other Corps are the people most qualified to help him. Photographs need not be donated outright - Museum Staff will make copies and return the originals to the owner if desired.

For 10 dollars you may become an Associate Member; you and your immediate family may then visit the Museum as often as you like for the rest of your lives. At the same your money will provide much-needed funds for new displays, research, expansion etc.

VISIT TO WAIOURU COMMAND WOs AND SGTs MESS 13-14 Oct 79:

During the week-end we were in Waiouru Terry and I enjoyed the privilege of an evening in the Mess as the guests of WO1 Bob Wirihana, now Master Gunner at the School. We were pleasantly surprised to be accorded VIP treatment and spent a most convivial and enjoyable evening. Everything we heard and saw impressed us, especially evidence of members' involvement in local welfare projects which cannot but significantly enhance the Army's image in the eyes of the civilian population, so necessary in times of peace.

ARMY MEMORIAL GATEWAY NARROW NECK:

Following an accident to one of the gateposts and the destruction of its decorative piece, an old copper lantern from the original Fort Cautley, the Navy removed the surviving lantern and placed boats' anchors on both gateposts instead. Thus an Army Memorial now has a totally naval aspect.

The Executive who too often have seen the Army treated in Cinderella fashion view the matter with some concern. We have



therefore written to the Minister of Defence asking that the Army character of the gateway be restored. To date we still await a reply.

#### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS:

For those who do not receive the RSA Review in the June edition appeared a photograph of a well-known Past President of our Association receiving a Merit Badge and Certificate of Merit from the Dominion President NZRSA who paid tribute to his sterling record in the fields of pensions and welfare. I refer of course to Jack Baigent; on behalf of the Association I therefore tender our sincere . . . congratulations.

Recently the King and Queen of Tonga visited New Zealand to open and dedicate the United Church of Tonga Building in Auckland at which the Rev Vaka Tuitopou officiates. In 1941 the Rev Vaka was a Corporal in Div Sigs attached to 1 Hy Bty Tonga Defence Force the guns of which were then being mounted by an RNZA Detachment of which one of our Executive, Alf Smith, was a member. On learning Alf was living in Auckland and in appreciation of their wartime association the Rev Vaka arranged for Alf and Mrs Smith to be invited to the ceremony at which they were both presented to Their Majesties. Once again congratulations are in order.

#### HISTORY OF THE NZ POLICE:

A history is being compiled to commence with the NZ Armed Constabulary. Any member having information which might be useful should contact Senr Sgt Owen J. Cherrett, Police HQ, Box 40, Auckland.

#### LOCAL REUNIONS:

These will be dealt with by District Reps. Aucklanders are holding a reunion in the Takapuna RSA on Wednesday 12 Dec 79 commencing 1930 hrs. Any member visiting the City on that date will be most welcome.

#### CONCLUSION:

Once again may I express my appreciation for the support and assistance so readily given by your Executive Committee and Vice Presidents representing Districts over the past year. It is not my usual custom to single out individuals but on this occasion I feel bound to pay special tribute to your Secretary Terry Transom for his notable contribution to the running of the Association. Our gratitude is due also to his good lady whose handwriting you have seen on many envelopes and whose support has made Terry's task so much easier.

Lastly our thanks are due in no small measure to the assistance given us by the staff of Takapuna RSA. They have continued to let us have their rooms for Committee Meetings and local reunions, and have duplicated all our Newsletters, proceedings of meetings etc at no charge for labour. Your Executive of course reciprocates with suitable donations from time to time.

TAUPO 17 Nov 79.

W.L. RUFFELL

# L E D G E R      A C C O U N T S.

## PETTY CASH A/C.

18/7/78	Cash	\$ 50-00	Balance as at 1 Jul '78	\$ 1-96
11/12/78	Cash	50-00	Tolls	8-64
			Newsletter Registration	5-00
			Printing & Stationery	17-10
			Postage	67-23
			Rebanked	2-06
	Balance as at 30/6/79)	<u>1-99</u>		<u>101-99</u>
		<u>101-99</u>		<u>101-99</u>

## POSTAGE A/C.

26/7/78	General Account	\$ 16-45	Postage Recovered	\$ 2-09
20/12/78	" "	16-60		
	Petty Cash	67-23		
	Deducted from Income	2-20	Balance as at 30/6/79	<u>100-39</u>
		<u>\$102-48</u>		<u>\$102-48</u>

## 1st DAY COVERS

Stock as at 1/7/78	\$ 66-90	11/11/78 Sales	\$ 4-50
		Balance as at 30/6/79	<u>62-40</u>
	<u>\$ 66-90</u>		<u>\$66-90</u>

## JERSEYS

26/7/78	Purchases	\$210-00	Sales	\$317-09
10/1/79	" "	105-00		
	Balance as at 30/6/79	2-09 (being postage charged)		
		<u>\$317-09</u>		<u>\$317-09</u>

## TIES

Stock as at 1/7/78	\$ 43-50	Sales	\$ 20-00
		Balance as at 30/6/79	<u>23-50</u>
	<u>\$ 43-50</u>		<u>\$ 43-50</u>

## BADGES

17/8/78	Stock as at 1/7/78	\$ 41-00	Sales	\$ 46-00
	Purchases	114-45	Balance as at 30/6/79	<u>109-45</u>
		<u>\$155-45</u>		<u>\$155-45</u>

## INTEREST

31/3/79	P.O.S.B.	\$ 19-84
15/6/79	Govt. Bonds	<u>38-50</u>
		<u>\$ 58-34</u>

## PRINTING & STATIONERY

23/2/79	Purchases	\$ 21-45
20/4/79	" "	85-02
	" "	169-60
25/5/79	" "	42-00
	Petty Cash	<u>17-10</u>
		<u>\$335-17</u>

## PROPERTY

1/7/78	<u>In Stock:</u> Shelving	\$ 23-83	Depreciation '78/79	\$ 2-38
	Wreath	5-00	Balance as at 30/6/79	<u>26-45</u>
		<u>\$ 28-83</u>		<u>\$ 28-83</u>

## 1978 RE-UNION A/C.

13/11/78	Wairakei Hotel	\$1,069-50	Members' Levies	\$825-00
			Balance	<u>244-50</u>
		<u>\$1,069-50</u>		<u>\$1,069-50</u>

## WGTON RE-UNION A/C.

Balance as at 30/6/79	\$ 8-66	Balance as at 1/7/78	\$ 8-66
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N.Z. PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC.

Accounts - Period 1 Jul '78 to 30 Jun '79

Income and Expenditure Account

Printing & Stationery	\$	335-17	Subscriptions	\$	799-00
Postage (incl \$2-09 ex Income)	\$	102-48	<u>Donations:</u> J.G. Gilberd	5-00	
<u>General Expenses:</u>			J. Cook	50	
Travel		20-00	G. Sutherland	1-00	
P.O. Box Rental		15-00	G. Thomas	1-00	
Donation - Takapuna RSA		25-00	J. Burns	50-00	
Tolls		8-64	D.P. Dumbleton	8-50	
N/L Registration		5-00	J.D. Gibb	5-50	
		73-64	W.E. Colton	4-00	
Re-union Expenses	\$	1,069-50	R.A. Pedersen	5-00	
Welfare (incl \$13-50 deducted from Income)		58-25	R.W. Stitt	7-00	\$ 87-50
Depreciation		2-38	Interest		58-34
			Re-union Receipts		825-00
			Postage Recovered		2-09
Excess Income over Expenditure	\$	130-51			
		<u>\$1,771-93</u>			<u>\$1,771-93</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE, 1979.

<u>Liabilities</u>			<u>Assets</u>		
Wellington Re-union Account	\$	8-66	Cash in Bank	\$	521-51
Petty Cash (overspent)	\$	1-99	N.Z. Govt. Bonds		700-00
Accumulated Fund as at 1 Jul '78			Stock on Hand: Ties		23-50
	\$	1,367-80	Badges		109-45
Less Benevolent A/c overspent		65-65	1st Day Covers		62-40
	\$	1,302-15	<u>Property:</u> Shelving	23-83	
Excess Income		130-51	Less Depreciation	2-38	21-45
Expenditure	\$	1,432-66	Wreath		5-00
		<u>\$1,443-31</u>			<u>\$1,443-31</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I heredy report that I have examined the books of the New Zealand Permanent Force Old Comrades Association (Inc.) for the 12 months period ending 30 June, 1979, and pursuant to Rule 10 of the Association's Constitution I have received all the information I have required, and in my opinion the attached accounts and Balance Sheet present a true and fair statement according to my knowledge and as shown by the books of the Association.