

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION ::

NEWSLETTER NO. 33. :: APRIL 1980 ::

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P.O.Box 33-710
TAKAPUNA.
AUCKLAND.9.

1. LAST POST :: ROLL OF HONOUR ::

With sincere regret we record the passing of three of our old Members :

H.R.(Cash) CASHMORE, at Pukenui ^{Northland} on 5 Jan 80,

J.M.(Johnny) MABBETT, Lt-Col, MBE, at Wellington on 15 Feb 80,

M.C.(Mick) MOATES, at Kaitia, on 18 Mar 80.

Messages of condolence were sent on your behalf to all of their families.

2. CHANGES OF ADDRESS ::

Correction to N/Letter No. 32. :-

R.E.ATKINS, 108 Gloaming Hill Titahi Bay, Wgton.

N.C.COE, now, 54 Strathmore Ave., Strathmore Park, Wgton.

W.F.GILES, now, Pukera-Weber, Private Bag, Dannevirke.

P.W.F.(Peter) JOPLIN, now, "Otarawairere" P.O.Box 434, Whakatane.

N.B.(Norm) MITCHELL, now, 1 Bahama Cres. Paraparaumu.

3. NEW MEMBERS ::

The fol New Members were elected at a Committee Meeting of 23 Feb '80 :-

A.S.(Darkie) McWHINNIE, 57A Lismore St., New Plymouth,

E.R.(Eddie) MORRISSEY, 74 Grey St., SHANNON,

S.F.RANKIN, Fire Flt, RNZAF Base, Whenuapai, Auckland.

C.(Colin) McISAAC, c/- 20 School Rd., Takanini,

P.(Pat) CARMICHAEL, 5 Hannan St., Levin,

D.(Dave) GEORGE, 20 Beach Rd., Waikawa, Picton,

R.(Bob) HARMAN, c/- 20 School Rd., Takanini,

D.(Dave) HUGHEY, 250 Gardners Rd., CHCH.5.

4. ITEMS FROM A.G.M. :: A little belated, I feel, but some main points arose which it is felt would be of general interest :-

The qualifications for, and issue of the Silver Grenade was mentioned; we had had correspondence with Director RNZA last year on this subject, following a request from a Member asking us to clarify some aspects relating to it. Director replied that Rules for its issue are fairly clear, and that any deviation would create unnecessary precedents. Results of this correspondence, and its relationship to the RNZA Reward Fund were published in Newsletter No. 30, para 9.

RNZA TROPHIES :: Brigadier Park brought up the subject of Trophies, and expressed his anxiety that some of them may well be forgotten about or lost. We were able to reassure him that a File of Trophies exists, of which we have a copy; showing their locations, at Directorate, School of Artillery, 16 Fd Regt., and other Gunner Units throughout N.Z. where they are officially held on charge - and therefore in safe and responsible custody.

ARMY MEMORIAL GATEWAY : FORT CAUTLEY/HMNZS TAMAKI :: Concern was expressed at a Committee Meeting last year, that the Army Memorial Gateway at the entrance to Narrow Neck Camp, now Fort Cautley/HMNZS Tamaki; whose posts were surmounted by ancient solid copper signalling lanterns which had been in use at the original Fort Cautley, (North Head), prior to the turn of the century.

The Gateway had been dedicated as a Memorial to those "Thousands of New Zealanders passed through this gateway going overseas in 1914-18 and 1939-45. This tablet is placed here in proud memory of those who did not return"

Newsletter No. 33.

We understood that as the result of an accident, one of the lanterns had been damaged beyond repair. The gateposts were then repaired and surmounted with two polished bronze boat's anchors; thus giving the gateway a totally Naval aspect; and possibly misleading future generations into thinking that the "thousands of New Zealanders" had been all sailors. Correspondence was initiated with Army HQ expressing our concern. The reply stated that the matter had been circulated in appropriate places, where degrees of sympathy with the cause had been expressed. We had previously said that we believed that the matter was of some delicacy, and were anxious that an inter-Service incident should be avoided. Subsequently, Mr. President wrote directly to the Hon. Minister of Defence. His undoubtedly sympathetic reply was :-

"Dear Mr Ruffell,

Thank you for your letter of 12 Nov drawing to my attention your Association's concern at the removal of the two Copper lanterns from the entrance to Fort Cautley/HMNZS TAMAKI. I agree with you that the history of our establishments should continue to be reflected, despite any subsequent change of usage.

First, I should explain that some months ago one of the lanterns was stolen from its mounting on the gatepost at the Base entrance. Unfortunately, despite every effort the missing lantern was never recovered and efforts to match the remaining lantern were unsuccessful.

Inevitably there will be changes over the years in the functions of some camps and bases. Fort Cautley/HMNZS TAMAKI is a case in point. What was once purely an Army Camp has increasingly had to accommodate personnel from the adjacent Naval Base. In due course it will become predominantly a naval training establishment. In New Zealand it is especially important that, despite such changes, the history of a particular location should not be lost. Although the bronze anchors which have recently been mounted at the entrance are considered appropriate in view of what is now the predominantly naval role of Fort Cautley/HMNZS TAMAKI, a suitable memorial to mark the previous history of the camp is also to be placed near the entrance by the Navy. The remaining lantern which was in a very poor state of repair, has been refurbished and will be placed on top of the wall at the entrance above the existing memorial plaque. In addition a further metal plaque explaining the origins of the lanterns and the earlier military history of a camp used by so many New Zealanders in the course of training during two world wars, will be affixed to or adjacent to the lantern.

Yours Sincerely,

Frank Gill,

Minister of Defence.

We had felt that it was our duty, as the matter had come to our attention, to do something about it. In fact it perhaps the duty of us all; where we fear that some aspect of our history is in danger of being either changed or lost, we should "do something about it".

President spoke; re-iterating what he had previously written in a report about our crying need for even token items of the new equipments now available, the Army ~~still~~ still being regarded as the "Cinderella of the Services"- especially the Guns. Certainly we are in a better position than in 1939 - or are we? We certainly possess more highly skilled men in the nucleus of our Training Cadres, but still not enough of them.

Newsletter No. 33.

Some are posted on "long look" exchange duties with British Army, where they learn new skills and see the new equipments. But on their return all they can do is talk about what they have seen, thus going against the old basic principles of Instruction - Sight, Sound, Touch, Smell, Practice, those senses not being used. Even one item of the new equipments would bring the Training Nucleus up to date.

In the light of the world-wide anxiety expressed after Afghanistan, Britain, Australia, and here, all politicians have made noises and expressed concern - but where's the money? They'll have to find it if "the balloon goes up".

What can we do about it? Well, we can think about it, talk about it among ourselves, or in the ear of anyone else who'll listen, especially if he's got any influence in the matter. Do you know your local MP, if so let him know. As an Old Soldier organisation we're entitled to have something to say.

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS ::

At the A.G.M. it was decided that the Sub. should now be \$2.00 per yr. Sub-year from 1 Jan to 31 Dec, a small chit with this Newsletter reminds you of your Sub position. Many Members are in Credit, so if no sum is mentioned, you are one of them. Financial year ends on 30 Jun. either send it in or give it to your Dist.Rep.

6. DISTRICT REPS. ::
D. JONES Wanganui,

J. KEINZLEY, North Shore & Auck.	Ngatarua Rd., Wanganui.
E. T. O'NEILL, Papakura/Manurewa,	6 Neal Ave., Glenfield, Auck. 10,
WO2 L. G. JACKSON, 16 Fd Regt,	17 Goodwin Drive, Papakura,
G. E. SUTHERLAND, Taranaki,	HQ. 16 Fd Regt, Papakura Camp,
J. G. GILBERD, Kawkes Bay/Taupo	113 Hine St., New Plymouth,
A. J. BAIGENT, Wellington,	54 Tom Parker Ave., Napier.
J. L. GILLOOLY, Hutt Valley,	18 Hillcrest Rd., Raumati South,
W. E. JENNINGS, Canty/Westland/Nelson	6 Stellin St., Lower Hutt,
G. A. STUART, Otago,	12 Bygrave Place, CHCH. 5.
S. MORRISON, Southland,	39A Factory Rd., Mosgiel,
	Rata Rd., No. 9 RD, Otatara, Invercargill.

7. NEWS FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS ::

In this connection I'd like to bring up the subject of Newspaper clippings as a very valuable adjunct to our records. Since HQ has been here I've been collecting clippings about, or written or published by Members, from a variety of newspapers, together with name of paper and date. We now have quite a File which may otherwise have been lost.

So don't wrap the rubbish in it - anything of interest, send it in - and we'll fold it away.

We also manage to get our Newsletters to Members serving overseas, but unfortunately our Roll of these is slightly out of date. RNZA is well represented in many places, last N/Letter even went to Rhodesia, but they are now back. Brig Honnor wrote from Washington expressing pleasure at reading our Gunner news, so it seems the effort is appreciated.

Emil Jennings writes with news of our ChCh Members, some have had misfortunes in one way or another; Sandy Bissett, a mild stroke, Mal Tyson, also a stroke, Fred Mitchell, acute bronchitis, and Pete Delaney a recurrence of his old leg trouble. All are picking up though, and we all hope for their complete recovery.

8. ANZAC DAY PARADES ::

We know that a large number of Members turn out all over the country, but with particular reference to our Auckland or more especially North Shore; let's have a good turnout for the Takapuna Ceremony: F.U.P. in Sanders Ave, at 0930 hrs!

Newsletter No. 33.

9. GUNNERS DAY PARADES - 26 MAY ::

Again we hope to be fairly well represented, particularly in Auckland and Wellington. We hope as many as possible can turn out. 16 Fd Regiment will Parade at Auckland Cenotaph at 1230 hrs on Monday 26 May; to enable the public to view the Ceremony during their lunch hour. Later it is hoped that 16 Fd Members can visit the old Coast Artillery installations at North Head, followed by a short "happy hour" at Takapuna RSA. This gives us a chance to meet them socially as well as officially.

10. QUEEN ELIZABETH II. ARMY MEMORIAL MUSEUM ::

Further to Mr. President's Report, where he said that we, and in fact all ex-RF people, by our background are in the best position to help them, either with advice or suggestions, donation or loan of material, or more tangibly by becoming Associate Members.

They are still searching for Korean War mementos - anything to do with Coast Artillery in N.Z. - there must be a pile of this about; but sadly most of it was scrapped. They are now especially interested in material from the Gallipoli Campaign; but it seems that because of its nature, and the following evacuation; material is hard to come by.

An interesting discovery was recently made of two ancient Russian Guns mounted outside the Royal Akarana Yacht Club's premises in Auckland. Wally and I, together with a researcher from HQ.NZLF, inspected them a few weeks ago. They are to be carefully refurbished by Army on condition that one ultimately goes to the Museum. One at least is distinctly dated 1702, presumably date of manufacture at LUGNISK, (South of KIEV).

Apparently captured in Crimea; similar guns are at the Tower of London, equipments and methods didn't change much in those days, and they may still have been in use. Only in this century, particularly in the last forty years have there been great changes. Looking back at what was said in para 4; Museum director must be looking jealously at some of the equipments we are still using. It makes an interesting speculation as to how the Russian Guns ever got to N.Z. - research is still under way on their story.

To close, it's a grand thing to meet an old friend, to grip his hand and look into his eyes and see that he is well; to feel the warmth of Comradeship that exists between you.

All the very best - keep in touch,

Yours,

Perry. Thompson