

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION ::

NEWSLETTER NO. 42 :: AUG. 1983 ::

Registered at GPO,  
Wellington as a  
Magazine.

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

1. LAST POST -- ROLL OF HONOUR ::

With great regret we Record the passing of Old Comrades :-

W.R.(Bill) GRIFFITHS, at his home, Birkenhead, AUCK. on 26 Feb '83,

D.B.(Don) FRASER, at Greenlane Hospital, on 2 May '83,

R.S.(Ray) MAHER, as result of an accident at his home, 21 Jun '83,

Sgt R.J.TUAHINE, aged 36 yrs at CHCH, on 30 Jun '83,

R.W.(Rex) WINTHROP, suddenly at his home, Waiheke Island, on 28 Jul '83,

R.W.(Robbie) ROBINSON, suddenly at his home, New Plymouth, on 4 Aug '83,

R.D.(Ritchie) HASSED, at Wellington Hospital, on 10 Aug '83,

S.F.(Stan) CATCHPOLE, Brigadier, at Auckland Hospital, on 3 Jul '83,  
although not a Member, was very widely known and respected throughout  
the New Zealand Gunner fraternity.

Messages and letters of sympathy were sent on your behalf to all their  
families, -- "we shall remember them".

2. CHANGES OF ADDRESS ::

J.E.(John) Hancox now :-  
6 Wellington St.,  
Papakura.

WO2 K.Burnell,  
22(D) Bty RNZA,  
Fort Dorset.

B.R.(Brian) Edmonds,  
Lindeman Island,  
via Mackay, Qld. AUST.4741.  
J.McL. Ross,  
76 Kauri Rd.,  
Whangarei.

S.E.(Spencer) Morrison,  
Hotel Ashburton,  
Ashburton.

C.E.(Claud) Burgess,  
5.B. Royal Arch Place,  
Papakura.

Capt.M.D. Beattie,  
c/- Officers Mess,  
Burnham Camp.

A.R.(Rusty) Vail,  
c/- N.S.A.D.,  
9 Johnston St.,  
Featherston.

W.N.(Bill) Sewell now :-  
34 Sunrise Boulevard,  
Snells Beach, AUCK.

A.N.Cameron,  
6 A. Baker St.,  
Waihi.

T.C.(Terry) Hynes,  
29 Bader St.,  
Hamilton,

R.M.(Morrie) Urquhart,  
7 Tui Rd., Days Bay, WGTOM.

E.L.(Ted) Taverner,  
50 Rewa Rewa Cresc.,  
Waikanae, WGTOM.

WO2. L.J. Hubbard,  
112 Plimmer Tce.,  
Shannon.

Major A.J. Rivers,  
41 Redhill Rd.,  
Papakura.

A.R.(Alec) Johnson,  
P.O. Box. 104.,  
MAUNGATAPERE,  
Northland.

3. NEW MEMBERS ::

J.G.(Aussie) Moore,  
Waiouru Gunners Club.  
Bdr. P. Brooke-Anderson,  
c/- RNZA Directorate,  
HQ. NZDEF, Private Bag,  
Wellington. 1.  
Ssgt D. (Toi) Rawiri,  
29 Presidents Ave, Papakura.

Bdr.I.C. Trott,  
3 Fd Regt RNZA, Burnham Camp.  
WO2. M.G.(Dinga) Bell,  
4 Craig Place, Hamilton.  
Ssgt K.D.(Chonk) Williams,  
c/- G.T.Tepari, RD.2. Patetonga,



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## NEW MEMBERS : (Cont'd) ::

Also the following were enrolled as Members of the Waicuru Gunners Club :-

Gnr Bolton - Sgt Foster - Sgt Gray - Sgt Gregg - Capt Hacon - Gnr Hills -  
Gnr Hiini - Sgt Hotene - Sgt Kimi - Lt-Col Munro - Bdr Ogilvy - Capt Pope -  
Lbdr Rigden - Lbdr Sprangers - Major Stevenson - Lbdr Solomon - Bdr Sweet-  
- Sgt Subritzkey - Capt Vryenhoek.

The above New Members were elected under the terms of Rule 4.(a) & (b),  
at Exec. Committee Meeting on 23 Jul '83.

## 4. NEWS FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS ::

From A.T.(Hobby) Hobson, - "Mayor" of Te Aroha, "away from the main stream"  
but still interested in old mates, a keen tennis player - bit long in  
the tooth for that Hobby, but keep it up.

Brian Edmonds, who manages the P. & O. Holiday complex at Lindeman Island  
writes that any Member finding himself in Nth Qld. - hop across to the  
Island, opposite Mackay, he will be most hospitably received, knowing  
Brian.

Sandy Bissett, still enjoying his golf - but after a stroke 4 yrs ago,  
the club keeps turning in his left hand which "makes me spit" - but keeps  
trying, so must we all, full marks Sandy, and a reduced handicap -  
golf/both I mean.

Hugh (Nudger) Black, still not 100%, but bearing up, and sends regards  
to us all.

From Ian Trott, 3 Fd Regt., It is good Ian that you show such an interest  
in who we are, and what we are about ; it augurs well for our younger and  
rising Membership.

Les Jackson has again proved his strength in "roping in" so many Members  
from Waicuru Gunners Club, we hope all of them will continue to keep it  
up. We remember that we "signed up" when we were younger, and the  
years increased our friendships and Gunner Espirit de Corps.

From George Stuart, our old stalwart Otago Rep. with news of Members there  
- all well, except Frank Cherry, who has had a bad trot for a long time  
with arthritis, we hope for his ultimate relief ; be heartened Frank,  
that we've all got it in some degree.

George also enclosed an old photograph of "No. 2 Coy NZGA, Port Chalmers  
Navals" of 1911, who manned Coast Arty in those days. The South has a  
very long and dedicated history in the Gunner world.

Jim Gilberd, a frequent correspondent, with news of his "flock", often in  
Taupo fishing, - real fishing - his favourite pastime ; also see para  
on Re-Union Dinner Venue.

From Spencer Morrison, our previous Rep. in Southland, (see Change of  
Address), now "Mr. Public House" in Ashburton, had Emil Jennings to stay  
recently.

Southland Rep. now is G.L. ("Action") Williams, at 44 Jack St., Newfield,  
Invercargill, who has indicated willingness to undertake the job.

## 5. COMMITTEE NEWS ::

Please remember that Dist. Reps. have a copy of all Minutes if you care  
to look up what we've been up to on your behalf.

Snippets of discussion from Meetings of :-

21 May '83. :-

Correspondence in relation to Subs. has been "truly magnificent" - most  
folk enclose a letter of greeting, not only to us, but to each other,  
their spirit is "truly magnificent".

Pres. Reported, "It has come to our notice that a suggestion has been  
made to demolish the old Gun Emplacements at Castor Bay, (the only  
ones in Takapuna City Area), now part of Kennedy Park.

"far too much"



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"far too much of our Military Heritage has been demolished and scrapped in the past."

George Salt, Henry Salt, Alf Smith, (all of whom were with the team who mounted the 6" P.5's there in 1941), Pres. and Sec. visited the site. Pres., Sec., and George later visited Planning Office, Takapuna City to study their proposals for Kennedy Park prior to writing to Council expressing our concern that they should remain even in their present state. Correspondence flowed. The matter now rests with Parks Committee, whose Management Plan is expected in the near future. Sec. reported on his discussion with Sec./Magr. of Taupo RSA, (Jock Beange served in Korea as a Dvr/Op with 16 Fd Regt) ; the Executive and he have been pressing for some years to obtain a 25 Pdr for display there. How can we assist them in this matter ? Discussion followed, during which Eric Autridge reported how Takapuna RSA had obtained theirs, through HQ.NZLF, and Army channels. Wally discovered from his attendance at RNZA Council Meeting, that this method is not now followed. From these and other enquiries we were able to write telling them of our findings, and suggesting a course of action.

Meeting of 23 Jul '83. ::-

Various correspondence was tabled :- with -

Army Welfare Fund, J.Gilberd, Taupo RSA, (see previous Minutes), WO, RNZA, (who is a great help in obtaining Service Records).

NOTE ::- He would be relieved from this onerous task if Members would please send in their own Personal Record Form, we'd have them here then, although perhaps not as complete.

Also the election of 25 New Members, a great effort, due to the initiative of WO.2. Les Jackson, of the Waiouru Gunners Club. But one sadness remains, that so many of the older ones over the years have gone out into the wide world and become lost to us. We should always be on the lookout, and if you meet up with one of them - "rope him in", he would be interested.

As well, we intend, following our previous offer to Takapuna RSA, to "look after" their 25 Pdr, (we have information that Army are disenchanted with some of the equipments around the country on loan to RSA's, state of maintenance). However the offer had been made before we knew of this. Arrangements have been made to give it a sadly needed paint job now that it is mounted in its permanent position.

#### 6. NEWS FROM DIRECTORATE ::

Our close liaison with Director continues. WO.RNZA, WOI Lindsay Skinner is most helpful in a great many ways. Their monthly Sitrep/Newsletter contains a wealth of Gunner News ; it is distributed to all Gunner Units and Clubs -- if you have a contact at any one of these, it makes interesting reading on contemporary Gunner activities.

#### 7. THE RNZA COUNCIL ::

President NZPFOCA is a Council Member. I've been thinking that this honour is perhaps a 'feather in our cap' for our recognition ; and it also indicates, in reading their Minutes that we are proud to be able to contribute something to its deliberations. The Minutes are distributed to all Gunner Units, again making absorbing reading about their thinking and work for Gunners past and present.

#### 8. THE N.Z. ARMY ASSOCIATION ::

We are regular recipients of all their doings. Their recent Wellington Branch Newsletter of Aug '83 tells us that :

The new National -



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The new National President is now Col. R.H.(Bert) Dyson, and thanks the retiring Pres. Major R.H.M.(Bob) Pope for his efforts while in office. It is noted that the new Committee consists of five Gunners : Brig.J.Burns, Col. B. Dyson, Col.H.L.Jones, Major M.J.Black, Lt-Col E.J. Manders, and the Secretary being Ssgt N.P.(Neil) Moros, Fort Dorset, Seatoun, Wellington. Phone : 882-109, Xt. 86. A forthcoming social function is to be held in United Services Officers Club on Monday 17 Oct., so if you happen to be in Wgton. at that time give Neil a ring.

9. RE-UNION AND A.G.M. :: 1983 ::

This para. represents official notification of Annual General Meeting, (Rule 6.(a)). but Annual Report and Balance Sheet shall be only available to Dist. Reps.(for perusal by all Members), and those who indicate attendance at A.G.M., and as is usual, Programme, Agenda, and Balance Sheet is posted to those who are coming.

The Spa Hotel is booked for accommodation for the week-end 12/13 Nov.

Accn. aval. is :-  
3 Double Units  
14 Twin Units  
2 Single Units  
4 Staff Units  
1 Twin w/out shower and toilet,  
Suite 'A', sleeps six.

Tariff :- \$28.00 Double or Twin. bed and breakfast,  
\$18.00 Single, " " " "

Tariff should be paid direct to Spa office as you leave in the normal way.

Following a recce carried out by Wally Ruffell and Jim Gilbert the previous week, visiting several suggested venues for the Dinner, it was decided at Committee Meeting of 23 Jul. that we should accept the quote of Suncourt Motor Hotel at \$13.50 perhead. I'm sure that when you see its decor and facilities you'll agree that it is a very reasonable figure.

Please remit the Dinner cost directly to us, so that our total account can be met with one transaction.

Members are requested to purchase their own wine requirements during the meal.

Form up in Gullivers Bar at 1900 hrs,(or earlier), for 1930 hrs, (see confirmation chit).

We are looking for a volunteer(s), Member(or wife) to accompany us on the piano with a hymn or two to assist the Padre in his very able and sincere conduct of the Church Service, - a Member suggested that we should be 'able to raise the roof' with a rendering of "Onward Christian Soldiers". Somebody else said we may not be in very good voice the following morning, but we can always try.

16 FD. REGT. NEWS ::

We receive copies of their regular Newsletter, "Fire for Effect", - they are very dedicated and very busy people, and their recorded 'doings' make interesting reading. It is distributed to all Gunner Units, again, if you have a contact, borrow a copy, I'm sure you'll be interested.



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"APPRECIATIONS".

1603 W.R.(Bill) GRIFFITHS.

Bill's first taste of Service began in Feb 1919, when he enlisted in Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, (DCLI), where he remained for seven years until 1926, being posted to the Reserve.  
 "Recalled for Active Duties for 12 mths." 1927-28 with Queens Royal West Surreys, he served on South China Station, (Hong Kong).  
 Enlisting in RNZA in Sep 1934 - posted to Fort Dorset as Sgt. Cook.  
 In 1939 seconded to Army Schools, Trentham as Chief Cookery Instructor.  
 One can only imagine with the facilities of the time, (1914-18 Eqpt.) how difficult and busy this time was, with the "organised chaos" of the training and feeding of 2/NZEF.  
 In Nov 1942 embarked with 2/NZEF (Pacific) 3rd Division, as RSM 28 HAA Regt.  
 Returned to NZ in Jun 1943, "for hospitalization".  
 Early 1945 - RQMS, 10 Coast Regt.  
 Apr 1948 transferred to RNZASC Catering Group as Chief Cookery Instructor.  
 Following a Catering WO's Course in Australia; in the 1950's he was prominent in CMD Camps and Army Schools as a Cookery Instructor, Messing Officer, and Catering Adviser.  
 Posted to NMD in 1954 as Asst. District Catering Adviser, a position he held until his retirement as a WO1 in Jan 1959.  
 But he was not yet finished with the Services, living nearby he obtained a job as a gardener at RNZ Naval Armament Depot, retiring in 1969.  
 A long and busy life, (particularly in the Catering profession, where he moved all over NZ as an Instructor and Adviser), and for the greater part from 1919 to 1969 connected with the Services.  
 He died peacefully at home "after a long illness" aged 79 yrs.

D.B.(Don) FRASER ::

Don began his service well, as an RF Cadet as a Radar Mech. and later transferred to Artillery.  
 Posted to 1 Fd Regt, Fort Cautley, he served there and at Papakura during the CMT era as an instructor in Sigs and Gunnery, reaching the Rank of Sgt.  
 Taking his discharge early, he worked in civil life as a Coy. Rep. for a well known wine and spirit merchant in Auckland.  
 Again connected with the Services, he was at RNZ Naval Ar,ament Depot from 1977 to '83 as a laboratory Asst.  
 Don was always known as a cheerful and outgoing companion, he is sadly missed.

1726 R.S.(Ray) MAHER.

Ray enlisted in RNZA in Feb 1937, (10 Wing), and after the year's Basic Training, posted to Field Cadre, Fort Dorset, Feb 1938. Several postings still in Field Cadres in CMD followed.  
 Entering Papakura with 54 ATK Bty in Sep 1942, he embarked for 2/NZEF, (Pacific), in Dec 1942.  
 Transferred to 38 Fd Regt in May 1944, returned to NZ in Jul '44.  
 Embarked for 2/NZEF (Middle East), Jan 1945 - posted 7 ATK Regt, Italy.  
 May 1945 on its disbandment, posted to 5 Fd Regt Jul '45.  
 Returned to NZ Jan 1946, he took his Discharge early in Jun '46.  
 His subsequent career in civil life is not known; but his tragic and sudden death shocked us all; whilst working under his car, the supports collapsed.  
 We miss him, and remember him for his cheerful infectious grin.

A.573689 Sgt.R.J.(Reg) TUAHINE ::

Reg enlisted in Dec 1968, and was posted to 161 Bty.  
 Posted to Active Service in SVN, Jun 1969.  
 Returned to 1 Lt A/C Flt NZAAC, Feb 1971.

In Oct 1971.....



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Sgt. Reg Tuahine :

In Oct 1971, posted to 3 Sqn RNZAF, (NZ Army Elm.).

Posted to Linton AA. as Range Warden Sep 1974. - to Recruit Trg. Depot, Waiouru as Instr., Sep 1978.

To 3 Fd Regt, Burnham in Mar 1982 as a Sig Sgt, where he Served until his death on 30 Jun 1983.

He was buried with full Military Honours on his home marae at Frasertown, Wairoa on 4 Jul '83.

We join his friends who served with him in sincere sympathy for his family.

1636 R.B. (Rex) WINTHROP ::

Rex enlisted in 7-Wing RNZA in Feb 1935.

Posted to AA Cadre, Narrow Neck, May 1936, he took his Discharge at "own request" in Feb '37.

Commissioned in 1 Pro. Coy. Auck. Mar 1942.

Transferred to Reserve of Officers when 1 Pro Coy disbanded in Jun '44.

Commissioned in Traffic Dept. Fiji in 1949. Resigned his Commission in Jun. 1951.

His subsequent career is unknown, but he had retired to an idyllic life at Waiheke Island where he died on 28 Jul '83.

1566 R.W. (Robbie) ROBINSON ::

It is regretted that no record can found of his File at Army HQ.

He had been a Member since 1959, and fairly recently retired from his farm in Taranaki into New Plymouth. Any contemporary Member who can supply any further details, we would be glad to publish at a later date.

1715 R.D. (Ritchie or Dick) HASSED. MBE.

Dick joined the RNZA in Feb 1937, with 10-Wing, and after initial training was posted to Fort Dorset. 1939 to mid-1941 was a Gunnery Instr. at Arty Trg Depot, Papakura. Jul '41 saw him posted to QMG. Br. Army HQ. where with the redoubtable Lt-Col George O'Leary, he was connected with purchasing - mainly ammunition. This led him to a civilian career with ICI.(NZ) Ltd, where he rose to be NZ. Manager, retiring in the late 1970's. He was awarded the MBE.(Civil) for his work with quarrying explosives. He had been in idifferent health for some years.

1563 V.C. (Vic) LENNON.

Vic enlisted in May 1934, and after initial training was posted to Fort Dorset in Apr 1935. "Discharged at own request" in Apr 1937.

Following a career with NZ. Police, he became Manager of the Lion Hotel, Queen St. Auck. wher he was well known for his strict and personal attention to the 'running of the House'. He retired to Waiheke Island where he died aged 69 yrs.

20306 S.F. (Stan) CATCHPOLE, CBE.MC.ED. Brigadier. ::

Universally and affectionately known as 'Stan' to all who knew him, Brig. Catchpole died on 3 Jul 1983 aged 67 after a long illness bravely borne.

Originally in business but for the last ten years Civil Defence Officer for Auckland's Western Region, he was best known for his outstanding Military career. Enlisting as a Gunner in 13 Bty. NZA, North Head in 1934 he quickly rose to the rank of Sgt. In 1939 he was Commissioned and posted to 5 Fd Regt, NZA, 2/NZEF. He was awarded the MBE at Takrouna for gallantry in aggressive OP duties in severe fighting as a FOO.

In Italy he served as Bde. Major NZ. Div Arty. (these distinctions are recorded in Official History of 2/NZ. Div. Arty.)

When the Territorial Force was re-activated after WWII., he joined 1 Fd Regt RNZA as a Bty Commander. In due course he rose to Command that Unit, and in 1957 was promoted Brigadier with the Appointment of Commander Royal Artillery (CRA).

Later he became.....