



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 33-710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 9

NEWSLETTER No 68

December 1990

A Registered Publication

SEASONS GREETINGS: The President and Executive extend to all members greetings and best wishes for the coming year.

LAST POST: 1917 J. (Jack) Graham, 24 Apr 90, at Mt Maunganui.

1915 F.C. (Pat) Fox, 7 Nov 90, at Auckland.

534447 W.S. (Bill) Stott, 7 Nov 90, at Auckland.

1955 M.J. (Malcolm) Charteris, 10 Nov 90, at Oakura, Taranaki.

1755 K.R. (Keith or Tubby) Simmonds, 2 Oct 90, at Auckland.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Lt Col E.W. Anker to 32 Stanley Ave, Milford, Ak 9.

WO2 B.D. Bethel to CCM RNZA, Army GS, Stout St, Wellington.

WO2 D.A. Collins to Southern Region Support Unit, Burnham Camp.

W.F. Giles to Erewhon Station, Private Bag, Taihape.

R.W. Hayman to 24 Alice Ave, Orewa, Hibiscus Coast.

M.J. Hellyer to Private Bag, Whangamata.

Lt Col A.N. King to 6 Oystergrove Rd, West Harbour, Auckland.

Sgt R.D. Ogilvy to 16 Fd Regt RNZA, Papakura Camp.

Lt Col T. O'Reilly to NZ Defence Staff, NZ High Commission, NZ House,
80 Haymarket, London SW1 Y4TQ.

Sgt L.T. Riwaka to 16 Fd Regt RNZA, Papakura Camp.

Capt J.B. Rout to 83 Clevedon Rd, Papakura.

M.R.G. Subritzky to 29 Clyde St, Renwick.

Major J. Wasson to 135 Walter Strevens Dr, Takanini, Auckland.

NEW MEMBERS:

33564 P.V. (Pat) Hickey, 91B Vauxhall Rd, Devonport, Ak 9 (revived m'ship)

33726 R. (Roy) Jaques, 7 Pembroke St, Papakura (Associate membership)

76584 J. (Jim) Trotter c/o CAO, ATG, Waiouru (Associate Membership).

COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at the Birkenhead RSA on Saturday 16 Feb 91 commencing 1000 hrs. Any member is welcome to attend.

AUCKLAND SOCIAL: The Auckland Gunners Day social will be held at the Birkenhead RSA on Wednesday 22 May 91 commencing 1100 hrs. Lunch will be available at the same price as last year - \$6-70. A special invitation is extended to members of 16 Field Regiment RNZA, Papakura.

Our last social held on 12 Dec 90 was very successful, some thirty members, wives, and friends attending. First prize in the raffle, a model of an ancient cannon was won by our Patron General Ron Hassett, who immediately re-donated it back to the Association for raffling at the 1991 annual reunion. The second prize, a crystal bowl was won by Jim Ross.

Our one regret was that members of 16 Field Regiment were on this occasion unable to attend owing to 'exigencies of the service.'

Our thanks are due to Alf Smith, our Auckland/North Shore Rep for his efforts over the years in organising these popular functions.

REUNIONS: 14 LAA: a reminder that the reunion will be held over the week-end 12-14 April 91. For further information contact the Secretary, Peter Turner, Box 528, Levin. Phone 069/81 046.

NZPFOCA: Our next annual reunion is planned for the week-end 8-10 Nov 91. Mark these dates on your calendar NOW!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: PRESIDENTS REPORT: (As read to meeting):

A most warm welcome to all present. Once again it gives me great pleasure to be here in Taupo, and to see so many familiar faces.

There is little to report on this year. General McKinnon who resigned as Patron last year with much regret from members, has still been able to give his advice and help where necessary. General Ron Hassett has been a worthy successor, and the help and interest he has taken in the Association is much appreciated.

As in the last couple of years Alf Smith has arranged a couple of gatherings at the Birkenhead RSA, one for Christmas, and the other for Gunners Day. These turnouts are proving very popular, and as the attendance is improving each time it must give Alf some satisfaction.

At the May do it was good to see members of 16 Field Regiment with Major Beattie and the Officers in attendance. All seemed to enjoy themselves, as well as appear to be interested in the goings on within the Association. This we hope will continue, and maybe we will see a resurgence of younger Gunners into our ranks. This I sincerely hope is the case, as us older ones are getting thinner on the ground every year. This can be seen by the Newsletters we receive with the names of those who have passed on. And to carry on the good work of the Association we must have the younger generation take an active part.

Wally Ruffell, your Secretary, once again has been a tower of strength. Many thanks Wally for the most interesting Newsletters. The work and research that must go into the letters as much appreciated by all. Many thanks also to our Reps throughout the country. The reports we receive keep us up-to-date in the areas outside Auckland, and are followed with interest at the Committee meetings. About the Committee, what can one say. They have been together now for several years, and turn up to the meetings whatever the weather or distance to travel.

We now have Paul Gregg, RSM 16 Field, as the member for Papakura Camp. This I feel can only be for the good of the Association. At present the demise of members is overtaking the numbers of new members. In fact this year the membership of the Association is down three on the same time last year.

At the time of preparing the Presidents Report, the number of members are:-

Honorary members	3
Associate members	11
Life members	26
Ordinary members	336
Total	376

Included in this number are 21 members who have not paid their annual subscriptions for over three years. By the rules these members will be struck off the roll unless they become financial. So I think we can assume that the numbers will be down by 21.

For those who would like to know who the life members are, they are as follows:

Captain AJ Baigent MBE
L Bennett

Captain GW Blandford
Captain TJ Chapman

RW Coe
J Cumming
P George MM

Captain JG Gilberd
JA Hall
EW Hargreaves

Captain CJ Hayden
Captain TK Hedley

Captain GM Martin

Captain FJ Mitchell
OF MacDonald

Major General WS McKinnon CB CBE
BSc

Major RM Nutsford
DP O'Connor

Lieut RA Rudge
WL Ruffell

AJ Smith
GA Stuart

Captain GE Sutherland
A Swann

Lieutenant General Sir Leonard
Thornton KCB CBE

Your Committee has the final say as to how one becomes a life member. The criteria used in the main is when one reaches the age of 80 years he automatically becomes a life member, provided he is financial.

(Sgd) A. Boyd, President.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Apologies for non-attendance were received from the following; ranks have been omitted to save space.

CW ANNISS; RE ATKINS, HB ANDERSON, LE AUTRIDGE, WK BAKER, HG BIGG-WITHER, NE BENNETTS, EG BICKERTON, LH CLARK, BW CULHANE, J CUMMING, DP DUMBLETON, RH DYSON, J FALLON, F GIBBISON, WF GILES, RA HARRIS, D HARROP, CJ HAYDEN, TC HYNES, EH HALL, BJL HEWITT, WG HOPKINS, AJ HOLLAND, Mrs Joyce HANKEY, EG HIGHT, AT HOBSON, T HUGHES, WE JENNINGS, PWF JOPLIN, ELA KITNEY, AN KING, VO LOADER, NH LUNDON, Mrs Jean LOVELL, KF LEE, RH MITCHELL, EC MORGAN, J MONK, BD MILLYN, JGR MORLEY, GC MANSFIELD, AJ McDONALD, RB McIVER, JB O'CONNOR, PB O'CONNOR, T. O'REILLY, P PAGE, AL PARKES, AM PETRIE, A PILCHER, E PECK, RKG PORTER, LA PEARCE, L PYE, DG ROBERTS, J McL ROSS, RA RUDGE, TG ROCHE, LJ SKINNER, VG SVENDSEN, TP SHIRLEY, GE SUTHERLAND, JR SPENCE, T SWIFT, J STEWART, CWN STANBRIDGE, A TAYLOR, JT TRANSOM, M URQUHART, TAN VINE, SD WRIGHT, W WINTER, GR YOUNG, G NORRIS, RJ GOLDSWORTHY. Who was the member who posted me an apology but did not put his name to it? - Sec.

To those who were unable to attend through ill health we extend our best wishes and hopes for an early recovery, in particular Valda Baker, Eric Hall, Tony Hobson, Terry Hynes, Vic Loader, Noel London, Gordon Morley, Tony Pilcher, and Shirley Stanbridge.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: To remain at \$5 per annum, largely through the generosity of members who made donations amounting to \$446 over and above their dues. In addition the proceeds from raffles netted \$370.

SECRETARY'S HONORARIUM: Waived for 1989-90. To remain at \$250.

REUNION VENUE FOR 1991: Yacht Club has been pencilled in for 9 Nov 91 but has not yet been confirmed. More details later.

OFFICERS FOR 1990-91: Remain the same as for previous year.

REUNION DINNER: A total of 91 members, wives, and friends sat down to dinner on the Saturday night, as follows: Joff & Jean ADAMS, Jack BAIGENT & Theo WILSON, Allan & Elsie BOYD, Leo BRADY, Tom & Margaret CHAPMAN, Joe and Zita COOK, Mollie CRICHTON and daughter Elisabeth HERMOND, Murray & Patricia CONNOR, Mat & Rosalie CRAWLEY, Dan & Dorothy FOLEY, Jack FRAME (Scotty), Jim & Dot GILBERD, Jack GILLOOLY & Val WORTH, Pat HALL & 'Billy', Joe and Iris HANVEY, Harry & Patricia HONNOR, David and Irene HUGHES, Ron and 'Mike' HASSETT, Curly and Heather HELLYER, Jack KEARNEY, Don & Noeline KENNING, Frank & Denise LUPO, Jack MOORE, Bill & Estelle MORLAND, Johnny & Leone MEIKLE, Vic and Audrey MEYLE, George & Patti MILN, Iand & Rene McLEAN, Walter & Anna McKINNON, Harold NICHOLSON, Des & Bunty O'CONNOR, Bill & Joyce POWRIE, Robbie and Joyce ROBINSON, David & Marie ROBERTS, Ian & Iris ROWNTREE, Wally RUFFELL & daughter Lorraine PRATT, Henry & Thelma SALT, Bill & Elaine STEPHENSON, Alf SMITH & daughter Carroll WATSON, Sir Leonard and Lady Ruth THORNTON, Rusty and Nolene VAIL, Roger & Jean WYLDE, Gordon & Nora WEAVER, Ted WILLBOND, Charles & Dorothy WOTHERSPOON, Cora WOODS and brother Doug ADAMS, Bob & Betty KERSLAKE, Bill and Tui McLEAY, and last but not least Glenys GILBERD, Jim's daughter. Len PARTNER who attended the AGM had to be in Auckland on the Saturday afternoon so missed the dinner. Better luck in 1991, Len.

FLOWERS FOR FUNERALS: Last year your Executive Committee reluctantly came to the conclusion we were not getting value for money when sending flowers to funerals of members who had 'gone west.' In one case when flowers were arranged through 'Interflora' we were robbed. Therefore in future flowers are not to be supplied. The usual bereavement card is to be sent, and if the next-of-kin request a donation be made to an approved society, e.g. Heart Foundation, Cancer Society, the sum of \$30 will be granted in each case. District Reps please note.

UBIQUE: No doubt members have read the poem 'UBIQUE' by Kipling during the early years of this century. Here is a later version contributed by Phil George:

UBIQUE

The Royal Regiment, peace be theirs,
Are a grand and varied lot;
Some proceed at a walking pace,
While some perform at a trot.
But first of all are the 'Ubique' folk,
As their world-wide motto runs;
The Royal Horse Artillery,
With the galloping, galloping guns.
Right well they ride with the cavalry, yes,
And are justly proud of that;
And proud I ween of the jacket they wear,
With the especially distinctive hat.
But all is change in a world of change,
As all of us must find;
High adventure has never a chance,
With a really inventive mind.
Many a Gunner for many a day,
Will swallow a tearful lump;
When the Royal Horse Artillery
Turn in at the petrol pump!

NB: 'Ween' is archaic English meaning to think or imagine.

NEWS FROM AROUND AND ABOUT: Lt Col Tom O'Reilly has now taken up the appointment of Senior Defence Purchasing Officer/Assistant Defence Attache (Army). See changes of address this newsletter.

Brian Edmonds is now Resort Manager of Cradle Mountain Lodge, Tasmania (see changes of address this newsletter). He describes it as a 'great spot' and has sent us a very attractive brochure on it which any member who is interested may obtain from Secretary.

Lt Col Grant Box relinquished command of 16 Field Regiment RNZA on 10 Dec 90. His successor is Lt Col P.S. Southwell.

Mike Subritzky (see changes of address) has now retired from the Army, and has bought a bakery business in Renwick from one of the Ruffell 'tribe.' We wish him every success.

Bill and Emma Giles have taken up a cook/cowman/gardener position at Erewhon Station in the Taihape area.

Colin Stanbridge and his good lady Shirley last year made a short visit to Perth and Western Australia designed to help Shirley recover from a prolonged winter illness. Unfortunately the trip was only partly successful in this respect but we hope she is now well.

Colin was most impressed with Western Australia's war memorials. In every small town the memorials have the names of those who died serving their country in Korea, Malaya, and Vietnam as well as the names of those who fell in World Wars 1 and 2. Surely, he says, here is a message for New Zealanders.

Grant Box's 15-year-old daughter, a keen horse-woman, is very interested in Jim Gilbert's 'Boot and Saddle' account of the horse-drawn era. Incidentally so is Dad!

George Norris remembers when posted to Fort Dorset in June 1940 one of his chores was to bike round to Worser Bay daily to feed the last of the RNZA horses. Having come from a farming background he quite enjoyed the job. But surely, George, it was Mahanga Bay, not Worser?

Bob Rudge sends regards to his contemporaries and associates in 2NZEF, especially Jerry London, Jim Hill, Sandy Bissett, Doc Bennett, Nelson McLeod, and Hoki Stuart. He regrets some have 'faded away' but he himself insists he will still be here in the year 2000. Being only a youngster (73) I hope to better that - Sec.

STOP PRESS! More changes of address:

B.R. Edmonds to Cradle Mountain Lodge, PO Box 153, Sheffield,
Tas 7306, Australia. Ph (004) 921 303.

Captain T.A. Ellen RA to Officers Mess, Royal School of Artillery,
Larkhill, Wiltshire, UK.

Colonel H.L. Jones to 60 Nelson St, Wanganui.

FLAGS: Flagmakers, 19-23 Tennyson St, Wellington, (Box 9545) or
10-14 Farmhouse Lane, Glen Innes, Auckland 6 (Box 18064) will make
or supply any flag you like to name. For free catalogue write to:
FREEPOST No 1006, Flagmakers, PO Box 9545, Wellington 1.

BOOT AND SADDLE

Continued from Nresletter 67

By Jim Gilberd.

Bess:

Served throughout the Great War and returned to New Zealand. General Russell's and Lt Colonel King's chargers also returned home but they were remounts.

Bess was born in Martinborough in 1910 and was presented by her owner to the Wellington Mounted Rifles, subsequently being allotted to Captain C.G. Fowles of the Main Body and remained his mount throughout the war.

She was a dark bay with black points with a 'star' on her face. On her return to New Zealand she led a parade at the Carterton A & P Show and received a thunderous ovation.

Colonel Fowles, when principal of Flock House Agricultural School at Marton, continued to ride his old 'steed' until one day in 1934 when she lay down and died. She was rising 25 years of age.

Finnigan:

A Great War veteran from the RNZA stables, Wellington. A historian of the time tells us the best gun teams came from the Regiment. Finnigan left with the Main Body in 1914 as a team horse in 2 Fd Artillery Bde. He saw service at Gallipoli, was twice wounded while at Anzac Cove. When the Brigade moved to France, he was in action again with an 18-pr battery. Again he was wounded. Later at a place called Fieres he trod on an unexploded bomb. Although severely wounded for the fourth time, he gamely took his load of ammunition a distance of a mile to the guns where he dropped dead.

Howitzer and Barbara:

I have chosen these two horses as they were known to some of you and also they were the Regiment's last two horses. Both lived to a great age and were buried at Waiouru Camp.

Firstly, Howitzer. I had a special attachment to this mare as she was my instructor's hack for many years. She stood about 15.3 hands, brown in colour, a blaze on her face and four white stockings (markings) on her legs. She was well-mannered, responsive to commands and learnt all phases of military riding very quickly. She was purchased in the Marton area in 1932, was broken in by Alex Tierney at Trentham, and became my instructor's hack in 1934.

Some of you who passed through the Riding School at Trentham (I think it was No 5 Wing), may recall the day Howitzer 'dumped' the instructor. We were having a break after exercising in extended order in a large paddock. I was sitting crosswise in the saddle, feet out of the stirrups when someone flapped a signal flag. Howitzer did not see

Howitzer was 29 years old when she died. Her regimental number was 752.

Barbara:

Her regimental number was 940. A dark bay with black points - height 16 hands and joined the Regiment in 1937 as a four-year old. She was introduced to military-style riding at the School. Barbara proved to be unsuitable for team work, was tried at pack duties - finally becoming an Officers' Charger and posted to Fort Dorset. At this time it was the practice for Officers' wives and daughters to use the horses at Dorset for recreational riding.

Barbara - daughter of Lt Col Standish, RNZA, was a good rider and rode her namesake quite often.

Barbara outlived Howitzer, being 32 years old when she died at Waiouru in 1965.

Horses in the British Army Today:

To conclude 'Boot and Saddle' I have included a section about horses on strength in the British Army (1989).

These animals are highly trained and used mainly for ceremonial duties. The Royal Corps of Transport still maintains two Animal transport Coys currently serving in Hong Kong and Cyprus. Also the Royal Corps of Military Police use 45 horses for patrol duties at large Army establishments such as Aldershot.

Of the 850 plus horses the Army has on its 'books' the main users are:

- Royal Army Veterinary Corps and Riding School at Melton Mowbray.
- Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery, London.
- Two Household Cavalry Regiments, London.
- Royal Corps of Military Police
- Royal Corps of Transport
- Scots Dragoon Guards (Scots Greys)
- Remount Depot - Larkhill.

The RAVC purchases the Army's remounts from the Irish Republic. After the conclusion of World War 2 the Belgian Government supplied black horses for the two cavalry regiments for a few years.

Kings Troop - Royal Horse Artillery:

The Troop is the only horse-drawn artillery unit in the British Army of today, and is stationed at St John's Wood, London. Its duties include the firing of Royal Salutes and taking part in State and other occasions as part of the Household Division. They are also required to provide a gun carriage and a team of black horses for State and Military funerals.

Before the Second World War there were horse artillery batteries stationed at Aldershot and in London. The last to be mechanised was 'K' Battery RHA - they lost their horses late in 1939. It was His Majesty George VI's express wish that after the War a Troop of the RHA mounted and dressed in traditional manner should once more be seen taking part in ceremonies of State. In 1947 George VI inspected the then Riding Troop (who had received their horses back the year before), and said that he wished it to be known as his Troop. Her Majesty has decided that this title shall continue during her reign, in recognition of her father's special interest in the Troop.

Royal Salutes:

To see Kings Troop firing a Royal Salute is one of the more spectacular forms of ceremonial to observe in London, 71 horses taking part, the Officers and Soldiers resplendent in their full dress uniform.

Six 13-pr guns form up in line at Hyde Park and gallop into action. A salute of 41 guns is fired and as the last round echoes around the Park, the teams are brought up 'backed in' to their guns and gallop away.

To be continued.