



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC.

PO BOX 33 710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 9

NEWSLETTER No 72

December 1991

A Registered Publication

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

LAST POST:

1960 A.W. (Mick) Birchall, 23 Sep 91, at New Plymouth.
Lieutenant Colonel P.M. (Phil) Barclay, 1 Oct 91, at Auckland.
1697 Lieutenant D.D. (Ginna) Hunter, 9 Oct 91 at Christchurch.
1690 Captain G.E. (George) Sutherland, 30 Nov 91, at New Plymouth.
1741 Captain T.C. (Terry) Hynes, 2 Dec 91, at Hamilton.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

M.J. Hellyer to Private Bag, Waihi.
I.A. McLean to 55 Napier St, Taradale. NB: Change in street number only; no change in location.
Major L. Partner to 6 Spilman Place, Palmerston North.
Major General L.A. Pearce to 106 Becroft Drive, Forrest Hill, Ak 9.
S.H. Perrett to 87 Devon Rd, Springvale, Wanganui.
Major D.H. Rollo MBE to 25 Moana Rd, PARAPARAUMU.
F.B. Schroder to 2/21 Clipper Court, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450.

GONE NO ADDRESS:

LAST KNOWN LOC

R. Huston 57 Hakanoa St, Huntly.
K.C. Burnell c/o Eagle Technology Group, Box 22, Whangarei.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of above please inform Secretary.

RESIGNATION: M.T. Hotene, Box 4190, Hamilton.

STRUCK OFF STRENGTH FOR FAILURE TO PAY DUES:

Major J.B. Vryenhoek. Sgt R.D. Ogilvy.

NEW MEMBERS:

D310825 B.J. (Barry) Calder, 4 Tamatua Rd, Taupo (Associate).
Mrs M. (Mollie) Cumming, 1/187 Lake Rd, Takapuna (Associate)
J748957 Captain K. (Kip) Frame RNZA, Army GENERAL Staff, Def HQ, Wgtn.
Mrs J.J. (June) Skilton, 1/1005 Beach Rd, Torbay, Auckland 10 (Assoc.)

COMMITTEE MEETING:

The next meeting will be held at the Birkenhead RSA ON 8 Feb 92 commencing at 1000 hrs. Non-committee members are welcome to attend.

REUNIONS: 2 Field Regiment will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of its occupation of Linton Camp over the week-end 22-24 Feb 92 within the Camp. For further details contact Murray Baird, 413A Otumoetai Road, Tauranga.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Following is the President's report on our Association as read to the meeting:

My sincere welcome to all present at our Annual General Meeting. Sad to say it is the old familiar faces present, with very little to show of new members. Somehow with all the enthusiasm in the World on the part of your Patron General Hassett, your Committee and the RSM 16th Field Regiment, Paul Gregg, it is an uphill battle to get younger Gunners to take an interest in the Association which many people would be proud to say they belonged to. Whatever it is, the climate of the present day living, or maybe the commitment of the serving Gunners in this present day and age, as usual, the older generation will carry on, and hope for the best. ^

Over the years we have been very fortunate, in the way our Patrons have assisted the Association. General McKinnon was a great help and his successor General Hassett is proving the same. The demonstration and display which will be outside after the Meeting was at the instigation of General Hassett. There are several other projects General Hassett has put into motion so our thanks indeed for the help which I might add have been of great assistance to your Committee.

To Wally Ruffell what can one say, but who else could produce the Newsletters, and raise the enthusiasm of the members as he has over the years. A great deal of gratitude to Wally for the work he has done over the years.

A most interesting piece of work was produced by Jim Gilberd. Being one of the younger members of the fraternity, my association with the horses was when Barbara and Howitzer were spending their last days at Waiouru. How I used to curse when it was my turn to go down and tend to them. Somehow it was always snowing or wet, and when you went down to see they were safe for the night, Barbara would be right on the other side of the paddock, and the only way you could get her into the shelter, was to plough across the swamp and lead her in. I for one was not sorry to see the horses go. Sorry Jim.

Alf Smith has again been responsible for a couple of get-togethers at the Birkenhead RSA. These are becoming very popular and at least Alf can say his organising of the get-togethers are not wasted. Long may we be able to get together for the couple of hours, where we can enjoy pleasant company, a couple of ales, and a really good meal at a reasonable price. For those who have not made the effort to attend come along. You will be surprised at whom you will meet up with..

To Terry Transom, our thanks. For many years you will remember Terry was Secretary, and these days should Wally or Des O'Connor be away, is always willing to look after things until they are on deck again.

To all the Committee, my many thanks for your attendance at meetings and the assistance which is always available. And last but not least to Paul Gregg, my sincere thanks for all you have done being the go-between for the Association and the 16th Field.

The Association was invited to Waiouru for a day at the Annual Camp. Unfortunately I was otherwise engaged. But those who did attend

report they were treated like VIPs and had a most enjoyable day. Can you imagine an enjoyable day in the Field during winter at Waiouru?

Thanks once again for your support over the year and may we all be together once again next year.

Membership at present is:	Ordinary Members	330
	Associate "	24
	Life "	26

TAUPO 9 Nov 91

(Sgd) A Boyd,

PRESIDENT

APOLOGIES for non-attendance at the AGM were received from the following. Ranks have been omitted to save space:

JJ ADAMS, R AGNEW, CW ANNISS, AJ BAIGENT, JD BENNETT, NE BENNETTS
EG BICKERTON, HG BIGG WITHER, SH BRYANT, CJ BRAGG, WK BAKER,
CM COCHRAN, CJC CROOKES, Mrs M CRICHTON, MF DAKIN, DP DUMBLETON,
WF GILES, RJ GOLDSWORTHY, Mrs J HANKEY, RA HARRIS, JJ HANVEY,
CJ HAYDEN, RDP HASSETT, EG HIGHT, AJ HOLLAND, TC HYNES, PWF JOPLIN,
RI KERSLAKE, ELA KITNEY, VO LOADER, GC MANSFIELD, EC MORGAN,
BD MILLYN, JGR MORLEY, RJS MUNRO, PB O'CONNOR, ET O'NEILL, L PARTNER,
LA PEARCE, RKG PORTER, LJ PYE, AJ RIVERS, DG ROBERTS, J McL ROSS,
HGC SALT, FB SCHRODER, JF SPRING, JHV STEWART, TP SHIRLEY, T SWIFT,
Mrs M STITT, Mrs E STANDEN, AJ SMITH, CWN STANBRIDGE, VG SVENDSEN,
JT TRANSOM, J TROTTER, SIR LW THORNTON, AB TUSTIN, AR VAIL,
TAN VINE, D WESTON, EG WILLBOND, DJ WALLACE, SD WRIGHT, LW WRIGHT
RN WYLDE, TJ ARNOTT, G NORRIS, WBF McCALLUM, EN McEWEN, AS McWHINNIE,
PM GREGG.

FINANCE: The Association is holding its own against increasing costs for paper, printing etc, but is able to keep the current subscription rate to \$5. We owe our position in no small measure to the generosity of certain members who make donations over and above their ordinary commitments. In particular we would like to pay tribute to Terry Hynes (see LAST POST), who although blind and unable to attend our last reunion through otherwise failing health, nevertheless made a substantial donation towards our celebrations just weeks before he "went west." Such is comradeship.

SECRETARYS HONORARIUM: To remain at \$250.

1992 REUNION: Will be held at the Taupo Yacht Club probably over the week-end 6-8 November 1992 but this is subject to confirmation.

OFFICERS FOR 1991-92; To remain the same as for previous year, except that we need representatives for Taranaki and Canterbury. Any volunteers?

REUNION DINNER: This year we were privileged to have as our guest of honour The Master Gunner St James's Park, General Sir Martin Farndale KCB, whose visit was arranged by our Patron, Major General Ron Hassett, who is also Colonel Commandant RNZA. Sir Martin was accompanied by Brigadier John Salmon OBE, who will be remembered by K-Force veterans as an RAA Captain on exchange to 16 Field Regiment during the campaign in Korea. Other guests present included Captain Kip Frame of the Master Gunner's party, and Major Alan Goodwin, Chief Instructor, School of Artillery, Waiouru. In addition the following attended: Mrs Helen AGAR, Harry ANDERSON, Blackie and Shirley BURNS, Leo BRADY, Alan and Elsie BOYD, Barry and Mrs CALDER, Spencer and

Joan COCKS, Tom and Margaret CHAPMAN, Jack and Zita COOK, Matt and Rosalie CRAWLEY, Bert and Shirley DYSON, Joe FALLON, Jack FRAME, Dan and Dorothy FOLEY, Frank and Joan GIBBISON, Jack GILLOOLY, Jim and Dot GILBERD with daughters Glenys and Jill (mrs JURISS), Curly and Heather HELLYER, Harry and Pat HONNOR, Terry HUGHES, Roy JAQUES, Don and Noeline KENNING, Frank and Denise LUPO, Brian MILLYN, George and Patti MILN, Johnny and Leone MEIKLE, John and Amy MONK, Bill and Estelle MORLAND, Jerry and Patricia MEYER, Ian and Rene McLEAN, Bill and Tui McLEAY, Harold NICHOLSON, Reg NUTSFORD, Des and Buntly O'CONNOR, Tony and Helen PARKES, Bill and Joyce POWRIE, Wally RUFFELL and daughter Lorraine, Ian and Iris ROWNTREE, Robbie and Joyce ROBINSON, Bill and Elaine STEPHENSON, George and Ella SUTHERLAND with daughter Denise and son George, George STUART, Jock TAYLOR, Gordon and Nora WEAVER, Charles and Dorothy WOTHERSPOON, Yogi YOUNG. We regret that Lt Col Paul SOUTHWELL, CO 16 Field Regiment, and Paul and Susie GREGG were unable to be present owing to exigencies of the service, while Dave and Marie ROBERTS had to withdraw at the last moment because Dave suffered an injury. We hope he has fully recovered. All enjoyed a most convivial evening and without exception paid tribute to the excellence of the meal, the service, and the venue. We shall be returning to the Yacht Club in 1992.

CHURCH PARADE: This was held in the historic Maori Meeting House, Tiki o te Tamamutu, at the Spa Hotel, the service being conducted by the Rev. Bill McLeay. The First Lesson was read by the Master Gunner, the second by your Secretary. The parade was very well attended.

ONE FOR THE ROAD: Immediately after the Church Parade true believers adjourned to Suite 'A' for the traditional "one for the road" for which thanks are due to those who so very generously made donations prior to the reunion. The Master Gunner and party also partook.

St BARBARAS DAY SOCIAL: A very successful function, thanks to our Auckland/North Shore Rep. Alf Smith. The following were present: Harry ANDERSON, Eric and Patti AUTRIDGE, Bill and Val BAKER, Eric BICKERTON, Guy BLACKWELL, Alan and Elsie BOYD, Win BLACK, Cliff and Bubs BRAGG, Jack and Zita COOK, Cliff COLE, Bert DYSON, Dan and Dorothy FOLEY, Nev FISHER, Jock and Joan GUNN, Pat HALL, Joe HANVEY, Ron HASSETT, Cyril and Ngaio HAYDEN, Pat and Joy HICKEY, Jim HILL, Jack and Joan KEINZLEY, Dick and Lorma MITCHELL, Vic and Audrey MEYLE, Bill and Estelle MORLAND, Nelson McLEOD, Mike McMAHON, Jim ROSS, Wally RUFFELL and daughter Lorraine, Henry and Thelma SALT, Margaret STITT and Grace HANVEY, Alf SMITH, Terry and Joan TRANSOM, JACK AND Kate TANKARD, Tan and Joyce VINE, Les and Joan WILSON, Gordon and Nora WEAVER, Yogi YOUNG.

If I have made any errors or omissions from the above lists please let me know so I can correct them. Sec.

ADDITIONAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Major M.J. Withers to: 76 (Maude's Battery), 14 Field Regiment, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Salisbury, SP48QT, ENGLAND.

NEWS FROM AROUND AND ABOUT: Congratulations are due to: Paul Gregg on his having been commissioned. Paul's new appointment is GSO3, Operations Branch, Army General Staff, DEFENCE HQ.

Retiring Sergeant Major of the Army Paul O'Connor on his award of the MBE in New Years' Honours.

Ian Foster on his promotion to Warrant Officer Class 1. Ian's new appointment is RSM, 16 Field Regiment RNZA.

Congratulations to: Sel Bryant who turned 80 in October and thus qualifies for LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

We extend our condolences to Des and Buntly O'Connor who lost a nephew recently.

To those who have suffered or who are at present suffering ill health may you have a speedy recovery, especially Fred and Daphne Schroder, George Mansfield, Joan Bissett, Ted Quinn, Vic Loader, and Tony Tustin.

Our thanks to Mollie Crichton who passed on a set of photographs of horses taken by the late Dave when stationed in Dunedin. They have been passed on to Jim Gilberd for use in his latest book.

Colin Stanbridge and his good lady recently returned from a trip overseas unfortunately marred by 'flu' which they contracted in Scotland where (in Inverness) the temperature fell to -2°C !

Did you know that Japan's defence budget for 1991 amounted to 38 billion US dollars? As defence expenditure on this scale is planned to continue, by 1995 Japan will have invested substantially more than both France and Great Britain combined, and will have the world's third largest defence budget after the US and Russia. Think about it.

Our thanks are due to Jack Tankard, ex-5 Fd and 14 LAA Regiments, for writing up our IN MEMORIAM book during the time our regular scribe, Charles Cranmer, was unable to perform that duty owing to problems with his eyes. We are pleased to report that operations on both Charles' eyes have been successful but he is still awaiting a clearance from his surgeon to resume full duty. WE wish him well.

THE MASTER GUNNER ST JAMES'S PARK: (reprinted from Newsletter No 59). Towards the end of the 15th century the increase in the number of guns and Gunners in the King's service called for improvement in the organisation and control then existing.

Wherever Gunners were stationed a Chief or Master Gunner was put in charge of them. It was therefore logical to place a superior Master Gunner in overall charge, to inspect the various stations from time to time, and make sure the Master Gunners were doing their job, i.e. maintaining personnel and equipment in all respects ready for action. To this end Patrick de la Meyte was appointed 'Chief Cannoner' in 1484.

Patrick was the first of a long line of Master Gunners which continued with periodical variations in title down to the end of 1731.

When the Royal Artillery was formed in 1716 the Master-General of the Ordnance recommended the abolition of certain posts in the interests of economy, one of them being the Master Gunner of Great Britain, the title then in use. However, as no superannuation was payable in those days, and as all Gunners signed on for life, the Master Gunner, then Colonel James Pendlebury RA, was permitted to retain the title and remain on the payroll until his death in 1731.

Now since 1678 there had existed simultaneously with the Master Gunner of England or Great Britain a Master Gunner of Whitehall and St James's Park. On appointment this Officer automatically became Firemaster to the Grenadiers as well, i.e. he supplied grenades to the Grenadier Guards, and assumed certain other responsibilities not normally expected of a Master Gunner. Probably for these reasons he was not paid by Ordnance but from funds allotted for guards and garrisons. Thus he escaped the Ordnance economist's axe, and survived

to supplant the premier Master Gunner.

In 1796 his title was changed to "Master Gunner, St James's Park."

The need for the Master Gunner gradually waned; his pay (issued in addition to his ordinary pay for rank), eventually became a token amount only, and in 1914 was stopped. Now purely honorary, the Office is granted to distinguished Gunner Officers. Duties, which are mainly of a ceremonial nature, include the selection of Colonels Commandant.

The Master Gunner, St James's Park, is selected by the Sovereign, our Captain General, and acts as her deputy in Gunner matters.

GUNNERS AND HORSES

Continued from Newsletter No 71.

By Jim Gilberd.

The RHA and RFA reported on how cumbersome the neck collar was during the campaign in South Africa 1899-92 so finally new harness embracing the French design was introduced into the British service in 1904. With the adoption in 1895 of the pole draught and the new harness, the artillery were now on a par with their counterparts in the European Armies. It is a pity that the Gunners had to wait so long. The new harness was designated pole draught general service, previously it was called artillery harness.

The main components of the P.D.G.S. were:

- Breast collar
- Loin straps, tugs and traces (for lead and centres)
- Breeching, traces and hip straps (FOR WHEELERS)
- Saddle universal (commonly called "Drivers" saddle)
- Saddle blanket
- Head collar, bridle and head rope
- Leg iron and driver's whip
- Wooden pole bar

The traces were leather-covered and made of twisted steel wire, and there were three types, namely wire long, wire adjustable and wire short.

It was 1910 before the New Zealand Government bought supplies of the new harness.

RIDING SCHOOL (Manege):

Our riding schools were modest by comparison with the indoor schools available to the Gunners in the United Kingdom.

Apart from the Trentham Riding School, equitation was taught in open paddocks. The Trentham School encompassed an area of 240 feet by 120 feet and was fenced. (See Appendices as to lay-out). This enclosed school gave the recruits confidence, also the instructor was in close contact with the class to correct faults and encourage young and nervous riders. In a twelve-week equitation course about two weeks was spent in the confines of the manege. Then the recruits were exercised in a large 100-acre paddock, which gave them experience in riding in the open. Then followed cross-country riding, including up and down hills, through water and other hazards. Finally, before going on to driving drill they were put through the jumping lane.

The set-up at Trentham was pretty basic, apart from the school there was a Harness and Forage building and a large high ceiling building for wet weather instruction. A line of horse troughs and horse lines completed the complex.

During the Great War riding schools were set up at Trentham and Featherston Camps. In the book "Historic Trentham" pictures show four maneges in use at one time. Schools were staffed by instructors from the RNZA who instructed soldiers how to ride, drive and look after their charges. Some of those instructors were:

Lt "Blazer" Wilson, Sgt Mick Heaphy, Bdr Tommy Mahony, Dick Healey, Phil George, Alex Tierney, the writer, Geo Martin and Fred Eastgate. There were others.

DRIVING DRILL:

To be a driver as part of a six-horse team required special skills. Riding one horse and controlling the other was so different from the normal method of handling animals when on foot or from the box.

As mentioned earlier, there are three driving positions - lead, centre and wheel. Once the six horses have been harnessed together by short traces the team is complete.

Drivers are then exercised as a team, without using wagons or limbers. They are taught wheeling, circling, moving over undulating ground, up and down small hills. The most important lesson to be learned is to keep their traces tight and to ensure that all animals are doing a fair share of the work. Finally, before "hooking in" to wagons, they are put through their paces at a trot, canter and then the gallop. Halting the six horses is another important skill to be learned.

Words of command and signals were also learnt by the drivers so such commands as "Walk March," "Halt" and others are given. On hearing these commands drivers react to them.

The next phase is when they are "hooked in" to the gun carriage and the training is repeated with a two-ton weight behind them.

One of the problems for drivers is getting horses legs "over" the trace - this can cause a horse to be brought down, hence the instructor's words to young drivers "keep those bloody traces tight." Lastly drivers are taught how to drive from the "box." This type of driving is used when driving general service wagons (GS), a type of army cart used for carrying supplies of forage and other stores.

Drivers sit on the wagon seat (box) and using long reins, drive two or four horses as the load and terrain demands. (See illustrations).

DEPLOYMENT:

Deployment of artillery means moving a battery or Brigade over open country, prior to bringing the guns into action. The battery leader responsible for deploying his unit, could use various manoeuvres to achieve this.

They were:

"Line" method

All guns abreast

"Battery Column"

A section (2 guns) abreast

"Column of Route"

One gun plus ammunition wagon
behind each other

"Individual"

Each gun detachment led in by
its Sergeant to a marked position

There were variations to these methods, but in general the methods outlined above were used.

Distances between guns and wagon was important and were defined as :-

"full interval" 20 yards between guns

"half interval" 10 yards between guns

"close interval" 4 yards between guns

Lead drivers had to be alert to signals given by the battery leader to changes in direction and position. All signals were proceeded by a blast on a whistle or a trumpet.

Again to bring the guns out of action we had different methods, depending whether the battery was to advance or retire. They were called "limbering up".

Front limber up - means advance - trail eye - front

Rear limber up - means retire - trail eye rear

Two other methods could be used if the ground did not allow the use of the front and rear methods. They were "left limber up" - moving left - trail eye left, or "right limber up" - moving right - trail eye right.

Again all lead drivers will be looking as to which way the trail eye is pointing so they bring their teams up to the guns.



Hugo Foster

George Sutherland

Eric Scott Don

Bill Dillon

Schwass