



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 33 710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 9

NEWSLETTER No 80

December 1993

A Registered Publication

SEASONS GREETINGS: Our Patron, President, and Executive extend to all Members the compliments of the season, and best wishes for 1994.

LAST POST:

1640 Lieutenant RA (Bob) Rudge, 17 Nov 93, at Thames.  
33842 Major DH (David) Rollo MBE, 15 Dec 93, at Wellington.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

W.P. Beveridge to 49 Gloucester St, Greenmeadows, Napier.  
Captain S.H. Bryant to Unit 3, 9 Ikamatua Lane, Christchurch 2.  
WO2 G.W. Forrester to 10B McKinnon Crescent, Waiouru.  
Captain B.D. Millynn to 460 Fitzgerald Rd, Drury.  
Colonel T. O'Reilly to New Zealand Observers, UNAVEM II, United Nations HQ, Luanda, Angola, c/o PO Box 13817, Onehunga, Auckland.  
Mrs C.Z. Cook to 3/6 Arthur Rd, Manurewa 1702.

NEW MEMBERS:

1764 CW (Charlie) Reid, 314 Mackay St, Thames (revived membership).  
1860 OL (Oscar) Tritt, 27 Kiwi St, Oneroa, Waiheke Is.  
L47827 WO2 G. (Grant) Robb RNZA, 16 Field Regt RNZA, Private Bag, Waiouru.  
Mrs TG (Tui) McLeay, 8 Keitha Place, Kinloch RD1, Taupo (Honorary).  
Mrs CM (Constance) Shepherd, 22 Base St, Victoria Pt, Queensland 4165,  
(Associate)  
Mrs S (Sylvia) Rudge, 711 Queen St, Thames (Associate).

LIFE MEMBER:

1573 Major AJ (Dutch) Holland, 2/25 Ashdown Pl, Papakura, wef 23 Jun 93.

NB: We do not have dates of birth of all members. Any member who has turned 80 or is about to turn 80 and has not been named a Life Member please contact Secretary.

REUNIONS:

7 A Tk Regt: 8-9-10 March 94 at Alexander Park Raceway, Greenlane, Epsom, Auckland. Contact R. Currie, Reunion Secretary, 565 Hillsborough Rd, Mt Roskill, Auckland 4. Phone 09/626 4435.

6 Field Regt: National reunion, Gisborne, 15-16-17 Oct 94. Further details later. Contact Secretary, Gisborne RSA, Box 149, Gisborne.

NZ Korea Veterans Association: Hawkes Bay; national reunion 28-29-30 Oct 94, Hastings. Enquiries to Secretary, Leo McLaughlin, Box 560, Hastings. Phone 06/835 7601

NZ 'J' Force and BCOF Golden Jubilee Reunion: Pascal St Stadium, Palmerston North, 17-20 Mar 95. All armed services who served in Japan



welcome. For registration and enquiries write Reunion Secretary, Box 473, Feilding.

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NEWS FROM AROUND AND ABOUT:

Colonel Tom O'Reilly has been made Chief of Staff of the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), and has already left for Angola. UNAVEM was established in 1988 to oversee the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. In 1991 its role was extended to cover the civil war ceasefire and the ensuing elections.

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On a trip to Australia in November Paul O'Connor, our Canterbury Rep, visited Colin Young on his Gold Coast 10-acre block and new homestead. Although Colin has recently had a triple by-pass operation, Paul says he is still as active as a twenty-year-old, and has established himself extremely well. Anyone wishing to contact Colin may obtain address and phone number from Paul.

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Phil Calvert has been appointed an Honorary Member of the RAA Officers Mess (Artillery Centre at North Head), which he very much appreciate. During a trip to the UK and Europe some two months ago he spent three nights at the RA Mess, Woolwich, and, he says, he was at last able to spend some time at the Rotunda Museum.

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WO2 Grant Robb, BSM 163 Battery, is anxious to obtain historical information about the Battery which has recently been re-activated. He is producing honours boards featuring past BCs and BSMs, but to date has not progressed far beyond the Battery's time in Korea (1950-54). In particular he needs information on the Battery's second period of activation (1958-63). If any member can assist Grant please contact him at 16 Field Regiment RNZA, ATG, Private Bag, Waiouru.

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Sel Bryant, back from a trip visiting his son in Canada, reports that he took part in a tour which included a stay in Kingston, the old capital of Ontario. Here is situated old Fort Henry which once controlled traffic on the St Lawrence River, and where are still preserved a number of pieces of ordnance some of which date back a couple of centuries. During the summer selected guns are manned by students dressed in period uniform, a first-class tourist attraction which is a great money-spinner for the locals.

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Tom Chapman, our Wellington Rep., attended the annual general meeting of the NZ Army Association held at the Messines Army Centre, Trentham, on 20 Oct 93. Of greatest interest was an address by the CGS on the future of the Armed Services, the main thrust of which would see TF and RF under one command. The General gave a detailed run down of the integration of various units. The RNZA(RF) would comprise two batteries each of FOUR guns. There followed lengthy discussion on the Cadet Forces which are still thriving in spite of continual financial constraint.

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Mr GH (George) Hogan, 24 Bangalow St, Ettalong 2257, NSW, is trying to get the Australian Government to arrange a trip to Labuan Island during 1995, the 50th anniversary of the landing there during World War 2. Any members interested contact George direct for further information.

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COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Saturday 19 Feb 94 in the main lounge, Birkenhead RSA, commencing 1000 hrs. Non-committee members welcome.

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REGIMENTAL OPEN DAY:

16 Field Regiment RNZA will be holding an open day at their headquarters in Waiouru Camp on Saturday 12 Feb 94. Accommodation will be available on the nights 11 and 12 Feb. Intending visitors to make own transport arrangements.

NZPFOCA REUNION 1994; Will be held in Taupo 18-19-20 November 1994. Mark this date on your calendar/diary NOW.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20 NOV 93: Following is the President's report:

It is with great pleasure that I am able once more to say welcome to those present at our AGM.

What a pity that there are not a few new younger faces. Maybe in the future this will occur. At present in NZ our Regular Force is sadly depleted as to what we, the past members, liked to think was a very special part of our lives. The new members could be coming though, as in Col. Williams and RSM I. Foster of the 16th Field we have two very good members.

As it happened I was fortunate enough to be in Waiouru as a guest of the 16th Field for Gunners Day. The courtesies shown to all the old Gunners present by the younger generation was wonderful. The consideration and interest shown left nothing to be desired. During the time there I mentioned to Ian about the members of the Regt. joining the Old Comrades. The reply was that none of them had the three years required to become members. I have no doubt with the likes of Ian around, although the numbers of Regular Force Gunners is not great, in the future our ranks will be increased. All can be assured that the present Gunner is still a credit to the country.

Our current Patron General Hassett still remains a tower of strength to the Association. Also as Colonel Commandant he certainly keeps his finger on the pulse of things as far as the Gunners are concerned.

Alf Smith, although not keeping the best of health is still arranging a couple of get-togethers at the Birkenhead RSA. These little functions are appreciated and in the main quite well attended. Any members in Auckland at the time these functions are on, should attend, and enjoy the camaraderie which is in evidence there.

About our Secretary Wally. What more can one say that has already been said. The time and research he puts in to keep members informed of what is going on is great. So a big thank you Wally for a job well done.

Des O'Connor, our Treasurer, is also still doing a great job with the financial affairs. By looking at the balance sheet one can see the Association is in a good healthy state. Many thanks to his dedication to the job over the years.

To the Committee I would also thank them for their attendance at the meetings and their loyalty to the Association. And a big thanks to the District Reps. who if it was not for their reports, we would be unable to let the members know what is going on within the country.

So many thanks to all those in attendance to-day, and with a little luck hope to see you all here next year.

MEMBERS:

Full	271
Associate	42
Life	31
Honorary	4
Total	348.

(Sgd) Allan Boyd, President.

20 Nov 93.



APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM: LE AUTRIDGE, TJ ARNOTT, RE ATKINS, JR BASHAM, N BENNETTS, HG BIGG-WITHER, EG BICKERTON,, GW BLANDFORD, CJ BRAGG, LJ BRADY, SH BRYANT, HS COCKS, RW COE, CZ COOK, CJC CROOKES, M CRICHTON, IJ DOAK, BD DREYER, DP DUMBLETON, EA FORBES, NV FORBES, GC FORRESTER, JD GIBB, FH GIBBISON, RJ GOLDSWORTHY, PM GREGG, RA HARRIS, CJ HAYDEN, MJ HELLYER, EG HIGHT, AJ HOLLAND, T HUGHES, HB HONNOR, R JAQUES, D JONES, HL JONES, DL KENNING, ELA KITNEY, KF LEE, EC LILE, EC MORGAN, TSG MORGAN, WB MORLAND, JW MONK, GC MANSFIELD, RJ MARTIN, RO MEYER, BD MILLYN, WBF McALLUM, RB McIVER, AJ MacDONALD, R NEWTH, G NORRIS, T O'REILLY, SM PATTERSON, PJ PAGE, LA PEARCE, MS PHILLIPS, T PILCHER, A PILCHER. LJ PYE, RA RUDGE, J McL ROSS, HGC SALT, JJ SHERSON, JF SPRING, JJ SKILTON,, CWN STANBRIDGE, CC STEWART, E SUTHERLAND, E STANDEN, WN STEPHENSON, VG SVENDSEN, AB TUSTIN, JT TRANSOM, LW THORNTON, IG WILSON, L WILSON, LW WRIGHT, SD WRIGHT, DJ WALLACE, CS WOODS, D WESTON, RN WYLDE, GR YOUNG.

#### AGM PROCEEDINGS:

FINANCE: Each member present received a copy of the Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet which once again showed the Association's finances to be in a healthy <sup>state</sup> due in no small measure to the generosity of certain members who make donations over and above their commitments.

SUBSCRIPTION 1994: to remain at \$5 per annum (\$2-50 for lady associates)

SECRETARY'S HONORARIUM: To remain at \$250 per annum.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Received from AJ Smith (Auckland and North Shore), IA Rowntree (Thames/Coromandel), IS Foster (Waiouru), JG Gilberd Bay of Plenty/Hawkes Bay), TJ Chapman (Wellington/Hutt Valley). See above for President's Report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: All Officers were re-elected with the exception of the President; our new President is Captain James G. Gilberd.

GENERAL: Our Patron, General Ron Hassett, gave an interesting address on the Regiment and on future plans for the Army Museum which is about to undergo an extensive reorganisation, expansion, and improvement of facilities to ensure long-term preservation of artifacts and history, as well as make it more viable commercially.

REUNION DINNER: Our guests of Honour were Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Williams, CO 16 Field Regiment RNZA, and his good lady Marie, accompanied by Harry ANDERSON, Doug ADAMS and daughter Helen, Charlie ANNIS, Shay BASSETT, Bill and Jasmine BEVERIDGE, Guy BLACKWELL, Allan and Elsie IYD Iris BOYTER, Barry and Anne CALDER, Tom and Margaret CHAPMAN, Matt and Rosalie CRAWLEY, Bert DYSON, Dan and Dorothy FOLEY, Ian and Sue FOSTER, Jack FRAME, Wally and Alison FRASER, Bill and Emma GILES, Jim and Dot GILBERD and daughter Glenys, Jack GILLOOLY, Beryl HYNES, Barney HARROP, Ron and Mike HASSETT, James HORN, Bob and Betty KERSLAKE, Jack KEARNEY, Ashley KING, Frank and Denise LUPO, Brian and Tilley MEYER, Vic and Audrey MEYLE, George and Patti MILN, Ian and Rene McLEAN, Neil and Helen McMAHON, Harold NICHOLSON, Reg NUTSFORD, Des and Bunty O'CONNOR, Bill and Joyce POWRIE, Ian and Iris ROWNTREE, Robby and Joyce ROBINSON, Wally RUFFELL and daughter Lorraine, Alf SMITH and daughter Carroll, Gordon and Nora WEAVER, Walter and Anna McKINNON, Joe HANVEY.

Ian Foster, who was Dining Vice President, proposed the toast "The Regiment" while Jim Gilberd proposed the toast "Absent Comrades."

In his reply to the toast "The Regiment" Graeme Williams dealt mainly with the recent increase in the strength of 16 Field Regiment, and the problems it involved.

His thought-provoking address compared the World War 1, World War 2, and Korean War recruit - who could instinctively survive in the environment in which he had to train and fight - with the modern, softer, better-educated (?), city-dwelling type encountered today.



While the former had only to be taught how to fight, the latter has to be taught the basics of survival as well as the necessity of doing as he is told.

CHURCH PARADE: Held in the meeting house Tiki o te Tamamutu, the service at which Rev. Bill McLeay again officiated, was as usual well-attended. Your Secretary read the first lesson, Bill Powrie the second. Hymn sheets were provided and we were fortunate to have a pianist, Mrs Helen McMahon, while Tui McLeay ably led the singing..

The committee had recently elected Tui an honorary member for her assistance in organising our schurch parades over the years, and at the conclusion of the service she thanked the Association for the honour, at the same time she had derived much pleasure from helping us.

ONE FOR THE ROAD: Suite 'A' was once again the venue for a last drink together and farewells until 1994.

THANKS are due to Joe Hanvey who drove the minibus to and from RSA and Yacht Club for members wishing to avoid conflict with the law through over-imbibing.

We are also grateful to Teresse Karaitiana of the Spa Hotel who kindly lent her electronic piano for the church parade.

St BARBARAS DAY SOCIAL: Held on 15 December, the nearest convenient Wednesday to St Barbara's Day, at Birkenhead RSA, this function again proved very successful thanks to our Auckland/North Shore Rep., Alf Smith. It was gratifying to see members who for various reasons were unable to attend the Taupo reunion, including four of our widows. The following attended: Harry ANDERSON, Eric and Patti AUTRIDGE, Eric and Joyce BICKERTON, Guy BLACKWELL, Iris BOYTER, Win BLACK, Val BAKER, Allan and Elsie BOYD, Dan and Dorothy FOLEY, Nev FISHER, Frank GIBBISON, Barney HARROP, Joan KEINZLEY, Herb MILNE, Dick MITCHELL, Bill and Estelle MORLAND, Vic and Audrey MEYLE, Reg NUTSFORD, Des and Buntty O'CONNOR, Bill and Joyce POWRIE, Don POTTER, Jim ROSS, Ian and Iris ROWNTREE, Wally RUFFELL, Wally RUSSELL, (not a missprint), Henry and Thelma SALT, Alf SMITH, Vic SVENDSEN, Margaret STITT, Terry and Joan TRANSOM, Les and Joan WILSON, Gordon and Nora WEAVER, Yogi YOUNG.

### THE GUN

Continued from Newsletter 79

By Wally Ruffell

#### MECHANISATION (Continued):

The sole attempt at mechanisation of medium artillery in New Zealand prior to 1938 was the purchase of two Model 1925 Holt Caterpillar tractors of American origin. These were fully tracked petrol-driven vehicles, both eventually being held at Fort Dorset, Wellington. During the camping season they were railed to the training camps for the medium artillery batteries, e.g. Rotorua, Waipukurau, or Waiouru. If guns had to be moved at other times or places prime movers were hired for the purpose. The Holts ceased to be used shortly after the outbreak of World War 2 when towage of medium guns was undertaken by Leyland trucks previously used to tow QF 3-in 20-cwt AA guns, the latter having been relegated to a static role.

When towing a BL 6-in howitzer or BL 60-pr gun the Holts achieved a maximum speed of about 10 mph (16 kph) on the road, while petrol consumption averaged two miles per gallon (142 litres per 100 km !). For cross-country work speed was slower and fuel consumption higher.

The Holts were reliable, easy to drive, and easy to maintain. Even a 'dumb' Gunner could learn all about a Holt in one day.



They had no batteries; lighting (headlamps only) was by acetylene gas, while ignition was by magneto. The latter was fitted with an impulse starter which made starting quite easy, two or three turns of the crank handle being sufficient even on a winter's morning at Fort Dorset,

Being fully tracked their cross-country performance was excellent, if rather slow. One of the Holts is shown in Fig. 23.

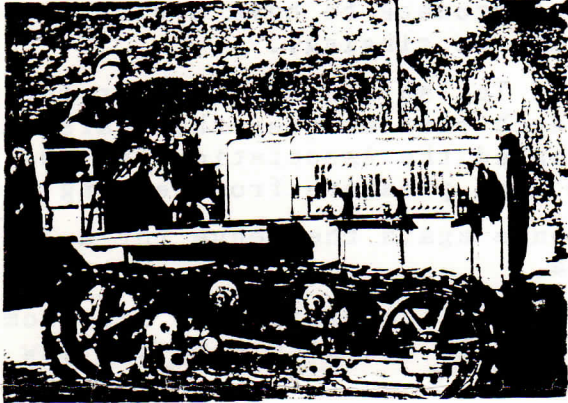


Fig. 23: One of the Holt Tractors at Fort Dorset in 1938. Note the 'straight pipe' exhaust. The Number 1, who accompanied the Dvr really had to shout to make himself heard! The 'dumb Gunner' in the driver's seat is the writer.

For mechanical traction the sole modification to gun carriages prior to World War 2 (in New Zealand) was the fitting of rubber pads to the old wooden iron-tyred wheels of World War 1. So the wheels would not fall to pieces speed was limited to 15 mph (24 kph). After the outbreak of war local pattern bogies made up from commercial-type truck wheels were fitted, a 6-in howitzer so modified being shown in Fig. 24. They were not satisfactory; the equipment did not 'track' well and was more difficult to handle in action than the World War 1 version.

During World War 2 the 6-in howitzer and 60-pr gun were superseded by the BL 5.5-in and 4.5-in guns respectively. The latter were fitted with heavy pneumatic-tyred wheels designed for mechanical towage.

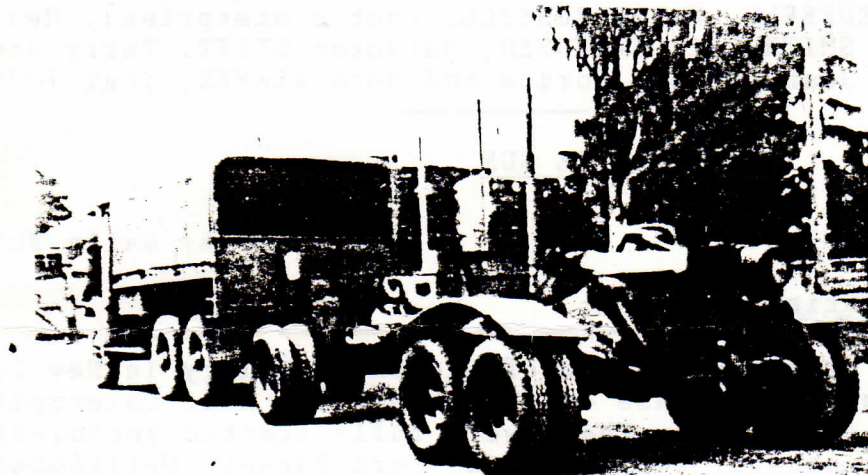


Fig. 24: 6-in howitzer on local pattern bogie produced in New Zealand during World War 2. It did not 'track' well - as the trail of smashed one-way bridges round the country amply testified. The tractor is an ex-3-in 20-cwt Leyland.

#### SELF-PROPELLED (SP) GUNS - ANTI-AIRCRAFT:

Attempts to mount guns on wheeled or tracked vehicles with built-in means of propulsion date back a century, but few met with the approval of military authorities until the decade leading up to World War 1. Most of the earlier types were designed to carry machine guns in the infantry or cavalry roles.

The first SP equipments to carry ordnance were intended for action against balloons - which had been used for military observation purposes since Napoleonic times. In 1909 the German firms of Krupp and Ehrhardt produced respectively 75 and 50-mm guns on high-angle mounts



carried on the decks of commercial-type trucks modified for the purpose. Needless to say, with the rapid development of aircraft during this period, these guns were soon to be used for engaging enemy planes as well as balloons. An example is shown in Fig. 25.

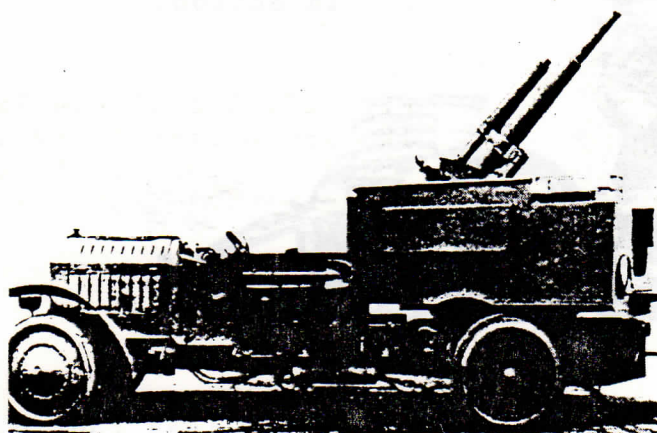


Fig. 25: German anti-balloon gun of 1909.

The French followed suit by similarly mounting their Model 1897 75-mm field gun on a truck chassis.

Not to be outdone the Royal Artillery at first put their 18-pr Mk 1 (3.3-in) field gun on high angle mounting on to a truck chassis as shown in Fig. 26. However, its performance left much to be desired so they relined the gun down to 13-pr (3-in), but retained the 18-pr cartridge. This combination proved much more efficient.

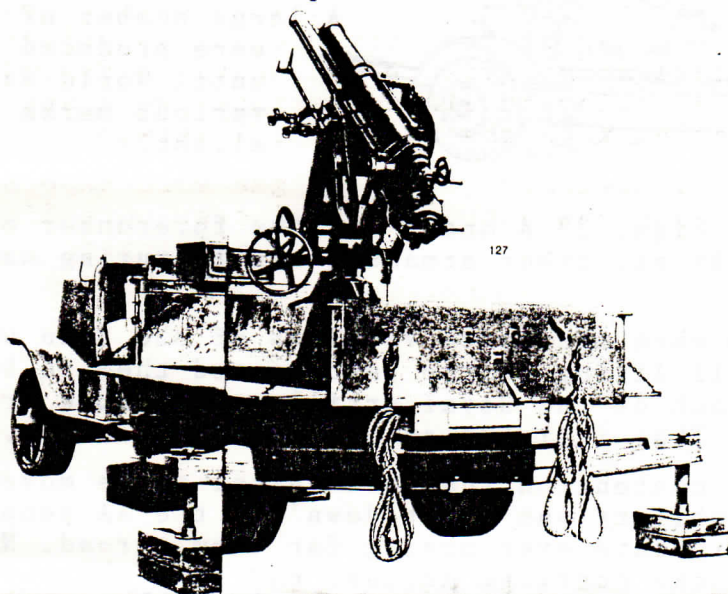


Fig. 26: British 18/13-pr carried on modified motor truck.

It was superseded in 1914 by the QF 3-in 20-cwt gun which survived until 1946. Not another makeshift, the 3-in was a piece especially designed for the AA role, but like its predecessors it first made use of an ordinary truck body as a platform as shown in Fig. 27.

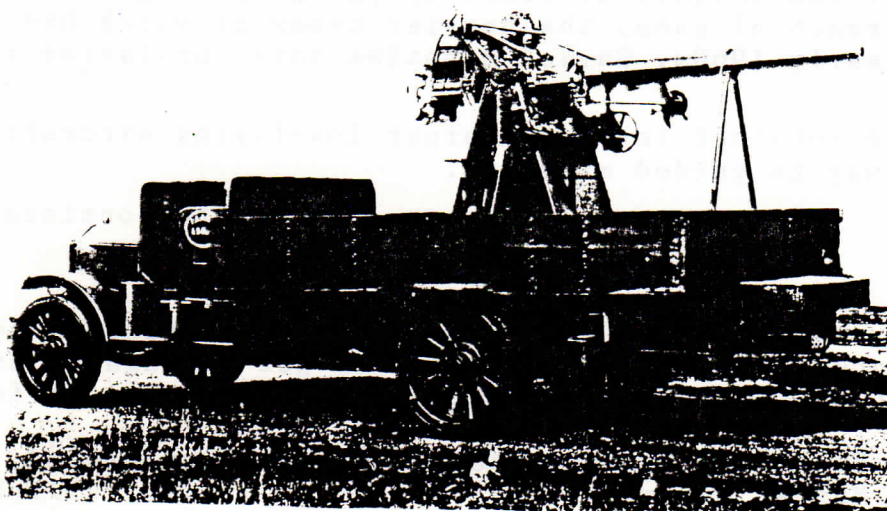


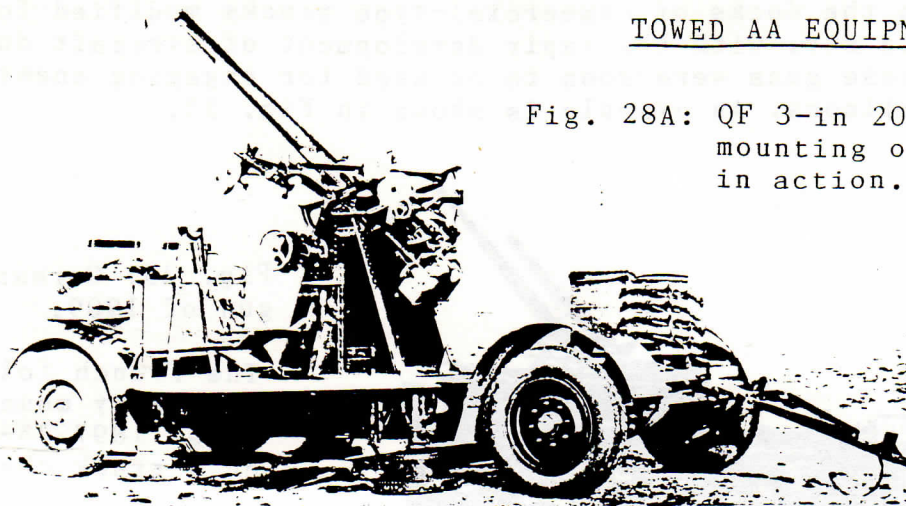
Fig. 27: QF 3-in 20-cwt gun on truck body.

Although early designers of AA equipments found readily available truck bodies convenient platforms for their guns, they proved too difficult to stabilise, so were soon replaced by towed platforms, a four-wheeled version of which is depicted in Fig. 28.



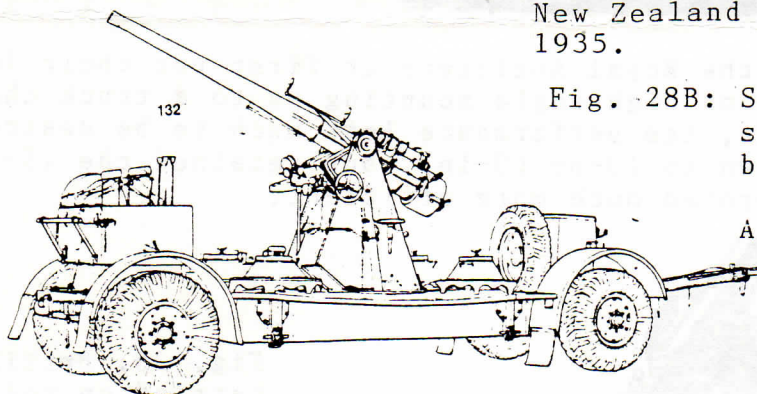
TOWED AA EQUIPMENTS:

Fig. 28A: QF 3-in 20-cwt AA gun and mounting on towed platform in action.



New Zealand received four of these in 1935.

Fig. 28B: Similar gun to that in Fig. shown in travelling position but with gun unclamped.



A large number of these guns were produced from 1914 until World War 2. The various marks differed slightly.

The equipment shown in Figs. 28 A and B was the forerunner of similar combinations produced by all other armament-manufacturing nations worldwide.

Strange as it may seem when the towed versions of the 3-in were first made some Officers still living in the past wanted them to be horse-drawn! But the new branch of the Royal Artillery - formed from the RGA - would have none of it. They insisted on mechanical traction.

The horse fraternity's contention that mechanical prime movers would lack cross-country capability was 'shot down' by the AA people who did not envisage their equipments ever moving far from a road. Nevertheless some of the earlier trucks carrying AA guns had four-wheel drive.

Construction of guns, mountings and platforms changed little over the years. Eventually the heights attained by jet-propelled aircraft put them beyond the reach of guns, the heavier types of which had become obsolete by the early 1960s. Guided missiles have supplanted them in most countries.

Light AA guns are retained for use against low-flying aircraft but even they are giving way to guided missiles.

To be continued.

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"The art is like unto a circle without end, or a labyrinth, where a man being well entered in, knoweth not how to get out again, and therefore it must be industry and practice which maketh a perfect Gunner."

From "The Gunners Glasse" by William Eldred, sometime Master Gunner who served for 60 years. Published in 16





# EX-VIETNAM SERVICES ASSN INC

Telephone: (home) 4453674  
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10 North Ave  
Devonport  
Jan 94

To all Ex-Vietnam Vetrans (who are not current members of the Assoc.)


A very happy and prosperous New Year to you all! I put that last piece in parenthesis a bit tongue in cheek. This is not really a hard sell for you to sign up as a member, although if any of you wish to do so I can supply the forms.

Mainly I wanted to let you know that I have taken over the reins as Area Rep from Fitz, and if any of you have any enquiries on your rights as Vietnam Vets etc., if you contact me I will do my utmost to see they are satisfactorily answered.

In the near future I would like to see an informal get together of all the Vets in the Bays area (some 75 pers). There are many venues open to us and I would welcome any suggestions. Polite ones, that is.

There is also an appeal being organised to assist Ernest "Horse" Paerata, who is doing twenty-five years on a drug conviction in Bangkok. Whilst we do not condone what he has done, he is in pretty dire straits. Apparently his daily food from the prison authorities consists of one bowl of rice and one bowl of soup. Any assistance we provide will be in the form of monthly food parcels. If you know "Horse" and / or are prepared to assist please give me a call I would appreciate it very much.

Best wishes for you and yours for the New Year.



Larry English  
Area Rep  
North Shore Bays