



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 33 710. TAKAPUNA. AUCKLAND 1309

NEWSLETTER No 91

September 1996

A Registered Publication

LAST POST:

Mrs Beryl Hynes, 8 Jul 96, at Hamilton (Associate Member).  
1764 C.W. (Charlie) Reid, 8 Jul 96, at Thames.  
1612 H.B. (Harry) Anderson, 16 Jul 96, at Devonport.  
1717 J.J. (Joff) Adams, 24 Jul 96, at Christchurch.  
1706 P.J. (Pun) Page, 11 Aug 96, at Matata.  
1696 Lt Col J.R. (Roy) Spence MBE MC, 14 Aug 96, at Auckland.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Captain S. Bryant to 6 Camellia Court, Grey St, Palmerston North.  
V.W. Kingi to 86 Bignell St, Wanganui.  
J.H. Smith to 12 Patricia St, Strathpine, Queensland 4500, Australia.  
Lt Col R.H. Williams to Greenacres Rd, RD1 Richmond, Nelson.  
Captain S.L. Bassett to Officers Mess, Trentham Camp, Private Bag 905,  
Upper Hutt.

MEMBERSHIP: New member:

F46741 M.P. (Mervyn) Beech, 25 State Highway 49, Waiouru (Associate).

COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting will be held in the main lounge, Birkenhead RSA, at 1000 hrs Saturday 28 September 1996. Non-committee members are welcome to attend.

NZPFOCA REUNION 1-3 NOVEMBER 1996; See last page this newsletter for details.

NZ ARMY LEAVE CENTRES: Phone or write to Leave Centre Booking Clerks:

North Island Leave Centres

HQ Support Command

Private Bag 901

UPPER HUTT

Ph 04/527 5823

Free Ph 0800 111 823 for North Island Bookings

South Island Leave Centres

3rd Logistics Regiment

Burnham Camp

BURNHAM

Ph 03/363 0163.

NB: For reunion at Taupo book in at Acacia Bay.

REUNIONS: 2NZEF Japan get together at Papakura 28 Sep 96. Wives, widows, and partners welcome. Contact Dave Holmes, PO Box 374, Papakura, Phone 09/298 9466.

4 Field Regiment: Reunion luncheon (Auckland Branch) AT Morrinsville RSA, Tuesday 8 Oct 96. Contact Secretary, F.A. Dove, 12 Vodanovich Rd, Te Atatu South, Auckland. Ph 09/834 5974.

49 Bty 38 Field Regiment: Christchurch, 18-20 Oct 96. Contact Ken Jeffrey, 3 Lansbury Ave, Christchurch 5. Ph 03/352 9086.

4 Field Regiment: Last National Reunion to be held at Massey University,



Palmerston North, 14-16 Feb 97. To register contact Secretary F.A. Dove, 12 Vodanovich Rd, Te Atatu South, Auckland 1008. Ph 09/834 5974. Make it a grand final get-together!

1997 National Reunion 2NZEF Japan (J Force) WILL BE HELD IN Dunedin 7-10 March 1997. For info contact Reunion Secretary Mrs G. Kelly, PO Box 2340, Dunedin.

4 Field Regiment wall plaque on wooden base. Contact John Stewart, Stokes Valley RSA, Phone 04/563 7695.

AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS WORLD WAR 2: Mr Colin J. Bruce, 7 Elliott House Elliott Rd, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7QA, England is to compile a volume of reminiscences of people involved in amphibious operations in World War 2. He invites any of our members interested in sharing such memories to contact him at the above address.

Falling numbers attending leathercraft night classes is forcing veteran tutor Barney Harrop into retirement.

The Milford resident has been tutoring for the last 10 years on Tuesday nights at Westlake Boys' High School as part of the Community Education programme. Before that he was at Glenfield College and Takapuna Grammar for over 15 years.

But he says there is no longer a demand for leathercraft lessons.

"I'm retiring mainly because the numbers are dropping off. It's a sign of the times because we've got instant entertainment now and people are reluctant to use their hands and see what skills they've got as a form of relaxation.

"I think it's just too easy to play with a mouse, push a button and play a game and have somebody entertain you instead of doing it yourself. They like to have it done for them," he says.

Barney first began working with leather about 25 years ago.

The former army officer attended a leatherwork course in 1971 as a form of relaxation and his passion for the craft grew.

He read every book he could on the subject, continuing to teach himself, before being asked to take a class.

He talks passionately about his classes, which have included men and women from 14 years old to 86 years old.

"I like helping people grow, that's probably the essence. The joy is in seeing people have pride in themselves and the work they have done."

Barney says an 86-year-old man drove from Whangaparaoa every week for the class and made a beautiful western-style saddle from leather.

"But I think the crafts are dying, nobody's doing it. They would rather buy something that's been printed in Taiwan or been done on a machine.

"For me it will be so sad because I have seen so much good work done over the years that I would just really like to see continued. There's something about working in leather that's quite unique. It's a very forgiving material."

"I'm a very busy boy. I don't feel that old, only the body gets a bit weak but the brain doesn't, that's for sure."

Barney says anything that can be made in leather — whether it be a belt, jacket or western saddle — he can make it.

His final course, which begins next Tuesday includes lessons on carving and dyeing as well as stitching.



**DYING CRAFT:** English-born Barney Harrop, now of Milford, spends spare moment working leather.

VETERAN LEATHERCRAFT TUTOR CALLS IT QUILTS.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

NORTH SHORE TIMES



### ONCE A GUNNER

Terry Transom, onetime Secretary of this Association for some eight years, has this to say:

"A bloke said to me the other day, "Oh, you were a Gunner?""

"No, no, I replied. I am a Gunner; you must have heard the old adage 'once a Gunner always a Gunner?'"

"I still feel like that; what about you?"

### THE GUN

By Wally Ruffell

Continued from Newsletter No 90

#### PROJECTILES: Gun Arrows:

As the arrow was the principal projectile in use prior to the advent of the gun, so it continued to be used with early 14th century ordnance which were of light calibre.

Known as 'darts,' 'quarrels,' 'carreaux,' 'garros,' etc gun arrows were short, with heavy oak shafts, iron points or 'heads,' and metal 'wings' in place of feathers. Wings were mounted on three or four sides to ensure the projectile was centred in the bore and stabilised in flight, while the shaft was wrapped with leather to assist in centring and at the same time to provide a gas-tight fit. See Fig. 65.



Fig. 65: Gun Arrow.

#### ROUNDSHOT:

Gun arrows were expensive to make and soon gave way to lead balls. The latter, being made slightly oversize in calibre to ensure a gas-tight fit, had to be forced into the bore, for which purpose each gun was supplied with a 'drivell' (drift), and a hammer. Of course this method of loading was suitable only for the small-calibre breech-loading bombards then in use.

Neither gun arrows nor lead shot were suitable for the larger pieces which began to appear during the last quarter of the 14th century. It was still possible to use lead - with windage - but lead was expensive. Gunmakers thus turned to other materials.

History records that the Italians, then a step ahead of other nations in the development of artillery, used small quantities of bronze and iron shot early in the second half of the 14th century. However, use of these materials appears to have been short-lived, probably because bronze was expensive and the iron shot - probably of wrought iron - were expensive also.

By 1364 the Italians, closely followed by other countries, were using stone shot. Stone was plentiful as well as cheap. In addition the spate of church building then taking place ensured there were always stone masons ready to turn their skills to the conversion of blocks of stone to spherical shot. The projectiles thus formed were called 'gun stones, a term which survived for some years after stone was superseded by cast iron!

Although cheap stone had its disadvantages. The shaping of shot by hand was a slow process. It was light compared to iron; to be effective a shot had to be heavy, and to be heavy it necessarily had to be large,



hence the 'think big' bombards described in Chapter 4. Furthermore, stone shot fired at a solid target often broke up on impact without causing appreciable damage. Something better was needed.

As the technique of casting iron in Europe developed during the 15th century, so iron roundshot began to supersede 'gun stones.' Italy was using cast iron shot during the early 1400s, closely followed by Germany. When England commenced is not clear, but records show she was producing large quantities of iron roundshot by 1512. But stone shot died hard; one English authority mentions its use as late as 1578.

Cast iron roundshot was to be the chief projectile for the whole of the smooth-bore era, i.e. to the middle of the 19th century.

#### HOT SHOT:

Gunners soon found that the ideal projectiles for the destruction of wooden targets, e.g. ships, buildings etc were cast iron roundshot heated to redness. Loading, of course, had to be smartly carried out, and to prevent the hot shot from igniting the propellant charge, a wad of turf was inserted in front of it. Stephen Batory, King of Poland, is credited with having pioneered the use of red-hot shot in 1579.

Note that the Royal Navy usually avoided the destruction of enemy ships by sinking or setting on fire, preferring to capture them, put prize crews aboard, bring them back to England, and there sell them. The prize money was distributed among the crew, of which the Captain got the lion's share, other Officers the bulk of the remainder, while the ordinary seaman got about enough 'to get drunk on.' Grape was the preferred weapon; it cut rigging and killed the crew, thus putting the enemy ship out of action without damaging it too much.

#### GRAPE SHOT:

Grape was so-called because in its original form a round resembled a bunch of grapes. Termed 'quilted grape,' it comprised a number of heavy iron balls secured as shown in Fig. 66A.

A later form, called 'tier grape' is shown in Fig. 66B. The balls in each type, known as 'sand shot' varied in weight from a few ounces up to 4 lbs (1.8 kg) each, according to the calibre of the gun.

Grape was never fired from bronze guns as it damaged the bores, nor was it used in the field; any reference to it being so used is probably erroneous. Grape was superseded by case toward the end of the smooth-bore era. Its maximum effective range was 600 yards (549 m).

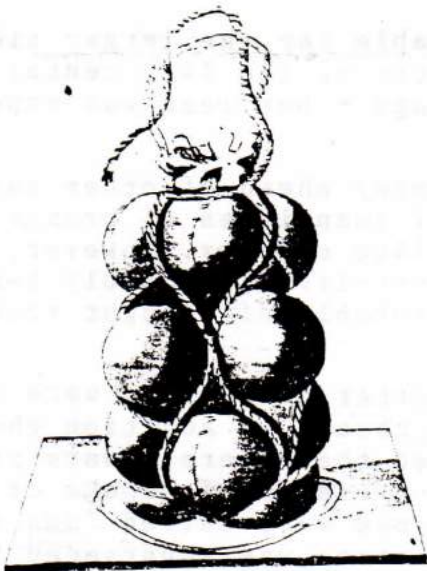


Fig. 66A: Quilted grape.

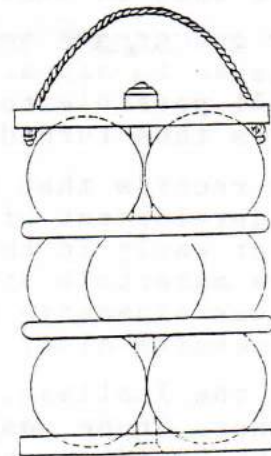


Fig. 66B: Tier grape.



CASE SHOT:

The ancient forerunner to case was 'langridge,;' a quantity of junk such as bits of scrap metal, old nails etc - even gravel, loaded loose into the gun and used against troops in the open. Then Gunners put the junk into containers and called it 'canister' or 'case.'

Further improvement followed; the container or 'case' of sheet iron or 'tin' in cylindrical form was filled with cast iron balls each varying in weight from 2 ounces (57 grams) to 8 ounces (227 grams) for the smaller guns, and from 8 ounces to a pound (454 g) for the heavier.

Case was fired from all natures of ordnance against troops in the open, at ships' rigging and boats, effective range being about 350 yards (320 m). On being fired the metal canister burst open at the muzzle, the contents producing a shotgun effect.

Case proper was first used at the siege of Constantinople in 1453, and was still being used in World War 2, e.g. in the American QF 37-mm anti-tank gun. In the latter projectile the canister was filled with lead balls of about 12-mm diameter set in rosin, and was said to be effective against troops in the jungle warfare of the Pacific Islands. See Fig. 67.

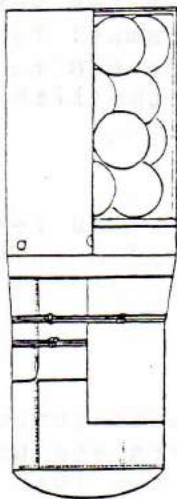


Fig. 67A: Case with cartridge attached as used in SBML guns.

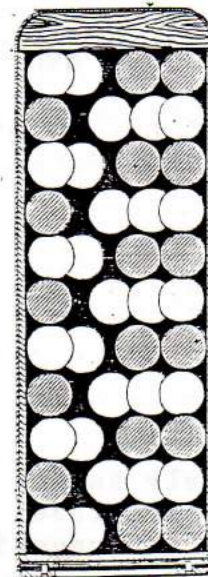


Fig. 67B: Case for Armstrong RBL guns of 1860s. Differed little in design for later guns.

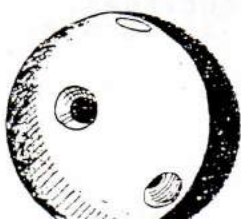
CARCASS:

Centuries before the coming of the gun incendiary missiles filled with Greek fire or similar compositions were hurled at enemy buildings etc by mechanical 'engines.' Incendiary missiles designed to be fired from guns were termed 'carcasses.'

The early carcass was oval in shape as shown in Fig. 68A. Inside the frame of metal bands was a container of canvas, paper, or other suitable material into which was poured a molten mixture of gunpowder, saltpetre, and tallow which was allowed to harden. In order that the flash from the propellant charge would easily ignite the filling the walls of the container were pierced with two or three holes into which priming composition and quickmatch were inserted.

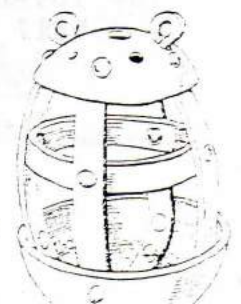
Later carcasses were made spherical and in the 19th century were hollow cast iron spheres as shown in Fig. 68B.

Carcass were fired from mortars and howitzers only.



← Fig. 68B: 19th century form of carcass.

Fig. 68A: Early form of carcass frame enclosing →



BAR, CHAIN, AND EXPANDING SHOT:

There were innumerable examples of these projectiles, typical examples of which are shown in Figs. 69A, 69B, and 69C.

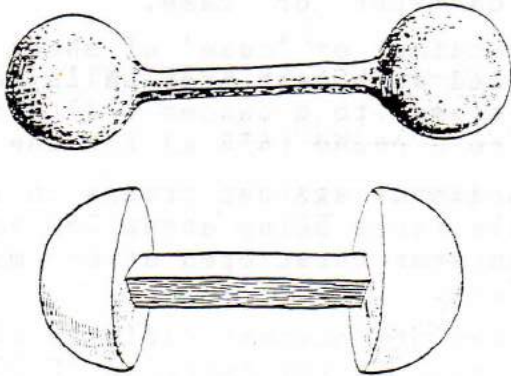


Fig. 69A: Bar shot.

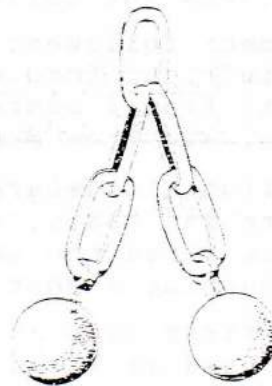


Fig. 69B: Chain shot.



Fig. 69C: Expanding shot. All these types were designed to damage ships' rigging, small boats, or any unfortunate sailor who happened to 'get in the way.' They all date from the 17th century.

COMMON SHELL:

These were merely hollow cast iron spheres filled with gunpowder and fitted with a time fuze. They were fired from mortars and howitzers only until the introduction of 'shell guns' during the 19th century. See Fig. 70.

Shell have been with us almost as long as shot, the earliest reference to their use being by the Italians in 1376.

Early time fuzes were simply pieces of quickmatch cut to length by 'guestionation,' inserted into a hole in the shell, and ignited by a linstock or portfire thrust down the barrel of the piece.. The howitzer etc was then fired quickly - the Gunner in the meantime praying to St Barbara that it would not misfire!

NB: Both mortar and howitzer barrels were very short in the early days.

It is said that at the siege of Limerick in 1689 a Gunner accidentally discovered that the flash from the propellant charge would ignite the fuze by way of the windage allowed in those days. He had forgotten to light the fuze before firing his mortar!

The invention of the watch in 1674 made more precise fuzes possible. We shall examine their development later in this paper.

To be continued.





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PO BOX 33 710. TAKAPUNA. AUCKLAND 1309

PROGRAMME ANNUAL REUNION 1-3 NOV 96 AT TAUPO

FRIDAY 1 Nov 96: March in; 1600 hrs: Drinks at Taupo RSA, Horomatangi St

SATURDAY 2 Nov 96: 1000 hrs Annual General Meeting at TAUPO YACHT CLUB.

Afternoon: Free.

1800 hrs: Pre-dinner drinks at TAUPO YACHT CLUB.

1900 hrs: Reunion dinner in Yacht Club Dining Room.

Dress: Gentlemen informal, jacket and tie, lounge suit or appropriate uniform. Medals and decorations to be worn.

Ladies: semi-formal.

Wine: The Yacht Club does not permit guests (including their own members) to bring own wine, but will have a comprehensive stock at club rates. Port is excepted and will be supplied by the Association.

SUNDAY 3 Nov 96: 1000 hrs: Church Parade in Spa Hotel lounge, i.e. the meeting house "Tiki te Tamamutu." Medals etc to be worn.

After Church Parade 'one for the road' in Suite 'A'.

Afternoon: Free.

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REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete, detach, and return to Secretary by 15 October 96.

NAME.....I will/will not be attending reunion. A negative answer will be taken as an apology for non-attendance at AGM.

I will be accompanied by .....(.include first name).

I require/do not require accommodation at the Spa for nights .....

I enclose \$.... for .... persons at \$25 per head for dinner.

Please delete sections NOT applicable. To those requiring accommodation at the Spa, I will let you know whether or not you are successful.

Remember, if you are unable to drive you may bring a driver/companion who is welcome to take part in reunion activities (except the AGM).

DO NOT enclose payment for accommodation; settle direct with hotel etc.

### ACCOMMODATION

SPA HOTEL: We make the Spa our HQ because the site was in 1867 occupied by the NZ Armed Constabulary from which sprang both the NZ Permanent Force and the NZ Police. It is therefore part of our historic heritage. The present hotel, which developed from the AC wet canteen, is one of the few licensed houses left which possesses character. The following accommodation is available:

CHALETS: Tariff \$80 double, \$60 single, additional adults \$12, children \$10. Each has a double bed on ground floor, two singles on mezzanine floor, plus a convertible couch. Full kitchen, toilet and shower facilities plus private spa pool, TV, radio, and phone. Ideal for sharing with another couple. We have booked all twelve; you book through Secretary.

SUITE 'A': Tariff \$70 for two, \$10 each additional adult. Same facilities as Chalets except no spa pool - but public hot pool handy. Has four single and one double bed but as in the past we have reserved for unattached males. Book through Secretary.

CONSTABULARY ROOMS: Tariff \$50 double, \$35 single. There are five each with a double bed, and five each with two singles. Each room has own shower, toilet, TV, refrigerator, tea and toast-making facilities. Book through Secretary.

#### OTHER ACCOMMODATION RECOMMENDED:

LAKE HOTEL: Licensed, with Cobb & Co restaurant, cnr Tongariro and Tuwharetoa Sts, Phone 07/378 6165. Ideal for members who do not wish to drive after the dinner as it is only five minutes' walk to the Yacht Club and about the same to the RSA. Tariff from \$30 single, \$45 twin or double. Make your own booking direct. NB: Above tariffs may have increased.

ACAPULCO MOTOR INN: 19 Rifle Range Rd (Box 347, Taupo), phone 07/378 717 15 minutes' walk to Yacht Club. Tariff \$60 single, \$65 to \$88 double, \$12 each extra person. 10% discount to RSA members. Make your own booking.

ARMY MOTEL UNITS - ACACIA BAY: See instructions on page 1 of this newsletter. Make your own bookings.

NOTE: All tariffs include GST.

See RSA Review for other motels which offer discounts to RSA members.

We shall be making similar transport arrangements to those of 1995 for the convenience of members who do not wish to drive after imbibing.

Any questions?

We look forward to seeing you.

*Wally Ruffell*

W.L. RUFFELL,

Hon. Secretary.

Phone 09/445 3567.

*G. PIPITEA PH  
ROYAN.*