



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 33 710. TAKAPUNA. AUCKLAND 1309

NEWSLETTER No 92

December 1996

A Registered Publication

LAST POST:

34541 C.A.S. (Cas) Smith, 22 May 96, at Levin.
1860 O.L. (Oscar) Tritt, 30 Jun 96, at Waiheke.
1631 Major R.M. (Reg) Nutsford, 21 Oct 96, at Auckland.
200138 Captain C.J. (Cyril) Hayden ED, 29 Oct 96, at Auckland.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

P.A. Christian to 14A Nile St, Timaru.
Lt Col B.J.L. Hewitt to Mr Brian J.L. Hewitt GPO Box 815, Canberra
ACT 2601, Australia.
J.W. Monk to 17B Herschel St, Ngaruawahia.
A.S. Simeon to 7 Davis St, Kaitaia.
M. Subritzky to M. Subritzky-Kusza Ct GCStS, 66 Kauri Cres,
Waikeria Village, Private Bag, Te AWamutu.
Lt Col A.R. Vail to Unit 34, 48 Clarke St, Tauranga 3001.
Major J. Wasson RNZA to Military Assistant, NZCMFO, El Gorah, Sinai,
c/o International Mail Centre, Auckland, Mark "Forces Concession."
Lady Barbara Webb to 8 Cambria RD, Devonport, Auckland 1309.
Major M.B. Walker MBE to 1/241 Hurstmere Rd, Takapuna.
A.S. Simeon to 7 Davis St, Kaitaia.

GONE NO ADDRESS:

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS

Lt P.M. Gregg

PO Box 464, Matamata

Any member knowing present location please inform Secretary.

NEW MEMBERS:

340748 Captain RWG (Bob) Bennett, 13 Otuhawai Cres, Whangarei.
E745273 Lt Col JL (Janet) Castell, 19 Weir Tce, Waiouru (Associate).
U51331 WO2 PS (Paul) Galloway RNZA, 161 Bty RNZA, Linton Military Camp.
E48511 WO1 KE (Kevin) Hopkinson RNZA, 8 Andrews Drive, Waiouru.

AUCKLAND ST BARBARAS DAY SOCIAL Will be held in the main lounge,
Birkenhead RSA, on Thursday 12 December 96. All members and partners
welcome. Luncheons from \$5 to \$8. Commencing 1100 hrs.

COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting will be held in the main lounge,
Birkenhead RSA, on Saturday 15 Feb 97, commencing at 1000 hrs.
Non-committee members welcome to attend.

NEW ZEALAND AND THE KOREAN WAR VOLUMES I AND II: Copies may be obtained
from the Oxford University Press, New Zealand. Contact Secretary for
brochure.

SEASONS GREETINGS: The President and Executive wish members all the best for the coming festive season and a happy New Year.

PRESIDENTS REPORT 1996 (As given at AGM)

Ladies and Gentlemen it is so good to see so many of you here.

The Association membership currently stands at:

Ordinary Members	249
Life Members	41
Associate Members	44
Honorary Members	5
Total	339

This is a decrease of 8 from our membership of 347 last year. It is a sad fact that a lot of our members have passed away.

We have started an active campaign to gain reinforcement. This has been done by sending a letter to all RNZA members who have complete three or more years in Regular Force.

The RNZA has added a silver light gun to the Regimental Silver. It is a beautiful piece mounted on rimu with inlaid green stone underneath the gun.

The RSM of 16th Fd Regt has gained a much larger, secure room for Corps memorabilia. As 16th Fd is the only surviving Regt they have become the curator of the RNZA history until the museum opens a RNZA display. The room will be open to all visitors. Donations or loans will be gratefully accepted.

Finally I would like to thank the District Reps and Executive Committee for their commendable effort that they have put in over the past year.

(Sgd) I.S. Foster.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1996: Apologies for non-attendance were received from: TJ ARNOTT, SL BASSETT, HG BIGG-WITHER, AG BLACKWELL, I BOYTER, J BURNS, SH BRYANT, A BOYD, RG BLANKLEY, M CRICHTON, PA CHRISTIAN, CJC CROOKES, RL CROSS, HS COCKS, DP DUMBLETON, BD DREYER, DT DONALDSON, IJ DOAK, EA FORBES, NV FORBES, FD FOLEY, HG FANTHAM, SW GODFREY, PS GALLOWAY, RDP HASSETT, EG HIGHT, HB HONNOR, JMS HARVEY, J HANKEY, T HUGHES, RHF HOLLOWAY, BJL HEWITT, JP HORN, R JAQUES, KB KITNEY, AN KING, EC LILE, JW MONK, BD MILLYN, TSG MORGAN, EG MORGAN, PL McINER, RM NUTSFORD, AJ PAWLOWSKI, SH PERRETT, AM PETRIE, RKG PORTER, E PECK, BL RIGDEN, IA ROWNTREE, AL ROWSELL, EW ROUND, TP SHIRLEY, LJ SKINNER, J SKILTON, JF SPRING, CWN STANBRIDGE, E STANDEN, M SUBRITZKY, CC STEWART, JT TRANSOM, LW THORNTON, RH WYLDE, LW WRIGHT, D WESTON, J WASSON, GR YOUNG, LA FORRESTER, RA HARRIS.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Serving Officers were re-elected with the following exceptions: Tom Chapman retired as Wellington Rep., and Major R (Roger) Newth, 176 Waiwhetu Rd, Lower Hutt, was elected in his place. The Reps. for South Auckland (Eric Bickerton), Thames/Coromandel (Ian Rowntree), and Manawatu/Wanganui (Dave Jones), wish to relinquish their offices owing to health or other reasons. Are there any volunteers for these jobs?

SUBSCRIPTIONS: To remain at \$5 and \$2-50 for lady associate members.

REUNION DINNER: This year our Guests of Honour were Lieutenant Colonel Matt Beattie, CO 16 Fd Regt RNZA, and Mrs Beattie. In addition the following were present: Ron (Tommy) ATKINS, Charlie ANNISS, Doug ADAMS, Bob and Peggy BENNETT, Bill and Jasmine BEVERIDGE, Tom CHAPMAN, Matt and Rosalie CRAWLEY, Bert and Shirley DYSON, Ian FOSTER, Bill and Emma GILES, Jim GILBERD, Joe HANVEY, David HUGHES, Kevin HOPKINSON, Dutch and Joyce HOLLAND, Geoff and Barbara HITCHINGS, Jack KEARNEY, Don and Noeline KENNING, Bob and Bette KERSLAKE, Frank and Denise LUPO, Brian and Tilly MEYER, George and Patti MILN, Herb MILNE, Bill and Estelle MORLAND, Bill McLEAY, Neil and Helen McMAHON, Roger NEWTH, Des and Bunty O'CONNOR, Bill and Joyce POWRIE, Robbie and JOYCE ROBINSON, Grant ROBB, David and Marie ROBERTS, Jim ROSS, Wally RUFFELL, Tony Tustin, Gordon, Norma, and Lischa WEAVER, Des WALLACE

The toast "The Regiment" was proposed by the dining Vice President, Kevin Hopkinson, and Matt Beattie replied as follows:

- " In November last year I had the privilege of taking the 1945/46 Kiwis led by Charlie Saxton back to England, Wales and Germany in the company of the 1996 Army side. This was very special as my father had brought me up on a regular diet of this famous side, featuring names such as Fred Allen, Bob Scott, John Simpson, Eric Boggs, Neville Thornton, Keith Arnold and Lachie Grant. That side you may recall played the wide expansive running game long before John Hart and the present All Blacks. These men on tour last year were just wonderful - never missing an opportunity to get the best out of my young players. It was quite special to catch Fred 'The Needle' Allen trying to demonstrate to his young opposite the intricacies of side-stepping while both were cleaning their teeth, to hear from my mother about that rascal named Eric Boggs and then to follow his antics for 3 weeks. The 1996 Army team caught the bug and played magnificent running rugby. Indeed, so many of them still write to the Kiwis - special friendships have been established.

I came home to New Zealand to find that a peace agreement had been signed in the United States and Paris which would divide the Warring Factions in Bosnia. NATO would now take over from the United Nations and assist transform the country to democracy. I was given two weeks notice and deployed with 14 other New Zealanders to Bosnia, as part of the British effort. My job was to be the Liaison Officer between General Sir Michael Walker, the Implementation Force Land Commander and an American Ambassador who ran the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This organisation was given responsibility from the Dayton Peace Accords to organise an election, initiate a huge arms control regime and monitor human rights. I found myself right in the middle of all this, trying to force political and military concurrence. I have never seen Communism at work before, in all its best forms of manipulation, fear and intimidation.

I believe that the situation with Bosnia in 1996 following 45 years of Communist rule and nearly 4 years of war is first, more complex than the prospect of reconstruction facing Germany in 1945; second, more intricate than the issues of East meeting West that challenged Germany in 1990, principally because in Bosnia the two Entities of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska and the Federation do not want to meet at the political level. Neither sees a future in a multi-ethnic alliance. World pressure forces them to come together grudgingly.

Europe, regional organisations and NATO have been charged by the Dayton Peace Agreement to establish a process of democratisation in 1 year, a year which is almost over, by unravelling Communist mechanisms, holding free and fair elections in a secure and politically neutral environment, monitor human rights, stabilise the region through effective arms control and investigate war crimes. On the fringes, formerly communist states that are also experiencing a dramatic rise in nationalism are poor inspiration for a new Bosnia. The hurdles for advancement are not religious, cultural or societal only. At present, it is mainly a struggle for the economic and political reins of the country; reins held by an 'old guard' who have most to lose in the transition to democracy.

All this with a country whose population before the war was 4.3 million: which now has 850 000 people of voting age abroad as refugees, a further 850 000 voters being displaced within B-H. In summary, 70% of the population are not living where they were in 1991, that being the last census and a year following the election of 1990. In addition, up to 60% of the country have indicated that they do not wish to return to where they lived. As such, the refugee problem becomes a tussle between host governments who are keen to be rid of the social welfare expense of their temporary tenants and the refugees themselves fuelled by human rights campaigners.

The number of people missing is unknown but with war dead, is estimated to be hundreds of thousands from all three factions of Serbs, Croats and Bosniacs. All this in a country with three Armies, until recently totalling 300 000 troops and 11 000 heavy weapon systems, of which two Armies, the Bosnian Croats and Serbs receive backing from flanking nations and the other which has received an 'arm and train' commitment from the US and financial support from a number of Islamic countries.

Bosnia-Herzegovina is not a third world country. It has a multi-ethnic culture based on Slav, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish influence of over a millenium. Its economy is primarily pastoral and agricultural using the full spread of science from peasant to high technology farming. As part of Yugoslavia, it contributed to a reputation as the meat provider to Europe prior to 1992. Yet as of October 1996, there is little sign of livestock on the land nor of a desire by the political leaders to restock as a reconstruction priority. As of April 1996 it was costing, annually, US\$ 4 billion to pay for the Implementation Force (IFOR) and yet less than US\$ 1 billion has been pledged to assist with reconstruction costs. The world wants a peaceful solution in Bosnia but a lack of confidence for long term change by financial institutions sees few prepared to risk such an investment.

The immediate outlook looks very bleak. Certainly, 1 year was never considered realistic for the process of change. Now, it is a question of whether there is political will for an IFOR follow-on force with or without the US in November 1996. It is contended by most that the Bosnian investment to date must be protected and that 'Son of IFOR' is not only mandatory but that it must have sufficient teeth to enforce the change that the democratic process will demand. The shape of a follow-on force might follow one of three options. First, no change from the present except a new mandate reflecting the practical timelines of democratisation beyond 1996. This force is likely to be smaller than the present 60,000, perhaps centred on a heavy division of 20,000. Second, a European force only with no US presence. This appears unlikely as both the United Kingdom and France have indicated withdrawal if the US departs. Third, a European force with US supplementation in key areas. The composition of 'TFOR Lite' needs to be between on the one hand, the present force which has the advantage of US 'beefy' mechanised and aviation brigades, intelligence, airpower and the Marine Expeditionary Unit theatre reserve and on the other, the previous light forces of UNPROFOR. Should the US not wish to provide ground troops, then it is possible that the European Union may seek US force content in intelligence and air support.

Certainly, while on one hand, US rhetoric continues to talk of a draw down of forces to a November withdrawal based on Clinton's promise a year ago of home by Xmas 1997, on the other, local comment from Carl Bildt, the European High Representative and former Prime Minister of Sweden and Ambassador Robert Frowick from OSCE suggest that such activity would not be wise during the first fragile months of a new government's administration. Unfortunately, the election just held in September has returned the old guard. People were too frightened to vote apart from traditional one party lines. Most young people did not vote at all. They did not wish to be traced should they desire to flee the country in the immediate future. It will take at least 10 years for the form of democracy that we recognise to dominate Balkan politics. Before then, I fear Bosnia will have disappeared, the spoils being divided between Croatia and Serbia. Long term reconciliation is just not possible. Too much hatred built over 1000 years has entrenched the people. Not even the tough and uncompromising tactics of Tito can unite these people now.

While in Europe all New Zealanders in the Balkans took the opportunity to visit Gallipoli for ANZAC Day. I will never forget the Dawn Service at ANZAC Cove; as the sun rose across the Aegean Sea, the voices of 3000 Australians and New Zealanders could be heard singing their national anthems. The trip to Turkey has become a real pilgrimage. Later, around midday at the heights of Chunuk Bair, the New Zealand service led by Phillip Burdon the Minister for Trade Negotiations struck a chord on the sacrifice that New Zealanders had made so far from home. As I recited Binyon's Lines there, I have never felt prouder. Later that day, in the company of a Turkish officer and a British historian my contingent traced the footsteps of the New Zealand Brigade from the shores of Suvla Bay to the vital ground of Chunuk Bair. It was painfully obvious that from the commanding view of the Narrows of the Dardanelles that had the Wellingtons held for longer than the War could have been shortened with Turkish capitulation in the East. We were well

looked after by our Turkish hosts - the night at the Gelibolu Officers Mess had everything except 'belly dancers!' The name ANZAC just opened doors everywhere.

Well, what of the Gunners today. We face uncertain times, like the rest of New Zealand not knowing who Government will be and whether the next Cabinet will improve the state of the Defence Forces, unfortunately we suffer from extreme underfunding. On the plus side, the RNZA brings a new Air Defence unit on line next year which will increase our numbers by 20% overall. The system is a fire and forget missile presently in service in Singapore and France. There is still an intention to move 16th Field Regiment to Linton in the near future. This will have the added bonus of centralising all of our Regular Force gunners except for the School of Artillery in one location. At the same time the Territorial Force is to be rationalised and we may well see some TF batteries disbanded.

As for my officers and soldiers - they are in good heart but would be happier with more resources. I can tell you that they enjoy your company and welcome Old Comrades to Waiouru when you visit. They are aware as to why New Zealand enjoys such peace and democracy now - because of the contribution and sacrifices made by their parents and grandparents. They are aware that such peace is easily shattered in our region without any notice by ethnic and economic pressures and they are also aware that New Zealand has a responsibility as an international citizen to help other countries get back on their feet. Like the Gunners of 2NZEF and the Pacific, like 16th Field Regiment in Korea, like 161 Bty in South Vietnam and like the 35 Gunners who deployed to Bosnia both with the UN and NATO, the Regiment will endure and to a high standard. "

CHURCH PARADE 3 NOV 96; Held in the meeting house Tiki o Te Tamamutu, which is the main lounge of the Spa Hotel, the parade was well attended as usual. Our Padre, Rev. Bill McLeay, officiated, assisted by Helen McMahon on the electronic piano thoughtfully provided by Teresa of the Spa. However, we missed Tui McLeay who had to attend a separate function and therefore could not lead us in the singing, which she does so beautifully.

ONE FOR THE ROAD: Again we enjoyed the use of Suite 'A' for the final stage of our reunion. The cost of the drinks was covered by the proceeds of the raffle held the previous day. There were two prizes this year, a model SBML 24-pr gun on wood garrison standing carriage, plus a large bottle of "The Famous Grouse," a high-class Scotch whisky kindly donated by a senior member of the Association who wishes to remain anonymous.

TO MEMBERS WHO COULD ^{NOT} ATTEND: We sympathise with you who were unable to attend through sickness or exigencies of the service and hope to see you next year.

REUNION 1997; Will be held over the first week-end in November at the Taupo Yacht Club. Mark the dates in your diary NOW.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS: Joyce Hankey, 28C Elizabeth St, Whangarei, is adjusting to a smaller section and garden. On a recent visit to Australia she fell in love with Brisbane, and is seriously thinking of moving over there.

WISHES TO

Don Donaldson, PO Box 107, Palmerston North, ascertain the origin of the old saying, "No names no pack drill." Can anyone enlighten him?

John Wasson (see changes of address), has been posted to the Middle East with the Multi-National Force in the Sinai as Military Assistant on the staff of the General (Aust.) Commanding MFO. He has relinquished command of 11(A) Bty to Major Ken Morrison, and has transferred from TF back to RF for the posting.

Mike Subritzky (see changes of address) is now a Prison Officer at Waikeria Prison. One of his first surprises upon opening a cell was seeing one of his old Gunners who served in his troop in 161 Bty! After Mike retired from the Army he plus a brother and a cousin were involved in sending aid into Eastern Europe and Poland for the Polish Government (in exile) and he was given the rank of Captain as he was involved in liaison between NZ, Australia, London and Poland. When these activities ceased he devoted much of his time to writing. His most recent effort has been to edit a poetry book for the famous "Betty May" Browne of Levin. The foreword for the book was written by Don Kenning, and the books are currently on sale from Cloudy Bay Publishing, 3 Jellyman Place, Blenheim at \$20, which includes postage. All monies go to Betty May as her retirement nest-egg was used to fund the project. Sales are being handled by SSgt Lindsay Turner. Also, he still has copies of the Vietnam Scrapbook for \$50 which includes postage.

John Monk and his good lady both having had a spell of ill health, have sold up and moved to Ngaruawahia. See changes of address.

The New Zealand Army Association (Taranaki Branch) is an active organisation with which NZPFOCA exchanges newsletters. If visiting New Plymouth contact the President, Jack Shaw, 7 Price St, New Plymouth.

Les Pye, 16B Wither Rd, Blenheim, reports a very successful NZ Korea Vets Reunion in Blenheim earlier in the year. Among the 502 attending (including partners) were 109 vets ex-16 Fd Regt. Among those were Harry Honnor, Frank Gibbison, Vic Meyle, John Neems, Colin Ryan, Tony Tustin, and himself. He also mentions Ron Hayman and an interesting article by the latter in the NZKVA Magazine concerning the deployment of a 17-pr on Hill 355, known to the "Yanks" as "Little Gibraltar." Some members may be interested in the article which is supported by an on-the-spot photo. A mine incident in the Imjin River area, Korea, thought to have involved 162 Bty which suffered casualties inspired the following poem:

He gave his body for the Commonwealth
And received for his own memory
Praise that will never die;
And with it the greatest of all sepulchres,
Not that in which his bones were laid
But a home in the minds of men
Where the memory will remain fresh to stir
To speech or action as the occasion comes by.

by Sgt Arthur Pacey, 163 Bty

The poem was included in the reunion commemoration service. Arthur's original copy is now in the Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum.

Bob Harris, 3/3 Telopea St, Booker Bay, NSW 2257, recently lost a younger brother, for whom we offer condolences, rather belatedly I'm afraid. When over here Bob had hoped to see Les Pye but lack of time and bad health precluded a visit. Bob reports his novel "In Pursuit of General Rommel" is still being scrutinised by prospective publishers.

Arthur Simeon (see changes of address) says it is wetter than Auckland in Kaitaia - but much warmer!



BIG-BANG MEMORIES: Terry Transom is quite an expert when it comes to moving and siting big guns like the 25-pounder. The former Second World War sergeant is giving his knowledge to the Auckland Museum, which is installing the second part of its war exhibition *Scars on the Heart*. "I was telling them how to get it

into a confined space like we used to have to do," Mr Transom said. He told the curators: "You need to pile up a bit more mud here where it got dug in and splash a bit round the wheels." Getting his hands on the 25-pound gun again brought back memories of his service in Syria, Tunisia and Italy. "We worked hard," he said, de-

scribing how the six-man team would fire up to 15 rounds a minute under pressure. The gunners also came under heavy fire at times. "It was a bit scary — a lot sometimes." Asked how the men coped, Mr Transom had one word: "Rum."

REPORT / FRANCES GRANT
PICTURE / MARK MITCHELL