

Established in 1934 as:
THE NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)
Now officially renamed as

THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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NEWSLETTER No. 126

June 2005

ROUTINE ORDERS

1. Office of President. I am delighted to announce that **Maj Denis Dwane** has accepted the position of President due to **Bob Blankley** going on an extended overseas holiday to visit family. This of course requires to be confirmed at the November AGM.

I must also acknowledge the offers of **Lt Col Barry Dreyer** who cannot do the task this year due to work commitments but would be available next year. **Lt Col Chris Brown** has also phoned me and offered his services. This is an indication of the strength of our Association in that these offers have been within a week of the Newsletter 125 going out.

2. Reunion 2005 will be in Palmerston North weekend 18, 19, 20 November. See the end of this Newsletter for relevant info. There will be a 'repeat' of this information in the next two Newsletters with the August edition requesting firm replies.

LAST POST:

John D 'Doc' Bennett. New Plymouth 7 April 2005
Bill Round. Tauranga 6 Feb 2005
RA Harris. Australia 21 Sep 2004
Douglas P Dumbleton. Tauranga 4 March 2005
Wally (Jock) Taylor. Papakura 16 May 2005
Ken Turner. Christchurch 29 May 2005

Irene Hughes. Wife of D Ralph ('Spike') Hughes. Irene passed away as I finished the last Newsletter and I was unable to record it. I feel the service given to our country by Spike justifies this note.

On behalf of the President and the Members of the Association I convey our deepest sympathy to all the families of the dear departed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Rob McRae to Unit 101, 6-10 Fox St. Parnell Auckland
Tony Pawlowski to 49 Coppinger Terrace. Aidanfield. Christchurch.
Paul O'Connor to 7 The Rocks. Halswell. Christchurch
Brian Knott to 3613 Mt Lindesay Highway, Brisbane 4124, Qld. Australia.

NEW MEMBERS:

Daniel Beveridge. Son of the late Bill Beveridge. Daniel has always had the greatest desire to become a member of our Association because of his love and pride in his dad. It was through him that we made the rule to allow immediate family to join and I am personally delighted to acknowledge his membership.

Rion Gallagher joins from Australia. Rion was Chief Clerk at the School during the early 70's.

Wayne Salt joins us from Australia. Wayne is currently serving as a Senior Sergeant in the Victorian Police and is the son of our own **Henry Salt.**

Colin Putt joins from New Plymouth. Colin served with 22 Battery 2 Field Regiment and takes a very active interest in NZ Army Assn Taranaki Branch, Soldier's Day Taranaki/Wanganui and is a member of the Horowhenua Gunner's Assn.

Joe Franklin also joins from New Plymouth. Joe served in 2 Fd Regiment, takes a big interest in the RSA being the Senior Vice President of the New Plymouth RSA and is a member of the NZ Army Assn and Horowhenua Gunner's Assn.

It is the likes of Colin and Joe that justify our change in Rules to allow ALL Gunners into the OCA. Well done.

Fred Goodall joins from Wellington. Fred started his career in the guns as an 'angel raper' (3.7-in Heavy Anti Aircraft) and then to 3 Field Regiment where he progressed to be their CO and a very well known and respected TF gunner I might add. He also had many years in the world of cricket umpiring.

Russell Baron joins us from Christchurch. Russell served most of his time in 32 Battery 3 Field Regiment completing his service as BSM HQ Battery, now the Vessel Fleet Manager Oyang Corp Korea (*and I would suggest that means South Korea!!!!*)

To those new members welcome, at last the Gunners are one big family again.

RESIGNATIONS OR GONE NO ADDRESS

Iris Boyter resigned in writing 13 February 2005.

Phil Calvert resigned in writing 31 January 2005.

Neville Davey resigned in writing about January 2004 but no record held.

Russell Croker, resigned in writing for December 2005.

Vic Meyle, resigned in writing due to ill health.

GUNNERS DAY 2005

Following is a message that was sent out to all members who are on the internet.

One more important reform was to be brought about by the Duke of Marlborough before he died, and that was to complete the work begun nearly 200 years before by Henry VIII, namely the formation of a permanent regiment of artillery.

The system of disbanding the train of artillery as soon as war was over, was adhered to following the peace of Utrecht in 1713, and our home forces reduced to a minimum. Though this was no doubt economical it was also militarily unsound, but the inadvisability of such a measure was apparently not brought home to our leaders until the Jacobite rebellion of 1715 when it took so long to form a train that the rebellion was over before the train was ready.

The necessity of retaining a permanent force of artillery was by now very apparent and on May 26 1716 two companies of artillery were created by Royal Warrant.

In the same year (1716) Marlborough died, and it is to him, perhaps, that the transition of the gunner from the person of "evil reputation" to one who could take his place with the bravest and most devoted, can be attributed.

More companies were added and in 1722 the title "Royal Regiment of Artillery" was conferred.

On that note The President of the Royal New Zealand Artillery Old Comrades Association (Inc)

Major **Denis Dwane** MBE, the immediate Past President SMA **Bob Blankley** MBE MSM and I wish you all, fraternal greetings on this our 289th birthday.

- ☑ Replies to this message were received from **Brian Meyer, Conrad Flinkenberg, Ted Lile, Allan Solly** (webmaster RA Assn)

FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS AND INTERESTING REFLECTIONS

☑ A DEDICATION FROM 161 BATTERY ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY

161 Battery provides the enemy

The greatest opportunity

To give his life for his country

- ☑ **Don Kenning** related a story about his cat. He was watching the moggy sitting on the roof of his shed when it put its paw into the air and caught a small bird in flight with one paw. It then jumped off the shed, complete with bird, sort of looked at Don as much to say "What do I do now?" and the bird took off much to the disappointment of mog. *I always remember Eru Brown teaching me, and others, to play softball and his policy was 'use both hands when catching'. Can't you just see it, Don's mog with bird in both hands paws, jumps off shed!!!! Ouch. Mind you so much for 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush'.*
- ☑ **From 'Skin Frances'** Stories about married quarters?.. well I do remember one... Jill and I we were just married and travelling to Waiouru from Invercargill ... she had never seen the place before ... approaching Waiouru on the right the magazines came into view in the distance... I said that was the housing area... the houses look a bit basic but they are really hot too bad... lucky we have a car... you can drive to the shops ... I think she was nearly in tears... had to quickly say I was joking... 5 minutes up the road we saw the real housing area.. that was slight relief for her *Thanks Skin, why did Jill stay with you after that? I can imagine the lady's sheer horror.*
- ☑ **Barry Hardy** phoned to chat, he is well, studying veterinary something, has two German Shepherds that keep him in control. (Followed up with a very nice note about Senior NCOs he worked with at the School of Guns especially our dear friend **D Ralf (Spike) Hughes**) *thanks Barry your comments are very much appreciated. Barry has kept his Private Pilot Licence valid but due to cost let his rotary lapse. I have not seen him for many years so it was great to chat about everything in general. He made me feel very humble when referring to the SNCOs and WOs he served with. For whoever takes over as secretary in the future, these are the moments that make the job a joy to do. You will receive many letters and phone calls from people that really mean so much.*
- ☑ **Brian Edmonds** writes from Australia admitting to the Landrover incident in Vietnam as narrated to me by the late **Al Ross**. **Brian** sent some pics of the incident, so it is not stretched, it is fact. *My family was a bit concerned at my hysterics; they thought I had slipped a cog. Brian also wishes the Association and all the members the very best and signed 'Your Bad Lad from Cairns'.*
- ☑ **Ralph Porter** writes that he has passed the big 80 but is still playing competitive golf, enjoys news of Old Comrades and has sent us a very kind donation. *I was one of the fortunate ones to serve under **RKG** at the School of Guns and although I admit I tried to keep out of his way most of the time I must acknowledge his total commitment to The RNZA and Artillery in general. Looking back we should have played golf on Wednesdays instead of cricket!!! I wonder how old 'braan boots' would have handled that. Poor old **Tony Carrol**, I don't think he was ever the same after serving with us!!!!!!!!!!*
- ☑ I must comment on **RKG's** great sweeping signature to his letter above, it really has not changed since dear old **Alex Farquharson** (Tempest and Typhoon pilot) was his clerk at the School of Guns. In those days reproduction was achieved by typing on a 'skin'. This was a painstaking job because you had to be quite careful that there were not too many mistakes otherwise it had to be done all over again and more especially if the skin got torn then it had to be done over again. So **Alex** on a number of occasions has to get **RKG** to sign a document, this was done with a special metal pointed pen very much like a ballpoint. Now the R the K the G and the P are completed with a great sweep of the pen and as poor old **Alex** is watching, he is terrified that this great sweep is going to tear the fragile 'skin' which would have meant typing it again!!!! *I can still see the look on Alex's face when he came out of RKG's office with the signed but undamaged skin, I will not repeat his comments though!!!!*
- ☑ **Ron Agnew** writes from Thames thanking us for the Newsletters.
- ☑ **Tom Roche** writes from Palmerston North and again thanks us for all the info from out and about.
- ☑ **Sel Bryant** at 93 writes from Palmerston North. At the Reunion in November he recommends a visit to the 'wind farm' or if you are really having a holiday pop over to Wanganui. He comments that until recently he was worn well but now it is a case of well worn. *Remember the old term PW/S – partly worn/serviceable.*

Either at the 161 Bty Reunion or Old Comrades we must make an effort to visit **Sel**. Any Palmerston North folk could pop in and see him at the Masonic Rest Home 13 Clauson St.

- ☑ **Jim Brown** acknowledges comments made on his Newsletter where I asked if he was the CO NSTU in 1980 when I was posted as BSM A Battery. He was a very keen duck hunter and I joined him on a couple of occasions where he shot ducks and I scared them, approaching 80 he is still duck hunting. **Jim** also added that there were three Jim Browns, James Conway Brown (Dark Brown), James Winiata Brown (Young Brown) and himself James Brown (Light Brown). He also wishes the Association well and takes great interest in the names of old friends that appear from time to time.
- ☑ **Graeme Henderson** advising us of his, **Jim Horn** and **Spencer Morrison's** attendance at our Nov 2005 reunion. **Graeme** also noted the passing of **Rata Rewiri** (RNZIR WO1). *I remember Rata well, consumed much amber fluid with him, it is a wonder either of us lasted this long!!!*
- ☑ **Darkie Forrester** is hoping to attend the Reunion this year but will not know until closer to the date. **Darkie** also notes that when he was Papakura Orderly Officer in the early 60's he was bet by a wife in the Sgts Mess that he wasn't game to play Herb Alpert's 'Little Bull' after the reveille bugle. He did so with the sounds echoing around the Camp and then thought I am probably in the poo for this, but not a thing was said. *Just goes to show how many people were actually wakened by the reveille bugle. I recall one evening going to the Mess for diner and Retreat caught me. A strange bugle call was played that I had not heard before so I commented about it when I got to the Mess asking what it was - 'Reveille' was played by mistake - it took a long to live that down.*
- ☑ **Bert (Flaps) Dyson** a very kind donation and clippings with comments about Tauranga drivers which I had better not repeat for fear of divine punishment and after the comment "sick of hearing about the gas chambers" **Bert** enclose a pic of people who were sick of being gassed. *Bert is another of our members who I feel a little strange referring to him by his Christian name, two others are above.*
- ☑ **Eddie Morrissey** received a great Christmas present, his new leg, after a harrowing couple of years where he had one amputated. He is in good spirits and is getting around reasonably well with the aid of a stick. *I must apologise here as I omitted this matter from last Newsletter, Don Donaldson had let me know.*
- ☑ **Vic Meyle** writes resigning due to ill health. *To me it is very sad receiving an old mate's resignation due to ill health, but I am afraid that sort of thing is catching a lot of us up. Take care Vic, your Association wishes you well.*
- ☑ **TV1**. As a build up to ANZAC Day the following remark was often seen on TV 'Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.' When the guns went ashore at Gallipoli the gunners had never fired them because of lack of ammunition. I wonder whose fault that was, certainly not the BQMS. Somewhere in Wellington did I hear? Then later during WW2 Steve Weir demanded that the guns be grouped and not spread out all over the place. I even read the same thing in the book Babarossa where the German and Russian generals required that artillery be concentrated. That's history. But have we learned. Not b.....likely. I know of a fairly senior character who failed to see the necessity for artillery at all. Now have a look at what the Army has in the way of artillery and of course there was another character who wanted to spread the Gunners out, what did we hear "The Close Support Company of an Infantry Battalion"? Again I repeat 'Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it'. Go to Wellington and I am sure those words will be echoing around the streets.
- ☑ **Lindsay Skinner** writes about what could be regarded as married quarters!!!
A man returning home a day early from a business trip got into a taxi at the airport. It was after midnight. While en route to his home, he asked the cabby if he would be a witness. The man suspected his wife was having an affair and he intended to catch her in the act. For \$100 the cabby agreed. Quietly arriving at the house, the husband and cabby tiptoed into the bedroom. The husband switched on the lights, yanked the blanket back and there was his wife in bed with another man. The husband put a gun to the naked man's head. The wife shouted, "Don't do it! This man has been very generous! I lied when I told you I inherited money. He paid for the Corvette I bought for you. He paid for our new cabin cruiser. He paid for our house at the lake. He paid for our Country Club membership, and he even pays the monthly dues!" Shaking his head from side-to-side the husband slowly lowered the gun. He looked over at the cabby and said, "What would you do?" The cabby said, "I'd cover him up with that blanket before he catches a cold."
- ☑ **Lindsay Skinner** this time on transport. I was asked to drive the Scammel recovery vehicle back from annual camp. We were delayed departing from Waiouru eventually setting off about 20 minutes after the Battery to head back to Hamilton. We had not progressed much past the highest point on the Desert Road when we came across Athol Longley and our Q truck, a 5 ton IHC, laden down and unable to continue. Rather that recover him back to ATG we attached the vehicle with an A frame to the Scammel and decided to recover the vehicle back to Hamilton at a steady 32mph. Traversing the western access around Taupo we found a gun tractor had broken down, the gun crew had transferred to another vehicle and had left the driver to wait for us to arrive. Nothing much we could do to get the IHC going, so we fitted a rigid towbar

from Athols vehicle to the gun tractor and set off again for Hamilton still at 32mph, quite a train; Scammel, A frame, 5 ton IHC, rigid towbar, 5 ton IHC gun tractor, 5.5" gun. Word must have been passed to the traffic officers who were at the lights waving us through until we arrived at Knox St. Unfortunately this was the Scammel's last camp, the Army disposed of it and a few months later Athol took it on its last trip to Motat. *Worse than loosing the Scammel, we also lost 4th Medium Battery, and that was not a sound decision – in the words of the Toyota advert "AND I CAN SAY WHAT I LIKE!"*

- ☑ **Barry Dreyer** sends us this interesting interview between a female broadcaster and US Marine Corps General Reinwald who was about to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop visiting his military installation.
 FEMALE INTERVIEWER: So, General Reinwald, what things are you going to teach these young boys when they visit your base?
 GENERAL REINWALD: We're going to teach them climbing, canoeing, archery, and shooting.
 FEMALE INTERVIEWER: Shooting! That's a bit irresponsible, isn't it?
 GENERAL REINWALD: I don't see why, they'll be properly supervised on the rifle range
 FEMALE INTERVIEWER: Don't you admit that this is a terribly dangerous activity to be teaching children?
 GENERAL REINWALD: I don't see how. We will be teaching them proper rifle discipline before they even touch a firearm.
 FEMALE INTERVIEWER: But you're equipping them to become violent killers.
 GENERAL REINWALD: Well, Ma'am, you're equipped to be a prostitute, but you're not one, are you?
 The radio went silent and the interview ended.
- ☑ **Glenys Gilberd** writes regarding her forthcoming joint replacement on three fingers and wishes all members the very best, especially **Catherine Rivers**. *It seems that almost any joint can be replace nowadays, Glenys get them to fit a pen in you finger at the same time, you will never have to look for a pen again!!!*
- ☑ **Don Aird**, 1/83 Artillery US Army, sent me this notice in case any of you wish the go on safari in Mozambique.



Province of Inhambane
Ministry of Fish and Wildlife
MOZAMBIQUE

WARNING

Due to the rising frequency of human-lion encounters, the Ministry Fish and Wildlife, Inhambane Branch, Mozambique is advising hikers, hunters, fishermen, and any motorcyclists that use the out-of-doors in a recreational or work related function to take extra precautions while in the bush.

We advise the outdoorsman to wear little noisy bells on clothing so as to give advanced warning to any lions that might be close by so you don't take them by surprise.

We also advise anyone using the out-of-doors to carry "Pepper Spray" with him or her in case of an encounter with a lion.

Outdoorsmen should also be on the watch for fresh lion activity, and be able to tell the difference between lion cub shit and big lion shit. Lion cub shit is smaller and contains lots of berries and dassic fur. Big lion shit has balls in it, and smells like pepper.

Enjoy your stay in
MOZAMBIQUE

- ☑ **Don Bryant**, North Queensland Gunner's Assn writes that Robert Di Niro says "According to a new survey, women say they feel more comfortable undressing in front of men than they do undressing in front of other women. They say that women are too judgemental, where, of course, men are just grateful." *Now wouldn't that be the understatement of the year. Hear ye, hear ye!!!!*

☑ **Jock Taylor** (see death notice above). When he submitted his application to join the Old Comrades gave us a short note about his 'most embarrassing' moment. 'In Japan in 1953 the Padre who was supposed to be everyone's friend kept ignoring me. I found out later that a mate had taken me to church for Communion on Christmas Eve, not in a sober state, and instead of wetting my lips with the wine I drank the lot'. *Now that is naughty. Spencer Cocks will recall similar mischief by Dilworth boys at Communion, I know because I was one too, where the preacher man gripped the chalice like there was no tomorrow as he approached the 'thirsty' lads. They were known to try and suck the wine out.*

☑ **Larry English** shared the following with me and I believe it should also be shared with all of you because it is so true:

Recently, I was diagnosed with AAADD - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden, as I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing, as I start toward the garage, I notice that there is mail on the porch table that I brought up from the letter-box earlier. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the waste paper basket under the table, and notice that the can is full so, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the rubbish first, but then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the rubbish anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my cheque book off the table, and see that there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking. I'm going to look for my cheques, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need to be watered, I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I'd better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote, someone left it on the kitchen table. I realise that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do. At the end of the day the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only one cheque in my cheque book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys, then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired. I realise this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first

I'll check my e-mail.

Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming.

☑ **Colin Stanbridge** writes regarding leave in Japan.

"In Dec 1951 whilst serving with 16th Field Regiment in Korea I took a bit of leave and went over to Japan and met up with a mate in Kure where he was convalescing from wounds. We went off to Kyoto (so you signed that damned protocol??) and ended up in a queue at an American Officer's Leave Hotel with Americans resplendent in their dress uniforms and us in our scruffy BD but at least with New Zealand shoulder titles. An American Officer approached asking if we were from NZ, Yes, come with me. He took us to the head of the queue and told the Japanese clerk to book us in, giving a number. When we tried to pay he explained that he was the manager and had been in NZ during WW2 and your people were so good to me that this is the least I can do. We were 'incarcerated' on the top floor with magnificent views and an en suite, the only time I had ever had one. Sheer heaven." *I can confirm this attitude of US servicemen who had been in NZ, I met one at Bienhoa Airbase, Vietnam, and he was the same, there was absolutely nothing he would not do for us, in fact he was responsible for the supply of a beautiful (military issue of course) bed and thick mattress for out BC Don Kenning.*

Colin continues. "A year later on return to NZ, I was posted to Burnham where the Officer's quarters were divided into seniors, known as the 'Jews', and scruffy subalterns, know as the 'wogs'. God how un PC we were in those days. Today there would be a Parliamentary Commission at least on the Military's culture and the media particularly would have a field day with their witch hunt. While the Jews were reasonably upmarket the wogs were more third worldish. They did have a few unique features though. No power outlets in the rooms so everything had to be run off those located in the corridors, and there were only two of them to service many rooms, consequently there were wires running everywhere for radios and heaters. Definite fire hazards. The only means of getting enough hot water for washing clothing was an early model copper so competition was pretty fierce during weekends, but most unique of all were the hand basins.

Their down pipes had long since rusted through so when you shaved you had the added advantage of getting a footbath at the same time.

Despite it all, they were happy times and friendships made in the old Burnham Camp 'wog' quarters have endured for over 50 years. *Thanks Colin I am sure this will bring back many fond memories.*

- ☑ **Roger Newth** reports on the funeral of **Ken Turner**. I flew to ChCh Wed Morning, and met up with Mayne Manson's bus there, went to the Funeral Home and Paul O'Connor introduced me to Margaret and I passed on Dave & Marie's and Ted Maryans condolences.

We then watched the bearer party load the casket onto the gun carriage, but as that was going on two of Ken's Grandsons did a very good haka (I was told one was in the Army). We then went out to Ruru Lawn Cemetery (in Linwood I think) and there was held a very good service with up to about 300 present.

I saw and spoke to these people: John Masters, Tiny Hill, Paul O'Connor, Pat Duggan, Brian Soper, John Niwa, Denis Dwane, CO 16 Fd Regt (Canadian and I can't recall his name!), Skin Frances & Bloodnut Edwards. There were quite a few 32 Bty guys, including Mayne Mansion, Peter Dawson, Russell Barron and a few whose names I forget. Jack Brunton RNZAC was there and in good health. Denis gave a good talk on Ken's career and Peter Dawson spoke of Ken's time with 32 Bty. From what he said they thought very highly of Ken.

After the service we retired to ChCh RSA where we had drinks (of course) and eats and there were a few speeches, one poem by his adopted son (stepson I guess). I also met a lot of Infantry guys there and they thought highly of Ken as well.

A great farewell to a great Gunner.

- ☑ **Roger (Neddy) Wylde** send greetings to all and remarks on the extravaganza that family put on for his 80th. He has passed his D & M (driving and maintenance) Course and has a new driver's licence issued by LTSA (minus Matador extension) {A Matador was a ten ton Medium Artillery gun tractor that would go almost anywhere}. **Neddy** comments that **D Ralph (Spike) Hughes** is going through a very bad patch after loosing his good lady and is now in the Waikanae Country Lodge, 394 Te Moana Rd, Waikanae. If there is anyone in that area please do call in and see him.

Neddy continues "My God I looked up 'superannuated' in my Webster's. it sez

1. Set aside as old fashioned or obsolete.

2. Too old or worn for further service, work, etc.

THAT'S ME"

And further to that states that a guy called Einstein said "Only two things are infinite, the Universe and human stupidity" CORRECT *but he may not have met the TAXMAN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

- ☑ **Clyde Stewart** sends greetings from Tauranga, enjoys the Newsletters and hearing about Old Comrades in general.

- ☑ I hope you guys who receive the Army News noted the picture of **BIG Hill (Tiny)** meeting the Queen, he does not really deserve an accolade here because he is not a member, come on Southerners, get him to join. This reminds me of a story that concerns **Tiny** and **Don Kenning**. **Tiny** was the School Sergeant Major School of Artillery and **Don** was the Director of Artillery. **Don** was required to make a visit to Waiouru with another senior officer so they requisitioned a staff car which duly arrived with a WREN driver, so off they go to Waiouru. Since they were visiting the School the conversation soon drifted to **Tiny** but then they arrived at the School and as the WREN driver got out to open the door for these senior officers, **Tiny** came out and was immediately kissed by the young lady who said "Hi Dad!" **Don's** first port of call was my office where he said "Why didn't you tell me **Tiny's** daughter was a WREN driver" 'How did I know you were being driven by her, I am only the SMIG Tech not your minder!!!" (*I am now though*) "Oh my God what did we say about him!!" It is one of the only times I have really seen **Don** embarrassed, however, I have no doubt that what they did discuss was all good. *I look back at those days with **Tiny** and **Don** and many other gunners and really wish we could live then over again.*

- ☑ On a recent trip to Palmerston North to prepare for the 161 Bty Reunion, **Barry Dreyer**, **Denis Dwane** and I stopped in Taihape for coffee, lo and behold we bumped into **Conrad Flinkenberg** who with his good lady has taken to walking around the countryside visiting, in the main, old Māori War sites. I could not help thinking what a great idea we should all take the time to study our beautiful country. And by the way if you don't know **Conrad** he is the pakeha with the flax kit and taiaha!!!!

- ☑ **Brian Edmonds** writes from Cairns (*that is up where the sun shines day and night I believe!!*). **Brian** tells us about the 'House That Roche Built' (i.e. Tom). In Vietnam **Tom** decided that the Battery area needed a watch tower and became Chief Architect, Clerk of Works, Slave Driver etc, etc. It started off with a couple of connex's (shipping containers) put together, one being the small arms ammo store and the other the cells, a few 6 x 6 and 8 x 8 timbers and, I quote, "then came the bloody sandbags,

bloody hundreds of them." **Brian** being one of the many Askari's employed on the job drove back and forth from the old French Fort either transporting sandbags or filling them until **Tom** was happy he had enough. Then came the set of stairs, and again I quote, "I seem to remember one BSM (no names to protect the innocent) always having trouble negotiating them in the middle of the night when he was on the want to catch some hapless gunner dozing at his post, same BSM managed to fall in just about every hole in the ground especially at night, but he was a bloody good BSM. He was good at tripping over the Navy gate chains at Cautley in later life. (Now I have got him, but no names no pack drill except to say when he had his heart attack and was incarcerated in Green Lane Hospital **Don Kenning** went to visit him and here he was smoking a Bears Dark!!! You know who I mean now.) We managed to 'borrow' a 50 cal machine gun until it was found to be missing and recovered. It was a great weapon to make the fireflies on the wire jump around instead of the M60 machine gun. I can add here that a 50 cal was later officially obtained because it was there when I did my second tour so the watchtower was named the 50 cal connex, yes and it was wonderful to hurry the fireflies off the wire, I had the joy of firing it one night.

Brian finishes by making a very favourable comment about Denis' acceptance of President of the Association.

There is more from **Brian** but I have to get to the photocopiers so I can get this out over Queen's Birthday weekend, so I will continue in the next Newsletter

REUNION 2005. 18, 19, 20 November

I will require firm commitments after the August Newsletter, by then I will have confirmed prices for the dinner and buses to Linton, however, the basic outline is as follows:

Friday 18 Nov. registration at the RSA from about 1000 hrs until the welcome and mix and mingle at around 1800 hrs.

Saturday 19 Nov. Morning, possible visit to 16th Field Regiment and museums

Saturday 19 Nov. Afternoon AGM. In the morning if we don't go to 16 Fd Regt.

Saturday 19 Nov. Evening Formal Dinner at the RSA with guest speaker Brigadier Barry Vryenhoek.

Sunday 20 Nov. Church Service at the RSA.

Accommodation will be a personal responsibility this year in that you will have to make you own arrangements and to that end I would suggest:

Kingsgate Hotel 0508 725643 ask for Jessica, or Alpha Motel 0800 777070 and ask for Sheryl in both situations tell them it is for the RNZA Old Comrades Assn Reunion.

Transportation. Mini buses will be available to collect people from Palmerston North Airport and for movements between the Kingsgate and RSA.

That's all for now keep your tube clean and powder dry.

Ubique
God Bless you all.

