

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. 127

August 2005

ROUTINE ORDERS

PLEASE NOTE -- THERE ARE TWO REPLY SLIPS AT THE END, ONE FOR THE REUNION AND ONE FOR THE HISTORY OF THE RNZA. PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE CORRECT ADDRESS.

CAMBRIDGE (Waikato) ARMISTICE DAY

The NZ Army Assn Taranaki Branch has advised that Cambridge's marking of Armistice Day will be bigger and better than before. Watch for news of the weekend 12 – 13 November in your local newspaper. Militaria markets, warbirds flyovers, bands, military vehicles the lot. Sunday is the big day with a grand military parade.

Reunion 2005 will be in Palmerston North weekend 18, 19, 20 November. See the end of this Newsletter for relevant information and reply slip. I do require firm replies this time as the next Newsletter will be after the reunion.

LAST POST:

Phillip George Monk. Christchurch 17 Oct 1994. *NO that is not a misprint, I have only just been told.*

William BF McAllum. Christchurch 27 April 2005

Neville M Fisher. Papakura 11 August 2995

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Denis Pederson to 112 Western Springs Rd. Auckland

NEW MEMBERS:

Clarence Ormsby joins us from Australia. **Clarence** is a 161 Battery Vietnam veteran who served on No 6 in '67, and No 3 in '69. and attended the 40th Anniversary Reunion.

Ian Beker joins us from the very deep South – Invercargill. **Ian** is also 161 Battery Vietnam serving on No 6 in '71. I had the pleasure of rekindling old friendship that included a tour with 1 RNZIR Singapore '78 to '80.

Ronald Apiti, joins us from Auckland. Again another 161 Battery Vietnam vet who served on Echo gun in 1971. **Ron** is the Producer of Waka Huia TVNZ which features on TV1 every Sunday 11am – 12noon.

Charles Purcell joins from Mount Maunganui. **Charles** served with 22 Battalion then on to 16th Field Regiment in Korea.

Alexander MacKintosh joins from Cambridge. **Alexander** served on 6-inch guns with 70th Heavy Battery, 10 Heavy Regiment.

Graeme Wilson joins from Morrinsville. **Graeme** served with 161 Battery Vietnam, on No 6 in '71. Again, another vet who attended the July reunion in Palmerston North.

Abe Swanson joins from Whenuapai. **Abe** was a storeman with 161 Battery Vietnam in 1970 and retired as the SSM 1 Movement Sqn.

Harry Haitana joins from Auckland. **Harry** and I go back a long way, he was on Echo gun in '66 after already serving in Malaysia.

TeUpokopakari Rangitoheriri joins from TePuke. **TeUpoko** is a bit of a soldier of fortune in that he joined in the ASC then Sappers, then Grunts, then 161 Battery Vietnam and then jumped out of perfectly serviceable aeroplanes with the SAS.

John Webster joins us from Wainuiomata. **John** joined 8 Medium Battery and later became 2nd Field Regt, arrived in Egypt as artillery and transferred to Div Cav, then into the Infantry and on return to NZ after WW2 ended up with the 'Galloping Grocers' (ASC). *Now that is what I call spreading ones wings, it is lucky you were not like Monty and wear all your badges.*

Dave Harrison joins from Christchurch. **Dave** joined as a turret head, then to SAS in Borneo followed by 161 Battery Vietnam in '67 on No 4 gun.

Bob Wilson joins us from Milford. **Bob** served in 2 NZ Regt and then joined 161 Battery for service in Vietnam in 1966 on No 3 gun.

Russell Gregory joins from Waiau. Anyone ex 3 Fd Regt will remember **Russ** due to his period as CO of the Regt. **Russ** has sent me some most interesting info that will appear in our next Newsletter.

Paddy Ryan from Picton. **Paddy** was in 10 and 33 Heavy Regiments followed by 5 Field Regiment, then after the War he joined RNZ Provost and in 1952 he was to encounter a young RF Cadet namely 'yours truly'. I have only fond memories of **Paddy** and I am thrilled that he has joined the OCA.

Forbes Greenfield is from Wellsford and has the honour of being one of our few IP (In Pacific) vets serving on 155mm with 37 Battery and the US Forces and did a stint on 25 pounders. **Forbes** has sent us a very interesting six pages of Gunners in the Pacific which I will send to our historian and webmaster. However, if anyone wishes to have a copy of this please let me know.

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

RESIGNATIONS OR GONE NO ADDRESS

Russell Croker, resigned in writing for December 2005.

Vic Meyle, After some serious thought (*not threats!!! Well maybe a little one*) Vic has withdrawn his resignation and will attempt to keep up with everyone else. (*Thanks for the memory jog Brian*)

STRUCK OFF FOR NON PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

After repeated requests to tidy up their subs the following people have been struck off

Mike Withers

Eddie Naden

FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS AND INTERESTING REFLECTIONS

❖ **Mayne Manson** sends this note:

A couple from Toronto decided to go to Florida to thaw out during one potentially icy winter. They planned to stay at the very same hotel where they had spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. Because of hectic schedules it was difficult to coordinate their travel arrangements so the husband left Toronto and flew to Florida and his wife was to fly down the next day. The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife. However he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail address and with this error he sent the e-mail.

Meanwhile somewhere in Huston a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral and decided to check her e-mail expecting messages of condolence from relatives and friends. After reading the first message she fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My loving wife

Subject: I have arrived

Date: 16 January 2005

I know you are surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send e-mails to your loved ones. I have just arrived and checked in and I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is hot down here.

❖ **Brian Edmonds** continues from last Newsletter with some snippets regarding the RNZA Band. Some Regulars played as extras in the Northern District Artillery Band and were issued the real old 'lemon

squeezer'. To join the band one had to do an apprenticeship of about two years before being taken on to the Official Establishment. I have seen the Band call in all its retired players to field a full band for a Union Test at Eden Park under the leadership of **Maj Fred Smythe MBE ED.** and at the same time field another at Carlaw Park for a League Test under the baton of **WO1 Eric Craig.** Lets face it there was no one like Fred for putting on a Marching Display at Eden Park at half time and to my mind he was hurriedly 'retired' by some of the underlings at Area well before he should have been and the Band suffered accordingly. When I left the Army I still had my hat so when **Goldy (Ross Goldsworthy)** was taking in my returnable items of clothing I waited until he and **Harvey Poulson** were looking the other way when I flicked it into the boot of my car. I am going to wear it one ANZAC Day here in Cairns to upset the Swiss Admirals. There was one famous photo that appeared in the Weekly News when the Battery had returned from Vietnam and was parading up Queen St, we had been rushed by the protesting unwashed when I managed to flick one of them past me and into the direction of the Drum Major, **Tom Gannon**, who was swinging his mace and 'unfortunately' hit the protestor a couple of times. A comment was overheard later from a very senior person "congratulate the Drum Major for me – his mace never missed a beat". If anyone knows how to obtain those photos of 161 Battery's 'Welcome Home' Parade that were published in the Weekly New I would appreciate assistance getting a copy. Well cheerio from the top of West Island it's a nice sunny autumn day at 28°C. Yeh 'hi ho silver' Brian it is a balmy autumn day here in Hamilton at 12°C, can't you just go off Australians sometimes!!!!

- ❖ **Phil Barclay.** (DOB 26/3/13) When **Phil** filled in his OCA Personal Record Form noted his most unusual duty as being sent, as a gazetted officer, to peel spuds on the first day of WW2 1939. But the best was his most embarrassing situation when he was marching a squad through Trentham and saluted some firemen. *Can you imagine the comments from members of his squad, I would imagine Phil wanted to go and hide in a monastery in the back of Tibet!!!*

- ❖ **Mike Baker** has completed his appointment as CO of 16th Field Regiment and is now Manager for the Defence Sustainability Initiative and is pretty busy coordinating the increases in operating and capital expenditure announced by the Minister. This is the most significant increase in defence spending seen in this country, outside of the two world wars so there's a lot to do. The next few years will be an exciting time for Army. As projects and expenditure are approved **Mike** intends to brief the progress through the Army News. Although the increase starts slowly over the next couple of years there are still some significant projects we hope to undertake.

Mike was up in Linton recently and caught up with some of the gunners. It looks like they've got about 10 off to Afghanistan soon and they're still maintaining a small contingent in Bosnia so things are looking good.

I am sure all Old Comrades will join me wishing Mike well in his new appointment.

As a point of interest **Lt Col Martin Neale** is now the CO of the Regiment.

- ❖ **Jim Horn** from the Big South. Graeme Henderson & I had an afternoon with Jim Fitzgerald on Gunner's Day. We Toasted the Queen & Regiment with a glass or two or three of Port at Rowena Jackson Rest home where Jim is. He is well and perky, playing bowls, making sure the flag is raised and the right flag is used. *I haven't been in touch with Jim for years and although he is not a member I am sure you will all join me in wishing him well and a straight eye with his bowls.*

- ❖ **Colin Putt** writes from New Plymouth with a 'Last Post' with quite a difference. Graeme please be advised that a prospective New Member Norm Quinlan, has passed away. **Norm** was on a visit to Trieste, in Italy, to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War 11 with 130 other Veterans with Our Heroes Charitable Trust. He had a heart attack, two days after arriving in Italy and died on 2nd June. He was 83. His ashes will be brought back to New Zealand when the Tour Party returns and the R.N.Z.A. will hold a service for him in New Plymouth. As you know he was a Gunner and fought in the Battle for Monte Cassino. *Even though Norm never got a chance to be a member the President and Members offer their sincerest condolences to the family and I would appreciate you passing that message on please Colin.*

- ❖ **Pappy Patchin** writes from Syracuse, New York, regarding a Glossary of Gunner I had received from the UK. "Jack" What a great endeavor. I recognized a great many of the terms used by RNZA and I specially enjoyed the info on the phonetic alphabet. Thank you for passing it on to me. AND it was all in English, too. I didn't need a translator/interpreter. As I write to you the movie "Galipolli" is just finishing. Every time I see it I feel a kinship to the men of the ANZAC who fought such a valiant (but really uncoordinated) battle. Our next door neighbors in Bien Hoa were the Prince of Wales Light Horse and the Aussie camp was Galipolli Barracks. I wish that I had known more of the history of the units when they were so near. With "Ubique" I wager there was RNZA on the peninsula, also. My best regards to all. Please give a big hug and kiss to Maj. Denis Dwane, MBE, President RNZAOCA.

Most Sincerely,
Pappy Patchin

Now come on Pappy, kissing Denis Dwane is akin to kissing a frog and I can assure you he would not turn into a beautiful princess, not in anyone's wildest dreams!!!!!! Thank the Lord we are not in Zimbabwe, my house would be knocked down for a comment like that.

❖ Again from **Pappy** regarding the last Newsletter Dear Jack:

I received the Old Comrades Newsletter today and remember some of the roads that were described in it and for the life of me I still can't see how large military vehicles could negotiate them. Then I remembered the copious amounts of "Barley Pop" and "Nelsons Blood" consumed by the gunners. It all becomes clearer, now. On reading the comments of some gunners regarding their treatment by Americans that had seen New Zealand on the government plan I just smiled and thought of how good the Kiwis really were.

I thought about my train ride from Auckland to Waiouru. It was in late March or early April, near ANZAC Day. I had run out of the antifreeze I had consumed and was huddled in a corner shivering. A "gentleman" inquired as to my health and destination. He turned out to be a WO gunner from Waiouru, a WW II Navy veteran and very helpful. When we arrived at Waiouru he put up in the dryer room or furnace room to thaw out. He rustled up WO Malcolm Nabbs, Paddy Sands and found Denis Dwane. From there on it was all downhill. Visits to the RSA to play housie and drink. Visits to cobbler's homes to drink. Visits to anyplace to drink and of course, days and nights in the Sgts Messes at Waiouru, Burnham Camp and some blurry place near Christ Church. I believe that one of these days I'll dry out and all my fond memories will become reality and I'll be exceptionally surprised how clear they become.

I laughed about the directive from Mozambique so hard tears came to my eyes.

Right now my wife, Susan is in Kentucky. I'm very active in the Masonic orders. She holds a national chair in one of the ladies groups so I've been a geographical bachelor since last Wednesday and will be so until next Thursday. I'm, at present, the Grand Royal Patron, Order of the Amaranth, State of New York. I'm on the road a lot doing official visits and conducting business. I attended the Grand Court of Ontario, Canada the first weekend in June and ran into a fellow retired from the British RE. He regaled us with his stories of actions in Malaysia and Northern Ireland, continuously referring to his attachment to different units. His jaw fell off when I asked him how long he had been in SAS and when he was sent to the Territorials did he go to 21 or 23 Squadron. It was then the good whiskey came out and we started to exchange anecdotes. He seemed surprised when I asked him some questions about a couple of guys I knew. Isn't it funny how small the military world is?

That's why I feel so proud of my associate membership in the Old Comrades Association. The experiences, friends and times are exceptional. I read of personalities within RNZA, their exploits, some of their adventures and how you all have kept in contact. I only had the year with 161 Bty in Vietnam. It gave me a glimpse into a small, cohesive unit. When I got to NZ it was and remains a high point in my life.

For now, that's all. I've got to go upstairs and iron my tux and tails shirts for my next upcoming visits this weekend, one at the Eastern side of the state on Friday and the other on the Western end Saturday.

Tomorrow I probably get a new wheel bearing installed on my car. A little travel is good. A lot causes maintenance problems

Pappy Patchin. Lt Col, 173rd Airborne Brigade US Army

❖ **Eldon Bryant** our RAA friend from Townsville sent me the following:

On June 1st a memorial was unveiled at Weymouth in Dorset to the Australians and New Zealanders who were accommodated in camps in the town during WW1. Weymouth was the depot for the Anzacs Gallipoli casualties sent to UK hospitals for treatment and then discharged as convalescent. The depot opened in May 1915 and was the joint Australian and New Zealand depot until the NZ depot opened at Hornchurch in Essex in April 1916. Weymouth then became AIF Command Depot No.2. No. 2 C.D. accommodated those men not expected to be fit for duty within six months therefore most of the diggers repatriated as a result of wounds or sickness passed through Weymouth. The depot closed in 1919.

The unveiling of the memorial seems to have made no impression whatsoever on the British media - I hope it did better 'Down Under'.

*Thanks **Eldon**, always good to get messages from across the moat.*

❖ **David Roberts** sends us the following tale regarding the late Ken Turner:

Around 1960 and one of the first exercises that 161 Battery participated in, I was Sigs NCO for B Troop (yes a Field Battery used to have two, four gun troops) and Ken was a No 1. Two recent graduates from Duntroon had just joined us and one of them was the duty officer in the B Troop CP, the troop was fairly busy on troop targets and I was in the CP when Ken turned up and asked me in a loud voice if I could provide him with a replacement Tannoy speaker.

"Certainly" I said as I grabbed one to hand to him. "What's wrong with it?" I asked him.

"It keeps talking shit" was the reply.

The quite raw duty officer looked rather pained but wisely decided to refrain from comment. *As the young*

man grew older he would have realised his refraining from any comment **was** a wise decision. I remember Ken's rapier-like wit!!!!

❖ **Barry Dreyer** sent me the follow excerpt from a **Don Brash** speech regarding bureaucracy:

A correspondent has drawn my attention to a letter from the Duke of Wellington to the British Foreign Office in London, written from central Spain in August 1812. It reminded me that bureaucracy is not a new problem. Wellington wrote:

Gentlemen:

Whilst marching from Portugal to a position which commands the approach to Madrid and the French forces, my officers have been diligently complying with your requests, which have been sent by H.M. ship from London to Lisbon and thence by dispatch rider to our headquarters.

We have enumerated our saddles, bridles, tents and tent poles, and all manner of sundry items for which His Majesty's Government holds me accountable. I have dispatched reports on the character, wit and spleen of every officer. Each item and every farthing has been accounted for, with two regrettable exceptions for which I ask your indulgence.

Unfortunately the sum of one shilling and nine pence remains unaccounted for in one infantry battalion's petty cash, and there has been a hideous confusion as to the number of jars of raspberry jam issued to one cavalry regiment during a sandstorm in Western Spain. This reprehensible carelessness may be related to the pressure of circumstance, since we are at war with France, a fact which may come as a bit of a surprise to you gentlemen in Whitehall.

This brings me to my present purpose, which is to request elucidation of my instructions from His Majesty's Government, so that I may better understand why I am dragging an army over these barren plains. I construe that perforce it must be one of two alternative duties, as given below. I shall pursue either one with the best of my ability but I cannot do both:

1. To train an army of uniformed British clerks in Spain for the benefit of the Accountants and copy-boys in London, or perchance
2. To see to it that the forces of Napoleon are driven out of Spain.

Your most obedient servant,

Wellington

Really, there is something ringing in my mind that we have heard the same message in recent times!!!

❖ From a friend of **Barry Dreyer**, you all may find this rather interesting:

I went to an interesting presentation yesterday by MAJ GEN Jim Molan, who is just back from 12 months as Chief of Staff (Ops) to the high command in Iraq. He ran the day-to-day operations, which included, amongst other things, up to 20 brigades, an enormous civil infrastructure including roads and railways, etc, etc. He is a very pleasant down-to-earth fellow, who apparently was regarded very highly by the Americans. He had the audience enthralled, of course (it was at the staff College). Two interesting things he said, among many others: he thinks the war is going very well, but that the media refuses to acknowledge it (indeed, that the media doesn't know poos); and Australian defence Force officers are extremely well trained and competent up to the tactical level of war, but that we have a lot to learn about generalship.

I don't suppose either of those will surprise you.

What is a Brigade? I'm not going to ask what is 20 Brigades, is it something like the Universe?

Roger Pearce writes; We are just back from a great trip to UK & Turkey (incl Gallipoli of course). Just before I left I was talking to Lt Gen Don McIvor and he mentioned that the NZ Army Museum has nothing to record the exploits of that intrepid band - the NZAAC, formerly AOP. Since I was off to UK to meet with old AAC friends he asked if I could get an Auster and a Sioux for the museum. The AAC Museum at Middle Wallop did offer a Sioux and the possibility of an Auster 9 (the mark we flew in Malaysia). Subsequently, I gather the RNZAF may give the museum one of their Sioux, once they finally go out of service, and I think the wheels will now be turning to acquire the Auster. So, an interesting little story.

After reading the newsletter and noting Barry Hardy's and Chris Brown's names it occurred to me that, through the Gunner network, we might be able to drum up some memorabilia for the museum. I still have my flying suit (it fits!) and log books and you and others might have some bits, too.

Good call Roger. All of you have a serious thought about what Roger has said above and do something about it. I may have mentioned this before, but in Vietnam around the end of 1965 Roger with the callsign "Kiwi Cowboy" was flying a 'gunship' with the US 173rd Airborne Brigade's 82nd Aviation Coy and one Sunday morning paid the Battery area a visit in the company car - an Iriquois. We had a rather serious grass fire at the time so Roger helped us 'blow' it out - again, with the company car.

❖ **Andrew Lister** is responsible for the subject: Political Correctness

HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT WOMEN AND BE POLITICALLY CORRECT:

1. She is not a BABE or a CHICK - She is a BREASTED CITIZEN.
2. She is not EASY - She is HORIZONTALLY ACCESSIBLE.
3. She is not BLONDE - She is a DETOUR OFF THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY.

4. She has not BEEN AROUND - She is A PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED COMPANION.
5. She is not an AIRHEAD - She is REALITY IMPAIRED.
6. She does not get DRUNK or TIPSY - She gets CHEMICALLY INCONVENIENCED.
7. She is not HORNY - She is SEXUALLY FOCUSED.
8. She does not have BREAST IMPLANTS - She is MEDICALLY ENHANCED.
9. She does not NAG YOU - She becomes VERBALLY REPETITIVE.
10. She is not a SLAPPER - She is a LOW COST SERVICE PROVIDER.

HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT MEN AND BE POLITICALLY CORRECT:

1. He does not have a BEER GUT - He has developed a LIQUID STORAGE FACILITY
2. He is not a BAD DANCER - He is OVERLY CAUCASIAN.
3. He does not GET LOST - He INVESTIGATES ALTERNATIVE DESTINATIONS.
4. He is not BALDING - He is in FOLLICLE REGRESSION.
5. He is not a CRADLE SNATCHER - He is GENERATIONALLY DIFFERENTIAL.
6. He does not get FALLING-DOWN DRUNK - He becomes ACCIDENTALLY HORIZONTAL.
7. He does not act like a TOTAL ASS - He develops RECTAL CRANIAL INVERSION.
8. He is not a MALE CHAUVINIST PIG - He has SWINE EMPATHY.
9. He is not afraid of COMMITMENT - He is MONOGAMOUSLY CHALLENGED.

❖ From **Kerry Lee** in Timor. Giddy Graeme, The newsletter [#126] was forwarded safely and arrived today. In case the next one is not so lucky I take this opportunity to tender our apologies and regret that Lyn and I will not be in Palmerston North this year. The program looks good and the town is very supportive of all things military.

And a note for the gossip column: Lyn and I are half way through a year tour as VSA volunteers in East Timor. She is working in the pharmacy area of the Ministry of Health [mostly at the hospital] and getting a buzz from being able to work at setting up systems for the few qualified staff. As usual when there are not enough staff, those on site do not have time to do the mundane bits like design order forms or confirm the accuracy of their medicines list. I do a bit of English teaching to a group of locals at politech level and am learning to speak Tetum. Timor is a typical tropical island with weather to match. The local food is fresh and plentiful, Malay style. ANZAC Day was celebrated with a dawn service on a beach to the East of Dili. There was a full moon setting in the West as the sun rose behind us. The location and the light all made the change from dark through first light to daylight very impressive. Then the UNMISSET General held a medal parade on the spot to award medals to the ANZACs in his command. Very fitting.

See you in 06

Kerry

❖

THE DIRECTORATE RNZA

by Brig (Rtd) G D Birch, MBE

The Directorate RNZA existed in one form or another from 1885 to 1990. It was the office of the senior artillery staff officer serving at Army Headquarters, who was primarily responsible to the Chief of General Staff for all technical and professional matters pertaining to artillery.

Between 1885 and 1914 the officer heading the Directorate was variously known as Staff Officer Artillery, Director of Artillery, Staff Officer Artillery and Inspector of Ordnance Stores & Equipment, Director of Ordnance and/or Inspector of Artillery. From 1914 to 1918 there were simultaneously two Directors, one each covering Garrison and Field Artillery. From 1919 to 1936 the term Director of Artillery was used, and the office bearer was also the Commander RNZA. During this period the NZ Army consisted primarily of the Staff Corps, the Permanent Staff and the RNZA. The term Director was generally used from 1942 to 1990. From 1966 onwards the Director RNZA (DRNZA) was also the Director of the Army Air Corps. This army aviation linkage stemmed from the earlier air observation post (AOP) officer role filled by artillery officers flying light fixed wing aircraft, primarily with an observation and fire control function. When the more widely based army air corps was formed the staff function logically remained with the RNZA Directorate. A list of officers holding this senior artillery staff appointment is at Annex A.

In its later years the Directorate was headed by a Lt Col Director (the DRNZA), assisted by one or two Major level staff officers (SO2 RNZA) and a WO1 Clerk (WO RNZA). The role of the Directorate was to:

- Provide advice to the CGS and his staff on all technical and professional matters relating to artillery (and army aviation).
- Liaise with, and in conjunction with the Military Secretary, plan all regimental officer appointments. In addition the Director maintained a watching brief on the full career development of all his officers, and a fatherly oversight as to their progress.
- Liaise with, and in conjunction with the Manning Staff, plan all regimental other rank appointments. The WO RNZA was primarily responsible for this role although the Director

became involved in the more senior postings. Again the Directorate maintained a watching brief on career development, and a fatherly oversight.

- Be lead equipment sponsor for surface to surface artillery; air defence artillery; surveillance, target acquisition and night observation (STANO), nuclear, biological and chemical defensive measures (in conjunction with the Chief Engineer), survey equipment (again in conjunction with the Chief Engineer), and army aviation. This was primarily the domain of the SO2 Arty and covered the full life of equipment from gestation in the form of a Staff Target to final disposal. In all the Directorate sponsored around 400 items, ranging from guns and radars to binoculars and command post equipments.

- Represent the NZ Army at the ABCA (America, Britain, Canada and Australia — and NZ was associated through Australia) standardisation conferences and working groups on Surface to Surface Artillery, Air Defence, STANO and Army Aviation.

- Conduct regular Corps Conferences to update selected members on matters regimental and professional. These conferences were normally held in conjunction with the School of Artillery, and typically included equipment updates, technical matters and historical studies.

- In conjunction with the Colonel Commandant manage the domestic affairs of the Regiment, and assist in maintaining its wellbeing. The RNZA was/is the most regimentally aware of the corps of the NZ Army, stemming from its linkage back to the Armed Constabulary and its continued existence dating from the Defence Act of 1886. In addition it inherited the traditions and spirit of the much older Royal Artillery, including its customs, its motto – Ubique, its history and its cap badge. To this was added its purely NZ traditions, customs and history etc, domestically the Directorate managed the Regiment's property and funds, the RNZA Council, and made representation on such matters as dress embellishments.

On joining the RNZA gunners joined much more than just a Regiment. They also joined a close family of gunners with links throughout the Commonwealth and the USA- Our history, traditions and customs are shared with this wider family and help distinguish us from all other corps. Within NZ the Directorate was at the head of the serving family. The Director was normally the senior Regular Force Officer holding a Regimental appointment, and the Director and his staff maintained a fatherly eye on all matters within their jurisdiction, looking to the spirit and well being of the Regiment and the development of its personnel. This closeness and family atmosphere was lost when Army General Staff was downsized in 1990; the equipment function going to Plans and Development Branch, officer appointments becoming completely the responsibility of The Military Secretary, other rank appointments to Manning Branch, and domestic Regimental matters to the Regimental Colonel, (a senior serving gunner, but as a secondary role to his established appointment), in association with the Colonel Commandant. From a RNZA point of view the Directorate's demise was a retrograde step.

Graham Birch Dec 2003

THE DIRECTORS

1885-1887	Maj EMT Boddam	Staff Officer Artillery & Engineers Dept of Colonial Defence
1887-1888	Maj AP Douglas	Staff Officer Artillery & Inspector of Ordnance Stores & Equipment
1888-1902	Lt Col EMT Boddam	Staff Officer Artillery
1902-1904	Maj StLM Moore	Commander NZ Permanent Force & Staff Officer Artillery
1904-1907	Maj GN Johnston	Staff Officer Artillery & Director of Artillery
1907-1908	Capt GS Richardson	Acting Director of Artillery
1911-1915	Lt Col GN Johnston	Director of Artillery & Ordnance;
1914-1915		and Inspector of Artillery
1914-1916	Lt Col JE Hume	Director of Garrison Artillery, Inspector of Artillery & Commander RNZA
1914-1918	Maj AF Roberts	Director of Field Artillery & Inspector of Field Artillery
Jan- May 1919	Lt Col MM Gardiner DSO	Director of Field Artillery
May-Aug 1919	Lt Col IT Standish	Director of Artillery and Commander RNZA
1919-1925	Lt Col MM Gardiner DSO	Director of Artillery and Commander RNZA
1925-1936	Lt Col F Symon CMG DSO	Director of Artillery and Commander RNZA
1936-1937	Lt Col RS Park	Commander RNZA
1937-1939	Lt Col GB Parkinson	Commander RNZA
1939-1941	Col AB Williams DSO	Commander RNZA
May-Aug 1941	Lt Col HG Wilding DSO	Commander RNZA
1941-1947	Lt Col JP Joyce DCM	Senior Staff Officer Artillery
1947-1948	Lt Col HE Gilbert DSO OBE	Director RNZA (DRNZA)
1948-1954	Lt Col GP Cade DSO	DRNZA
1954-1959	Lt Col J Burns DSO MBE	DRNZA
1959-1962	Lt Col LA Poutney MBE	DRNZA

1962-1966	Lt Col JF Spring MBE	DRNZA & Director Army Air Corps (Director AAC)
1966-1967	Lt Col LW Wright MBE	DRNZA & Director AAC
1967-1969	Lt Col HB Honnor MVO	DRNZA & Director AAC
1969-1971	Maj RJ Pearce MBE	DRNZA & Director AAC
1971-1975	Lt Col DR Kenning MBE	DRNZA & Director AAC
1975-1978	Lt Col JM Masters MC	DRNZA & Director AAC
1978-1981	Lt Col RJ Andrews	DRNZA & Director AAC
1981-1983	Lt Col GD Birch MBE	DRNZA & Director AAC
1983-1985	Lt Col MA Harvey	DRNZA & Director AAC
1985-1987	Lt Col DG Lough	DRNZA & Director AAC
1987-1989	Lt Col AT McLeod	DRNZA & Director AAC
1989-1990	Lt Col MJR Pearce	DRNZA & Director AAC

❖ Afghanistan

It did not make any headlines. It was just another incident among many in this volatile region. But it gives an insight into why the US-led coalition is having such difficulty defeating the insurgency that has affected much of eastern and southern Afghanistan for the past two years.

It was 25 June. Second Lt Louis Fernandez had led seven members of his platoon to the top of Peak 2911. A distinctive, bulging mountain straddling the frontier, it gets its name from its height in metres. The night before, a US artillery battery had shelled the peak after lights had been seen there. The suspicion was that insurgents might be using it as a launch site to fire rockets on American and Afghan troops - an almost daily occurrence for units based along the border.

Lt Fernandez and his men from the 2/504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 82nd Airborne Division, had been ordered to do a "battle damage assessment", to see if anything had been hit. An Afghan officer, Capt Mohammed Islamuddin, and two interpreters were with them. They found nothing except a well-travelled trail. They decided to follow it. As they moved down the path, Capt Islamuddin says he spotted a man in local clothes about 200-300 metres away, carrying a Kalashnikov. Staff Sgt McKenna Miller says he saw another man near some trees raising his Kalashnikov. Sgt Miller raised his weapon. "I asked for permission to fire." "I told Sgt Miller to shoot," says 22-year-old Lt Fernandez. "He pulled the trigger and hit the guy right in the head and put him down. "Immediately after, we started taking fire from another direction," he says. "That's when pretty much everything unravelled," says Sgt Miller, a veteran of Iraq and the Balkans.

They realised they were up against "not two, but approximately 15 to 20 individuals", with a barrage of fire coming down on the US and Afghan troops. Where they were though, there was almost no cover. The only escape was to move back towards the summit, the soldiers taking it in turns to provide covering fire while others scrambled up the slope, fighting for breath in the thin air at this altitude. "I was starting to pray as I was running back," says Sgt Juan Carlos Coca, the unit's radio operator. "There were rounds flying everywhere." "We were definitely fighting for our lives," says Sgt Miller.

For Sgt Coca, this is his second time in Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne. In between, he was also in Iraq, in southern Baghdad. "I expected this to be the easiest deployment of the three," he admits. "But so far it's been the hardest.

We've basically come to a hornets' nest, here on the border with Pakistan." The paratroopers say they were firing constantly to try to keep their assailants back. But "we were getting surrounded", says Sgt Coca. "And we had no comms at all. The mountain was blocking radio signals, so they couldn't call for back-up. In this terrain, their pursuers had the advantage. "They move a lot faster on these mountains than we do," says Lt Fernandez. "They know all the routes. And they're just in better shape when it comes to this. They're carrying no weight. We're carrying about 60 or 70 pounds (27kg-31kg) of equipment, so we're a lot slower." Their lightly loaded attackers came closer and closer. "They got within 20 or 30 metres," says Lt Fernandez. "You could see those little tan hats they wear. "We were hugging the dirt, most of the time just praying to God that He was there for us. And He was definitely there for us, to just have one guy take a ricochet round, with the amount of fire they were putting down on us." That one guy was Pte Ted Smith. A round hit him in the face, but went straight through his cheek. "Blood was just pouring out of him," says Sgt Miller, "but he just kept on firing." Pte Smith is expected to return to duty here soon at Camp Tillman - named after Pat Tillman, the American footballer who famously turned down millions of dollars to join the US military after 11 September but who died in a "friendly fire" incident in Afghanistan in April last year. When you visit this small, heavily defended redoubt, it conjures up images of old French Foreign Legion fortresses deep in hostile North African rebel territory. Just across the border from the base - which sits near a tiny hamlet of mud-brick houses - is the Pakistani tribal area of Waziristan. That has long regarded as one of the main areas where Taleban and also al Qaeda militants have been sheltering. There have been reports of Osama Bin Laden hiding there. Although Pakistani forces were involved in bloody clashes

with some of these groups last year, there are concerns that many still remain and have even bolstered their numbers.

Based on intelligence received afterwards, the US soldiers believe they killed eight of their attackers. But talking about the fire fight to the BBC a few days later, all of them say they were lucky not to have lost anyone. When they finally reached higher ground and safety "we were totally out of breath, we could barely speak. We had almost no ammunition left," says Lt Fernandez, who was also inspired by 9/11 to join the forces. He signed up on 14 September 2001. Up here, Sgt Coca could get through on the radio, to call for air support. A-10 aircraft arrived. But the soldiers say the pilots were not permitted to open fire with their machine gun, or drop any ordnance because the militants were in Pakistani territory. "That just totally frustrates all of us," says Sgt Coca. "It's easy for the enemy to shoot at us here in Afghanistan and then they just run a couple of hundred metres into Pakistan and we can't do anything. They're untouchable. "We have that problem all the time," he says. Sgt Miller agrees: "That's their safe haven, because they know that we can't go over the border and they try to use that to their advantage." The exact rules of engagement for US forces based along the border are secret. But it is clear from reports of different American operations that they do have some leeway. But American troops are not allowed to chase attackers across the border. Lt Fernandez says if they are "in pursuit of an enemy" they sometimes call Pakistani government forces on the other side. But asked if US forces here feel they get help from the Pakistanis, he says: "I can't say that we do. No, not really."

Capt Islamuddin is more blunt. "Pakistan is interfering in Afghanistan. They are sending the bad guys here. They say there are cooperating, but they are not." Capt Islamuddin has been based on the border with his 3rd Battalion for the past five months and says he has seen many clashes. "Many of them are foreigners," he says, "not Afghans." It is a claim Afghan government officials often make about those behind the attacks across the south and east. But the evidence is often hard to find. Asked to give more detail, Capt Islamuddin says he has seen the bodies of many militants close up after battles he has been involved in. "There are some stupid Afghans among them," he says. "But most of them are Waziris [from Pakistan's Waziristan tribal agency], Chechens and Arabs. They are all coming from the madrassas [religious schools] in Pakistan." Officially, the US military says Pakistan is cooperating closely with its efforts to defeat the insurgency and US generals frequently praise their counterparts across the border. That is not how it appears to those on the frontline, to the young US and Afghan troops actually doing the fighting.

❖ **Russ Gregory** sends us this recipe for:

That Artillery Punch

For 12-14 persons

Ice	½ bottle of medium dry sherry
Juice of 3 fresh lemons	½ bottle of claret
2 tablespoons sugar or sugar syrup	½ bottle brandy
1 teaspoon Angostura Bitters	1 bottle whisky

1. Put several large chunks of ice in a punch bowl.
2. Pour the lemon juice, sugar, bitters, wines, brandy and whisky over the ice.
3. Stir the mixture thoroughly and let stand for a few minutes before serving.

History:

Originally discovered in an American cocktail book from which it was inferred that Yank Gunners made up the recipe then let it loose on an unsuspecting world.

Often used at Artillery Officers' Mess (Canterbury) Christmas Functions until it was suspected it was responsible for members getting a little inebriated. The ladies then refused to go to any functions where its presence was advertised. Driven underground since!

❖ **Russ** also pens the following history of:

That Artillery Port,,,

It has been noted that little is recorded on this subject south of the Strait so we remedy the defect. In the olden times when the Army was much more different than it is now the TF were able to achieve much, as follows...

Quote from mail. **Masters to Gregory** dated Wed 2 Dec '89.

"Here is what I know. I am quite sure the year was 1978. At the time my appointment was DRNZA. One day at my desk I was rung by Capt Max Carpenter, 1 Fd Regt. I barely knew Max and was rather surprised that I should be called by a Territorial Officer obviously operating well outside normal channels of command. I did know that he was 'a young man about Auckland' and I found out that he was the agent for NZ for Robard & Butler. His message was that his agency was 'developing a concept for wine marketing in NZ using quality English branding'.

They had supply arrangements with a very reputable European wine shipper and, more to the point, he had a particularly fine quantity of well aged, estate-bottled port for which he wished to develop a label. His proposition was that it be called Artillery Port, and that it be appropriately badged and dedicated. His

question to DRNZA was "What is the protocol?" We talked about the commercialised badge and suitable regimental phrases before we returned to the protocol issue. By this time I had gathered my wits and responded by observing that at the time the CGS was a Gunner (Gen Ron Hassett) and that the Colonel Commandant of RNZA was Brig Blackie Burns. He already knew that I was DRNZA. My judgement was that a case to each of us was the precise and expeditious sort of problem solving he expected from Army GS and thanked me for my help."

Russ continues.... Of course we in the South were not privy to this 'deal' as I was forced to find out on one of my trips to Wellington and to discover that Robard & Butler did not include the Gunners of the South in their distribution. The scramble for supplies included some fancy footwork but eventually we won through. It should be noted that the original supply of 'well aged, estate-bottled port' did not last for ever and a somewhat newer quality was offered when this disaster took place.

As I sit penning these notes there is before me an empty (alas) bottle inscribed B Battery 1863 – 1988
Thank you **John!**

- ❖ Recently **Jack Kearney** and I visited Tauranga and took the opportunity to call on **Rusty Vail**. **Rusty** has not changed a lot, still as evil and impish as ever seems to be the CO of his block of retirement flats, he was absolutely thrilled with our visit. If any of you are in Tauranga, call in and see him. Also **Matt Crawley**, again he was thrilled with the visit and gave me some prizes for the Reunion raffle. One of the prizes is a copper and wooden gun carriage made to hold a bottle of port so that will not go into the raffle it will in future adorn the top table, it would be great if we could get one for each table. Another visit was to **Huia Myers** widow of the late **Jeff Myers RNZEME**. **Huia** is keeping well and learning to use a computer to keep in touch with her friends.

REUNION 2005. 18, 19, 20 November

THIS NEXT PARAGRAPH IS MOST SECRET, I hope you are all cleared to that level.

Denis Dwane has come up with a brilliant idea for the Reunion and that is a mini 'This is Your Life' and we have chosen **Alan Boyd** for this year. Please do not even hint this to **Alan**. **However, if you have any anecdotes or pictures of Alan please let me have them with your Reunion Reply Slip.**

I now require firm commitments for the reunion so that catering can be formalised. The basic outline is as follows:

Friday 18 Nov. Registration at the Palmerston North RSA from about 1500 hrs until the welcome and mix and mingle at around 1800 hrs.

Saturday 19 Nov. 1000hrs, AGM in the Palmerston North RSA.

Saturday 19 Nov. 1400hrs, visit 16 Fd Regt Museum and 161 Battery History Room

Saturday 19 Nov. 1830 for 1900 Formal Dinner at the RSA with guest speaker

Brigadier Barry Vryenhoek. Mess Kit/Lounge suit with miniatures and name tags.

Sunday 20 Nov. 1000hrs 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 the following two options which were well tested during the 161 Battery Reunion in July and found to be of the highest standard:

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

If you are attending the Reunion please do not forget to bring something for the raffle if possible, this is not mandatory but it does add to the fun of the Reunion.

That's all for now keep your powder dry.

Ubique
God Bless you all.

A HISTORY OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY

Our history is very near completion. We expect to publish late this year if possible, or at the latest during the first few months of 2006. It is currently in its final editing phase.

The history will be a handsome book available in either hardback or soft back. It has been developed to date by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (the current name of the old War History Branch) with full input from the RNZA Historical Committee and from many serving and retired members of the Regiment. It will consist of about 300 pages, with photographs, covering all aspects of the Regiments activities from the early 1800s up to 2005.

The book is a comprehensive history of the RNZA covering all significant activities in war and peace during our long history; RF and TF; Field, Coast, Air Defence, Locating and Anti Tank. It is comprehensive and complements the war histories. There are nine chapters, in outline:

Chap 1: Early Artillery in NZ.	First contacts, NZ Wars, Coastal Defences, Armed Constabulary, Professionals and Volunteers.
Chap 2: The Years of Transformation 1899-1914.	Boer War, RNZA, Volunteers, Rearmament, Start of the TF, Coastal Defence.
Chap 3: Artillery Comes of Age WW1.	Samoa, Gallipoli, The Western Front, NZ Coastal Defences, WW1 Artillery Techniques.
Chap 4: Retrenchment and Modernisation 1919-1939.	Retrenchment, Modernising the Coastal Defences, Mechanisation, The TF,
Chap 5: Battle Rejoined: Div Arty 1940-41.	Creation, Greece, Crete, The Desert.
Chap 6: Perfecting the Art – North Africa to Trieste.	Syria, El Alamein, Across North Africa, Italy, from the Sangro to Casino to Trieste.
Chap 7: Pacific Theatre and Home Defence 1939-45.	Fortress NZ, Coastal and Air Defences, The Island Garrisons, 3 Div Arty.
Chap 8: Cold and Hot Wars 1946-72.	J Force, CMT, Korea, the NZ Div Arty, Vietnam.
Chap 9: Towards a New Role 1972-2005.	After Vietnam, Reorganisations, New Equipments, Air Defence, East Timor, the Future?

The Regiment will be able to purchase copies directly from the Publisher at an estimated 35-40% below the retail price. However we need fairly firm orders to cover this arrangement. Hardback copies will be about \$60/\$65 and soft back \$40/\$45, inclusive of postage.

Would you please take a moment to either email or return the reply slip below to give me an indication of your wishes. These replies are non-binding and I will contact you just short of publication for firm orders. Money will be required at this stage. We have tried very hard to make this history one that all of us in the Regiment can own with pride. I am sure you will be very pleased with the finished version.

Graham Birch
Brigadier (Retd)
Colonel Commandant

REPLY SLIP

Name: _____ I would like: _____ copies hardback: _____ copies soft back

Address: _____

_____ Please reply to: Brig (Rtd) G D Birch
467 Omokoroa Road,
RD 2,
Tauranga 3021.
Phone: _____ : Email: _____ or Email: gjbirch@ihug.co.nz

2005 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

(ORIGINAL, SEND TO SECRETARY)

Please complete and return to the Secretary by 30 September 2004

79 Tawa St
Melville
HAMILTON 2001

Cheques must be made payable to RNZA Old Comrades Assn

Name: _____
(Negative replies will be accepted as apologies for absence from the AGM)

I will be accompanied by: _____
(Please include first name so that a name tag can be prepared)

I will be staying at (Please note accommodation): _____
(So we can locate you if necessary)

I enclose \$ _____ **for** _____ **persons at \$40 per head for the Dinner. This covers the meal and first**
wine (white or red) for the evening, and Port for toasts.

Transport to Linton Camp on Saturday afternoon will be arranged at the AGM.

I will require transport for _____ **people.**

Please remember that accommodation is your responsibility

If you are not able to drive you may bring a driver / companion who are welcome to take part in ALL Reunion activities except for voting at the AGM.

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