

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. 129

March 2006

ROUTINE ORDERS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To those who have paid, thank you, you make my job a lot easier. To those who have not yet paid, if you are computerised and on the Internet I have made your job a lot easier by starting 'On Line' Banking.

If you wish to use this facility please bank into the following account.

The Royal New Zealand Artillery Old Comrades Association Inc. 123042 0229763 50.

You may wish to advise me that you have done this but it is not essential as I 'log on' daily.

If you are not 'On Line' then please **do not** forget your subs. Receipts will be issued and mailed out with the next Newsletter.

Personally your arrears stand at _____

LAST POST:

Bunty O'Connor. Auckland November 2005

Lilian (Mike) Hassett. Auckland December 2005

Robert Maurice Urquhart. Lower Hutt 9 December 2005

Bill Hopkins. Auckland 8 February 2006

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

RB Anderson. Perth. Gone no address

Bev & Lyn Culhane to 80 Tawari St, Matamata. **Waikato!!! The home of the Chiefs.**

Denis Pederson to 112 Western Springs Rd. Auckland. *Driving midgets???????????*

NEW MEMBERS:

Alexander Weir, from Christchurch. **Alex** commenced service in 1942 with 11 Heavy Regt then to 85 Heavy Regiment, in 1943 he transferred to the RNZAF and complete two tours in the Pacific. Back to the guns in 1946 with 25 Bty J Force then to B Troop 161 Battery 16th Field Regiment Korea, second tour to Korea as a Driver RNZASC. ***Alex** the Navy wants to know when you are going to give them a turn!!!!!!! And possibly the Police after all they are part of our family.*

Selwyn Lilley from Wairoa. **Selwyn** joined the RF in 161 Battery Depot, 161 Battery Vietnam' 68-'69 on Echo gun. A stint in TF 22(D) Battery from '73-'80 and then working to live the life he wanted. ***Selwyn** has a story later on in this Newsletter.*

Ted Holmes from Australia. **Ted** joined the Guns in Sep 1941 and made his way to 5th Field Regiment and **Allan Boyd**, but was badly wounded and had to come home on the Hospital Ship Oranje in Sep 1943. **Ted** operated his gun for the full period through El Alamein until wounded. ***Ted** and I have one very important thing in common, we were both trained by **Allan Boyd**.*

REFLECTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Last Newsletter I spoke of how some people are missing out seeing their mates for the last time by not participating in the Association then I received the following message from Daniel Beveridge (Associate Member and son of the late Bill Beveridge) regarding the funeral of Des O'Connor's late wife Bunty Hi Graeme.

My Mother (Jasmine Beveridge) and I attended Bunty's funeral today, and I just wanted to tell you how much I was inspired by the courage of Des.

If I ever wanted to model myself on someone, then short of my own Father - it would be him.

He was gracious, upstanding, strong and proud.

His three Stepsons and one Stepdaughter were there and they gave a stirring rendition of Bunty's life.

It was the ultimate way to let others know (who didn't - like me) what kind of life she lead, and how she came to be who she was.

It was beyond moving.

I'm only young but its an unbelievably empowering feeling seeing an old Gunner surrounded by his family, sucking his tears in and standing tall in the face of farewelling his soul mate.

I speak for my Mother also.

We youth need to take more time to recognise these priceless old soldiers and their history (today it was his beloved Bunty)

Because when they're gone they're gone.

If you're able - you have the means.

If you're passionate - you'll find a way

If you stop and think for a minute - you'll realise you never get a second chance.

Maybe the old soldiers can learn from a younger person's perspective.

Don't wait to reunite with your old mates because there may not be a next time.

I felt I needed to share this with you.

Kindest Regards,

Daniel Beveridge

And from **Shay and Jaqui Bassett**

Jacqui and I were so very sorry to hear about **Bunty**. To make matters worse, we will not be able to attend the funeral either as our eldest daughter goes into Starship for surgery that same day. I think Jacqui summed

Bunty up beautifully, she said "**Bunty** was the way everyone should be!" We didn't know her well, but sure did enjoy her company at Old Comrades things.

STRUCK OFF FOR NON PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Kevin Burnell struck off owing \$70.00

David Bahler struck off owing \$70.00

John Halliday Smith struck off owing \$90.00

FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS AND INTERESTING REFLECTIONS

❖ I have commented from time to time about the 'perks' of being the Association Secretary and here at Christmas time these are really realised with all the little notes of goodwill, Christmas messages and cards to the Association, and myself, that accompany subscription payments and donations. **Slim and Ethne Cunningham, Colin and Shirly Stanbridge, Ray Cousineau** writes from Canada where the temperature is -6°, **Brian Jennings** from Cairns where it is 33°, **Barry Oldham** unfortunately going to leave us at the end of this year, **John (Woody) and Lyn Barrett, Bert (Flaps) Dyson, Harry Honor, Owen Dance, Willy Parker, Adam Gibson** from the Horowhenua Artillery Association, greetings and thanks for allowing his Association to join as an Associate Member, **Huia Ockwell, Noel and Jean Brough, Peter Christian, Don and Noeline Kenning, Roger Pearce, Pauline Smith, Morrie and Alva Stanley, Rod Simpson, Rod Baldwin and Cheryl Baldwin, Fred Biggwith, Conrad and Pam Flinkenberg** whose edited Christmas card was an absolute delight, **Wayne Salt, Henry's** policeman son from Australia, **Henry Salt** with his normal donation, *thanks Henry*, **Chris Turver, Lorraine Ruffell, Arthur and Kitty Simeon, Dinga Bell and Carole, Nora Weaver, Janet Ross, Julie Jones** sends her usual pretty little card with extra sketches amongst the greetings, *thanks Julie, I always enjoy your notes*. **Brian Hewitt** with a very nice comment about the committee. **Ken and Inez Avenell, Ray and Laurie Andrews, Ron Fowell, Roger Newth, John & Alisoun Masters, Rion & Margaret Gallagher, Barry & Judy Dreyer** remarking on what a great Gunner Year 2005 was. **Stan Perrett, John Murray, Lee Hughes, Paul O'Connor**.

❖ **From Roger Newth** this is an absolute must read;

In Honour of Stupid People . . .

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods. *I do apologise to those who have access to the internet because you have probably read these previously, but there are a number of members who do not have access, so this is for them.*

On a Sears hairdryer -- Do not use while sleeping.

(That's the only time I have to work on my hair.)

On a bag of Fritos -- You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside.

(The shoplifter special?)

On a bar of Dial soap -- "Directions: Use like regular soap."

(And that would be????...)

On some Swanson frozen dinners -- "Serving suggestion: Defrost."

(But, it's just a suggestion.)

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom) -- "Do not turn upside down."

(Well...duh, a bit late, huh!)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding -- "Product will be hot after heating."

(...and you thought?????)

On packaging for a Rowenta iron -- "Do not iron clothes on body."

(But wouldn't this save me time?)

On Boot's Children Cough Medicine -- "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication."

(We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5 year-olds with head-colds off those bulldozers.)

On Nytol Sleep Aid -- "Warning: May cause drowsiness."

(...I'm taking this because????...)

On most brands of Christmas lights -- "For indoor or outdoor use only."

(As opposed to what?)

On a Japanese food processor -- "Not to be used for the other use."

(Now, somebody out there, help me on this. I'm a bit curious.)

On Sainsbury's peanuts -- "Warning: contains nuts."

(Talk about a news flash)

On an American Airlines packet of nuts -- "Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts."

(Step 3: say what?)

On a child's Superman costume -- "Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly."

(I don't blame the company. I blame the parents for this one.)

On a Swedish chainsaw -- "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals."

(Oh my God, was there a lot of this happening somewhere?????)

Now don't laugh -- these are genuine, would I accept anything from Roger The Lodger The Sod if it was not genuine? Go back to Newsletter 128 and there is a pic of him there.

❖ **Barry Dreyer** shares this with us, and it is very important

Subject: 5 facts about a perfect relationship

1. It is important to find a woman who cooks, cleans up and has a job.
2. It is important to find a woman who can make you laugh.
3. It is important to find a woman who you can trust and who doesn't lie to you.
4. It is important to find a woman who is good in bed and who likes to be with you .
5. It is vital that these 4 women do not know each other

Now ladies, I have been most ungenerous to us guys for a while so don't complain!!! You are lovely, really.

❖ **Roger Newth** again shares this with us

Herb was an old man. He was sick and in the hospital. There was one young nurse that just drove him crazy. Every time she came in, she would talk to him like he was a little child. She would say in a patronizing tone of voice, "And how are we doing this morning, or are we ready for a bath, or are we hungry?"

Old Herb had had enough of this particular nurse. One day, Old Herb had breakfast, pulled the juice off the tray, and put it on his bedside stand. He had been given a urine bottle to fill for testing.

The juice was apple juice. So, you know where the juice went! The nurse came in a little later, picked up the urine bottle and looked at it. "My, but it seems we are a little cloudy today".

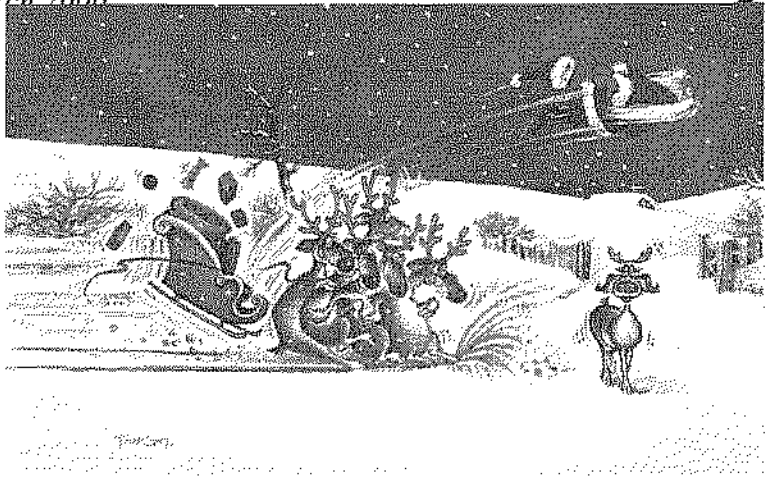
At this, Old Herb snatched the bottle out of her hand, popped off the top, and drank it down, saying, "Well, I'll run it through again. Maybe I can filter it better this time."

The nurse fainted!

Old Herb just smiled!

DON'T MESS WITH OLD PEOPLE!!! *You've got it Roger, we is a force to contend with.*

This pic should have been in the last Newsletter so it's early for Xmas '06



- ❖ **Colin Jansen** joined during the last Newsletter and I failed to note his website for those who are on line. They are www.militaryre-enactor.co.nz , and worldwar2jeep@cosnet.co.nz If you are able, have a look at them.

- ❖ **Cedric Mentiplay** in his book 'A Fighting Quality' comments:

What is "different" about the New Zealand soldier?

As a New Zealand soldier of World War II, the son of a rugby-playing New Zealander who fought in World War I, I would be among the last to know. But there were signs then, as in the earlier great conflict, that we were regarded as an elite unit. Why else, the cynical Kiwi would ask, are we fighting when so many others are resting? Why else have we spent so much time at the "sharp end"?

It is a fact of history that the British War Office used what was available when a situation was desperate. When you could put in only so many soldiers, second-class soldiers would not do. This was the simple answer to the bitter queries which followed the debacles of Greece and Crete.

In early 1941 the only Western Allied striking force in Europe consisted of a division each of Australians and New Zealanders, a small Imperial British mobile force — and a huge "tail" of British lines-of-communication troops, pathetically untrained in self defence in a blitzkrieg situation.

Long afterwards, when Sir Leonard Thornton was New Zealand's Chief of General Staff and as a journalist I was seeing him on some mission connected with the radio "Services Session" or the current South-East Asian military situation, he leaned back in his office chair at Army Headquarters and said wryly: "**We** were just another division, you know. **We** were no better and no worse than any one of a number of British Army divisions. ..."

I am afraid I've never accepted this. The New Zealand soldier has always had some special qualities; and in the World War II situation, when the Second New Zealand Division was, in effect, the complete product of our small nation at war, these qualities were more apparent to others than to the New Zealand soldier himself.

Early in 1945, when the division was in winter quarters around newly-captured Faenza, the British War Office thought enough of this problem to send a distinguished senior officer of the Imperial Forces to investigate what it was that gave 2 N.Z. Div. its special qualities. One bright spring day we were in a jeep together, going up to the Senio. He was a pleasant, friendly old gentleman, with a chest full of medal-ribbons spanning beyond World War I, and he was regretting the fact that he would soon have to go back to a desk at headquarters. He also talked of his mission, and how enjoyable it had been for an "old dugout" like himself. "And have you reached any conclusions, sir?" I could not help asking him.

He looked at me quizzically as we stopped short of the Faenza intersection. "My boy," he said, "I shall say in my report that your division represents the biggest waste of manpower in the British forces!"

I looked at him blankly. "Why would you say that?"

The old soldier pointed down the road ahead of us. "I can't get through to you people," he said testily. "But there's one of the reasons."

Ahead of us the retiring German Army was having one of its well-orchestrated "hate sessions". A long-range battery was dropping shells accurately on the intersection, which had been pre-registered with the usual Germanic precision. Traffic (mostly New Zealand) on the main road had stopped. Off to one side sat a divisional bulldozer, in which a Maori relaxed, apparently taking the sun. He wore a dilapidated top-hat which had come from the stock of a ruined shop opposite.

Then — and it did occur in this order — the bulldozer revved up and began to move. The shelling stopped. The bulldozer replaced the scattered road metal in a few skilful passes, and then moved to the roadside again. The Maori doffed his topper and waved the trucks forward. The show went on.

I was puzzled. "What's so special about that, sir?"

The "old dugout" smiled thinly: "You still don't see it. None of you do. But to do that job as efficiently as that man is doing it, our army would need an officer, several sergeants and other NCOs, and about a platoon of men."

Seeing my expression, he added: "When I said your division was a waste of manpower, I meant that its personnel would be better used in command of other troops. I don't mean your officers — I mean that there are very few of you indeed who haven't the capacity for a least junior leadership."

I don't know what happened to that officer, or to his report. As it happened, the war had not long to go, and the mushroom shadow of Hiroshima was only a few months away. It is also an unhappy fact that the British Empire and its own *British Commonwealth* did not long survive — and so the atmosphere for a New Zealand junior-command elite probably never did exist.

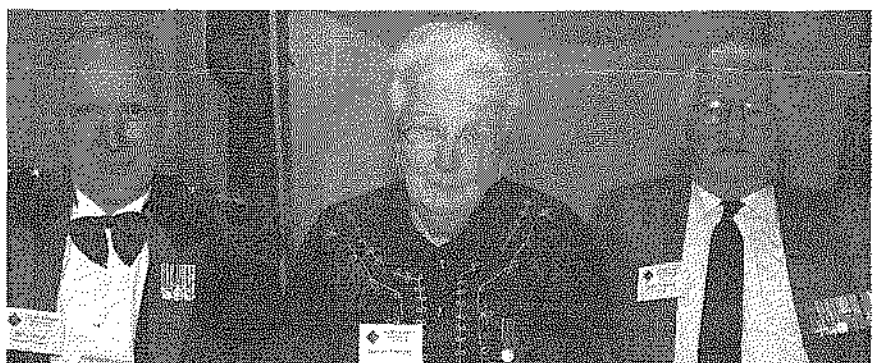
Oh but it did exist, think back to the days of K Force, the Regular Force Cadets, CMT and all the Territorial Units, the forming of the SAS and 1 NZ Regt, National Service and the mighty 16th Field Regiment. I remember quite plainly the junior command elite, some went on to the top and there I quote Don McIver from my Class, Williams Class, of RF Cadets. How many times have you heard our members and others say that given the chance they would do it all over again, but in my case maybe reduce the number of minor offences!!!

This is what I mean about the elite

And...



And a young leader waiting in the wings admiring his heroes



Oh yes they did exist and **do exist**

❖ **Larry English** shares the following with us

1. I love you not because of who you are, but because of who I am when I am with you...
2. No man or woman is worth your tears, and the one who is, won't make you cry.
3. Just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to doesn't mean they don't love you with

all they have.

4. A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart.
5. The worst way to miss someone is to be sitting right beside them knowing you can't have them.
6. Never frown, even when you are sad, because you never know who is falling in love with your smile.
7. To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.
8. Don't waste your time on a man/woman, who isn't willing to waste their time on you.
9. Maybe God wants us to meet a few wrong people before meeting the right one, so that when we finally meet the person, we will know how to be grateful.
10. Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened.
11. There's always going to be people that hurt you so what you have to do is keep on trusting and just be more careful about who you trust next time around.
12. Make yourself a better person and know who you are before you try and know someone else and expect them to know you.
13. Don't try so hard, the best things come when you least expect them to.

REMEMBER: WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS FOR A REASON.

- ❖ **Andrew Lister** sends his best wishes from South Korea where he is based, he lives in an area that is guarded by a Policeman with a very large gun on his hip and is very fussy who he lets in. *Looks like that cuts out a visit for Denis and I, and another jailbird who we are very close to. Fancy being locked up in the Singapore cells for the night, complete with 'Diplomatic Bag', makes me look like a little angel!!!* Anyway back to **Andrew**, again he pays his sub with a large contribution. *I wish I could tell you what this guy does for us, he is truly remarkable.*
- ❖ After a quarrel a wife said to her husband "You know I was a fool when I married you!" "Yes dear, but I was in love and did not notice."
- ❖ **Harry Crawford** also sends his best wishes to one and all and hopes we are in good health. He has had a great trip to Scotland for a family gathering. *Yes Harry cash is fine thanks and from myself your letter is appreciated, but why the extra sheet? Did you want me to write back to you????????????*
- ❖ **Russ Martin** writes with his best wishes to all. *Thanks Russ and reciprocations you and Kate.*
- ❖ I brought my wife a new car. She called out and said there was water in the carburettor.
"Where is the car?"
"In the lake!!"
- ❖ **Ted Holmes**, our newest member relates a moment during El Alamein
Our gun was ready to fire smoke when the order was cancelled and HE 119 substituted. The ejector projectile was missing part of the shaft so the handspike was used as well which meant the EP was now hidden in the barrel. The smoke shell was safely removed and 10 rounds gunfire completed. Then another gun required the ejector projectile but it could not be found!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Could it have gone the same way as the odd muzzle cover or charge temperature thermometer? No one really knew, but can't you just imagine a Hun with an ejector projectile latched on to his hooter, and his mate commenting on what the Kiwis are using for ammo now. *This is a moment I would love to have been a cartoonist. Thanks Ted.*
- ❖ **Denis**. I am not in my cellar, I am baby sitting my grandchildren while their folks are at the footy Chiefs/Reds. I must admit the computer is strategically placed so I can see the TV. If I was a sports journalist I could give you a running commentary. I just showed my 4 year granddaughter an Australian \$20 she asked me what an Australian said, of course I did not know -- "Giddy mate." 4 years old -- then "do you know what happens when you tell a duck a joke?" "No." "They quack up."
- ❖ **Teach Macown** sends regards to all, commenting that he is becoming an official mourner travelling all over the north half of the Island, and that life is really too short.
- ❖ A man had his credit card stolen but decided not to report it because the thief was spending less than his wife.
- ❖ **Denis Pederson** has had a cottage built on his son's property in Western Springs and left his previous home in Papatoetoe where he had been for 41 years and at 90 years cannot drive any more due to failing eyesight, *you wont be able to see errant Gunners being naughty any more. I am not so sure about you driving midgets though.* **Denis** unfortunately lost his wife of 64 years in 2002, *I now it is a while back but please accept the condolences of the Association.* **Denis** finishes off by sending his kindest regards to all members, even the ones who made him prematurely grey during his tenure of Camp RSM Papakura during CMT days.
- ❖ Watching sport and the Games on TV brings out a lot of quite cute little quips
The US PGA a player has hooked his ball very badly and the comment was "Dear me, his ball has gone where the elephants go to die."
Boxing at the games a boxer is letting go a lot of right hooks, comment "That man has more rights than Amnesty International!"

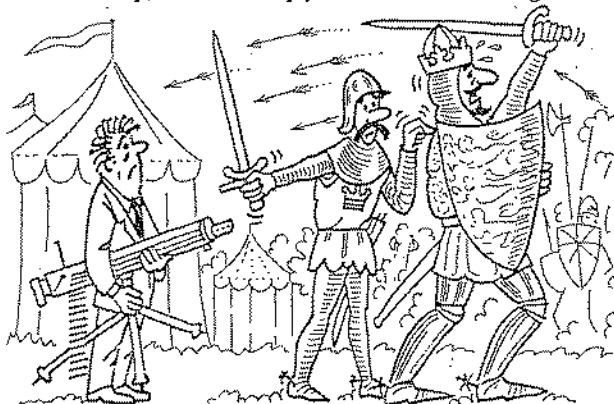


Just for memories have a look at some K Force vets.

Back. Ivor Bojesen-Trepka, David Mainwaring, Alan Taylor, ?, Colin Stanbridge Front, Frank Hopkinson, Harry Honnor, Ralph Porter, Don Kenning

Ralph, you never had that happy look on your face when you were Chief Instructor School of Guns!!!!

- ❖ **Allan Boyd** writes of his pleasure of the 2005 Reunion where it was treated as a mini 'This Is Your Life' with the dedication to Allan. **Allan** included three volumes of 5th Field Regiment Newsletters which are full of the history of 5th Field, anyone who wishes to read these please get in touch with me and I will mail them. They are really well worth reading. There are a number of excerpts throughout this Newsletter that have been reproduced from Allan's writings. *Oh, and by the way, that is the correct spelling of his name!!!!!!!*
- ❖ There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
- ❖ **Ted Life** wrote about his and Nes' thorough enjoyment with the Reunion. **Nes** won a bottle of 'Rum' and when finished with that had to go back to the commercial stuff much to her dislike asking **Ted** "where the good stuff was!!!!!!!!!!!"
- ❖ **Peter and Jo Baker** also wrote of their enjoyment with the Reunion.
- ❖ **John Masters** compliments 'The Team' with the effort that went into the 161 Battery Reunion, how much he enjoyed being in the company of so many Gunners that he had worked with over the years. *Believe me John you have no idea the pleasure you gave those people by being there.*
- ❖ **Terry Hughes** son of **D Ralph (Spike) Hughes** writes about **Spike**, he is at Room 33, Waikanae Country Lodge, 394 Te Moana Rd, Waikanae. Anyone being in that area please call by and say hullo, I am sure he would appreciate the visit.
- ❖ **Selwyn Lilley** writes of a sub unit camp with 22(D) Battery on Sig Sgt 'Butch' Martin's father's farm where a swimming party had been to the Ruamahanga River. On the return from the swim the newly appointed Sec Comd jumped off the truck and opened the gate for the vehicle to pass through. He then closed the gate from the other side, climbed over the gate and climbed back into the front of the truck -- to the strains of "Jeremiah Was a Bullfrog" coming from the back. *Really not a wise thing to do with a bunch of Gunners around!!*
- ❖ Husband and wife were in church when wife leans close and remarks that she has let a very quiet sneaker go and what should she do.
"I would suggest you change your hearing aid batteries!!"
- ❖ When I left the Army to be a Security Consultant with Securitas NZ Ltd my manager gave me two very good pieces of advice.
 1. Never rubbish the opposition, always tell a prospective client how good we are. *What a shame politicians are not given that advice!!!* And another very important one,
 2. Never send a salesman away; he/she may just have something that could help your struggle through life.



"I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY CRAZY SALESMAN-CAN'T YOU SEE I'VE GOT A BATTLE TO FIGHT"

- ❖ **Owen Raskin**, 'A' Troop, 5th Field Regiment writes about an incident at Cassino that illustrates the an almost casualness of war.

'A' Troop at Cassino

An example of the type of hazard which could occur on any gun position took place at 'A' Troop's position on March 25. 'A' Troop was behind 'D' and 'E' Troop and closer to the big American guns which were a source of annoyance to Jerry who directed a lot of shell fire at them. They were probably protected by Trocchio from direct observation. On this occasion the War History states that 20 170mm shells landed around 'A' Troop's area in quick succession that afternoon. Sgt Fulford received a head wound from which he died. Brian Bassett says it was a calm day and a column of black smoke rose vertically from 'A' Troop's position, making it a splendid signal to the enemy OP. Brian was TSM of 'A' Troop at the time and dashed to the scene and organised efforts to extinguish the burning tyres of A 1's limber. He recalls that two of the Troop involved were Jack Beale and Tom Hanna. Fire extinguishers were obtained from an ambulance at the nearby RAP and from a truck on the gun position, but they were all ineffective and water cans were called for from the gun crews. The flames were doused but there was still a risk that the shells and charges in the limber would explode. A proposed attempt to open the limber was abandoned and all took cover. Sure enough the limber exploded shortly afterwards. It seems that part of the debris landed on 'E' Troop's position some distance away. Enemy shelling had continued during the excitement.

A sequel to the incident was the award of an MM to Brian, in recognition of the actions of those involved and also of his earlier outstanding actions.

- ❖ **Chook Fowler**, 'E' Troop, 5th Field Regiment recounts a lighter moment in 1943.

During the Artillery march from Cairo to Alexandria 28 Battery water cart crew rigged up a shower from their cart. In the area the sand was too soft for the vehicle to leave the road so bearing in mind Egyptian women were quite accustomed to people performing natural functions, and unclad bodies, the shower was set up on the edge of the road.

All went well for a while, with some waiting, some showering and some drying with towel or sunshine as wealthy Egyptians were gliding past in their Buicks and Chryslers without so much of a glance.

Then around the corner came a convoy of new Jeeps travelling towards Cairo. As they came closer two things were realised simultaneously. 1. The drivers were all young ATS girls. 2. There was a shower truck ahead surrounded by naked and bronzed Kiwis.

Several of the Jeeps managed to pass with a degree of man watching and road watching when one lass couldn't get her eyes back on the road and ran off into the soft sand to become hopelessly stuck. Several of our more extrovert characters downed towels and ran unadorned as they were and manhandled the vehicle, with the pinkest looking ATS girl, back onto the road whilst the drivers of the Jeeps held up behind could only marvel at the sight they no doubt had never seen before, nor ever will again.

- ❖ **DO YOU HAVE CRUISE CONTROL FITTED TO YOUR CAR, IF SO READ THE FOLLOWING**

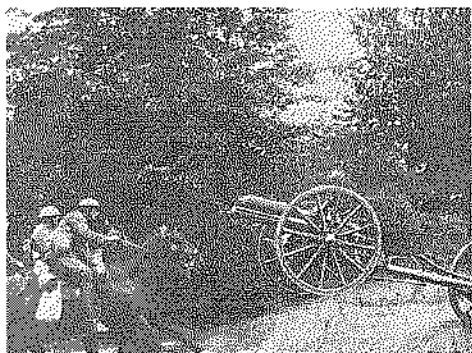
There was an accident where the car was a total write off. It was raining, though not excessively, when the car suddenly began to hydroplane and literally flew through the air.

When explained to the highway patrolman what had happened, he told the owner something that every driver should know - NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON.

The Highway Patrolman said that if the cruise control is on and your car begins to hydroplane -- when your tyres lose contact with the pavement, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed and you take off like an airplane. It was explained to the patrolman that was exactly what had occurred.

The Highway Patrol estimated the car was actually travelling through the air at 10 to 15 miles per hour faster than the speed set on the cruise control. This warning should be listed, on the driver's seat sun-visor - NEVER USE THE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE PAVEMENT IS WET OR ICY.

Huia Ockwell was kind enough to send me these and several other prints of days gone by.



Airborne Artillery?????



Marine Artillery?????

- ❖ **Lin Rowell**, 'A' Troop, 27 Battery, 5th Field Regiment wrote a ditty that backs up the remark by George W Bush when he commented on who the real blasphemers are. This tells you where they come from!!!

THOUGHTS UPON THE DESERT

Sand-bound and sand-girt,
 Sandstone its sod.
 Who made the desert?
 Surely not God
 But somebody made it
 And painted its tones,
 Spread it and sprayed it
 And scattered its stones.
 Somebody plucked it
 Of plant and of frond.
 Somebody sucked it
 Of stream and of pond.
 Or was it born naked
 And scorched to the core?
 Barren and baked
 Flaked and forlorn?
 But let us not quibble
 Or argue or guess,
 Lay the blame on the devil
 And let him confess.
 For arid its acres and stony its shell,
 It is not our Maker's this sample of hell.

- ❖ **I have been given permission to reproduce the following which I thought I would share with you**

Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, and a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee. What he said to our national leaders during this special session of Congress was painfully truthful. They were not prepared for what he was to say, nor was it received well. The following is a portion of the transcript:

"Since the dawn of creation there has been both good & evil in the hearts of men and women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher, and the other eleven children who died must not be in vain their blood cries out for answers.

The first recorded act of violence was when Cain slew his brother Abel out in the field. The villain was not the club he used.. Neither was it the NCA, the National Club Association. The true killer was Cain, and the reason for the murder could only be found in Cain's heart.

In the days that followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the NRA. I am not a member of the NRA. I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am not here to represent or defend the NRA - because I don't believe that they are responsible for my daughter's death. Therefore I do not believe that they need to be defended. If I believed they had anything to do with Rachel's murder I would be their strongest opponent.

I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy-it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies here in this room. Much of the blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves. " I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written way before I knew I would be speaking here today:

Your laws ignore our deepest needs,
 Your words are empty air.
 You've stripped away our heritage,
 You've outlawed simple prayer.
 Now gunshots fill our classrooms,
 And precious children die.
 You seek for answers everywhere,
 And ask the question "Why?"
 You regulate restrictive laws,
 Through legislative creed.
 And yet you fail to understand,
 That God is what we need!

Men and women are three-part beings. We all consist of body, soul, and spirit. When we refuse to acknowledge a third part of our make-up, we create a void that allows evil, prejudice, and hatred to rush in and wreak havoc. Spiritual presences were present within our educational systems for most of our nation's history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historical fact. What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honour God, and in so doing, we open the doors to hatred and violence. And when something as terrible as Columbine's tragedy occurs – politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that contribute to erode away our personal and private liberties. We do not need more restrictive laws. "Eric and Dylan would not have been stopped by metal detectors. No amount of gun laws can stop someone who spends months planning this type of massacre. The real villain lies within our own hearts.

As my son Craig lay under that table in the school library and saw his two friends murdered before his very eyes he did not hesitate to pray in school. I defy any law or politician to deny him that right! I challenge every young person in America, and around the world, to realize that on April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School prayer was brought back to our schools. Do not let the many prayers offered by those students be in vain. Dare to move into the new millennium with a sacred disregard for legislation that violates your God-given right to communicate with Him. To those of you who would point your finger at the NRA - I give to you a sincere challenge. Dare to examine your own heart before casting the first stone!
My daughter's death will not be in vain! The young people of this country will not allow that to happen!"

- ❖ **Now, Reunion 2006 will be at Taupo during the weekend Friday 10 November to Sunday 12 November, unless there is a major disruption.** I apologise for chopping and changing but I am allowed to do that since my hair makes me look like a blond!!!
The weekend will run as we have done in the past, main accommodation at the Spa, Chalets \$95 for two and Studios \$65 for two.
Friday evening RSA and then return to the Spa for dinner \$25 per head. (full breakfasts \$10 per head)
Saturday 10.00am AGM. Formal Dinner 7.00pm for 7.30pm with another mini 'This is Your Life'.
Sunday Church parade in the Old Meeting House at 10.00am.

There will be more, and the reply slip in the next Newsletter, but please endeavour to come to the weekend and enjoy the company of your Gunner friends. It has been proven time and time again – we are not here forever.

- ❖ **Anyone in the Christchurch area**, please call on John Masters, **Paul O'Connor** tells me he is not well.
- ❖ **Marie Roberts** reports that **Slim and Ethne Cunningham in Dunedin** are well.
Also she is interring David's ashes at the Waiouru Cemetery Saturday 15th April at 1.00pm and the 'after match' function will be held in the Waiouru RSA.
- ❖ **Last but not least.** The following purports to be the transcript of an actual radio conversation between a US Naval Ship and the Canadian Authorities off the Coast of Newfoundland in October 1995.
US Ship Please divert your course 0.5 degrees to avoid a collision.
CDN Reply Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid collision.
US Ship This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say divert your course.
CDN Reply No, I say again, you divert your course.
US Ship THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS ENTERPRISE WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE US NAVY. DIVERT YOUR COURSE.
CDN Reply This is a lighthouse – Your call.
- ❖ **That was not the last, this one is MONDAY May 1, TV 1, "JUNGLE RAIN"**. A documentary on Agent Orange, sorry I am not sure of the time but I am assured that it is worth watching.

Take care out there

God Bless you all.

John Masters

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163 Battery
 16th Field Regiment, RNZA
 Linton Military Camp
 Palmerston North
 New Zealand

163 BATTERY NEWSLETTER REGISTRATION

Service Number	
Rank	
Family Name	
Given Names	
Preferred Nickname	
Years of service with 163 Battery	
163 Battery positions held	

For detailed planning information please answer the following;

Will you attend the 163 Battery Reunion to be held 07-09 Dec 06	
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It is intended that the cost to individuals will be no more than \$50.00 to attend, however, accommodation and some meals will be under your own arrangements.

In order to receive further information about this event please provide contact information;

Address	
Email Address	
Phone Hm	
Phone Mobile	

If there is further interest from other members who have not received this document please forward to them as required. Please do not reply on other peoples behalf.

Send replies to Captain D.J. Sheridan by fax or email.