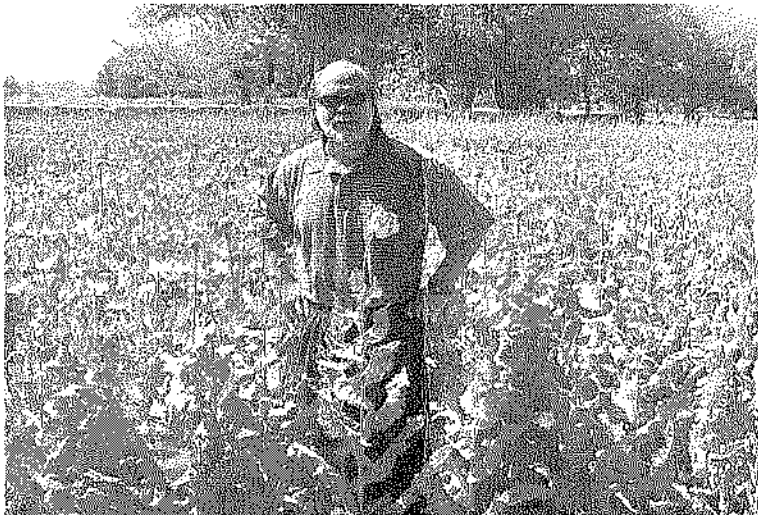


Tom O'Reilly has been located. He is a UN Regional Security Advisor and here are a couple of pics of him in his 'poppy' fields and with some lady friends.

*Tom you are going to have to do something about that beard, it just is not you.*



*Do you ever have that awful feeling in the pit of your stomach that someone is going to kill you. I have that feeling right now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Luv you Tom.*



## The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of  
*THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY*  
*OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)*  
Established in 1934 as:  
*THE NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION*  
*(INCORPORATED)*

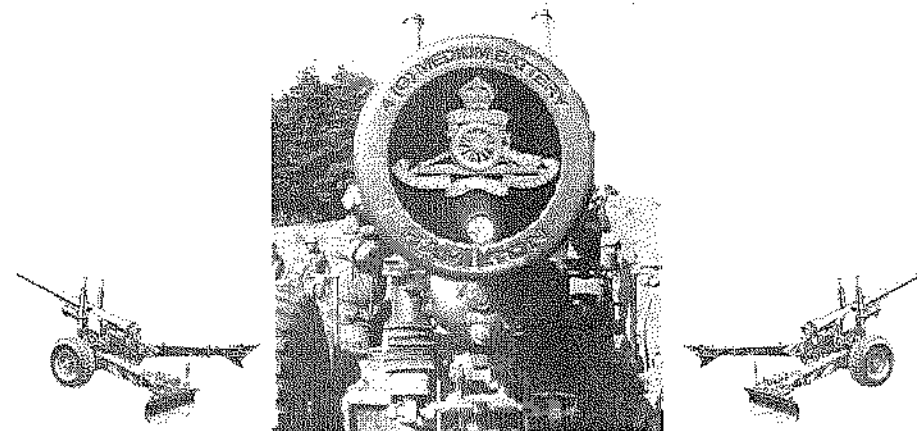
Published under the authority of  
Sunray 79 4 December 2004  
and

NZ Div AO 40/25/6 date d 23 October 1942

**March 2007      ROUTINE ORDERS**

### No. 133

WAIKATO GUNNERS

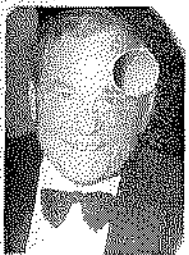


LAST POST:

**30321 Colonel Ralph KG Porter** OBE. Auckland 28 January 2007. Ralph was a totally dedicated and serious Artilleryman who required only one standard - your very best. His three A's of artillery were accuracy, accuracy and accuracy, and he also required these of himself. However, there did dwell deep down a very warm husband, father and grandfather who could achieve any task requested by others or by himself. Feared, but also respected. Ron Cross once remarked to RKG "You wouldn't remember me sir - I was always hiding from you!!"



**204371 Sergeant Victor Noel Trevor George Meyle.** Auckland 19 December 2006. Affectionately known as Victor Noel Trevor George he served in the Navy in WW2 and Korea and then joined the army and served in Vietnam. One night shoot in Waiouru Neddy Wylde and Vic delivered the hot box meal to the command post and while they were serving out the meal the signallers finished laying their telephone lines to the CP where they secured their lines to the CP vehicle, but oh dear in the dark they secured their lines to Vic's vehicle. Meal over, everything packed away so off Vic and Neddy go - yes with the lines and telephones dragging along behind!!!!!!!!!!!! Loved and respected by all.

NEW MEMBERS

**35589 Ron J Moroney** joins us from Waiheke. Ron was an armourer and gun fitter par excellence who had the greatest of admiration for gunners and was at his happiest when working with them.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many subscriptions have been received and I those who have paid:

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ to be financial until 31 December 2007

If you wish to use 'On Line' Banking please bank into the following account.

The Royal New Zealand Artillery Old Comrades Association Inc. ASB Bank  
123042 0229763 00.

If you are not 'On Line' then please do not forget your subs and the correct name of the Assn on cheques. Receipts will be issued and mailed out with the next Newsletter.

STRUCK OFF FOR NON PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

MRG Subritzky struck off owing \$75.00

*FROM, AND ABOUT MEMBERS  
AND INTERESTING REFLECTIONS*

**1. The RNZA's first motor home.** Some time around 1961 we had a shoot in Paradise Valley and I don't know why but we camped out over night. Large marquee and plenty of blankets, however, we also had the required ambulance in case of injury and our two instructors Allan Boyd and Bryan O'Connor made it quite clear that as they were in charge they had first choice of accommodation. You've got it - the ambulance. Now ambulances in those days were not insulated, just steel sides, but looked surprisingly like a modern day motor home. We, the less fortunate, had to doss down in the marquee so we got down amongst the tussocks with plenty of blankets and surprisingly, were most comfortable and warm. That night there was one of those very severe Waiouru frosts. The ambulance 'motor home' did not provide the comfort that was expected, it became a refrigerator. Allan and Bryan looked, and sounded, quite blue when they came out of deep freeze in the morning and what made it worse was that we all had a wonderful night's sleep and took great delight in telling the two deep frozen gentlemen.

**2. Reunion 2006 Donations.**

I omitted to make a mention the number of donations I had received for the Reunion in Newsletter 132. I did mention during my Treasurers Report that with only four months into the financial year I had received \$700 + donations. This I believe is a good indication the Association is alive and well. The donors asked to remain anonymous but I can say most were in the \$50 range, two \$100 and one \$200. I am prompted to say b—— wonderful it makes me proud to be a Gunner.

**3. Gunners Day 2007. MOST IMPORTANT—TAKE NOTE—NB—etc.**

The Papakura Gunners Day Dinner will be held on Saturday 26 May in the Papakura RSA. I went to my first one May 2006 and will not miss another one. I would strongly recommend that you contact Jeff Waters 09 2962457 or Unit 4. 8 Wood St. Papakura to book yourself a place. The Monument Motor Lodge is a good place to book in, but you had better be early. Ph 09 2996663, Fax 09 2998858 or email M-M-L@xtra.co.nz

**4. Saint Barbar's Day and Christmas Cards and greetings from members to members**

Joe Donnelly greetings, Bryce Harrison greetings and thanks for a great reunion, Ron Hayman greetings, Te Upo & Evelyn Rangitoherrri heard great things about Reunion 2006, Pauline Smith enjoying the Newsletters and again heard great reports of Reunion 2006, Shirley Dyson photo of Bert and thanks for message of condolence, 'Neddy' Wylde great Newsletter they seem to be getting bigger and brighter. Commenting on the School of Artillery pic. in last Newsletter "My wot a difference 40 years makes to a chap!!" Dinga Bell & Carole, Henry & Thelma Salt greetings, Melva Walker enjoys the Newsletters, the same from Chas Purcell, Morrie and Alva Stanley, Carole Weatherhead, Colin & Shirley Stanbridge thanks for all the hard work and enjoyed the reunion, Jim Ross, Margaret and Rick Williams, Angus and

Catherine Rivers, Brian Meyer, Ron and Caroline Cross, Arthur Bretherton from Australia, Grant & Barbara Box, Don Donaldson, Bevin and Lyn Culhane, Walter Wyatt K Force Assn, Roger Newth, David Bowler, Jan Ryan, (used to be Williamson), reminding us of the other agencies that St Barbara is alleged to be Patron Saint of!!!!!! **Shay and Jaqui Bassett, Derm Buchanan** our reunion Padre from Taupo, **Eldon & Ros Bryant** Past President North Queensland Gunners Assn

*Never a Christmas morning*

*Never the old year ends*

*But someone thinks of someone*

*Old days, old times, old friends*

**Les Stratford** sent an unofficial Xmas greeting that originated in Korea but cannot repeat it, Ladies present! **John Murray** greetings, **Pappy Patchin and Susan** in the States sent Christmas greetings to all his NZ friends, **Rod Simpson** with a great little 'Thank you' email message. **Roger Pearce** greetings, **Noel & Jean Brough** with a lovely home made card, **Paddy Ryan** a card, **Ian Beker** a card and complimentary pen, **Harry & Pat Honnor** lovely long letter and greetings to all, **Teach and Rehu Macown, Ray Cousineau** our 161 Bty vet in Canada suffering at -30c and 2 feet of snow, **Brian Hewitt, Bill Godfrey, Lindsay Skinner, Fred & Marcella Russell, Winton MacKintosh, Robert Barker, Wally and Alison Fraser, Jan Rout, Rion and Margaret Gallagher, Abe & Jacqueline Swanson, Brian 'Noddy' Knott, Lox Kellas, Julie Jones** with her most pretty handwriting, **Harry Crawford, Ron & Jean Atkins**, Jean reports that Ron 'Tommy' is not keeping the best of health

**Lorraine Diamond** in the good old days. *I now see why I should have joined the Navy!!!!*



#### 5. Suggested name for our Newsletter

I was pleasantly surprised with the number of suggestions for a name for our Newsletter.

**Colin Stanbridge** "Shell Drake."

**Jim Ross** "Tannoy" or "Ubique."

**Huia Ockwell** "Bubble, line, level, line, bubble." And for those who do not understand that, it is the drill for laying a gun, 'Bubble' roughly level the sight clinometer bubble for range, 'line' lay for line, 'level' ensure the sight is level, 'line' a final check that the gun is laid for line (bearing) and 'bubble' the final check that the gun's elevation is level. The gun is now ready to fire.

**John Osborne** our 2006 Guest Speaker and Commandant of the Armed Constabulary Re-enactment Society wrote:

"Many thanks for sending me your latest news letter which I have read from

cover to cover.

My first reaction to the suggestion of calling the new news letter "Bombard" is that it is a great name.

I got the Impression from the 2006 AGM that the RNZAOCA wishes to be the "Principal organization in NZ representing NZ Artillery" 1840 on, so as you say calling the Newsletter "Bombard" has meaning from New Zealand's earliest colonial artillery days and still has modern day meaning.

I note the Oxford Dictionary lists the word "Bombard" as meaning "batter with shot and shell" which is what the Artillery do. The only other names I can think of that might be appropriate are "**The Gunner**" or "**New Zealand Gunner**" as I think this is a non rank, non gender PC name.

The Oxford Dictionary lists "Gunner" as meaning "officer or man of artillery" We tend to use the word "Gunner" to cover all personnel involved with the artillery.

Best regards,

**John**

**Les Stratford** "Stand by."

#### 6 Huia Ockwell writes:

I have just joined the Dunedin RSA Choir which began when Private Jimmy McNeish heard the Turks singing in their trenches one night at Gallipoli. Jimmy made a vow that if he made it through the war he would start up a male servicemen's choir on return to Dunedin. It was a promise that he kept. The first performance was held in the Burns Hall on 5 May 1920 and the Choir has been on the Dunedin music scene ever since.

At the recent Year of the Veteran RNZRSA concert a delightful surprise unfolded when the Director of Veteran's Affairs, Jesse Gunn, came on stage after our last item and presented out Chairman with a plaque of commemoration for the Choir's 88 year service to the Veteran community. Each member also received a Certificate of Commendation. *Thanks Huia.*

#### 7. At the recent dinner for the dedication of the 5.5-in gun in Hamilton I asked Ron Cross if he would propose the toast to The Regiment.

**"THE ROYAL REGIMENT" 5.5 Inch Gun Dinner - 2 December 2006**

Mr Dining President, Gunners, Other (Not-so-lucky) Soldiers, Ladies & Gentlemen.

It is with tremendous pride that this 1950's Bombardier of 163 Bty rises to propose this toast.

Last evening, as I cleaned this badge in preparation for today's parade, I reminded myself of what the Royal Regiment is.

'Once a Gunner -- Always a Gunner.'

In our relatively young and small Army, it is UBIQUE -- everywhere. The Artillery is long range destruction and devastation on the battlefield. It is technology sweeping the skies of enemy aircraft. It is large guns like the 5.5 we dedicated today.

Such weapons combine metals of many kinds with a little glass plus some

wood and, nowadays, quite a lot of plastic too. Yet all guns are fashioned in such special ways that we soldiers always find beautiful.

Once a Gunner -- Always a Gunner.

For many of us, Artillery is the shell. Therein are potions of powder and jellies mixed in a witches brew that needs only a Lucifer to mimic the gates of hell. Unlike many corps badges, the word "Regiment" is not engraved hereon. Yet here is "Royal" - given to us at the Queen's command. There is "NZ" - for we're New Zealand's by right and demand.

Once a Gunner -- Always a Gunner.

Since its inception, the Royal Regiment has supported other NZ's combat arms. It has shed its gunner's blood in defending them and our Allies, so that pride in our past glories is tinged with sadness at the cost, and yet Kiwis still hope for a peaceful future and that demands effective defence

Once a Gunner -- Always a Gunner.

So what is the Regiment we toast tonight?

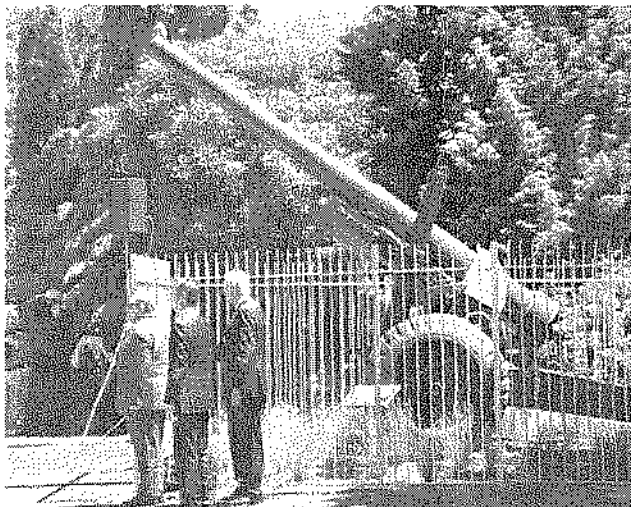
Above all it is people - the Gunners. Men and women prepared to do their best, not only maintaining the standards set by their predecessors but creating new solutions that meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, in new ways, reshaping and enhancing what it means to be a Gunner. For to become one -- is to remain one.

Once a Gunner -- Always a Gunner.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please rise,  
"The Royal Regiment"

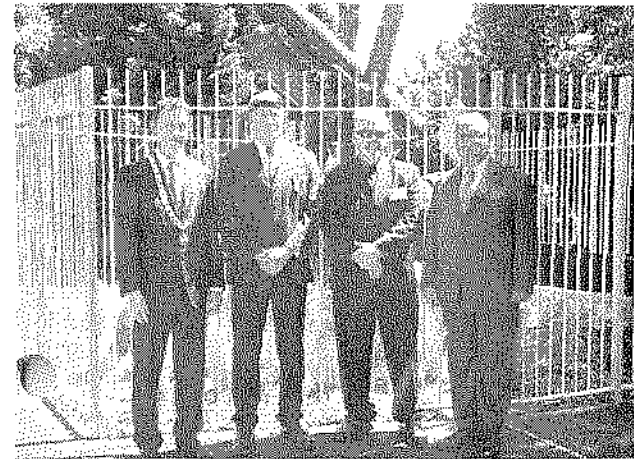
Hugh Vercoe invited **Ted O'Brien** to reply and his opening remark was "Bloody hell! How am I going to reply to that?? *True, I think most of us would be a bit awed by Ron's Toast.*

***It is because of the dedication to the gun and the presentation to the City of Hamilton that I made the cover page as it is. See page 17 for Graham Birch's presentation speech***



*Two pics of the ceremony:*

*HE The Governor General,  
Hamilton Mayor Michael Redman  
and  
Major Hugh Vercoe ED,  
(Mayor Matamata/Piako District) the driving force behind the project.*



*Mayor Michael Redman,  
Sgt Ted O'Brien EM,  
Frank Finlay Foreman  
JP Marshal Engineering  
who with pride and professionalism,  
made the gun as good as new,  
and  
HE The Governor General*

### **8. From Mayne Manson**

A C-130 Hercules was en route on a mission when a cocky F-16 pilot flew up next to him.

The fighter jock told the C-130 pilot, "Watch this!"

He went into a Barrel roll, followed by a steep climb, then finished with a sonic boom when he reached the speed of sound.

The F-16 pilot asked the C-130 pilot what he thought.

The C-130 pilot responded "That was impressive, but watch this."

The C-130 droned along for about 15 minutes then the pilot came back on and said "What did you think about that?"

The F-16 pilot asked, "What did you do?"

The C-130 pilot responded "I got up, stretched my legs, went to the back, poured a cup of coffee and went to the toilet, and here I am back in my seat again."

Any questions?

### **From Peter Christian**

It was enough to make WO's Al Boyd, Yogi Young and Slim Cunningham weep tears of blood. But for an aging Lbdr (ret.) it was a reminder of the glorious days of the Black Hand Gang at the School of Guns circa mid 60's.

On Nov 12 inst. the Oamaru Coastal Artillery Unit (1 x 25pdr) and two privately owned 105 pack howitzers held a blank shoot in support of Year of the Veteran activities including an 11th of the 11th salute.

Now those aforementioned old gunner gentlefolk would have forgiven the gunner's turnout as after all it was "in the field", however, in the best traditions of the Black Hand Gang the "once in 90 years" shoot went wrong from there. First up the 11th hour was missed by the addition of another 13 minutes, the 11th day by 24 hours and the eleven blanks by two extra.

So in the best ex-cadet tradition North Otago celebrated on the 24 minute, of the 11th hour of the 12th day ...and then with 13 rounds.



wood and, nowadays, quite a lot of plastic too. Yet all guns are fashioned in such special ways that we soldiers always find beautiful.

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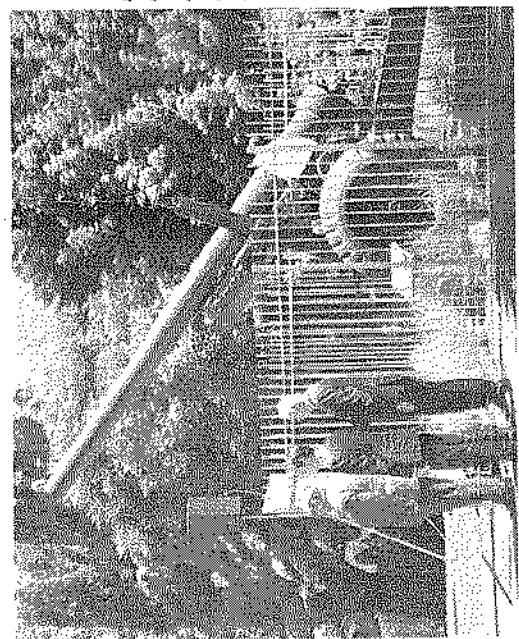
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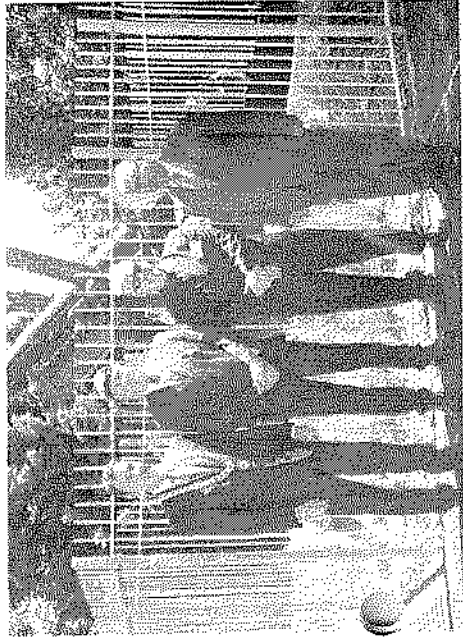
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So in the best ex-cadet tradition North Otago celebrated on the 24 minute, of the 11th hour of the 12th day ...and then with 13 rounds.

Also, can you see the layer's helmet at the moment of firing - see Ned Wyld - one size doesn't fit all! Finally, I'm sure I saw the name "Pat Duggan wuz here" or something like that carved into one of the 105 cradles.

Great days remembered even if we spent half of them digging some old crusty SNCO's boots out of our backsides. Cheers to all of you.

Pete Christian.

For information the 'Black Hand Gang' was first established in January 1958 as the 'Dirty Hand Gang' and I was it. Coming 2nd on the AA Tech Asst course meant an automatic posting to the School, but of course there was little for me to do so I became the one man 'Gang'. Oh, and I was thrilled to bits having been posted to **that place** for nothing. However, by showing a bit of resilience and hard work, things did change for the better and I came to love **that place, Waikoura, the 'Home of Excellence'**.

#### 10. From James Horn in Invercargill

Do what you can today and start again tomorrow. Who knows what may happen! *This is unfortunately par for the course as you grow older. Have you ever noticed nowadays there seem to be less hours in a day, actually nothing has changed except your ability to do things at the pace you used to go.*

#### 11. From the RA Journal of 2004 I will mention some of the obituary of Major

Stewart Cox DFC Royal Artillery during his service in Korea as an Air Observation Post Officer. "On one occasion, while flying over enemy territory, he spotted a large body of the enemy moving forward to attack our own infantry. He immediately called down the fire of the whole Divisional Artillery. As the enemy advanced up a steep reverse slope the field guns were crested. Foreseeing that this situation would arise he had issued fire orders to all mortars that could reach. Thus there was no gap in the engagement of the enemy and few survived the shelling.

He was Mentioned in Dispatches and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his efforts during this campaign.

An unnerving practice the pilots had to undertake was flying their little Austers, every six months or so, back to the RAF Base at Iwakuni in Japan for a major service and overhaul. This evolved flying across the straits of Tsushima from



Pusan in Korea to Fukuoka on Kyushu where they could refuel at the US Airforce Base. It was a long, and lonely, solo journey with little fuel left on arrival, even when their very basic navigation proved accurate! Ultimately, to the relief of all the pilots it was arranged for an RAF Sunderland flying boat to escort them over and rescue them out of the near freezing water - in winter - if anything went wrong!! *Can't you just see it, a little single crew, single engine 100 HP Auster flying in formation with a four engine, 13 crew and total of 4264 hp, flying boat. Again, can't you just hear the Sunderland skipper saying "for goodness sake hurry up little fella!" I fully understand the feeling of loneliness over water because one day when I flew from Taupo Flying School to Wanganui I was that high going over Lake Taupo that it could have been considered 'sub orbital', a Cessna 172 has the ability to glide like a brick and when you are in the middle of the Lake there is a long way to glide if something went wrong. Also, another point I would like to make is that it would not appear that the Americans made any comments when they refuelled at Fukuoka, like a Pan American Captain did when he called up Cliff Tait when he was in his Air-tourer flying around the world. Cliff was, as I recall, somewhere between the UK and Europe when he got into radio conversation with the Panam Captain who asked him who he was and what he was doing. Cliff told him and the reply he got was "You've got to be out of your cotton pickin' mind!"* Yep!!!!

#### 12. Chief of Navy Commendation Mr Bill Moreland

It is with much delight I am able to report the above award to Bill, who with Estelle are staunch members of our Association.

"William Morland joined the Navy on 25 May 1939 as a Seaman Boy 2nd Class and saw service in WW2 and Korea, after leaving the Navy he joined the RNZA where he served until his retirement in 1967.

Over many years Mr Morland has been actively involved in supporting and managing Navy Veteran's organisations. To sustain this voluntary effort over the time that he has, had required outstanding dedication and commitment. More recently Mr Morland has been the President of the Leander Association. In this role he was instrumental in bringing together the large number of disparate WW2 Ship Associations to create The WW2 Cruiser Association. This was a task that needed to be handled with sensitivity, patience and a persistent determination - and in the face of some strident and highly emotional opposition.

A testament to the success of this amalgamation was the very successful inaugural WW2 Cruiser Assn weekend held Oct 2006.

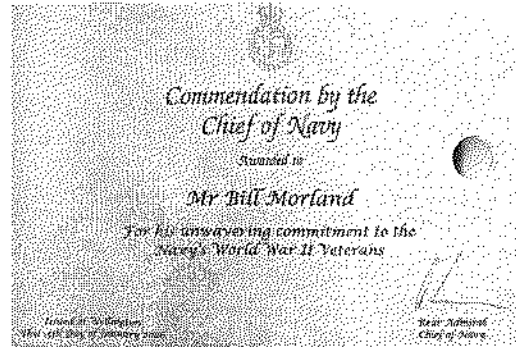
For his commitment to Navy Veterans' organisations and Navy Veterans over many years and his exemplary work in establishing the WW2 Cruiser Assn, which serve as outstanding illustrations of Courage, Comradeship and Commitment, Mr Bill Morland most deservedly receives a Chief of Navy Commendation.

*This was awarded by Rear Admiral DI Ledson ONZM but presented to Bill by the Governor General at RNZN Divisions Friday 19 January 2007 followed by lunch with His Excellency and Mrs Satyanand and the Chief of Navy.*

I get a great sense of pride when I am able to report matters of this importance about people that I have had the privilege of serving with and knowing personally. Well done Bill, and here are three phases of Bill's life, Navy, Army and Civvy.



**Bill that pic makes you look like a pirate—Welllllllll!**



13. It sounds as if the Navy have a strong relationship with their 'Old Boys', what about us? Well unfortunately the same cannot be said, and to illustrate that I refer to an email message that I received from an ex Gunner, who had 5 years service with the guns recently, where he said he had 'stumbled' upon our website and wanted to know all about the Association????? There are those who support us and those who do not.

#### 14. From Barry Dreyer

##### Neologisms

Once again, The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words.

The winners are:

1. Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.
6. Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
7. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.

8. Gargoyle (n.), olive-flavoured mouthwash.
9. Flatulence (n.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
11. Testicle (n.), a humorous question on an exam.
12. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
13. Pokemon (n), a Rastafarian proctologist.
14. Oyster (n.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.
15. Frisbeetarianism (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that, when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.
16. Circumvent (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

The Washington Post's Style Invitational also asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are this year's winners:

1. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating the bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
  2. Foreplay (v): Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
  3. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.
  4. Giraffiti (n): Vandalism spray-painted very,very high.
  5. Sarchasm (n): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
  6. Inoculatte (v): To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
  7. Hipatitis (n): Terminal coolness.
  8. Osteopornosis (n): A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
  9. Karmageddon (n): its like, when evërybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
  10. Decafalon (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
  11. Glibido (v): All talk and no action.
  12. Dopeler effect (n): The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
  13. Arachnoleptic fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accident tally walked through a spider web.
  14. Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
  15. Caterpallor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.
- And the pick of the literature:
16. Ignoranus (n): A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

### 15. Did you know?

People will often refer to a long time as being 'yonks'. It is apparently a play on 'donkey's years', which in turn was originally 'donkeys ears'. Because a donkey's ears are long they were used to illustrate something long e.g. time.

Aluminum was the original spelling for aluminium, however, to keep it in line with elements like sodium, calcium, strontium etc, the 'ium' was included, so the Americans are right after all!!!!!!!

Remember the old days of the Cockney Rhyming Slang, 'Hen & Geese' - Police, 'A butcher's hook' - a look, or even shortened to 'a butchers'. I was asked once what I meant by "I think you are telling a bunch of porkies" and I had explain 'Pork Pies' porkies - lies.

Bill Bryson, in his book 'A Short History of Nearly Everything', tells us of the importance of the Moon "Without the Moon's steadying influence, the Earth would wobble like a dying top, with goodness knows what consequences for climate and weather. The Moon's steady gravitational influence keeps the Earth spinning at the right speed and angle to provide the sort of stability necessary for the long an successful development of life. This wont go on forever. The Moon is slipping from our grasp at a rate of about 4 centimetres a year." *Make the most of it because in 100 years it will be about 4 metres further away so "you should think of it than much more than just a pleasant feature in the night sky!!!"*

### 16. Good books

"Peter McIntyre - War Artist" AH & AW Reed 1981. A great book by Peter which carries you through his initial enlistment in 34th Anti-tank through Greece, Crete, North Africa and Italy. Great paintings and sketches interesting stories, especially of North Africa the land and people. I got to the stage where I could not put it down and would recommend it to anyone for an interesting read. It is with kind permission from Reed Publishing that I have made the quotes in paragraph 17. **Little bits and pieces**, a, b and c.

"A Short History of Nearly Everything" Bill Bryson Black Swan 2004. *Truly impressive...it's hard to imagine a better rough guide to science. The Guardian.* Now I was not a very impressive academic, to say the least I was, at High School, just plain thick, but reading this book by Bill has allowed me to understand many many scientific, geological and biological situations that were once pretty gobbledygook. This is a most informative and interesting book.

### 17. Little bits and pieces.

- a. When we were in Vietnam the general feeling of the Government was that they were just plain misery guts for taxing us while we were doing their bidding on active service. But then we read "of course money was always a problem on a soldier's pay. In Aldershot a gunner in the battery was paid 14 shillings a week and the New Zealand Government, with incredible

meanness, docked the exchange rate from even that." When it was our turn they just kept up their old mongrel habits.

- b. Old habits are hard to break. In the Western Desert the Engineers built some concrete pill boxes for the anti-tank guns but some genius overlooked the fact that you had to take the gun off its tripod and onto its wheels to get it into the pillbox and that once the gun was inside there was no room to put it back on its tripod, thus the gun could not traverse and was completely useless. When I took over as BQMS 4th Medium Battery in Ngaruawahia Camp I had no rifle racks for our 130 odd rifles so requested that the Engineers in Papakura manufacture them for me. The rifle rack duly arrived on the back off a truck, and you better believe it—I could not get the damn thing into the building let alone the armoury. Never mind 5 Transport Coy had a big enough building to take it.
- c. From "The End of Africa" by Alan Moorhead. "With the main road we hit the New Zealander Division coming head on - in the way the enemy would see it coming. They rolled by with their tanks and their guns and their armoured cars, the finest troops of their kind in the world, the outflanking experts, the men who had fought the Germans in the desert for two years, the victors of over half a dozen pitched battles. They were too gaunt and lean to be handsome, too hard and sinewy to be graceful, too youthful and physical to be complete. This wonderful division took a good deal of its fighting morale from its General, Freyberg, the VC who through two wars had probably been more critically wounded than any other living man. Feel a bit humble being a Kiwi.
- d. Here is **George and Patti Miln** at George's 90th birthday party held at Re-muera Golf Club. Well done George I am sure the Association will join me in wishing you all the very best. It was fortunate that President **Denis Dwane** was able to be there and represent the Association, along with **Bill Morland**.



- e. **Shay Bassett** has sent us a New Zealand Herald clipping from late 1972 featuring our old departed friend **Mervyn 'Tubby' Hammond**. It reflects on his day of retirement that he was then the Army's most experienced (and eloquent *and that would be the understatement of the year!!*) recruiting man convinced that "a good product is easy to sell". A gunnery instructor for many years he coined the phrase "let's have a little Teutonic efficiency around here." For his pains he



earned the affectionate nickname of 'The Old Prussian'. *And it goes on to talk about his life in the Army and his period as a recruiting officer. In 12 years as the Auckland Recruiting Warrant Officer he would have handled more than 20,000 inquiries, and a large proportion of those inquirers have joined up, many to become quite senior officers and Warrant Officers and he always enjoyed meeting up with them from time to time. I would imagine there are a number of our members who will remember 'Tubby' (as we affectionately knew him) with his deep and very refined way of speaking. I also remember a caricature, which featured Tubby, in the Artillery Wing Papakura. It was of a Gunner with an enormous lemon squeezer with a big shiny gunner badge, big shiny web-belt and huge shiny boots. I wonder where that cartoon got to, I would love to get hold of it and scan it.*

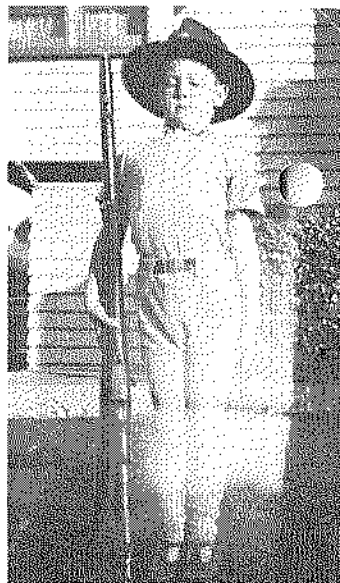
Mervyn 'Tubby' Hammond  
Gunner extraordinaire



- f. Here is a pic of Ray Cousineau when he was with 161 Battery Vietnam. Ray is currently our man in Canada. Sorry about the quality, it is a scan of a photo-copy.



Anyone any ideas who this young person might be??



### 18. Random Reflections by Roly Hammond

This week I sent a Christmas card to my old friend Murray Deaker and included some random thoughts about growing old. Murray rather embarrassed me by reading this over the air and to date I have had 134 requests for a copy. I am only too happy to oblige and I trust that it will give some small pleasure to those who have requested it. With this E-Mail I send warm Christmas greetings to you all. Roly Hammond.

Recently I turned 81 and a young person asked me how I felt about being old. I was somewhat amused for I do not think of myself as old. Upon seeing my reaction he was immediately embarrassed, but I explained that it was an interesting question and that I would ponder it and let him know.

Old age I decided is a Gift.

I am probably for the first time in my life the person I have always wanted to be. Often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror but I don't worry about these things for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family, for less grey hair or a flatter stomach. As I've aged I've become more kind to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I'm entitled to overeat, or be messy or extravagant. I have seen too many good friends leave this world too soon, before they understood the great freedom which comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or to play on the computer until midnight? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 1940's and if I at the same time wish to weep over a lost friend....I shall.

I know I am often forgetful, but then again some of life is just as well forgotten...and I eventually remember the important things. Sure over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when a beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am lucky to have lived long enough to have my hair turn grey and have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn to silver. I can say "no" and mean it. I can say "yes" and mean it. As you get older it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself any more. I've even earned the right to be wrong.....often.

So to answer your question. I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become I am not going to live forever, but whilst I am still here I shall not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day !.

*Lucky Roly, I am not allowed dessert, my gym instructor has forbidden it- SHE has forbidden it, and ice blocks!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

### 19 From John Bellamy regarding the 163 Battery Reunion 7-9 Dec 2006

This was a well run reunion which demonstrated how much gunners and equipment had advanced over a period of 25 years.

Over the first two days we got to know one another. Since the time I was with the unit, it has doubled in size and has five female gunners. Having female gunners was unheard of in 1962 but seem to be working out OK.

The Saturday was very informative and you realize the great advances in technical equipment when you see them operating. At the gun end you don't need a slide rule in your back pocket to solve odd problems and the answers to complex problems occur very quickly. At the OP end your equipment locate you on the map, determine target distance and indicate correction to fall of shot where necessary. the mark mission seems to be a thing of the past) We got a sniff of cordite when a demonstration deployment and fire missile was made and I got a round to fire.

We had a wonderful dinner on Saturday evening followed by a social function in the camp gymnasium. I started off fine but I'm afraid my ears could not handle the noise. The music was all run by members of the unit and the boys enjoyed themselves immensely.

Unfortunately the oldies were rather thin on the ground. From my period of time only Alan 'Oigle' Taylor and I were the only people and there was one guy from The Korean period. This was a shame and to some degree could be attributed to the Old Comrades activity a matter of a month earlier.

I did suggest that such a battery activity could be held in conjunction with The Old Comrades from time to time. You might get a few more members as a result, now that the membership requirements have been relaxed.

While in Linton 'Oigle' and I were treated very well and thank the Battery personnel very much for their consideration and friendship.

*John is quite right, the Reunion did occur close to The Old Comrades Reunion which made it impossible for me to attend and I have no doubt others would have been there. Anyway top marks to the BC and Members of 163 Battery.*

### 20 Think about it, some reflections from Andrew Lister

If we aren't supposed to eat animals, then why are they made out of meat?

You know that look women get when they want sex? No, neither do I.

When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a new bike. Then I realised that The Lord doesn't work that way, so I stole one and asked him to forgive me.



He is carrying a mirror

### A bicycle built for two???



### 21 From Conrad Flinkenberg

A very self-important college freshman attending a recent football game, took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation. "You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one," the student said, loud enough for many of those nearby to hear. "The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon, our spaceships have visited Mars. We have nuclear energy, electric and hydrogen cars, computers with light-speed processing.....and," pausing to take another drink of beer.

The Senior took advantage of the break in the student's litany and said, "You're right, son. We didn't have those things when we were young. So we invented them. Now, you arrogant little buffoon, what are you doing for the next generation?"

### 22 From Roger Newth

English as she is spoke!!!!

A Polish man moved to the USA and married an American girl. Although his English was far from perfect, they got along very well until one day he rushed into a lawyer's office and asked him if he could arrange a divorce for him. The lawyer said that getting a divorce would depend on the circumstances, and asked him the following questions:

Have you any grounds?

Yes, an acre and half and nice little home.

No, I mean what is the foundation of this case?

It made of concrete.

I don't think you understand. Does either of you have a real grudge?

No, we have carport, and not need one.

I mean. What are your relations like?

All my relations still in Poland.

Is there any infidelity in your marriage?

We have hi-fidelity stereo and good DVD player.

Does your wife beat you up?

No, I always up before her.

Is your wife a nagger?

No, she white.

Why do you want this divorce?

She going to kill me.

What makes you think that?

I got proof.

What kind of proof?

She going to poison me. She buy a bottle at drugstore and put on shelf in bathroom. I can read, and it say: "Polish Remover"

**23 Here is the 5.5-in Gun presentation speech by Brigadier Graham Birch MBE**

Most of us are familiar with paintings of armies of old marching into battle with Colours flying and bayonets fixed. Originally the colours were regimental identifying symbols for troops to rally behind. Later they became ceremonial and the battle honours of the parent unit were emblazoned on them, and when they became worn or their unit disbanded they were laid up in a consecrated area. We see examples of this in cathedrals and parish churches throughout New Zealand. However in the case of the artillery because our honours were so numerous we were granted the battle honour 'UBIQUE' - the Latin for everywhere - and our guns were accepted as colours. When on parade on ceremonial occasions our guns are accorded the same compliments as the standards, guidons and colours of the cavalry and infantry. And to signify our guns as colours the royal cipher is engraved on the barrel of the gun. In the case of this 5.5in gun that we are presenting today the royal cipher is engraved on the top of the barrel just in front of the breech block. So it is appropriate that the gunners of the Waikato be represented by their colours, permanently emplaced here in Memorial Park.

So how did the gunners happen to be here? We have to go back to the early 1900s to answer that. Up until then New Zealand's military organisation was based on a largely unpaid and ineffective volunteer force, and was inward looking - focusing on local defences. But in 1909 far reaching changes occurred. The catalyst for this was the growing strategic tension in Europe, which led to the Imperial Defence Conference of that year recommending New Zealand commit to providing an Expeditionary Force suitable for possible employment overseas. After considerable political objection and infighting this recommendation was accepted, and resulted in New Zealand adopting its first compulsory military training

scheme and raising a paid Territorial Force. One artillery battery, a mounted rifles regiment and an infantry battalion were to be raised in the Waikato. Thus on 19 March 1911, K Battery - within months to be redesignated G Battery of the New Zealand Artillery - was formed in Hamilton.

With one exception it has not been New Zealand practise to deploy its Territorial Force artillery units overseas on active service as complete units in their own right. Rather men and equipment were drawn from the regional units to form the regiments and batteries of the specially raised expeditionary and emergency forces. So with the coming of World War 1 the Waikato gunners found themselves amalgamated with gunners from other regions into a NZA Artillery Brigade and Ammunition Column.

Waikato men served the guns with distinction during the First and Second World Wars, and later in Korea and Vietnam. Some were with the first New Zealand artillery to serve at Gallipoli, with our No 4 Battery, landing with their guns at AN-ZAC Cove the day after the initial infantry assault - deploying ashore at 6:30am on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1915 - and others followed later with the remaining batteries. Those who survived Gallipoli were joined by reinforcements, and later served on the Western Front in France in the line from the Ypres Salient in May 1916 to the final battle at Le Quesnoy in November 1918.

The inter-war period was a time of retrenchment, and later, modernisation. G Battery was redesignated 2 Battery in 1921, and a much depleted Battery was disbanded in 1929 to be reformed in 1936 as a 60 Pounder Medium Battery, and to be redesignated yet again, in 1940, this time as 7 Medium Battery.

During World War 2 Waikato gunners served overseas in all our theatres of war - the Middle East, Italy, and in the Pacific - again in an Expeditionary Force mode and across all the New Zealand Artillery units. For those Territorial Force Waikato gunners who continued to serve within New Zealand the 7<sup>th</sup> Medium Battery was mobilised following the entry of Japan into the war, deploying initially to Papanui Camp a week after Pearl Harbour, on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1941, and serving full time, primarily in Northland, until the threat of invasion decreased in 1943. Some of these Waikato field gunners were also deployed with their 60 Pdr guns in the coastal defence role, in the Bay of Islands, onto Great Barrier Island and in the Marlborough Sounds.

Post World War 2 Waikato gunners served overseas with the Emergency Force 16 Field Regiment in Korea and the Regular Force 161 Battery in Vietnam.

7 Medium Battery was redesignated 4 Medium Regiment in 1948, with its gunners continuing to be drawn from throughout the Waikato. The Regiment was initially equipped with obsolete 6 inch Howitzers until the 5.5in guns were purchased and issued in 1951. 4 Medium Regiment was reduced to Battery size in 1961, becoming 4 Medium Battery, and in 1972 its Waikato origins were acknowl-

edged by incorporating the parent G designation into its title to become 4(G) Medium Battery. The 5.5in guns were withdrawn from service in 1987, and in 1999 4(G) Medium Battery was amalgamated with 11(A) Battery in Auckland to form 11/4 Battery, the currently serving Territorial Force gunners who we see here today with their 105mm guns.

The 5.5in gun was designed in the UK in the late 1930s, and entered service in the British Army in 1942. It proved to be a most successful design and very popular with those who manned it. It was manned by a detachment of 10 men, weighed 5850kg, and was capable of firing an 82lb (37.2kg) shell out to 16400m at a rate of 2/3 rounds per minute.

The gun we see on the presentation mount has been restored magnificently. Major Vercoe has told us of the tremendous effort of all concerned in the movement, restoration and mounting of this gun, and I want to add the thanks of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery for a job so well done. Thank you to all involved, and a very special thank you to Maj Hugh Vercoe for initiating and masterminding this project. It is a very fitting memorial to the RNZA's Waikato units since 1911 – chronologically K then G Battery, 2 Battery, 7 Medium Battery, 4 Medium Regiment, 4(G) Medium Battery and now 11/4 Battery. It is great to see so many who have served in those units on parade here today, including a number of past Commanding Officers and Battery Commanders. I must mention also the support given by our RNZA Band, which I might add is the longest continuous serving band in New Zealand, service or civilian - 142 years from 1864 to the present.

It is appropriate that this gun be mounted in the Memorial Park here, alongside the anchor from HMNZS Waikato representing the Navy and the Spitfire representing the Air Force. And while this gun is particularly representative of the artillery I see it also in a wider role as representing the Army as a whole, and to remind us of all those Waikato men and women soldiers who have served this region and our Country so well, in war and peace. They have a long and illustrious history.

I am proud on behalf of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery to present this gun to Hamilton City.

#### **24 Reunion 2007 - Taupo Friday 2 - Sunday 4 November 2007**

- a. This year's reunion will be at Taupo again and to that end I have fully booked the Spa Hotel

15 Chalets @ \$95 per night. Six have been booked already i.e. Denis and Margaret Dwane, Armed Constabulary two, myself and whoever up to two, Allan Boyd, Bryan and Paul O'Connor, Barry and Judy Dreyer.

10 Studio Units @ \$65 per night.

Another option is the Barcelona Motel, 21 Taniwha St. 0800 227 235. 14 Units \$95—\$130. [barcelona.motel@ihug.co.nz](mailto:barcelona.motel@ihug.co.nz), but you would have to be quick as there is a bulk booking in the wind for that weekend

- b. Generally the weekend will follow the same programme as past years i.e. Friday night mix and mingle at the RSA 4.00pm to 6.00pm  
Friday night dinner at the Spa @ \$25 per head to be paid on departure.  
Saturday breakfast at the Spa @ \$10 per head as above.  
Saturday AGM in the Spa Old Dining Room.  
Saturday afternoon we are hoping for a display in the Spa Valley but more about that as soon as things have been finalised.  
Saturday 6.30pm for 7.00pm Ladies Dining In at the Taupo Bowling Club @ \$37.50 per head to be paid with registration. The menu will be in the June Newsletter  
Sunday breakfast at the Spa @ \$10 per head to be paid on departure.  
Sunday Church Parade in the Spa Old Meeting House.  
Sunday one for the road or coffee and depart to home locations.
- As before all travel to the RSA and Bowling Club will be provided by Taupo Taxis Ltd.
- c. I am thrilled that there has been as much interest even at this early stage so let's hope that it will be as good a Reunion as we had last year. At this stage I am not sure if the Royal Marines will be joining us for the Church Parade, I hope they will because last year their presence made the Service really great.
- d. I have included a registration form and if you wish to stay at the Spa please be quick and reply, I will take phone calls or e-mails. Your reply form must be accompanied by your Ladies Dining In fee. All Spa fees are paid on departure  
Phone 07 8436473  
Fax 07 8432073  
email [sunray79@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sunray79@xtra.co.nz)

#### **25. From Angus Rivers regarding our Website <http://riv.co.nz/rnza/>**

Hi

Thank you very much for putting the words of "The Greasy Gunner" on the Royal New Zealand Artillery Old Comrades' Association website. I was searching for the words of this song on Google, and yours is the only link that came up. My father was in the (British) Royal Artillery during WW II, and I remember him singing various songs around the house during my childhood (I was born in 1945). One of them was "The Screw Guns", with its links to Rudyard Kipling and to the tune of the Eton Boating Song. Dad also used to sing "The Greasy Gunner", but I've no idea where the tune came from. It sounds as though it is borrowed from some other source. I seem to remem



ber, over the period of half a century, some variations from the words you print. I think my father's version of "The Greasy Gunner" began:

"I'll never forget the day that I enlisted on the spree

To be a greasy gunner in the Royal Artillery"

I'm sure that for the ears of his wife and children he substituted something else for "great black bounding beggar" and I also remember

"When we're filing out for water he'll be kissing the colonel's daughter..."

A variation I remember in "The Screw Guns" was

"Sometimes we goes where the roads is

And sometimes we goes where they ain't

We climb up the sides of the mountains

Right up to them Pearly Gates..."

Another variation I remember Dad discoursing on was

"You all love the screw guns, the screw guns they all love you

And when you go out with the New guns, you all know what to do...."

According to Dad there had been a type of gun called a New gun and the name had become incorporated in the song. Some British gunners during WWII also used to sing "When you go out with the field guns". All these variations seem to indicate that

Kipling's original poem was modified by the Gunners over the years and in different circumstances. The "Tss! Tss!" seemed to have disappeared from the song, at any rate in my father's version.

I look forward to returning to your website to read the memories of members of the Royal New Zealand Artillery. The days of the World Wars are long gone but the sacrifices made by so many are certainly not forgotten.

With best wishes from England

John Baldry

*From time to time Angus and Catherine receive accolades like that which is great it gives me a sense of pride in the work those two people do on behalf of our Association*

## 26 From Roger Newth who shares with us "A tribute to Bob Hope A man who DID make a difference

ON TURNING 70: "You still chase women, but only downhill".

ON TURNING 80: "That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

ON TURNING 90: "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

ON TURNING 100: "I don't feel old. In fact I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap."

ON GIVING UP HIS EARLY CAREER, BOXING "I ruined my hands in the ring ...

the referee kept stepping on them."

ON NEVER WINNING AN OSCAR "Welcome to the Academy Awards or, as it's called at my home, 'Passover'."

ON GOLF "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

ON PRESIDENTS "I have performed for 12 presidents and entertained only six."

ON WHY HE CHOSE SHOWBIZ FOR HIS CAREER "When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, 'Congratulations. You have an eight-pound ham'."

ON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL "I feel very humble, but I think I have the strength of character to fight it."

ON HIS FAMILY'S EARLY POVERTY "Four of us slept in the one bed. When it got cold, mother threw on another brother."

ON HIS SIX BROTHERS "That's how I learned to dance. Waiting for the bathroom."

ON HIS EARLY FAILURES "I would not have had anything to eat if it wasn't for the stuff the audience threw at me."

ON GOING TO HEAVEN "I've done benefits for ALL religions. I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality."

*Thanks Roger, yes he sure did make a difference*

