

Which is which, one is Tom O'Reilly the other an Afghan, take your pick.



Get rid of that bloody woodpecker

26. The position of Secretary Treasurer of our Association will become vacant on or before 31 December 2007.

I have decided to hand the reins over at that time, in fact after I have completed Reunion 2007 and the December Newsletter. I find that as I am getting older I am getting slower and I am not able to start or even complete some tasks that I have promised my family. I regret that the Association business is taking up too much of my time, maybe because I attempt to do the job to the perfection that others like Jim Ross and John Rout achieved, but that is the only way I will do it.

Please, someone put their hand up and take over the position because six months is plenty of time for me to give my notice, and my decision is final.



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)

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June 2007



Gunner's Day in Afghanistan. All RNZA. Maj Parker, Lt Weston, Lt Col Mike Baker, WO2 Evan Kareko. See page 13 for another photo of 26 May 2007

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	Bob Kerslake	
	Jeff Waters	
	Lt Col John Masters ONZM. MC. JP	
	Brian Meyer (Australia)	

IMPORTANT ONGOING INFORMATION

- ACCOUNT INFORMATION:** Association Account Name and Number for Cheques and 'On line' Banking
Royal New Zealand Artillery Old Comrades Assn Inc. ASB. 12 3042 0229763 00
- INTERNET ADDRESSES:** A number of our people are on the Internet but I am not aware of all addresses, if you do not receive any messages from me then I do not have your address and would appreciate it please.
- RECEIPTS:** Receipts will be issued for all incoming monies and will accompany the next Newsletter following receipt.
- INPUT INTO NEWSLETTERS:** Short stories, especially with accompanying photographs, are always welcome for inclusion in the Newsletters.
- NEW MEMBERS:** New members are welcome, remember ALL Gunners with a minimum of 3 years service or an Operational Tour are eligible for Full Membership. Associate Membership, basically, is available to anyone who has been attached to an RNZA Unit or have a close affiliation therewith and close family to Full or Life Members.
- DEATH OF A MEMBER:** I am not privy to all information, if you know of the passing of someone whom you suspect may be a member please let the Association know. Where possible someone will endeavour to attend the funeral. And I need the information for Newsletters.

Last Post

Ken Gilbert 31 March Tauranga. Although Ken was not a member of our Assn he was Director of Music for the RNZA Band from 1988—1992.

New Members

Sgt EC (OB) O'Brien from Hamilton. OB joined 4th Medium Regiment in 1970 and carried on to 1993 earning an EM with clasp. OB along with **Hugh Vercoe** were the main players in the presentation of the 5.5-in gun to the City of Hamilton where it takes pride of place in Memorial Park, adjacent to the Cenotaph.



Russell (RB) Smith from TeAroha. Russell served for a total of 13 years with 32 Battery, 161 Battery and HQ Battery 16th Field Regiment then did a tour with 4th Medium Battery (RF) then 4th Mdm in the TF.

Sgt Jack Mills joins from Hamilton. Jack joined 4 Medium Battery in 1971 and served as a gun sergeant until the Unit was disbanded. Jack is a keen hunter and fisherman and breeds budgies, canaries and other flying creatures, he has tried to re-create a pterodactyl but has not succeeded yet!!!!

Sgt Lyall McGregor from Queenstown. Lyall served in 31 Battery in Dunedin and has a number of stories to tell about his service, one appears later in the Newsletter.

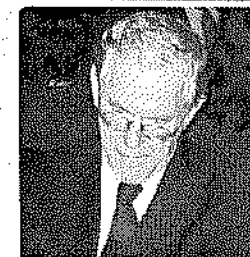
WO1 Frank Parry joins from Tauranga. Frank originally came from the UK where he served as a gun fitter from 1950-1957 then joined the NZ Army where he served with 10th Coast Regiment and 22 Battery before joining Don Kenning's 161 Battery, Vietnam. Have a look at paragraph 6, there are a couple of stories about our fearless warrior. *Might I add that I am thrilled that Frank has joined the Old Comrades.*



Rdr Arthur King from TeAwamutu. Artie joined 4 Medium Battery in 1978 and stayed there until 2003 with a short break when he did a TOD to the Antarctic in 1983



Capt Greg Thwaite from Auckland. Greg served in a number of appointments in 16 Field Regiment including Sect Comd, A/Adjt and OP. Greg also has the distinction of being an attorney in LA, Germany and Paris and being Honorary Consul in Panama



Resigned

Colin Putt. April 2007

From members, about members and interesting reflections, some true, some - well?

1. Dinga Bell is still not able to travel far but sends his apologies that he cannot be with us at Reunion 2007, also make the comment 'the Newsletter is bloody magic'. *Thanks Dinga I am pleased to say that I receive a number of similar comments.*
2. Darkie Forrester is not in the best of health and writes apologising that he will not be able to make it to the reunion and sent a rather large donation with the note 'This time I want you to belly up to the bar with all my ex gunners and shout them a drink and give your old friend a Toast. **Darkie** also made a suggestion for a name for the Newsletter being 'Stand Fast', he carries on to say 'keep those great interesting Newsletters coming in. You're doing a grand job as always'. *Thanks Darkie a lot of the work the work that I put into the Newsletters is only due to following people like yourself without whose guidance in the past I would not be able to achieve what I do today. THANKS.*
3. David Weston, Rob Munro, Cyril Hill, Russ Martin, Les Wright, Howard Jones, Neddy Wylde, Peter Christian send best wishes for Reunion 2007 and their apologies for not being able to attend and more great comments about the Newsletter. **Les, Rod Simpson, Les Pye and many others** brought it to my attention that I had forgotten the block of addresses. *Well it was my first effort with a booklet using Microsoft Publisher and I got in one b—ers muddle with pictures in the wrong place and captions in the wrong place but savagery prevailed after punching my computer and throwing the instruction manuals around my office and my toys out of the cot I got there in the end only to find I had no room for the address block, better luck next time, I will try some of my clever and devious schemes that do sometimes turn to custard, mustard and you know what else. Thanks for the encouragement chaps, I do feel there is some sort of conspiracy going on so that I can never have grounds for resignation!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I am not allowed to name names, but scattered around here are a number of people who have made very generous donations to the Association*
4. Some handy little suggestions for those who deserve it, from Maxine.
 "Build a bridge - and get over it!"
 "Why don't you slip into something more comfortable - like a coma!"
 "I don't know what your problem is but I'll bet it is hard to pronounce!"
 "If a man's home is his castle then he can learn to clean it!"
 "As long as there are tests, prayer WILL remain in Public Schools!"

"How do you prevent sagging. Just eat unlike the wrinkles fill out!"
 "If you woke up breathing. Congratulations, you have another chance!"
 "Life is like a roll of toilet paper, as you get to the end the faster it goes!"
 "I am not hard of hearing, I am ignoring you!"

And from the pen of the late **Alastair Ross**

You say it cannot be done,
 I say that is not true,
 I say it can be done,
 But not by you!

5. From Snr, Sgt Wayne Salt (Henry's boy !!) and Graham Roch

Wayne attended an ANZAC Day parade in Australia and tells us that he wore his Old Comrades badge with pride and it was quite the talking point among some of his Australian friends.

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The Soldier stood and faced his God,
 Which must always come to pass.
 He hoped his shoes were shining,
 Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, you Soldier,
 How shall I deal with you?
 Have you always turned the other cheek?
 To My Church have you been true?"

The Soldier squared his shoulders and said,
 "No, my Lord, I ain't.
 Because those of us who carry guns,
 Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
 And at times my talk was tough.
 And sometimes I've been violent,
 Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a dollar,
 That wasn't mine to keep...
 Though I worked a lot of overtime,
 When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
 Though at times I shook with fear.
 And sometimes, God, forgive me,
 I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the Soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you Soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell."
~Author Unknown~

It's the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press.

It's the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech.

It's the Soldier, not the politicians, that ensures our right to Life, Freedom and the Pursuit of Happiness.

It's the Soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag.

THESE COLORS DON'T RUN

If you can read this – then thank a Primary School Teacher!

If you are reading this in English then thank a soldier!!

6. From Frank Parry

When I returned from my tour to Vietnam I was with a group of other senior NCO's and staged in Singapore for a couple of days before continuing to N. We duly went to the Britannia Club where we fortified ourselves with 'lemonade' for a while and on leaving found a snake charmer outside. A 'volunteer' was chosen to have a snake wrapped around his neck for photographs. The snake's tail was hanging down behind the 'volunteer's back and was showing total disinterest in the said volunteer so I decided to hurry it up a bit and sunk my teeth into the snake's tail. The snake was now quite interested and the volunteer, now known as Graeme Black, got rid of it smartly with a few choice words towards me. Well the snake tasted awful, the snake charmer had a fit and old Blackie wouldn't talk to me for a while, however, I gave the charmer US\$5, bought Blackie a 'lemonade' and all was forgiven. *Frank, I want you to recall the The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam which goes like this:*

*The moving finger writes and having writ moves on
Nor all thy piety nor wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line
Nor all thy tears wash out a word of it.*

Basically meaning that what you did is written in the sands of time and if you see me approaching with a small sack and what appears to be a flute like musical instrument my advice is 'Head for the hills' I could have studied snake charming.

Anyway, another situation occurred with **Frank** in the Sergeant's Mess tent in Vietnam and it involved a Vietnamese concrete block. These blocks were not as big as ours and when they made them I am sure they must have used one teaspoon of cement to a shovel of sand because they were not particularly strong. One night we had a group of American friends in the Mess and **Johnny McMeiken** decided to display his karate skills and smash on of these blocks with his bare hand (they didn't know the blocks were no too strong). John gave Frank the block and then went through the rigmarole of toughening up his hand by banging it on the bar and against the tent pole much to the wonderment of the Americans. When he had everyone's attention he said to Frank "Right, hold that block so I can karate chop it in half" and turned around to find Frank had chewed his way through the block. Well you just had to be there to see Frank with sand and spittle down his chin and a silly look on his face as much as to say "Who needs to chop it in half, I can do it with my teeth!"

7. Flies, although pests, they can cause much discussions

To appreciate this discussion you need to know how an aeroplane lands. It glides in to the field, looses speed, stalls and lands, also it must be in the direction ordered by air traffic control.

One evening in an RAF Mess during WW2 some fighter pilots had a discussion as to how a fly lands on a ceiling. No problem on the floor, it just glides in, stalls and gently alights. How then on a ceiling. How about a half loop and at the top of the loop stalls and lands on the roof—not possible, by stalling it would drop down to the floor, and upside down—PRANG. Not only that, it is now facing the opposite to his direction of flight. The air traffic controller would not be impressed. Ok then what about a half roll, the fly then is facing his original direction of flight and is in a good position to land with his sticky hind legs attaching themselves to the ceiling and his front legs coming down into a good three point landing. Of course this discussion went on for some time until they were all ordered off to bed.

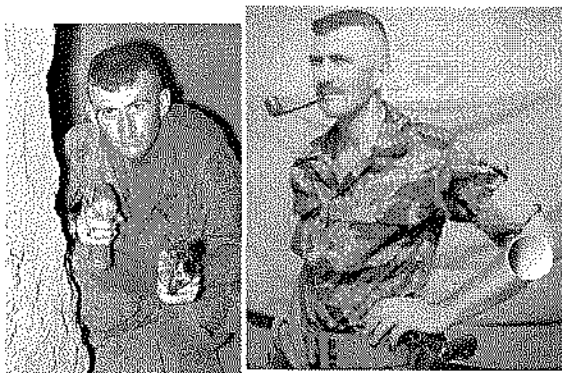
After the war high speed cameras revealed that a fly lands on the ceiling after executing a half roll, but in fact lands with his sticky front feet and the other feet drop down (oops, up. John Masters I hope you note I have spelled that word as you desire!!!!) for a perfect landing!!!!!!

8. Lt Col Charles (Pappy) Patchin US 173rd Airborne Brigade

Often I make mention of **Pappy** and at last I have been able to obtain a couple of photos of him. He was present in Bien Hoa with 3 Bn 319 Arty Regt when

161 Battery was under command of the 173rd ABN and was attached to 161 Bty for a while. Denis got to know him very well and sees him from time to time at 173rd Reunions. He was invited to become a member of the Old Comrades due to his 'attachment and close affinity thereto'. **Pappy** Lives in Syracuse, New York and is a very strong member of our Association.

From 'Tunnel Rat' to smart young 'Sky Soldier'!!!!



9. Robin Stephens

Another photo I have managed to obtain.

Robin joined the Regular Force in 1961 and transferred to the RNZA when NZWRAC was deactivated in 1977

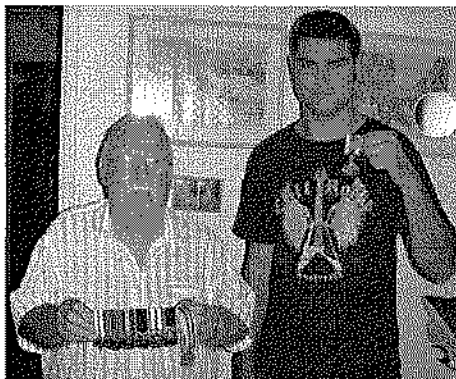
Robin is travelling up from the South Island to be with us at this year's Reunion



10. Ivan John

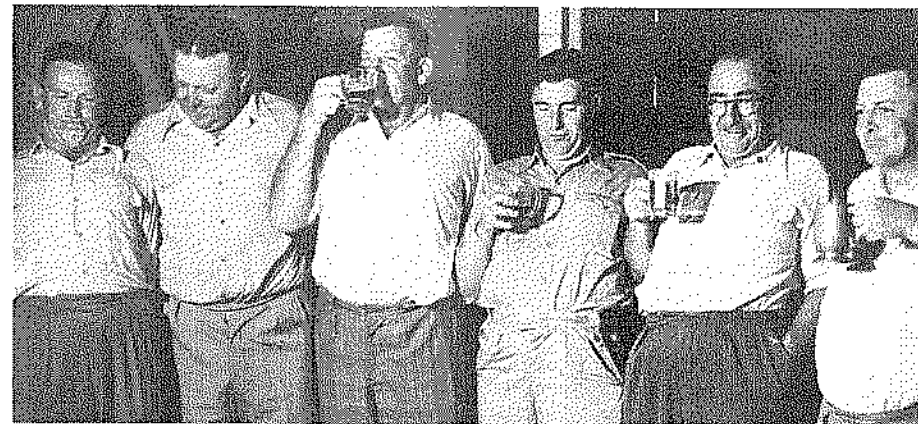
One of our stalwarts from Australia, I met his son **Clayton** at the Gunner's Day Dinner in Papakura last year where he was very keen to know all about us and as he had the right credentials joined immediately with his dad. **Clayton** keeps me abreast of a lot of Australian goings on.

Ivan John with his service medals and his Grandson Michael John (L/ Bdr 103 Mdm Bty, RAA) on Michael's return from the Solomon's Jan '07. Although Ivan was a Div Sig, he had close association with RNZA, with several postings to Gunner Regiments and supported Arty Comms for many years, including active service during WWII. Ivan is a member of the Association and will be known to many of the Gunners who served from WWII though to the end of '74.

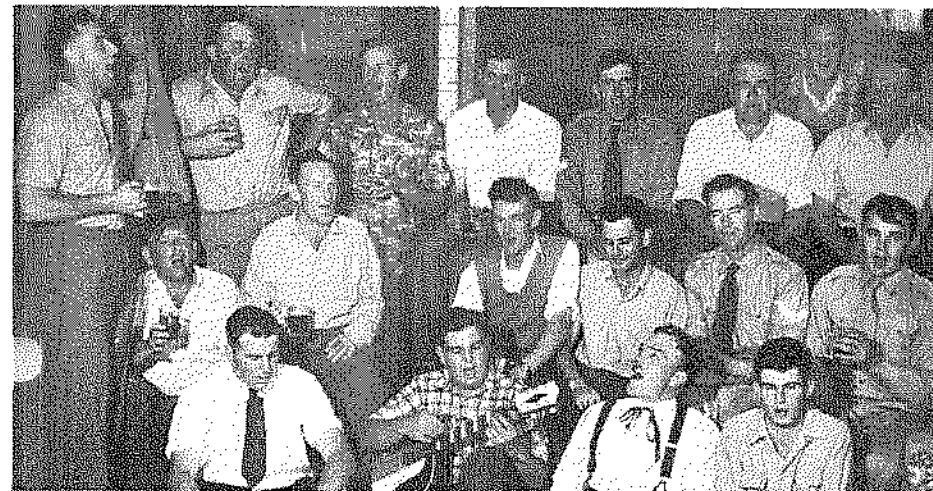


11. Artillery Wing Papakura, about Christmas 1953

Rusty Vail very kindly sent me a pile of old photos and here are just a couple of them.



WO1 Les Auty, Ssgt Ron Bennett, WO1 Joe Cook, ?, WO1 Hugh (Nudger) Black (no relation), Maj Dinty Moor.



Back row ?, Ron Bennett, Sid McKenzie, ?, Arthur Woodward, Nudger Black, Darcy Pollard, Zig Schroder.

Middle row Joe Cook, Les Auty, Irv Merson, Ray Parker, ?, Noel Brough.

Front row ?, ?, Rusty Vail, PBA (Peter) Williams

At this stage I was finishing off my two years in Regular Force Cadets and joined Artillery Wing in January 1954 and believe me, if I could have those days back again I would be there like a rocket.

12. Barry Dreyer sent this true story of stranger than fiction from Associated

Press

At the 1994 annual awards dinner given for Forensic Science, AAFS President Dr. Don Harper Mills astounded his audience with the legal complications of a bizarre death.

On March 23, 1994 ... the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head. Mr. Opus had jumped from the top of a ten-story building intending to commit suicide. He left a note to the effect indicating his despondency.

As he fell past the ninth floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast passing through a window, which killed him instantly. Neither the shooter nor the deceased was aware that a safety net had been installed just below the eighth floor level to protect some building workers and that Ronald Opus could not have been able to complete his suicide the way he had planned.

"Ordinarily," Dr Mills continued, "Someone who sets out to commit suicide and ultimately succeeds, even though the mechanism might not be what he intended, is still defined as committing suicide." That Mr. Opus was shot on the way to certain death, but probably would not have been successful because of the safety net, caused the medical examiner to feel that he had a homicide on his hands.

An elderly man and his wife occupied the room on the ninth floor, where the shotgun blast emanated. They were arguing vigorously and he was threatening her with a shotgun! The man was so upset that when he pulled the trigger, he completely missed his wife and the pellets went through the window, striking Mr. Opus.

When one intends to kill subject "A" but kills subject "B" in the attempt, one is guilty of the murder of subject "B." When confronted with the murder charge, the old man and his wife were both adamant, and both said that they thought the shotgun was not loaded. The old man said it was a long-standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention to murder her. Therefore the killing of Mr. Opus appeared to be an accident; that is, assuming the gun had been accidentally loaded.

The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple on loading the shotgun about six weeks prior to the fatal accident. It transpired that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother. Since the loader of the gun was aware of this, he was guilty of the murder even though he didn't actually pull the trigger. The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus.

Now comes the exquisite twist. Further investigation revealed that the son was, in fact, Ronald Opus. He had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the ten-story building on March 23rd, only to be killed by a shotgun blast passing through the ninth story window. The son, Ronald Opus, had actually murdered himself. Therefore, the medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

13. At last Gunners are flying again,

NZ ARMY ISTAR BATTLELAB

By Captain R Harrison RNZE UAV Project Officer 16 Fd Regt

Establishing the groundwork for evaluation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) has been progressing over the last year with the establishment of an Intelligence Surveillance Targeting and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) Battlilab in 16 Fd Regt.

Although ISTAR covers a multitude of disciplines and sensor types, initial focus has been on evaluating and testing tactical UAVs. Other areas such as ground based robotics and sensors are possible areas of future investigation. Work started last year with the selection of the Defence Technology Agency (DTA) UAV named the KAHU-HAWK as an optimum system for experimentation. This included the production of moulds to continually produce the main components such as the wings and fuselage. A local Palmerston North contractor Skycam NZ has assembled the airframes and is contracted to provide maintenance and repair support under DTA technical control.

The initial capability consists of four UAVs with full motion video and vertical camera capability, two ground control stations, training of four officers and soldiers from 16 Fd Regt in aviation training at Massey University and simulation systems supported by the Army Simulation Centre. Part of the development has also seen Gnr M Speedy RNZA deploy on ANZAC Exchange and Bdr G Prentice RNZA on Exercise Long Look.

Initial manufacturer acceptance flights have been completed and a successful flight demonstration has been provided to Comd 2LFG and Army GS staff.

Future UAV flying will be focused on continuation training as part of battle preparation for future exercises. This will mainly occur in Restricted Airspace designated for UAV use near Pahiatua, 30 mins drive from Linton Camp. Co-operation with DTA to further enhance the UAV systems particularly in areas such as sensors and flight performance will also factor in the future flight schedule.

The following performance data although not definitive, provide a basic guide to the capability of the NZ Army's UAV system at present.

Endurance: 80 Mins

Maximum Speed: 120 Km/hr

Power plant: Electric Motor powered by lithium polymer batteries

Effective range 12 kms with effective time on target 50 mins.

Communication: VHF Line of sight approx 25 kms Max

Weight: 3.3 Kg

Payload: Daylight full motion video or Daylight vertical camera.

Maximum permissible Wind Speed : 50 Km (27 Knots)

It is interesting to note that the drone pilots are fully fledged pilots, completing their training with Massey University School of Aviation and are rated VFR (Visual Flight Rules) in a Piper Warrior PA28 161, (see next page). It is not just a case of flying what is in effect a model aeroplane, they have to do it with other airspace users so must know the Theory, and more importantly the

RULES of flight. RNZAF are taking a professional interest in this venture providing any help requested and have a trained pilot with them.

Piper Warrior PA28 161



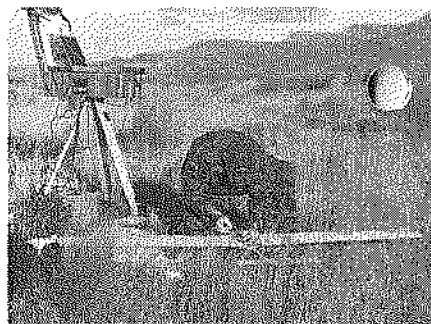
L/Bdr R OByrne conducts a UAV flight whilst being observed by British Army UAV Operator Bdr W Austin 32 Regt RA (Ex Long Look)



An example of the type of motion video provided in real-time to observers from the UAV. Data recorded includes: Latitude/Longitude/Altitude/Airspeed and groundspeed/UTC time (Z)/heading/Pitch and Roll.



P/O McKenzie (RNZAF) assembles the UAV as part of the pre-flight procedures.



14.CO 16th Field Regiment, Lt Col Nick Gillard and the Chief Instructor School of Artillery, Maj Stuart Brown have gratefully offered their assistance with articles for our Newsletter. The UAV article was prompted by Nick and following is an article from the School.

School of Artillery – Update May 2007

The School of Artillery, under the leadership of Chief Instructor (CI) Major Stuart Brown and Master Gunner (MG) Warrant Officer Class 1 Wayne McAsey, continues to be the centre of excellence for all things gunnery. The current establishment consists of 3 Officers, 4 Warrant Officers and 7 SNCO's. Currently we have WO2 Damon Mitchell over in Canada on the Master Gunner course, he's due back next month. Also were about to lose WO2 William Dickson (yes he's still here) on an operational tour to Afghanistan with Crib 11.

Months on intensive training from the School Staff and the successful completion of exercises "Hellfire & Brimstone" saw 16 Fd Regt receive 4 qualified Young Officers (they're looking younger and a younger each year) added to its ranks, along with 4 qualified RNZA Signals Sergeants (3 of them British recruitments) and 3 Guns Bombardiers (one of them from our Territorial Force brethren).

Exercise "Brimstone" was a slightly new concept for the standard testing field exercise. Kapyong Battery was deployed in a Forward Operating Base (FOB) and deployed out to different areas both at troop and battery levels as apposed to the standard move from ARA to ARA. The exercise participants thoroughly enjoyed the change of environment, with live firing occurring from the FOB and standard gun positions throughout the Waiouru Training Area.

With no courses currently running at the school, the school staff are able to continue their ever present task of updating and modifying their TMP's. Along with this break in the Individual Training Period the opportunity has arisen to get a well deserved break in the form of Adventure Training. The majority of the school staff are about to depart for a bit of sailing with the Navy and then a bit of Tramping, Mountain Biking, Kayaking and Fishing in the Tauranga Area. A lot of fun to be had by all I'm sure.

Article by:

Dennis Stewart

Sergeant

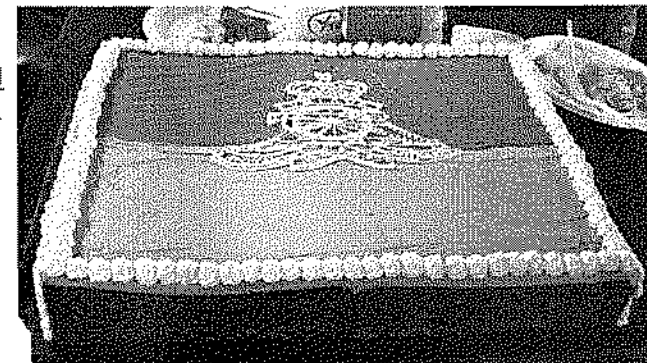
Assistant Instructor Gunnery (AIG)

School of Artillery

15. Some pics of RNZA

personnel in Afghanistan arranged by Lt Col Gillard and supplied by WO2 Evan Kareko.

The Gunner's Day cake, note the bone china plates.



Maj Harvey, Lt Col Mike Baker (in chair), Maj Parker, Lt Weston.



Gunner's Day 26 May 2007. The RNZA in Afghanistan

However, let us also spare a thought for Iraq

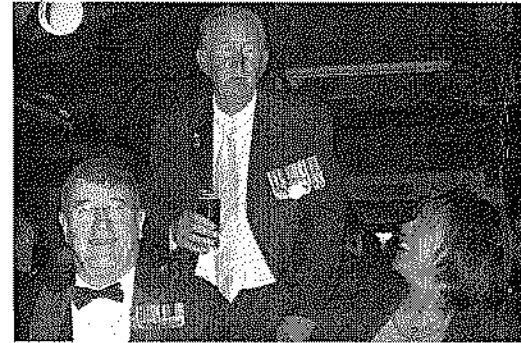


16. Gunner's Day Dinner 2007 Papakura RSA

Again top marks to Jeff Waters, Denis Dwane, the RNZA Band, the Papakura RSA, the School Cadet Unit and any of the helpers who did their bit for another absolutely brilliant evening.

About 170 people gathered for the evening and if you did not attend then that is your fault. It was the 291st Anniversary of the signing of the Royal Warrant bringing the Royal Artillery into existence, so in another nine years we (I hope) will be able to celebrate the 300th, make a note on your calendar to be there because I am sure that it will be the best ever.

Again this year Georgie and I stayed at the Monument Motel, only a \$5 taxi fare to the RSA and when we went home the RSA arranged the cab. Just a great evening all round.



Denis Dwane, Stan Green, Margaret Dwane



Yogi Young, Allan & Elsie Boyd



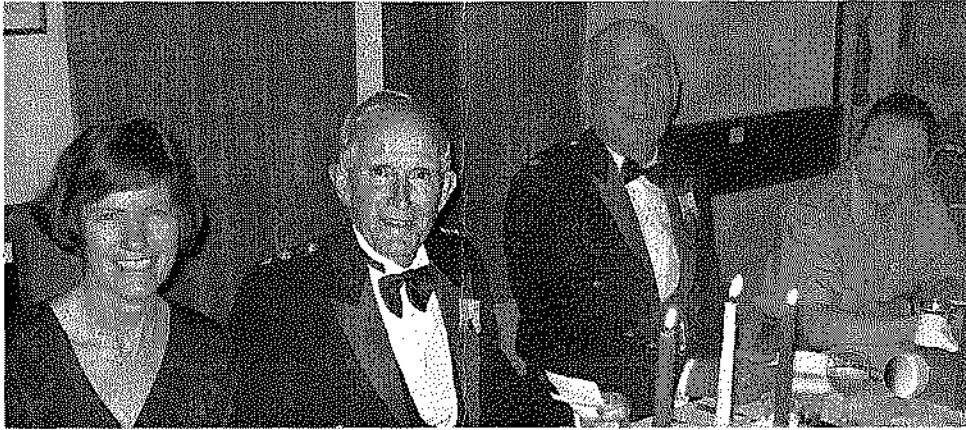
Bill Giles & Marie Roberts but don't panic, there is Emma on the other side of the table with Jan Rout and daughter (chaperone!!) Cara.



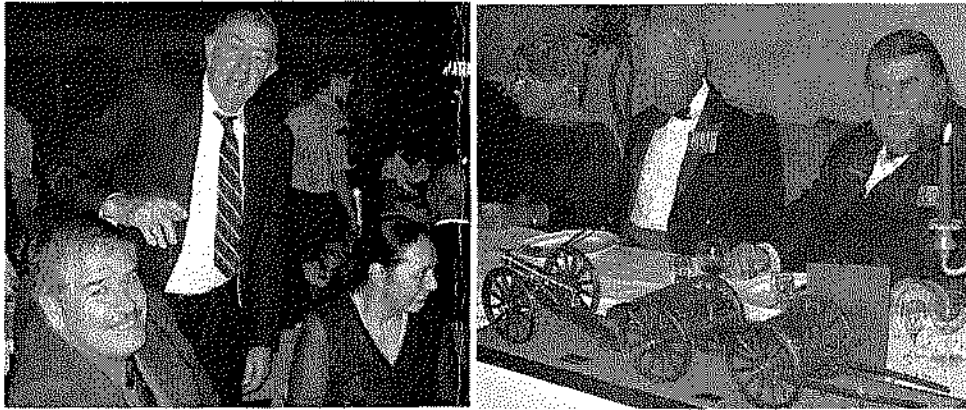
Georgie & Hon Sec Graeme Black

Ray & Laurie Andrews





Judy & Barry Dreyer, Rod Baldwin, and young lady from 11/4 Bty



Peter Baker, Noel Blackburne
and Josephine Baker

Janine and Graham Birch, Jeff Waters.

Along with the magnificent Dinner at Papakura here are some of the messages we received on Gunner's Day

Bob Kerslake, Ron Turner Ladies and Gentlemen, I greet you well! While every day is Gunners Day, 26 May is special, I wish you all a great day as tomorrow dawns on the 291 Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Regiment. **Roger Newth** I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Gunner's Day for today, and whichever way you commemorate today, I wish you all well. **Grant Box** Fellow Gunners - From sunny Waiomu on the Coromandel Peninsula, I wish you all a happy Gunners Day 2007 - I hope you all enjoy your celebrations, however large or small! My Kindest Regards.

Eldon Bryant in Townsville. It is indeed my humble pleasure to respond on behalf of the Royal Australian Artillery Association - North Queensland members by conveying reciprocal best wishes to your President and

Members for today, Gunners Day 2007. **John Osborne, Brian Edmonds** Greetings to you also, today also celebrates the Birthdays of the late Jack Keinzley, one J.S.M.Tulloch, last seen in a TV Programme at the Royal Military Academy in the UK as an Instructor and that damn wrecker of Rovers in Cairns. May you and yours have an enjoyable day. **Lt Col Mike Baker** Happy Gunner's Day from the RNZA 62 gunners serving in Afghanistan. (see Mike on page 14.) **Geoff Annette** (Australia) Happy Birthday from us down under. Ubique. **Brian Hewitt** Please convey my salutations to fellow gunners on this our very special day. **Rick Williams** I send fraternal greetings to you all on just another boringly warm and cloudless day in the sunshine capital. **Pat Duggan** All the very best to each and every one of you. Here's to several other gunners who shared this day as a birthday too namely the late Jack Keinzley, The late David Lough, The late Dave Roberts, Dennis Palmer and Pat Duggan. Warm fraternal greetings to you all, take care and keep your powder dry. **John Masters** of course heartily reciprocated on a perfect autumn afternoon at the heart of Crusader Country. So temper fugits **John Ovens. Terry Farrell. Brian 'Jerry' Meyer. James**

Horn Thank you all for your greetings for Gunners Day. The South visited Tuatapere where there are Two ex Turkish guns (Krupp built) on display and well looked after. A Wreath was laid and a Piper played a lament and then a revival. The Royal Regiment was toasted at the RSA rooms where we had afternoon tea and refreshments. We departed Invercargill at 1400hrs and arrived back at 1900hrs. Spencer Morrison was the parade marshal and there were some 30 Gunners, Wives and local RSA members present. **Ted Lile. Arthur Bretherton** (Australia). **Paul Galloway** Thought I would share the wonderful dawn that greeted us as we awoke the City with two blank rounds from the L5. 30 gunners a couple of engineers and supporters turned out and enjoyed rum and coffee and a toast to the Regt. You can be sure our traditions are alive and well in the deep south. **Pamela Terry** (RNZNC Vietnam). **Shay Bassett. Lindsay Skinner** Thanks Graeme, we had a good turnout at the National War Memorial with excellent weather and retired to the Johnsonville RSA after our service. I believe that this will once again be the gathering point for gunners in Wellington. **Russ Martin** Thanks Graeme, nice to be reminded of our history. Getting on for 300 years eh? Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself. Regards to yourself and all old colleagues wherever you may find them.

17. From David Lackey in Ottawa where his wife is High Commissioner

I've was recently invited to join the Ottawa Gunners (an "Old Comrades" sort of group) who have a mess (the 'OP') on the top floor of the Army Officers Mess - in a very fine old mansion in the City.

As always, I find it slightly terrifying to be surrounded by mostly Colonels and above, with a good sprinkling of General officers, though somewhat less so than at one drinks session with the Canberra RAA Association when the only blokes to show were Lieutenant Lackey and two RSMs!. The fact of the matter is that this great bunch of guys are retired career COLD warriors who not only

haven't seen a shot fired in anger but, during the Trudeau era, had two gunner regiments but no guns!

Today, however, I had my eyes truly opened when we were lectured by the BC of A Battery RCHA (the horses are LAVs) who spent 7 months in Afghanistan last year.

Suffice it to say that, not having touched a gun since 1968, I am more out-of-date than most of you - nevertheless what I learned today was fascinating to say the least and, at the risk of telling you all how eggs are sucked, I thought I'd share some of it with you.

He deployed his 155 battery in two troupes positioned about a kilometer or so apart, but in the middle of the battle group's operational area (i.e the infantry are deployed all around the gun positions). There is minimal digging in but a manned Armored surveillance vehicle at four points of the compass. The reasons for the dual GP are twofold (a) they are often required to give such close support (which is made possible by the incredible accuracy of their computer systems) that they don't want to run out of low charge bags, which could happen if they had a series of targets at close quarters and (b) it allows him to reduce the overhead factor. I say reduce, but they lay the two guns at 90 degrees to each other, to enable them to more quickly engage a target over 360 degrees. The FOOs use hand held screens showing real-time surveillance of the target (supplied by satellite or drones) and are completely networked to FACs and support aircraft. If a FOO calls in an aircraft his or her (sadly, they lost a woman FOO KIA last year) hand-held screen duplicates the pilot's windscreen display.

For most fire missions they double up the tech data (to ensure initial accuracy) and then adjust using one gun, as we did. Their accuracy is such that they quickly go for FFE. The interesting thing is that they then tend to use just that one gun. The targets are often so close to supported units, that they are reluctant to risk bringing in a second, un-adjusted, gun. The 155s can fire 5 rounds a minute in short bursts and 3 rpm over a longer period.

His powerpoint stuff took us through the whole process This surgical target hitting is just so impressive but, despite the advances in technology, the human stresses and strains remain the same. They do have shrinks available and apparently they do good business! (Thinks: If 161 Bty had had a shrink, my life could have been entirely different!)

What came out loud and clear is that, despite all the new toys, the guns are still the weapon of choice for close support - and no one moves on the battlefield without them. Quelle relief - we are not dinosaurs after all!

18. Time for a laugh from Roger Newth

The following 15 Police Comments were taken from actual police car videos around the country...

15. "Relax; the handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch out after you wear them awhile."
14. "Take your hands off the car, and I'll make your birth certificate a worthless document."

13. "If you run, you'll only go to jail tired."
12. "Can you run faster than 1200 feet per second? In case you didn't know, that's the average speed of a 9 mm bullet fired from my gun."
11. "So you don't know how fast you were going. I guess that means I can write anything I want on the ticket, huh?"
10. "Yes, sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I am the shift supervisor?"
9. "Warning? You want a warning? O.K., I'm warning you not to do that again or I'll give you another ticket."
8. "The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Is Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?"
7. "Fair? You want me to be fair? Listen, fair is a place where you go to ride on rides, eat cotton candy, and step in monkey poop."
6. "Yeah, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven."
5. "No, sir, we don't have quotas anymore. We used to have quotas, but now we're allowed to write as many tickets as we want."
4. "Just how big were those two beers?"
3. "In God we trust, all others we run through CPIC/NCIC."
2. "I'm glad to hear the Chief of Police is a good personal friend of yours. At least you know someone who can post your bail."
- 1 "You didn't think we gave pretty women tickets? You're right, we don't - Sign here.

19. From Barry Dreyer

Political Quote of the Week

*"An extraordinary affair. I gave them their **orders** and they wanted to stay and discuss them."* **Arthur Wellesley** - Duke of Wellington, (After his first Cabinet meeting as Prime Minister). *Ain't that just like civilians?????????*

20. Roger 'Neddy Q' Wylde reminisces about the Coast Artillery and other days gone but not forgotten.

^h for the good old days and fun on the 'Range' on a sunny Saturday morning, Cook Strait.

Scene: Instructional shoot from Fort Dorset by a 3.7 inch Heavy Anti-Aircraft gun in the 'Coast Artillery' role.

CI: 'Gentleman Jack' - GPO under instruction one 'Swoop'. Safety Officer 'Neddy Q' on HDML (Harbour Defence Motor Launch) 'Bombardier' under command of Dan Foley.

'Neddy' is enjoying his day on the ocean in Cook Strait when the 'Bombardier' came up on two gentlemen in a dinghy fishing in the middle of the range. "Bugger off!" sez Ned and got the reply "You guys couldn't hit the proverbial" and decided not to move. As we argued I called the Command Post (CP) "Stopped by Safety - Range fouled by fishing vessel" when down came ranging rounds pretty well on target. By this time the dinghy was getting well into danger as the 'Splash Targets' moved up on it. Frantic Red Flag action and radio activity as three rounds 'Gun Fire' from the Battery firing HE came

down around the targets AND the gentlemen fishers. It transpired that 'Swoop' had taken an unorthodox shortcut by Ladder Ranging and the CI had him in a corner of the CP telling him the error of his ways and both left the guns to get on with the sport. The poor signalman had not been able to get his message through the verbals in the CP.

How does poor old 'Safety' put a cork in the activities by being all at sea and not being able to throw his hat on the ground and jump on it?

Neddy carries on to report that he and Jean are both well apart from a bit of bad luck where he went arse over head in the street and busted a leg and Jean took a tumble (*ladies take tumbles*) and broke (*ladies break don't bust*) her arm so both were in plaster for while but are both back socialising again.

Neddy also had memories of **Vic Meyle's** corduroy road in the Shepherds Hut area of Paradise Valley. 1959 and two courses running at the same time the School of Artillery proceeded to Paradise Valley to conduct a 'high angle' shoot and became hopelessly bogged in the Shepherd's Hut area. We managed to winch the guns out of trouble and onto the gun positions but **Vic** decided to construct a corduroy road behind us as we moved on. That is, he got many logs and branches and laid them across the tracks ready for the return journey later in the day. And what do you know we came out another way. I can still hear **Vic** going crook about his corduroy road that we did not use after all, and I would almost bet that although rotted and overgrown it is still there.

21. Old Comrades Reunion Taupo 2 - 4 November 2007

If you require accommodation at the Spa and have not yet replied then I regret that all accommodation at the Spa has been booked. However, there are plenty of superb Motels in Taupo.

The Reunion will run much the same as previous years:

Friday mix and mingle at the Taupo RSA from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

Saturday 10.00am, AGM at the Spa Hotel Old Dining Room.

Saturday about 1.00pm the **Armed Constabulary Re-Enactment Society** will provide a demonstration at the Spa Valley using Coehorn Mortars and Armstrong Cannons. This is being provided at much personal expense by the Re-enactment Society so please make sure you attend.

Saturday 6.30 for 7.00pm Reunion Dinner at the Taupo Bowling Club.

Sunday 0930 Reunion Church Parade at the Spa Meeting House.

22. Did you know?

In the last Newsletter I suggested a good read would be "A Short History of Nearly Everything" by Bill Bryson and to generate a bit of interest in the book let me quote a few pieces:

When talking about $E = mc^2$ Bill goes on to comment that "You may not feel outstandingly robust, but if you are an average-sized adult you will contain within your modest frame no less than 7×10^{18} joules of potential energy - enough to explode with the force of thirty very large hydrogen bombs, assuming you knew how to liberate it and really wished to make a point. Even a uranium bomb - the most energetic thing we have produced yet - releases less

than 1 per cent of the energy it could release if only we were more cunning." *Now I happen to know the odd one or two of us who are able to release some of that energy, however, it is very much **uncontrolled**, i.e. everything going in the wrong direction doing the wrong thing, upsetting all around. How else did I manage to be offered my terminal posting to **Waiouru**.*

"Atmosphere". To give an example of how much atmosphere there is, take an ordinary sized classroom globe of Earth, give it a couple of coats of varnish and you have the equivalent thickness of the atmosphere. *Not much eh !!!!!*

"Most living things are small and easily overlooked". In practical terms, this is not always a bad thing. You might not slumber quite so contentedly if you were aware that your mattress and pillow are home to perhaps two million microscopic mites, which come out in the wee hours to sup on your sebaceous oils and feast on all those lovely, crunchy flakes of skin that you shed as you doze and toss. Also, these mites are that small that the weave of your pillow case is like a ship's rigging to them. And forget getting rid of all those nasties with your super duper hygiene because we are actually getting worse in those matters, it is believed that the move towards low-temperature washing-machine detergents has encouraged bugs to proliferate - if you wash lousy clothing at low temperatures all you get is cleaner lice !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Now here is the scariest bit out of Bill's book and I will quote it verbatim so that nothing is lost in my untrained editing.

"The Stuff of Life. If your parents hadn't bonded just when they did - possibly to the second - you wouldn't be here. And if their parents hadn't bonded in a precisely timely manner you wouldn't be here.

Push backwards through time and these ancestral debts begin to add up. Go back just eight generations to about the time when Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln were born, and already there are over 250 people on whose timely couplings your existence depends. Continue further, to the time of Shakespeare and the Mayflower pilgrims and you have no fewer than 16,384 ancestors earnestly exchanging genetic material in a way that would, eventually and miraculously, result in you.

If you go back sixty-four generations, to the time of the Romans, the number of people on whose co-operative efforts your eventual existence depends has risen to approximately one million trillion, which is several thousand times the total number of people who have ever lived.

Clearly something has gone wrong with our maths here. The answer, it may interest you to learn, is that your line is not pure. You couldn't be here without a little incest — actually quite a lot of incest — albeit at a genetically discreet remove. With so many millions of ancestors and you background, there will have been many occasions when a relative from your mother's side of the family procreated with some distant cousin on your father's side of the ledger. In fact, if you are in a partnership now with someone from your own race and country, the chances are that at some level you are related. Indeed, if you

look around you on a bus or in a park or in a café, or any crowded place, *most* of the people you see are very probably relatives. When someone boasts to you that they are descended from Shakespeare or William the Conqueror, you should answer at once: 'Me, too!' In the most literal and fundamental sense we are all family." *I told you in the beginning that it was scary — YOU may be related to ME !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And after I explained all that to my gym instructor, as quick as a flash he said: "Could I borrow twenty bucks please Uncle Graeme.*

23. Feijoas

How many of you know much about the delightful fruit. My first knowledge of pruning them came from an old Māori friend of mine as we plucked some fruit off a tree at the golf course. He explained to me that the particular tree badly needed pruning and to do that you remove any growth that is liable to touch another — open the tree right out. Also listening to ZB Talkback with Dar Morrison when he had a gardening guru in the Station with him, they discussed the care of the feijoa tree. He said that after pruning a bird should be able to fly through the tree, so Danny suggested that you should go to the supermarket and buy a size 6 chicken and throw it at your tree and anything that the chicken hits you cut it off!!! Don't be concerned if you see birds eating the flowers which have attractive pohūtukawa-like red stamens, they are the favourite food of thrushes and blackbirds, also the flower petals are sweet and edible. As birds eat the petals they pollinate the flowers, bees may also be pollinators. Fertilize with general or citrus fertilizer, or another that my Chinese neighbour suggested for ALL fruit trees is potash, in powder form. Generally you should have two trees for cross pollination but that is not always the case because there are trees available that are self pollinating. Do not pick the fruit, wait until it falls off. The trees are shallow rooting so sooner than tilling around it, mulching is better.

24. From Roger Newth

"Can I have some Irish Sausages please?" asked the Irishman, walking up to the counter.

The assistant looked at him and asked: "Are you Irish?"

"If I had asked you for Italian sausage, would you ask me if I was Italian?" demanded the Irishman indignantly. "Or, if I asked for German Bratwurst, would you ask me if I was German?" Then, warming to his theme, he went on: "Or, if I asked you for a Kosher hot dog, would you ask me if I was Jewish? "Or, if I asked you for a taco, would you ask me if I was Mexican? Would Ya? Would Ya?"

The assistant said: "Well no."

Suitably encouraged by the success of his logic, the Irishman steps it up a gear. "And if I asked you for frogs legs, would you ask me if I was French?"

"What about Danish Bacon, would you ask me if I was Danish?"

"Well no, I probably wouldn't," conceded the assistant.

So, now bursting with righteous indignation, the Irishman says, "Well, all right then, why did you ask me if I'm Irish just because I asked for Irish sausages?"

The assistant replied: "Because you're in Mitre 10!"

25. A poem written by a terminally ill young girl in a New York Hospital.

Have you ever watched kids

On a merry-go-round?

Or listened to the rain

Slapping on the ground?

Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?

Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You better slow down.

Don't dance so fast.

Time is short.

The music won't last.

Do you run through each day

On the fly?

When you ask How are you?

Do you hear the reply?

When the day is done

Do you lie in your bed

With the next hundred chores

Running through your head?

You'd better slow down

Don't dance so fast.

Time is short.

The music won't last.

Ever told your child.

We'll do it tomorrow?

And in your haste,

Not see his sorrow?

Ever lost touch,

Let a good friendship die

Cause you never had time

To call and say, "I-ii"

You'd better slow down.

Don't dance so fast.

Time is short.

The music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere

You miss half the fun of getting there.

When you worry and hurry through your day,

It is like an unopened gift....

Thrown away

Life is not a race.

Do take it slower

Hear the music

Before the song is over.