

Christmas 2007 Issue



ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

## The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of

*THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION  
(INCORPORATED)*

*Established in 1934 as:*

*THE NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION  
(INCORPORATED)*

*and on 6 November 2004 the name was changed to:*

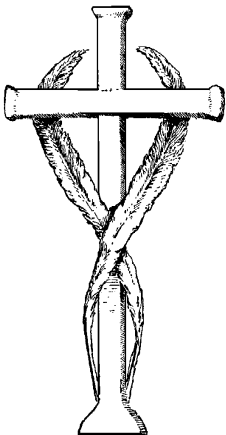
*THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION  
(INCORPORATED)*

*and on 3 November 2007 the name was changed to:*

*THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)*

**Issue Number 136 Dated December 2007**

### *LAST POST*



Irene **McLean**. Napier 2007. Irene was the wife of the late Tiny McLean.

Douglas **Delaney**. Christchurch 17 October 2007.

Leonard **Roberts**. 441247. Wellington 20 November 2007, aged 85.  
He was born July 6, 1922 and did 13 years service, entering the army in 1939 at a young age of 18, and came out in 1952 finishing his military career at the rank of Sergeant. He spent most of this career as an instructor in the Artillery and at one time was the Chief Officer for whole of the Stratford Area.

**Leonard is on the right, on entering the Army at 18**



### *NEW MEMBERS*



**Graeme SMITH** joins us from Taupo. Graeme served in 16th Field Regiment in Korea from 1950 to 1952 then went to the UK with the contingent that attended the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Graeme had hoped to be at this year's reunion but had made other plans.

**Rob GODDARD** joins us from Auckland. Rob served as a 2Lt with 11(a) Bty, 16 Fd Regt. For cardio-vascular exercise, he plays the tuba in the RNZA Band. Rob is employed as a Director of Telecommunications

## ⇒ **REUNION 2007 - TAUPO 2 TO 4 November**

This year's reunion would have to go down as one of the better ones due to the attendance of a number of "gunners" we have not seen for many years and the display provided by members of the Armed Constabulary Re-Enactment Society.

*Those attended were:*

Patron Don Kenning, Col Comdt Graham & Janine Birch, Pres Denis & Margaret Dwane, RSM 16th Regt Robert & Esther McLean, Ray & Laurie Andrews, Peter & Josephine Baker, 'Woody' & Lyn Barrett, Graeme Black, Allan Boyd, Padre Derm Buchanan, Bevin & Lyn Culhane, Mike & Chris Dakin, Barry & Judy Dreyer, Bill & Emma Giles, Fred & Diana Goodall, Bryce & Joan Harrison, Frank & Pat Hopkinson, 'Spike' & Linda Jones, Kerry & Lyn Lee, Ted & Nes Lile, Russell & Kate Martin, Brian (Jerry) Meyer & Linda Novotny, George, Patti & Clive Miln, Ron & Lee Moroney, Roger Newth, Bryan, Paul & Linda O'Connor, Joe Panaho, Michael & Sandy Pearce, TeUpuko & Evelyn Rangitoheriri, Frank & Betty Reid, Marie Roberts, Neil & Shelagh Rhynd, Paddy Ryan, Colin & Shirley Stanbridge, Robyn Stephens, Bill Stewart, Tony Tustin & Patricia Murray, Jeff Waters, John & Angeline Webb, Sherwood & Marie Young and members of the Armed Constabulary Force Re-Enactment Society: Bill & Judy Atkinson, Don Gillies, John & Anne Osborne, Fred & Lisa Tasker, Wayne Valler, Kevin & Cristina Ford.

### **Friday 2 November**

The normal check-in at the Spa Hotel was conducted without any problems, the Spa staff were their normal helpful and accommodating selves, top marks to Diane and Murray Pascoe and their staff. At 3.30pm Taupo Taxis commenced the shuttle of members to the RSA for the two hours of mix and mingle and where many stories tall and true were exchanged. At one stage we almost had the case of an RSA without beer due to a power cut. At 6pm the shuttles returned members to the Spa for dinner, drinks and more stories.

### **Saturday 3 November**

Saturday morning the Spa turned on breakfast fit for a king after which Graeme and Denis were given all the help in the world setting up for the AGM which commenced at 1000 hrs. Denis greeted the assembled members and made mention of the 'Olds' who had come from far and wide, the South Island members, a couple of our newer members Ron Moroney and Laurie Coxhead and members of the Armed Constabulary Force Re-Enactment Society.

The President gave his following report for 2007: "The membership for 2007 has made a net increase of 6 members since 2006 AGM. This is the second year in a row that the membership has moved in a positive direction. The current membership for 2007 is: Full 212, Life 41, Associate 29, Associate Life 15, Honorary 3, Total 300. This financial year the Association has signed up 16 new members. We have also lost 10 members.

I wish to thank the committee who have assisted me in presiding over the association this past year. Once again and for the last time I must single out the Secretary/Treasurer Graeme Buxton Black who has been the conduit for conducting the association's affairs. I must make special mention of his singular efforts in organising the last four reunions, producing the quarterly newsletter and balancing the books. His diligence over those four years has also been a contributing factor in the increase of association members. This leads to a discussion topic that was raised in committee – importance of sharing the load in regard to the Secretarial, Financial and Newsletter responsibilities and most important organising the annual reunion. Enthusiasm only goes so far - we have to be careful that the labour of love does not become a millstone. To do this effectively, it is ideal that the nucleus of the committee is localised. Notwithstanding, some of the responsibilities can be carried out from another area. For example, the annual reunion could be arranged by local people and the newsletter managed away from the committee. The important thing is to be involved voluntarily and without compulsion. Over the last four years we have moved to widen the membership of the Association to be all inclusive to all former and current serving members of the RNZA. At the last AGM a draft was submitted which

approved changes to the rules relating to the membership. Added to this was the need to review our compliance with the regulations governing incorporated associations – that is, better defined responsibilities for the Secretary and the Treasurer and guidelines for the windup of the Association. You will be asked to approve this revision at Notices of Motion.

In closing, I ask that you all assist by taking ownership of our association of the Royal Regiment. The objectives are still welfare oriented - the same as they were on formation 10 Jul 1934. Indeed, it was good to see that we were able to assist one of our members in a monetary way when he was extremely ill. While it is important for us to maintain our links to past serving members, it is important that we maintain contact with our serving gunners. This is to ensure that they have awareness of our objectives so that in the future, they will provide the continuance of our association”.

**Points of interest from the AGM** were the Election of Officers, the most important being that Mike Dakin has accepted the responsibilities of Secretary/Treasurer and Marie Roberts Editor of **The NZ Gunner** (newsletter). Details of the incoming committee can be found on **Page 16**. The next was two Notices of Motion which were both passed unanimously. The 1st was to accept a new modernised **Constitution and Rules** and the 2nd was to change our name to **The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Incorporated)**. It is hoped that with the name change we may attract more of the younger and serving gunners.

In the afternoon and on the grassed area behind the Spa’s meeting house members of the Armed Constabulary Force Re-Enactment Society raised their tents, both the men and women members dressed in period costume, and put into action their cannons and mortars. Then formed up to firstly be inspected by the Deputy Mayor of Taupo and The Colonel Commandant Brig (Rtd) Graham Birch and on a second occasion by our Patron, Col (Rtd) Don Kenning. After the inspections were completed the society members fired both their cannons and mortars. All those who watched were most impressed. A hands on look took place by those gathered and there were many questions asked by the gunners of the society members.. A special thanks go to members of the Armed Constabulary Force Re-Enactment Society for the excellent display they gave.

**Display by members of the Armed Constabulary Force Re-Enactment Society,  
Spa Hotel, Taupo 3 November 2007**





At 6pm members began arriving at the Taupo Bowling club for dinner. Grace was said by our honorary Padre, Derm Buchanan and spaced out during the meal was the drawing of the raffle, as usual the most sought after prize being the model gun (again made by Tony Tustin). A most delightful meal was had by all. Limited speeches/toasts were given by: The Loyal Toast Paul O'Connor, Absent Friends Graeme Black, Our Ladies Denis Dwane, Our Heritage Barry Dreyer, The Royal Regiment John Webb RNZIR. By about 10pm the evening's events were over.

**A selection of photos taken at the Reunion Dinner, Taupo Bowling Club,**



**Sunday 4 November**

Amazingly there was a good turn out of members for the annual church service which was held in the Spa's meeting house, we were also joined by members of the Royal Marines Association. Hymns were sung in fine voice and the lesson read by Derm was thought provoking. Emma Giles read the Roll of Honour (Douglas Delaney, Bill McKenzie, Irene McLean, Vic Meyle, Denis Pederson, Ralph Porter, Rupert Robinson) and Paddy Ryan recited the Ode to the Fallen. Some had the traditional one for the road before all departed for their various destinations.



⇒ **GUNNER THINGS**

**Photos and Article Supplied by:  
Colin Jansen (Ex NZDEF HQ, 22 (D) and 11(A) Btys**



The gunners best friend, yes that right the piasher poles and bore brush in use by myself and compatriot under the cam on Echo Gun, one of 22 Bty's L5.  
Taken at Waiouru in the mid eighties.

This shot is our first introduction to the L119 Light Gun at the School of Guns in Waiouru in the late eighties. For some reason Danny Watson who is now an afternoon host on News Talk ZB was filming on the day for a documentary on the Army.



“Beer, beer, beer said the Gunners, merry men are we”. In this photo the famous 16th Field Regts mobile wet mess in action. A container of brown stuff would follow the regt on exercise. 22 Bty pers pictured here, (L) Bdr Grace, (M) Gnr Moles, (R) Gnr Wayne MacDonald model the Army's new rank slides courtesy of Dominion Breweries.

As some readers may be aware Colin is involved in restoring his WW2 Willys Jeep and he belongs to the Commemorative Air Force. An organisation dedicated to preservation of military aircraft, vehicles, equipment and uniforms etc. This photo is of the 161 Bty in Vietnam display that they fielded at the Armistice Day celebrations in Cambridge recently. Their L5 is incomplete but they are endeavouring to restore the weapon. Since this photo was taken they have sourced a breech ring, anti tank sight and carrier and dial sight and carrier was well as a range of fuse disks. They are still missing the original barrel, slipper, muzzlebrake, LBM, block and trigger mech. If any reader knows where they could find any missing parts or associated stores from the Vietnam era Colin can be contacted at e-mail [worldwar2jeep@cosnet.co.nz](mailto:worldwar2jeep@cosnet.co.nz) or mobile 0274 512 068.



## ⇒ THIS IS THE ARMY - Notes for Beginners - “The GUNNERS”

The gunners (or artillery), so the rest of the Army avers, are of the opinion that they are the cream of all the arms. This opinion naturally enough, is not shared by the other arms. The gunner is a strong fanatical man with staring eyes, who talks learnedly about fuzes, and "Över", and predicted shoots. He regards the evolution of the 25-pounder gun as the greatest single event in the history of warfare. He regards with contempt any projectile smaller than a 6-pounder anti-tank shell.

He is not to be confused with the “concrete gunner”, a different species for whom the pukka gunner has much the same contempt as he has for the rest of the Army. The concrete gunner, victim of this unfair scorn, is the man who stares moodily to sea, year in, year out, hoping that the day will come when he will discharge his fixed defence gun at something other than a towed target or an itinerant whale which some enthusiast has mistaken for a hostile submarine. I will not go further into the miseries of the concrete gunner. The gunner is critical of other gunners, and the rest of the Army is critical of all gunners. It is an education to hear the comments of an assorted hundred spectators watching a shoot from an observation post. The first shell lands short of the target, and someone gloomily observes that it's lucky there's no infantry advancing under the barrage. The next lot of shells are over the target, and dissatisfied murmurs are heard on all sides.

At this stage a stray shell generally lands near the spectators (a common occurrence this, and very suspect; gunners in the OP always look as though they know when it is going to happen), and everyone moves back a hundred yards to avoid any further flying boulders and tree stumps. The next shells hit the target area square, and the gunners look at each other and nod with satisfaction while the rest of the spectators (earthy infanteers and aloof staff officers) mutter to one another “Flukey shooting eh?” or “Took 'em a long time to get on it.

The gunner's idea of heaven is a never-ending Eighth Army type line of 25-pounders pouring hell miles ahead of them—assorted hell, according to shells and fuzes. The gunner likes also the thought of firing point blank at things, this gives him a sort of Waterloo sensation and neutralizes any loose talk which might be flying around about the gunners never getting near the fighting.

The anti-aircraft gunner's life begins and ends with his Bofors and his 3.7's. He pops those off happily at aircraft and generally succeeds in upsetting any enemy aircraft's run over the target, or keeps it at a good height. This however, is not good enough for the rest of the Army. Tangible results are what the non-gunners want to see; an aircraft streaming smoke and heading down into the sea or bush. This happens sometimes. It is then regarded by the infantry as a lucky shot, or the development of engine trouble.

The gunner puts up with the jeers of the Philistines. He rises above it. He thinks long, long thoughts about the 25 pounder. Very occasionally he relaxes. Then it is only to tell interminable and apparently excruciatingly funny stories (to the gunners) about what the GPO said to the WLO at the Op and how the BC sent the message by DR instead of WT. **Queer birds, gunners.**

Written by David McNicol. Published as part of a series in SMH during the 1939-45 War. Supplied by R.W Hammond



⇒ **AN UPDATE FROM NICK GILLARD LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
COMMANDING OFFICER 16TH FIELD REGIMENT RNZA**

**16 Fd Regt in 2007**

As 2007 draws to a rapid close it has become evident that the term high tempo so liberally applied to the NZ Army today is one that applies very well to 16 Fd Regt. At the recent 25 year silver grenade and 20 year certificate lunch held at the Linton Camp Warrant Officer and Sergeant's Mess I recounted all that we had done during this year and what is in prospect for 2008. It was a long list.

Our greatest priority has been to the support of ongoing operations. The regiment's contribution to the NZ Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZ PRT) in Bamyang Province Afghanistan has been our greatest commitment with 56 soldiers and officers serving a tour there from April - October 2007. They have been subsequently replaced by another 42 for the current winter rotation. Reports from the Senior National Officer (an infantryman) indicate that the gunner's adapted to their new role with the professionalism expected. Both 16 Fd Regt and the wider RNZA have also had personnel deployed to the Sinai, Israel and Bosnia during 2007. During 2008 we will be deploying individual personnel to East Timor, South Korea and Iraq.

Concurrently we have continued our support to the School of Artillery through exercises HELLFIRE and BRIMSTONE, the Territorial Force via Ex NORTHERN KIWI 07, the Singaporean Artillery via Ex THUNDER WARRIOR 07 and WHISKEY Company 1 RNZIR through exercises WOLF 1 -3.

G Tp 43 AD Bty (Lt) have continued to work towards integrating the new Raven Radar, Fire Direction Centre and Identify Friend / Foe system with the current Mistral Very Low Level Air Defence weapon. Highlights for the Tp have been the opening of the Thornton Building by Brig Birch (Rtd) and a three week exercise in Singapore where they had the opportunity to pit their skills against AH64-D Apache Attack Helicopters and F-15 fighters. For many it was also the first time they have enjoyed the sights and sounds of Singapore.

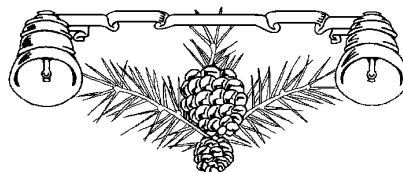
The regiment also continued to command the Army's battle lab for UAV and conducted trials on a replacement for the Vanguard Fire Control Computer.

The programme for 2008 looks similar with combined firing with the Singaporean Artillery, the re-integration of the gunner's deployed on operations and a battery deployment to Australia being the key activities. Kapyong Bty will sail to Townsville on the HMNZS Canterbury and exercise with 4 Fd Regt RAA.

The regt and the wider RNZA have been the recipients of three Chief of Army's Commendations (Sgt Williams, SSgt Pirini and LBdr Bush), a Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD) to Lt Col Brett Rankin and a Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) to WO1 Bo Ngata.

16 Fd Regt remains committed to the provision of indirect fire support as part of a combat capable and combined arms army. Tempo and change remain constant factors in all that we do and I suppose they have remained constant throughout our history. 2007 has passed quickly and I expect 2008 to be the same.

Have a happy and enjoyable festive season from all ranks of 16 Fd Regt RNZA, Col Comdt and the President of The Royal NZ Artillery Association (Incorporated).



## ⇒ **SILVER GRENADE LUNCHEON CELEBRATES OVER 600 YEARS LOYAL SERVICE TO THE RNZA**

**By 2Lt Steven Lodge RNZA**

On 15 Nov 07 retired and serving Officers, Warrant Officers, and Senior NCO's of the RNZA gathered to present 20 Year Certificates and 25 Year Silver Grenades to those that had displayed long and loyal service to the RNZA. Held in the Linton Camp WO's and Sergeant's Mess, the luncheon firstly served as a great chance for past and present members of the RNZA to catch up and pass on a few stories over a drink prior to the formal proceedings beginning. It also provided an opportunity to welcome back those RNZA personnel recently returned from operations with TG CRIB 10 in Afghanistan.

The CO 16 Fd Regt, Lt Col Nick Gillard welcomed all to the lunch before handing over to Col Lofty Hayward, Commander 2LFG. The formal presentations were then conducted by the Colonel Commandant for the RNZA Brig (Rtd) Graham Birch MBE. Certificates were the first to be presented for 20 years of service to the Royal Regiment. The recipients of the certificates were Lt Col Brett Rankin, Lt Col (Rtd) Simon Eaton, WO1 Willie August, WO1 Wayne McAsey, WO2 Steve Harvey, WO2 John Garton SSgt Carl Waszak and Sgt John Ridden. Silver Grenades were then presented for 25 years of long and loyal service to the RNZA. Recipients of the Silver Grenades included Brig (Rtd) Ian Marshall, Col (Rtd) Theo Kuper, Lt Col Mark Ogilvie, Lt Col Mike Baker, Lt Col (Rtd) Simon Eaton, Maj Mark Samuels, Maj Mal Nowill, WO1 Bo Ngata, WO1 Rob McLean, WO1 Kemp Solomon, WO1 Paul Galloway, WO1 (Rtd) Chris Tews, WO1 (Rtd) Dave Collins and SSgt Terrence Hiko. Finally Brig Birch presented a Gold Grenade to Major Denis Dwane for 50 years long and loyal service to the RNZA. The first of such ever to be awarded. The CO 16 Fd Regt also presented Maj Dwane a green stone fish hook as a parting gift from all of those who had served and are serving with 16 Fd Regt as a symbol of gratitude and thanks.

Major Dwane first joined the NZ Army as an RF Cadet in 1958. He served two tours in Vietnam with 161 Bty, firstly as a Gunner on an L5 Pack Howitzer detachment, then later as a Gun Sergeant. Major Dwane has fulfilled a number of positions over his fifty years both as an OR and as an Officer including 2IC of 16 Fd Regt. In June 2002 appointed Contract Manager for Papakura Camp with the return of 1NZSAS Gp to the Camp. He will retire on 15 December 2007. Throughout his military career Major Dwane has maintained a strong involvement with the wider community and was appointed as a Justice of the Peace in 1990. Major Dwane was awarded the MBE in the 1995 New Year's Honours. He thinks he may now travel with his wife, Mahinarangi, around the South Pacific.

Following the presentations the fellowship continued for the rest of the afternoon and much of the evening. A brilliant meal was provided by the staff and chefs of 21 Sup Coy, 2 Log Bn and a great time was had by all.

Thank you to all who participated and helped out on the day.

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### **MATES**

#### **CIVILIAN**

Get upset if you don't talk to them for a week  
Never ask for food  
Have never seen you cry  
Knock on your door  
Borrow your stuff for a few days  
Share some things  
Take your drink way when they think you have had enough  
Would bail you out of jail but say you did wrong  
  
Will ignore this message  
Are for a while

#### **MILITARY**

Are just glad to see you  
Are the reason you have none  
Cry with you  
Walk right in and open a beer  
Keep your stuff so long they think its theirs  
Share everything  
Look at you and say, "You'd better drink the rest of that, you know we never waste it", then carry you to bed  
Would be sitting next to you saying "Mate we stuffed up".  
  
Will forward this to their military mates  
Are for Life



## ⇒ **STEVE WEIR NEW ZEALAND'S MASTER GUNNER**

Written By **STAFF SERGEANT TIM ROWE**

Staff Sergeant Tim Rowe joined the New Zealand Army in 1985, as a gunner in the Royal New Zealand Artillery. He trade changed in 1994 to Education Assistant with the Military Studies Institute, where he is currently the Senior Instructor at the Trentham Detachment. This paper is an abridged version of Staff Sergeant Rowe's 2003 research exercise written in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a Master of Philosophy (Defence and Strategic Studies) from Massey University. The original paper received the first A+ mark awarded by the Centre for Defence Studies. Staff Sergeant Rowe also holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Diploma in Tertiary Teaching.

### **STEVE WEIR: NEW ZEALAND'S MASTER GUNNER**

Cyril Ettrick (Steve) Weir is one of a small group of New Zealand military leaders in the Second World War who remain largely unknown to modern generations of New Zealanders. This is surprising as Weir was one of New Zealand's most capable military commanders whose achievements were unique among the Commonwealth armies in the Second World War. As well as ably commanding the Divisional Artillery throughout the key actions of the North African campaign and Italy, he was Freyberg's choice to temporarily command 2 New Zealand Division in September 1944 – in preference to the infantry brigadiers who were the natural choices to relieve him. Weir later went on to be appointed commander of 46 British Division; becoming the only Dominion officer during the Second World War to command a British Army division.

Weir was one of the few professional officers in the New Zealand Division who had soldiered on during the inter-war years in the face of official apathy and sometimes public disdain for the military. Too young to have served in the First World War, Weir lacked the personal battlefield experience of many of his peer officers, yet he quickly rose from command of a field regiment to an acting corps commander of artillery in the 8<sup>th</sup> Army, in little over two years. It was as the commander of New Zealand's Divisional Artillery during the 1942-43 North African campaign, however, that Weir arguably made his greatest impact. Learning from the setbacks incurred in the desert fighting of 1941, Weir went on to mould the New Zealand Artillery into an effective divisional entity and introduce several artillery techniques that contributed significantly to the success of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army over the Axis forces in North Africa, particularly at the turning point of the campaign – El Alamein in October/November 1942.

This study aims to determine the extent of Weir's influence on the development of artillery techniques in this theatre. These include the 'Stonk' and the 'Murder' defensive fire techniques, which are credited to Weir, along with other innovations such as the re-introduction of the creeping barrage and the use of army groups of artillery in the later battles of the North African campaign. The study concludes that Weir was a major innovator as an artillery commander who ultimately had a significant influence on the outcome of the war in the desert, and that he was undoubtedly one of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army's most successful and effective commanders of artillery in the North African campaign.

### **Chapter 1 - Artillery Doctrine and Development until 1941**

By the end of the First World War, the artillery of Germany, France and the British Empire was capable of firing massive, tightly co-ordinated and centrally controlled concentrations or bombardments. These carefully prepared programmes of massed firepower were able to be closely co-ordinated with the advance of the infantry so as to neutralise enemy defences and provide a curtain of suppressive fire. This enabled the attackers to overcome the defenders before they could emerge from their entrenchments and bring their weapons to bear. First used by the British at the Somme in July 1916, the creeping barrage could be planned in a remarkably short time. A divisional barrage took only about two and a half to three hours to prepare by 1918. For the artillery, 'the principal lessons derived from the [First World] war were the value of radio

communication, the importance of predicted fire and the overall importance of concentrating the handling of the available artillery as high in the command structure as possible'. Each corps now had a permanent Corps Commander Royal Artillery (CCRA) who could concentrate all the guns of his corps in a single attack. Once a breakthrough was achieved and the battle became more fluid, the artillery could be quickly decentralised with individual regiments, batteries and troops detached to accompany advancing infantry and tanks. The future of artillery seemed assured, given the advances in technology that had emerged during the war. By 1918, the Royal Artillery was at a peak of effectiveness and efficiency.

**To be continued in the next newsletter**

## ⇒ **EL ALAMEIN DAY - HOROWHENUA ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION**

El Alamein Day was celebrated by gunners and their guests of the Horowhenua Artillery Association at the Levin RSA on Wednesday 24 October 2007. When the command "fall in" was given those able formed up in the traditional three ranks, coming to attention when the Last Post was played and the NZ flag lowered. A wreath was laid. When dismissed lunch was served in the RSA dining room. Traditional toasts were given and the guest speaker was Lt Col Nick Gillard, CO 16 Field Regiment. He gave an enlighten talk about the "modern gunner". It was a shock to learn that the average gunner stays in only for 2 to 3 years. After they have learnt all they want to know and have gained the skills they need they move onto a new career. This is the way of the modern worker, so much for a job and security for life that most of us all knew and aspired to.

## ⇒ **ONE WONDERS WHAT GEORGE W WOULD MAKE OF THIS WEAPON OF MASS CONFECTION**

Wed 28 Nov 07: Damien Nepata of Christchurch writes: A very long time ago, and as is the custom ever year, a Xmas party was held in Waiouru for themchildren of soldiers. This party involved a lolly scramble with a twist. An artillery gun was wheeled on to the field, stuffed with Mackintosh's toffees and fired, it spewed lollies all over the field. Unfortunately one year, the elevation of the gun was set too low and a number of children were hit by flying, low-velocity lollies. No children were harmed".

The secretary of the Royal New Zealand Artillery Association, Mike Dakin, remembers the Waiouru Mackintosh's Toffee Christmas Lolly Scramble mentioned in Sideswipe [Wed, 28 Nov]: "The Waiouru gun, a 3.7-inch mountain gun (a small howitzer) actually fired lollies on Gunners' Day, 26 May 1958," he says. "Yes, they were Mackintosh's toffees; the problem was not that kids were peppered by lollies, but that the sweets had the paper wrapping stripped from them. One of the little ingrates gave me a hard time over that. Yes, it was I who fired the gun, the kids well behind the muzzle."

Mike says he swabbed the grease off the mechanism and barrel, stuffed the firing chamber with cotton waste, filled the barrel with sweets and fired it, using Charge Thunderflash. Maximum range was about 50 metres. **The PC brigade would not allow this to happen today!!**

## ⇒ **UPDATE FROM NEWSLETTER 135, September 2007 - Palmer Head. Wellington. Gunner's Day 1955**

Dear Editor - On the front page of the September issue of our Gunners mag was a photo of two guns at Palmer Head. I served at Palmer Head in early 1942, and the guns we had were a little more modern than those. They were 6 inch mark 27, and had a hard hitting range of 27 thousand yards. Although I was a radar operator, every third day I had to serve on the guns as the ram no., my job was to ram the shell up to the driving band. In those days I was only 18 and I was fairly fit, but at 83 I don't think I could do it now. In the early days everything was on full alert, so we would sleep on the guns, once again I could not do it now. **Alexander W Mackintosh, Cambridge**

## ⇒ NOTICE BOARD

### 1. The Battle of Coral Poem Competition

Clarence Ormsby, previously 161 Bty RNZA 1968-69, now of Sydney, is sponsoring the above competition.

- Prizes: 1st \$200, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50.
- Poem must fit on one A4 sheet and must be submitted before 1st February 2008.
- The winning poems will be displayed in Canberra for the Battle of Coral commemoration in May 2008 and around different parts of Australia, New Zealand and America.
- All budding poets will receive a “Battle of Coral” certificate of participation.
- All poems will be reproduced and auctioned off at various venues with all profits going to help children traumatised by Agent Orange
- Entries to be e-mailed to [crimehurts@bigpond.com](mailto:crimehurts@bigpond.com)

### 2. The Bay of Plenty Searchlight Tattoo

With a cast of 2000, more than 20 brass and pipe bands from NZ and overseas, armoured vehicles, field guns, helicopters, mock battles, and Air Force flypast. Each breathtaking evening of entertainment will reach a rousing conclusion with a re-enactment performance of Tchaikovsky’s famous 1812 Overture, complete with bands, choirs, dancers, cannons and fireworks. Rotorua International Stadium Friday/Saturday 23/24 February 2007. For further details view [www.rdc.govt.nz](http://www.rdc.govt.nz) news and events.

### 3. Wings and Wheels Over Waikato

The largest Air Show event in NZ, featuring Wings and Wheels over Waikato is to be held at the Hamilton International Airport, Friday/Sunday 7th/9th March 2008. For further details view [www.airshow.co.nz](http://www.airshow.co.nz)

### 4. Tribute 08

A reminder that Tribute 08, a Vietnam commemoration honouring veterans and their families’ contribution to New Zealand will be held in Wellington Queens Birthday 2008 (30 May—1 June). For further details view [www.tribute08.com](http://www.tribute08.com).

### 5. Subscriptions

A friendly reminder is being enclosed where appropriate. We apologise if we have got it wrong. Please contact Mike if we have done so. Thanks.

### 6. A Word from the Editor

This is my first attempt at compiling The NZ Gunner so I am looking for feedback, especially if you would like to see particular items in it regularly, do you like the layout etc. Also I need items and photos to put in the next issue and the one after that so keep sending them in. I also apologise if I have offended anyone by using their wrong title, if anyone wishes their address label changed please let myself or Mike know Thanks.

**Merry Christmas!**



title, if  
address label  
myself or



## Who's Who

<i>Patron</i>	Col (Rtd) Donal R KENNING MBE	06 3582849
<i>Colonel Commandant</i>	Brig (Rtd) Graham BIRCH MBE	07 5481193
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### **PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING , IT IS IMPORTANT**

- ⇒ **ACCOUNT INFORMATION:** Association Account Name & Number for Cheques and On Line Banking is:  
**Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Incorporated. ASB 12 3042 0229763 00**
- ⇒ **INTERNET ADDRESSES:** A number of you are on the internet but the Secretary may not be aware of your address. If you are not getting messages from him and wish to do so then let him know your address. His address is **rnza.association@gmail.com**
- ⇒ **RECEIPTS:** Receipts will be issued for all incoming monies and will be sent out with the next issue of "The NZ Gunner".
- ⇒ **INPUT INTO "THE NZ GUNNER":** Short stories, especially with accompanying photographs are always welcome for inclusion. The Editor's e-mail address is **dgroberts@xtra.co.nz**
- ⇒ **NEW MEMBERS:** New members are most welcome. Membership rules are: **ALL** Gunners with a minimum of 3 years service or an Operational Tour are eligible for Full Membership. Associate Membership is available to anyone who has been attached to an RNZA Unit or has had a close affiliation therewith, and close family of Full or Life Members.
- ⇒ **DEATH OF A MEMBER:** If you know of the passing of someone who you think may be a member please let someone from the Committee (preferably the Secretary) know. Where possible a representative of the Association will attend the funeral.