



# The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of

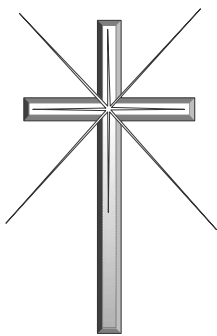
## The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)

Founded 1934

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### 1. LAST POST



*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.*

*A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

*A time to get, and a time to lose, a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
A time to rend, and a time to sew, a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*

**BASHAM, John.** 8 July 2008 at Tauranga.

It is understood that John was a Gunner before he joined SAS, serving in Malaya with them.

**MEYER, Roland Owen (Jerry).** 3 August 2008 at Auckland.

Jerry served with 5 Field Regiment in WW2, and was commissioned from the ranks. When the Regiment moved to Italy, Jerry was supposed stay behind because of illness, but he wangled his way onto the ship and ashore again at Italy. On arrival, he was threatened with court-martial, but observed "that would look good wouldn't it, to court-martial a man who has come to Italy to fight for his country." So they didn't trouble with that step, simply taking away his commission for a while.

After the war, Jerry served variously with J Force, 11 Coast Regiment and in Fiji. He attended the UK Staff College in 1954. On retiring from the Army, he completed an Education degree at Auckland University, then taught 7th Form history and geography on the Shore.

Jerry is survived by his second wife, Pat, and their four adult children.

**AYLING, Bernie.** 23 August 2008 at Currumundi, Queensland, Australia.

Bernie was born in Malta but was a Pom. He served in SAS in the British Army before immigrating to NZ about 1959 where he was posted to the AA Wing, School of Artillery, Waiouru as a WO2. He passed the Long Gunnery Staff Course in Anti Aircraft at Manorbier. A couple of Bernie's other postings included BQMS 4 Med Bty and BSM 11 Bty.

**RUFFELL, Murray,** 8 September 2008 at Auckland. Murray was the son of Wally Ruffell.

⇒ **Condolences:**

The President and Members extend their condolences to:

\* Tom O'Reilly on the passing of his beloved brother.

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**Please:** articles required for the next issue of the NZ Gunner, my collection is getting down. Lets hear those stories that not all of us have heard.



## 2. NEW MEMBERS

**HUSTON**, Kerry R. Husty served the guns between 1962/1965, participating in Exercise Powderhorn. He currently works for the Ministry of Fisheries, Husty and Robyn live in Lower Hutt.

**MARSTERS**, Howard N. Howie served the guns between 1974/1994 (TF) with 4 Med Bty. In civvy street he worked for the City Council. Howie and Sheryl live in Hamilton.

**PRESTON**, George H. George served in the NZ Army, 1962/1987. Joining 2 Bn and serving in Malaya and Borneo with the Gurr and Poananga Bn's. George served the guns with 161 Bty in Vietnam, 1967/68 as a Dvr Op, returning to Vietnam in 1969/70 with W3 Coy. 1973/75 a TOD to Singapore, 1975/79 he undertook training appointments in Burnham, between 1979/82 he was at 2RNZIR Nelson, then between 1982/87 he was the CSM 3 Supply Coy Burnham, where he took his discharge. In civvy street George was engaged in the Real Estate field and was part of the Civil Defence Trg Team. He and Maree live in Christchurch.

**VALANTINE**, Brig (Rtd) John. John served the guns (TF) between 1951/1985. His appointments included: BC 4 Med Bty (63/67), CO 16 Fd Regt (70-71), Dep Comdr 1 Bde (72/77) and TF A Army Gen Staff (78/81), Col Comdt RNZA (81/85). John lives in Hamilton.

**WILLIAMS**, Peter B.A. PBA served the guns (RF) 1951/1956 and (TF) 1960/1969. Graduating from the RF Cadet Allen class. (1950) his postings included Sch of Arty, 161 Bty, and RF Depot. In 1960 he joined 4 Med Bty (TF), being commissioned in 1961 to 2nd Lt and he retired in 1969 as a Capt. In civvy street he has been a school teacher and worked in the Probation Service. He and Eleanor live in Auckland.

### ⇒ A TALE

Jack O, Bernie A and Graeme B, travelled by NZR bus to Wellington for a TF week at Burnham. The bus stopped at Taihape of about an hour and Jack ordered them to the pub for lunch. On the resumed journey and somewhere south of Taihape Bernie got up and asked the driver to stop, he ran off into the bushes. On his return he told Jack that he had to relieve himself. He got ribbed for having a "Maltese/Pom" bladder.

### ⇒ QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER

**Question A** : We have Brigadier General, Major General, Lieutenant General. The Queen is our Captain General. Is her rank a honorary rank or a true rank? If it is a true rank where does this rank fit in the order of ranks?

**Answer:** Captain General is a title of honour, the holder of which takes precedence over all **Colonels Commandant**. Duties are mostly of a ceremonial or social character. Originally the Office was called 'Colonel of the Royal Artillery'. In 1865 when the Commander-in-Chief, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, held it the title was changed to 'Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Artillery'. Then in 1950, HM King George VI expressed the wish that the Office be re-designated 'Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of Artillery'.

HM Queen Elizabeth II accepted the Office in 1953.

**Question B:** Why is the container of port not allowed to touch the table top until it has reached its destination when being passed around at formal dinners?

### Answers:

1. In days past port was passed in a round bottomed decanter which sat in a shaped stand kept by the host, thus ensuring no one hogged the port (Note the decanters are still available).

2. The table tops used to be highly polished and any drips from the port containers would damage the surface.

3. The port used to be of such a poor quality that sediment used to sit in the bottom of the port container, thus movement of the container was limited to avoid mixing the sediment with the port, thus effecting the flavour of the port.

4. Whether the decanter touches the table or not is a matter of mess custom, there is no standing Army custom one way or the other. Some Regiments have affected local custom in this regard, in some cases, such as banging the decanter on the table before passing it, these customs are best practiced only in their own messes where the responsibility for the tables and decanters lies with the regiment's officers.

## 3. AN UPDATE FROM LT COL NICK GILLARD, CO 16 FD REGT, RNZA

September 2008 has arrived quickly and the pace of life at the regiment continues. There is much speculation in the media about the tempo that the NZDF is currently experiencing. This is certainly true given the need to support a number of ongoing operations, maintain our core war fighting skills and to train the next generations of young gunners. However, this tempo should never be confused with keeping soldiers busy. As always soldiers enjoy challenging and varied training. They remain willing to work long hours in adverse conditions if they can see how it contributes to their next operational tour, improves their gunnery skills or provides opportunity for trade and rank advancement.

In this light the regiment is heading into the final quarter for 2008. Kapyong Battery is currently preparing to

deploy to Townsville on exercises Swift Eagle and Long Guns. It will be integrated into 4 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery in what amounts to two separate exercises. The first is based on amphibious operations. The battery will be the OPFOR fire unit and will support an Australian battalion who will provide the enemy force against the brigade. The second exercise is a live firing activity for the Royal Australian Artillery. This will be inclusive of 105mm and 155mm, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and target acquisition capabilities. Of course there will be plenty of opportunity for cross-cultural discussions, sport and social events. The deployment will culminate in local leave and the battery will be able to enjoy the sights and watering holes of northern Queensland.

The remainder of the regiment, less RHQ, are currently preparing for the next deployment to Timor Leste. They are undergoing a period of individual and collective training prior to commencing their Pre-Deployment Training with the remainder of the contingent. A platoon of Territorial Force soldiers has been integrated into the company group. Even after only two weeks they have come together to form a good team. A few of the contingent have experience of Timor from our first deployment in 2000/01 but most are deploying there for the first time. There are a number who have had recent experience in Afghanistan and they bring the skills and confidence of that operation.

The norm for the regiment is the continual balance of those activities I have described above and developing the Offensive Support capability for the NZ Army. We now have the Offensive Support Capability Management Team (OS CMT) based in Wellington. Led by Lt Col Matt Boggs it is an updated variation of the old corps directorates. Whilst the CO 16 Field Regiment remains the Regimental Colonel of the Royal Regiment, the OS CMT plays a significant role in developing the capability in all areas from personnel to equipment. We endeavour to keep the Colonel Commandant, Brig (Rtd) Birch MBE aware of the key issues and in turn the Brig represents our perspective when talking to old gunners or senior serving officers.

**Article supplied by Lt Col N Gillard**

#### ⇒ **Jet Fuel**

Dave and Jim were a couple of drinking buddies who worked as Aircraft mechanics in Melbourne. One day the airport was fogged in and they were stuck in the hangar with nothing to do.

Dave said, 'Man, I wish we had something to drink!' Jim says, 'Me too. Y'know, I've heard you can drink jet fuel and get a buzz. You wanna try it?' So they pour themselves a couple of glasses of high octane booze and get completely smashed.

The next morning Dave wakes up and is surprised at how

good he feels. In fact he feels GREAT! NO hangover! NO bad side effects. Nothing!

Then the phone rings. It's Jim. Jim says, 'Hey, how do you feel this morning?' Dave says, 'I feel great, how about you?' Jim says, 'I feel great, too. You don't have a hangover?' Dave says, 'No that jet fuel is great stuff -- no hangover, nothing. We ought to do this more often.'

'Yeah, well there's just one thing.'  
'What's that?'

'Have you farted yet?'

'No.'

'Well, DON'T, 'cause I'm in Perth.'

#### **4. Colonel Commandant's Address To The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Association Annual General Meeting Quebec City Friday, 12 September 2008**

##### **INTRODUCTION - THE GROWING RELEVANCE OF THE RCAA**

My congratulations to the President RCAA, Vice President, Executive and members for such a great RCA Association Annual General Meeting. What an interesting, relevant and professionally rewarding lineup of presentations. The Association has taken on a new life over the past few years, and the positive impact is being felt, I can assure you - not only within the Royal Regiment, but in the Army. Only a few years ago the chain of command looked upon associations with disinterest, and maybe a degree of distrust, but such is no longer the case. It is crystal clear that our Gunner Association is leading the way in re-establishing a meaningful voice in Defence matters - a voice growing in importance, significance and respect. For that I wish to congratulate the leadership of the RCAA, past and present - those who have kept the association alive (one might say on life support) in the past, and those who have transformed the Association over the last few years. Now we have momentum and traction. We, the Gunners, are well positioned for the future knowing that we are backed up, supported by and represented by a healthy, wholesome and meaningful Association. So, thanks for all that you (we) have done to date, and keep up the great work - because there is still much to be done.

##### **THE ROYAL REGIMENT**

The Royal Regiment is indeed in fine shape. We may not be large in numbers, but our impact on operations is significant - and appreciated and recognized. For the first time since I donned the uniform the Infantry, Armoured and Engineers are echoing that time-honoured expression going back to Wellington: "*The Guns, Thank God the Guns!*" Our Gunners on operations have been absolutely

outstanding – whether putting steel on targets, stopping incoming steel, enhancing battlefield awareness, coordinating fires and airspace, or taking on the numerous other tasks that have been passed to us. I hear nothing but praise – well earned praise. Our people are soldiers first and foremost, and they are also professionals in Gunnery. That is why we Gunners can man the guns, train the Afghan Army, conduct CIMIC operations, run the various headquarters', and command at all levels. Our ability to introduce new equipment on the battlefield is remarkable – because we are such good soldiers and we have full grasp of our artillery profession. I have great hope for and confidence in our future.

However, being on the mobilization footing that we are leaves us somewhat fragile – and I know that the leadership in the Royal Regiment is doing all in their power to address some of the shortcomings. Your General Officers are aware of the deficiencies and are doing what they can to deal with them – be it equipment, manning, organization, personnel issues, training, morale and fighting spirit. For all here present, we are a relatively small Regiment and therefore it takes all of us working together to address deficiencies and prepare for the future – so please feel free to exchange ideas and concerns at all rank levels by whatever means you wish, not only at this AGM but throughout the year. Let us continue to work together in this small family so that we will always be able to meet the requirements of our Army in action, and always be prepared for whatever the future may demand.

### **COLONEL COMMANDANT'S OBJECTIVES**

I have given myself some guidance and objectives, and I'll need your help to achieve my goals. In fact, I would hope that you would take the following points as your personal "Marching Orders," and take similar actions or pass on similar information. What I have set out to accomplish in my capacity as Colonel Commandant is threefold: communicate, facilitate and celebrate.

#### ***Communicate***

We Gunners are renowned for our communications while on operations – we always get the message through clearly, precisely, accurately and quickly. However, we are less good at it when we're not fighting. This has to improve. We are a small family, but we have great strength if we share "Situation Awareness" (SA), and if we work together as a team. I believe that we have a ways to go within the Gunner family and I am attempting to do what I can to improve internal and outward communications.

Website: I am pushing on our new website, and kudos to Leon Jensen for the great work he has done to date. How many here have entered [www.artillery.net](http://www.artillery.net) in the past month, past year? Do it, and do it soon, just to see the advances that Leon has achieved with little time to spare, no resources, and no dedicated webmaster. But, we have only just scratched the surface. The unit websites, pretty much across the board, need to be improved and linked

in with the RCA website. Likewise the RCAA website could be developed. This has become the primary means of communications in the world, but we are still plodding along. I'd appreciate your ideas on this, and your support.

#### ***Networking:***

My congratulations to all those who maintain extensive networks to share information and collaborate with serving, retired, Regular Force, Reserves, and all rank levels. Names that come to mind are Tom Tomaso, Harry Rice, JJ Fraser, Bob Mugford (15 Field); Dave Burnett (7 Tor), Montreal Gunners, and others. I would like to see the networks expanded and coordinated a touch better – to extend to all ranks and provide venues for feedback.

#### ***Annual Gunner and Quadrant:***

I wish to congratulate Captain Geoff Popovits and team for cranking out the Annual Gunner and the Quadrant. However I'd like to see some fresh ideas to make them more attractive to our target audiences – form, format, content, layout, presentation and availability. We need input from all Gunners to improve on these keystone journals. There are some great journals/newsletters out there, and we can copy or at least share them – such as 2 Field's Sheldrake, 4 AD's Newsletter and the 15 Field Band's Newsletter.

#### ***With a Few Guns:***

You will all recall from last year that the Artillery Support Group of 11 Field Regiment, RCA offered, through the RCAA, a \$5,000 grant for Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Brian Reid to write a book on Canada's Gunners at war in Afghanistan. This book will record the many aspects of the Royal Regiment's engagement in operations from an artillery and non-artillery perspective. Brian Reid has interviewed several Gunners and a few others, and will continue to do so over the coming months and years. The purpose is to document and communicate the experiences of the Gunners in Afghanistan, and what remarkable accomplishments they have achieved "with a few guns." I would encourage all to support Brian in this endeavour.

#### ***Visits:***

I will continue to do my best to get to units for significant events, and to help spread the word. I know that Honoraries also visit their units regularly in garrison and in the field. DArty and Artillery Council also do what they can. The bottom line is that we really need to keep in touch with and communicate with our soldiers – and by far the best way is face to face, with open dialogue.

Personal Communications: I have a small corner in the Quadrant and have been posting information on the website. Hopefully that has been helping to transmit messages. I get precious little feedback, good or bad, so obviously I have a bit more work to do on

communicating.

### ***Facilitate:***

By facilitate, I imply that I'll do whatever I can as a part the Gunner "Fire Support Base" to facilitate manoeuvre on the part of the chain of command. History and heritage, morale, esprit de corps and fighting spirit are all part of the intangible force that enables and reinforces the operational capacity of the Royal Regiment. They could be considered force enablers or force multipliers. Are they important – absolutely. By leading the way in these matters I believe that the Colonel Commandant, RHQ, the Honoraries, Heritage Council, the Museum Board of Directors, and the Regimental Senates all help facilitate those who are recruiting, training, and supporting our soldiers, and particularly our soldiers that are on operations.

### ***RCA Heritage Program:***

Thanks to Generals John Arch MacInnis and Mike Jeffery, and the Heritage Program team, things are progressing well – slow, but steady. We have much more work to get the word out and money in so that we can support the initiatives that we feel are important to help capture, retain, promote and celebrate our heritage. I would like to see all Gunners participate in telling the story of the Guns – for in telling that story we can only be more proud of our position as the "Right of the Line" and "Queen of Battle." Our Gunner history is deeply entwined in the history of Canada, and we can be so proud of that as we move forward with purpose into the future. One might note that everything I speak of here deals with Heritage – and we need the moral and financial support of all associations, Regiments and individuals to achieve our objectives.

### ***Honoraries:***

Their role is vital in telling our story to the local decision makers, the broader community, and the people of Canada – and supporting their unit. The Honoraries play a major role behind the scenes keeping the Regimental Senate alive and relevant, supporting the Commanding Officer, and your band, and your Cadet Corps, your museum, and especially your soldiers. Please keep up the great work with your Regiment and your town or city.

Regimental Senates: You will note that I have put together some notes on a constitution or terms of reference for a Regimental Senate – to be used as a guide, and not necessarily the bible. I know that each unit is different, and senates will change over time depending on the situation and personalities. But, I urge you to have a codified concept that will explain to all what value there is in having the support of the old guard. Not to be confused with a bunch of the old guys hanging around the Mess mumbling on about the way things used to be, or arguing about buttons and bows.

### ***The RCAA:***

I touched on how important the RCAA is to the Royal Regiment, and how pleased I am to see the Association becoming so much more helpful, meaningful and relevant. I'll leave it at that – but our associations (emphasis on our), is playing a significant role facilitating and supporting our serving Gunners.

### ***Gunner Associations:***

Our many associations can model themselves off the RCAA and continue to help further the objectives of the Royal Regiment – examples, the Ottawa Gunners, Toronto Gunners, Atlantic Gunners, Eastern Ontario Gunners, various individual Regimental Associations and so on.

They can all help us communicate, facilitate and celebrate. I believe that all of the above will help facilitate the Chain of Command in carrying out their tremendous responsibilities in garrison and on operations. I am very sensitive to my role, and the role of all of us behind the scenes – we are not in command and do not meddle in operational matters. We are here to support the Royal Regiment and not to become engaged in matters that are the rightful purview of the chain of command. That is not to suggest that the Association should feel restrained to parrot what the chain of command says, since critical thinking, discussion, debate, and dialogue, and focused representation outside the chain of command, are healthy and can be productive and meaningful. Just keep in mind the tremendous responsibilities on the shoulders of our Generals and DArty – support them in dealing with the challenges of this war and the battles in NDHQ.

### ***Celebrate***

There is much to celebrate, and many ways to celebrate – and I urge all of you to seize the opportunities when you can. Our men and women have earned great accolades for bravery, dedication and outstanding performance on operations and in support of them. I ask all of you to help identify, recognize and celebrate their achievements.

### ***Museums and Regimental Memorabilia:***

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Museum is our national museum, and celebrates the great achievements of Gunners throughout Canada's history. The museums of each Regiment and their Memorabilia are also important to celebrate that service to the Guns and of the Guns. Celebrate our glorious past – and relate it to our present and future.

### ***Gunner Heroes:***

We must all work to celebrate the heroes of our past – for example Colonel Norman Buchanan of St Stephen New Brunswick passed away a few months ago with next to no Gunner recognition. He was awarded three (THREE!) Military Crosses as a FOO in North Africa, Italy and France. One in each theatre! We also have our

own contemporary heroes serving in Afghanistan – and it is our responsibility as a Regiment family to celebrate their service and sacrifice.

### **RCA Junior Officers' Course:**

The RCA Junior Officers' Course is but one way of celebrating our collective achievements. Passing on our heritage to new Gunner Officers at the JOC is critically important – both our heritage of long ago and that of the recent past. Why, so that they understand in their hearts just how important it is to keep up our proud traditions. Yes, in celebrating our past, we are ensuring our future. Colonel Commandant Commendations and Coins: In my own modest way I will continue to offer Colonel Commandant's Commendations to deserving individuals, and I pass on a Colonel Commandant's Coin to those who I have personally witnessed enhance the Gunner status – such as Lt Col Gauthier of 3 R22eR and his RSM CWO Marchand. They were great supporters of *la batterie X* in Afghanistan. Please let me know when and where such commendations would be appropriate.

### **Bursaries.**

You have heard the results of the RCAA Bursaries. Be advised that 11 Field Artillery Support Group has volunteered monies to support a Colonel Commandant's Bursary Fund, to the tune of \$15,000 over five years. I have chosen to allocate three \$1,000 Bursaries to Gunners/Bombardiers/Master Bombardiers for this year. The names will be selected from the list of bursary requests for 2008. I will set up a selection process for future years.

### **CONCLUSION - THE GROWING RELEVANCE OF THE RCA, SUPPORTED BY THE RCAA**

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery is becoming ever more relevant on the battlefield. The support from the RCAA is becoming more relevant to all of us. My thanks to the RCAA for all you have done and are doing. I have only touched on some of the key issues in the purview of the Colonel Commandant, because I believe that this AGM will provide you with an outstanding overview of where we are today and where we are going tomorrow as the Royal Regiment.

I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you how I intend to contribute, and ask that each Honorary, each Commanding Officer, each RSM and every leader in the Royal Regiment clarify and operationalize how they intend to communicate, facilitate and celebrate – with both our internal audience and to those we support and count on for support.

**Be proud of our Cap Badge.** I am tremendously proud of our people, and I'm proud to see our hat badge wherever, and everywhere. I offer great praise to our leaders in the Royal Regiment (our General Officers and both Colonels Roch Lacroix and Dave Marshall), and to the leaders in the RCA Association – the Executive.

Thanks for the great work at this AGM and throughout the year.

The Royal Regiment went from being on the endangered species list to now being recognized for our important and even vital role on the battlefield. We have some momentum and traction now, and together as one family of Gunners we need to build on this. So, in conclusion I ask each and every one of you to take these points as your "Marching Orders," and go forth "Whither Right and Glory Lead."

Good Shooting!

**Ernest Beno, OMM, CD. Brigadier-General, (Rtd)  
Colonel Commandant.**

**The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery**

**Article supplied by David Lackley**

⇒ **Golf Balls ...**

A man entered the bus with both of his front pockets full of golf balls and sat down next to a beautiful (you guessed it) blonde.



The puzzled blonde kept looking at him and his bulging pockets.

Finally, after many such glances from her, he said, 'It's golf balls'.

Nevertheless, the blonde continued to look at him for a very long time, deeply thinking about what he had said.

After several minutes, not being able to

contain her curiosity any longer, she asked;

'Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow?'

**Why is it always a blonde????**

### **5. WITH 16 FD REGT ROYAL NZ ARTILLERY IN KOREA 1950 - 1951**

**By The Late Col Ralph K.G. Porter OBE**

Whenever Eric Coates' "Knightsbridge" march is played my thoughts turn again to that Monday morning in June - the 26 June 1950. As usual the NZ Broadcasting Corporation's 0600 hours news bulletin

was introduced by a march. On this occasion it was the jaunty but stirring music of Eric Coates which for me became the prelude to the Korean War. North Korea had attacked the South. I was Adjutant 1 Fd Regt but detached to Papakura Camp as an instructor for the first intake of newly introduced Compulsory Military Training (CMT) Service. As we gathered in the mess for breakfast that morning there was speculation as to whether New Zealand would offer military support and if so, what form that might take. Korea seemed remote, and the focus then was on the Middle East and Malaya. 1950 found the NZ Army immersed in a major reorganisation.

The raising of a division to be manned by territorials coming out of the CMT Scheme was central to this reorganisation. A perceivable threat was the possibility of Russian intervention in the Middle East and we had a planning cell in the Middle East designed to facilitate the deployment of a NZ Division in that theatre should the need arise. Nearer home the Communist Terrorist (CT) operations in Malaya which had given rise to the Malayan Emergency, loomed large. At the same time our planners were involved with those of Australia and the UK in promoting a regional plan for the defence of the Australian, New Zealand and Malayan (ANZAM) area so we had little interest following the demilitarisation of Japan, in the North Pacific. It was against this background and at short notice, that the Government had to decide on the most appropriate contribution to the UN force to be set up in Korea.

In the event, the Government announced on 26 July 1950 that the land force commitment should be a volunteer force to be known as **K Force** and that the principal component was to be a new artillery unit - the 16th Field Regiment. Before my commitment with CMT had ended, I was told that I was to be Adjutant of the new regiment and that Major Dick Webb just back from the US School of Artillery at Fort Sill, would be 21C. A TF officer, the CO of 3 Field Regiment, Lt Col J.W. Moodie was appointed CO.

In early August, I arrived in Waiouru with Dick Webb and John Moodie to raise the Regiment. We were allocated a skeleton block at the far end of the World War II training camp. Our accommodation was sparse. It comprised a cluster of small buildings providing a HQ and QM Stores, an 'H' shape officer and sergeants' mess block and an officers accommodation block. All other accommodation was tentage. We started from scratch, indenting for stores, training equipment etc and arranging for the supply of telephones, office and barrack furniture - even cooking equipment.

The recruiting response was incredible. At the end of some ten days, 5982 men had volunteered, and from these the final first echelon of the Force was selected. 70 Officers and 974 other ranks were required to provide for:

- A small HQ K Force
- 16 Field Regiment
- A signals troop

- An LAD
- A transport platoon
- A section of engineers
- A reinforcement training unit
- A First Reinforcement.

Of these volunteers, only a few had been gunners, or had previous army service. Of a small number of previously commissioned officers, only about three or four had artillery experience. We were thus faced with a major training problem. Those previously commissioned but without Artillery experience were put through a special course at the School of Artillery, NCOs were given similar treatment. However, to find sufficient officers, an officer selection board was held and those selected were siphoned off to an OCTU, and from there to the School of Artillery for specialist training. This meant that most of our subalterns did not join the Regiment until November 1950.

The bulk of our ORs completed basic training at Linton Camp and assembled at Waiouru in mid September. We managed to have just enough officers and senior NCOs completing courses at the School of Artillery to keep our regimental training going.

**To be continued in the next issue of the  
NZ Gunner**

## **6. Part 4: Steve Weir NZ Master Gunner By SSgt Tim Weir**

### **Chapter 3 - Syrian Interlude and Innovations**

Weir, as the new CRA, was now in command of three field artillery regiments, an anti-tank regiment and an anti-aircraft regiment. 746 gunners were casualties from Crusader and many of the vacant command positions had to be filled by men with limited experience. All the field regiments had new commanding officers and the replacements needed for the losses in guns, vehicles and other equipment were substantial. Weir helped to mitigate these to some extent by ordering a detachment of 6 Field Regiment to salvage what they could from the battlefields around Sidi Resegh. A total of 34 guns and trailers (limbers) were eventually recovered by 16 January.

Divisional Artillery Headquarters moved to Fayid, (near the Suez Canal) in early January 1942. Weir was also promoted to Brigadier on 3 January, becoming the youngest brigadier (at that time) in the New Zealand Division, aged 37. Throughout the month, each of the New Zealand Brigade Groups trained at the Combined Operations Training Centre in nearby Kabrit. The likelihood of any new major 8th Army offensive quickly receded as troops were sent from the Middle East to bolster the deteriorating Allied defences in the Far East.

Weir used this period to settle in as the CRA and consider the lessons learned from Crusader. The New Zealand Division had, by all accounts, fought well in

Crusader. Brigadier Howard Kippenberger (GOC 5 Brigade) was visited in hospital shortly afterwards by Auchinleck who told him 'we'd done the finest fighting he'd ever known and he meant it'. It was clear, however, that the New Zealand Division was inexperienced in desert warfare and weak in tactical doctrine. The latter was evident by the continuing problems in co-operation between the infantry, armour (British) and artillery. Weir was particularly concerned by the artillery's decentralisation (under their brigade groups) and his thinking on this was similar to Miles', whom Weir believed had been 'strongly opposed to the decentralisation of artillery and to the breaking up of formations'. Weir considered the New Zealand Artillery to be three good, but separate, regiments and not a divisional entity in itself. 'To get a Div Arty, a further step must be taken to instill [sic] into those Regiments a doctrine and the necessary drill to make them capable of acting as a single fire unit on the Div (or higher) level'. The reason for this situation, Weir believed, was that 'few, if any, [New Zealand Artillery commanders] took the requisite steps to train their own formations in the up-to-date execution of the doctrine of centralised control'.

From 26 February until early March, the New Zealand Division moved to Syria to bolster the defences of the former Vichy French colony, captured by the Allies in 1941. It was feared that a German offensive through the Soviet Caucasus, or a possible attack through Turkey, could succeed in capturing the Mesopotamian and Persian oilfields, which would have grave consequences for the Allied position in the Middle East. As well as preparing defences against a possible invasion, the Division's presence in Syria was to demonstrate Allied strength in the region, complete the construction of Djedeide Fortress and train.

Weir spent some time planning and supervising the construction of fixed defences, as the gunners and infantry near Djedeide were used as labourers to help the engineers. Conditions were arduous with unusually cold weather plus the hard ground making construction work difficult. During this period, Weir received a paper from GHQ that proposed re-organising the Divisional Artillery into regimental groups. Each would consist of a field regiment, an anti-tank battery and a light anti-aircraft battery. This would also mean that the regimental headquarters of the 14th Light Anti-Aircraft and 7th Anti-Tank Regiments would be disbanded. Auchinleck further proposed downgrading the position of CRA to a colonel, with only the support of a single staff officer – in effect making Headquarters Divisional Artillery purely an administrative headquarters. Weir considered that this re-organisation of the artillery was unworkable and 'robbed the Divisional Artillery of its defensive and offensive capability'. In his first official act as CRA, Weir submitted his reasons to paper why this shouldn't be done and presented them to Freyberg, who agreed. The decentralisation of the anti-aircraft and anti-tank regiments in the New Zealand Division was consequently never carried out.

At the Divisional reorganisation and training conferences

held in Syria, Freyberg decided that the New Zealand Division would deploy as brigade groups for movement but fight as a complete division. With confirmation of the need to centralise the artillery in action, Weir was determined to take his field regiments to the next step of operating at divisional level under centralised control. He quickly sought and obtained Freyberg's permission to take each field regiment in turn into the Syrian desert and put this doctrine into practice. Each regiment, beginning with 6 Field Regiment, attended a practice camp near Dezzaboui where it 'was initiated into a divisional artillery manoeuvre and deployment drill, communication drill and most important, a divisional artillery fire drill'. The regiments also practised quick barrages, smoke screens and other forms of close support. 'Although the practices were regimental, each Regiment as it passed through the camp had to learn its part and its place in the Divisional Artillery Machine'. The next phase in Weir's plan to restore centralised control was to conduct combined exercises. 'No new theory or additional equipment were required. All that was required was practice upon practice until all officers - battery, regimental and staff - thought and acted automatically in terms of the divisional tie-up'.

The first of these combined artillery exercises began on 24 May at Forqloss in central Syria. This involved Divisional Headquarters, 4 Brigade (including its artillery) 6 Field Regiment as well as other commonwealth artillery units. Weir was also determined to develop the drills for large concentrations of artillery fire that could be rapidly brought down on vehicles and other mobile targets, which usually offered only fleeting opportunities for the guns to effectively engage. Regimental fire concentrations were slow because of the calculations made by each battery to ensure accuracy and the delays in adding the fire of further batteries via the chain of command. Registration and adjusting shots compromised surprise and fast moving targets like vehicles could quickly react and disperse from the target area, before the full weight of fire could take maximum effect.

Weir recognised that the standard existing pre-war artillery drills for regimental fire were often unsuitable for the fluid nature of warfare in the desert and something new was needed. He required his regiments to be able to deliver large volumes of fire, simultaneously, impromptu, against any defined point or area and to do this in a matter of minutes. To Weir, divisional artillery was more than just two or three regiments firing alongside each other at the same target; it was another complete step. 'Each regiment does not know its place in the Divisional Artillery machine until it has been told it nor will Artillery officers understand divisional fire control methods until they are faithfully instructed in them'. This was the basis for Weir's development of the 'Murder' and the 'Stonk' divisional fire methods that would be used with devastating effect; first by the New Zealanders and later by the 8th Army, for the remainder of the war.

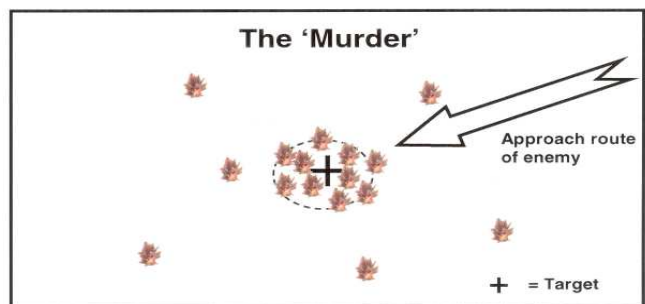


The 'Murder' (initially known as 'Method A') was a defensive fire method that concentrated all 72 guns of the Divisional Artillery on to a single defined point that had been selected in advance. Once the enemy appeared in its vicinity, all that a forward observer had to do was send the ground co-ordinates (or nickname) of the target prefixed by the word Murder. All batteries of the division within range would then immediately engage the target using all their guns, without the usual preliminary adjusting rounds from a single barrel. Up to 360 rounds could be brought down on the target within about two minutes. The 'Stonk' (originally known as the 'Hate') was the other (and best known) innovation whose development began in Syria, and which was later extensively used in North Africa and Italy. It was similar to the Murder except the target was a rectangular area of 1200 x 600 yards (later reduced to a 600 or 525 yards frontage) identified by its centre point and vertical axis, rather than a single converging point. The advantage of the Stonk was that the effects of the fire were roughly even throughout the entire beaten zone whereas the centre of the Murder caught the full impact of the fire, with the effect diminishing further out towards the periphery. Weir described the Stonk as a '...a method of fire, which could be pulled down quickly and neutralise a considerable target area'. The Divisional Artillery, firing seven rounds per gun, could put down 504 rounds in about three minutes with shattering effect, particularly on soft transport or infantry in the open. The origin of the word Stonk is a subject that has been discussed at length by various writers but it is clear that Weir devised it two months later during the build up to El Alamein. He discussed using this method with Brigadier H.M. Stanford (CCRA XIII Corps) and suggested that the Corps adopt it. For a code name, Weir suggested 'Stank' as it was close to Stanford's name. 'We could not agree over that and so "Stink" was suggested.

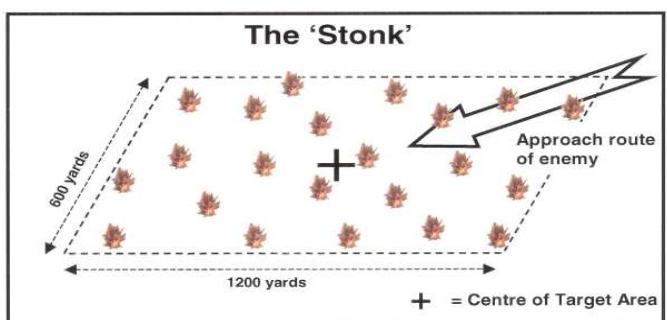
However, by trying all the vowels we lighted on "Stonk" which appeared to offend nobody and "Stonk" was adopted and initiated into 2nd NZ Div as a fire drill about early August 1942'. The New Zealand Artillery practised other methods of fire, including smoke screens and the laying of barrages, at Forqloss. The creeping barrage was a First World War technique that had been used only once in the Second World War by the Australians in Syria the previous year. Its use was generally regarded as limited to trench warfare and Weir had earlier discovered the disdain felt by the Royal Artillery for creeping barrages, while attending a course at the Palestine School of Artillery in January 1941. There the Chief Instructor had told him that 'a creeping barrage would never be used in this war'. Weir thought otherwise and revived this technique at Forqloss by practising the creeping barrage both in standard and box form.

Weir also trialled a hybrid of the Murder and the Stonk called 'Method B' whereby the regiments concentrated on a rectangular area of only 200 yards frontage (the frontage of a single 25-pounder battery). There is little

reference to this after Forqloss, however, and it does not appear to have become a formalised practice such as the Stonk and the Murder became in later battles. The interlude in Syria provided a valuable period for training, of which Weir made the maximum use. The combined exercises at Forqloss in particular can be regarded as a milestone in the history of the New Zealand Divisional Artillery as Weir cemented his influence as the CRA and established centralised control of the guns. Weir later wrote 'there was no doubt that from Forqloss onward it was control on the highest level as a definitely accepted doctrine and there seemed little chance that decentralised control would ever again be permitted'. The result of the exercises under Divisional Artillery control was that 'the regiments appeared at Forqloss with some of the elements of Divisional control instilled into them [and] they knew to some extent their own place in the Divisional machine. They could not be called well practised, but this represented a definite advance in their training'.



The murder was a defensive fire target normally sited on likely enemy approach routes or assembly areas. It was a single defined point which was the target for all 72 guns of the division. The speed of the response inevitably meant that some rounds missed the target but this was acceptable as enough rounds usually arrived rapidly enough to inflict damage before the enemy could disperse or take cover.



The Stonk differed from the murder by spreading the fire of 72 guns roughly evenly throughout a rectangular target area 1200 x 600 yards (later changed to 600 x 600 yards). It was particularly effective against area targets such as concentrations of infantry or soft skinned transport.

**Note from the Editor:** A decision needs to be made at the AGM in regard to the continuation of the Weir article. It is 40 pages long and so far over 4 issues of the newsletter we have printed 13 of the 40 pages (33%).

⇒ **WHAT HAPPENS TO THE IMPORTED CRUDE OIL**

The term “A barrel” is based on a standardised 42 US gallon barrel and one barrel makes about 19.5 gallons of gasoline (about 46%) according to my goggle search. What happens to the other 54%?

The yield of gasoline varies with each different crude oil. The yield of some crude is close to 100% gasoline and for other crude it is close to 0%.

The other 54% (or what ever it is) goes into Jet fuel (kerosene), diesel, fuel oil and bitumen.



Of course the cost of petrol to run one of these is not much, yeah right!

**7. FORT STONY BATTER (Codenamed A2) - WAIHEKE ISLAND**

“Stony Batter”, named for the large boulders that litter the slopes, was the last fort to be built as part of the defence system guarding Auckland. It was first mooted and designed after the 1st World War. The plans were shelved until the outbreak of WW2, then implemented and in 1941 work commenced. It took over two years to complete and was part of the top-secret defensive shield against German and Japanese attack.



Two hundred men laboured in secret for two years to build the fort complex, using local stone to make the concrete. The walls are up to 3.7 metres thick (12 feet) in some places where protection is needed for vital areas close to the surface. The concrete is still in perfect condition and engineers of today are amazed by the workmanship and the innovative techniques that were developed, all was hand dug with pick and shovel and the spoil wheel barrowed out.



The complex consists of three gun pits (see above map) connected by approx. 1km of tunnels. There are 13 underground rooms, some of

these are on the lower level and are reached by steps (referred to as the grand staircase of 91 steps). The largest room is some 66’ by 26’ and housed 3 Ruston Hornby engines that supplied DC current to the 440 volt electric motors. Others were for officers, plotting, general office space and toilets. Upstairs are the magazines, pump rooms and gun stores.

The guns were 9.2-inch (320mm) bore, naval armament and were used on Cruiser type ships, as well as coastal defence. The shell weighed 172kg (380lb), (the barrel alone weighed 28 tons) and had a range of 18 miles, and shot could fall a further 3 miles. The guns were cut up for scrap in the 1960s, but the huge gun-emplacements and extensive underground fort remain.

In 1998 the Stony Batter Protection & Restoration Society was formed of local people to restore and preserve the Fort. Initially several tons of rubbish had to be cleared out of the tunnels. The bunkroom at No 2 gun was restored and there is now a pictorial museum in there (photos of some of the personnel who served here are on display). A bore was restored and with water flowing the toilets were restored.

A trip in 2004 to England was made by members to dismantle and pack for shipment a complete set of engine room equipment that had been at the Water Board in Hull. The three engines have been nicknamed Tom Dick and Harry. This is Harry weighing in at over



12 tonnes. Two are now in the engine room awaiting assembly, the third will be used for spares. As part of this exercise a walled up piece of the original tunnel had to be opened up, this proved to be an most interesting task.

Around 2002/2003 a Memorandum of Understanding was negotiated between the Department of Conservation and the Society. The site has been granted an “A” heritage classification. The society has a ten year plan and the general aim is to have an area at each gun site restored so it becomes part of the “fort tour”.

Many, many hours of work have been put in by a group of very special people to ensure that this wonderful site continues to be restored and visitors are able to see what it was like. One of these special people is



Sue Pawley. She was a child at the fort during 1950's, her father Frank Pawley served at the fort during this time. Another member of the family, Sue's grand father William Henry was a caretaker on Motutapu Island during the 1950's.

The society is always on the look out for relevant items that they can display or use. Any one who served here and is willing provide information/experiences would be greatly valued by members of the society.



It was a red letter day for the society when the fort was visited by a contingent of WW2 allied vehicles and personnel from the Museum of Technology to celebrate the 60th anniversary of D Day.

The fort is open to the public daily:  
Easter to December open 10am to 3pm  
December to Easter open 9.30am to 5pm

**Costs:**

Self guided tour \$8 pp.  
Guided tour \$15 pp.  
Tour groups by arrangement  
Note there is no EFTPos available.

Contact Phone: 027 305 2772

For further details about the Fort or the Society::  
view: [www.FortStonyBatter.org.nz](http://www.FortStonyBatter.org.nz) (most of it is still construction).

Or write to The Stony Batter Preservation and Protection Society Inc. PO Box 726, Onetangi, Waiheke Island, Auckland 1081

P.S. The Society would love to know where they could obtain a suitable gun so they can complete their restoration work. Can anyone out there help them?

**Details for this article were supplied by a member of the Society.**

**Note from the Editor:** 164 Battery, Waiheke Island, 1948. During World War 2, 164 Battery was part of 9 Heavy (Coast) Regiment, and had two 9.2" guns at Man-o-War Bay, Waiheke Island, in the Hauraki Gulf off Auckland as part of the coastal defences. The guns were still manned for several years after the war. The Society would like to contact Juanita Rutherford who supplied a selection of her father's photos about this Bty. These photos are displayed on our web site ([riv.co.rnza](http://riv.co.rnza)). Can anyone help?

⇒ **Reunion Raffle**

Over the past years it has been a tradition to run a raffle to help off set the cost of running the reunion.

Tickets are sold on Friday and Saturday with the raffle being drawn at the dinner on Saturday night.

In the past a number of prizes have been donated by members and again we seek your help with this raffle.

Prizes/Donations for prizes can be sent/given to Mike and would be very much appreciated.

**8. OUR BAND**

In June 2008 our Band, the Band of the Royal Regiment of Artillery went over to Australia, one of their appearances was at the Ipswich's Reserve Forces Day Ceremony.



Above the RNZA Band playing at the Commemorative Service.



Above the RNZA Band marching down the street after the Commemorative Service.



Above the RNZA Band at the Riverlink Shopping Centre playing for the shoppers.

**Photos supplied by Brian Meyer**



## 9. END OF AN ERA: THE LAST OF THE RNZA LAUNCHES

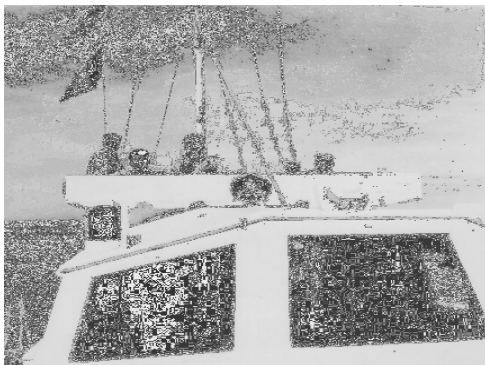
From the 1880s through to the demise of Coastal Branch Artillery in the 1950s Defence steamers and launches were either part of the RNZA, or as a minimum, under the operational control of the District Staff Officer Gunnery. Ross Goldsworthy's sending of this photo of



the RNZA Launch *Bombardier* to the Editor initiated this account of the RNZA Launches that served in

Auckland from the end of World War Two up to the closure of 9 Coast Regiment. Army vessels had been part of the coastal defences since the 1880s, servicing remote coastal defence installations and offshore islands, and in the earlier stages forming part of the Torpedo Corps and Submarine Mining Corps. At the end of WW2 the RNZA launches *Gunner* and *Nissan* serviced the 9 Coast Regt batteries on Motutapu and Waiheke Islands. *Nissan* was replaced in March 1946 by the *Bombardier*, and *Gunner* by *Lady Roberts II* in January 1948.

*Bombardier* commenced life as a Harbour Defence Motor Launch (HDML) Q1185. She was built at the Madden and Lewis yard in San Francisco, had a wooden hull, was 22 metres in length, and had two diesel engines and a service speed of 10 knots. She was initially fitted with a 20mm Oerlikon gun on the forward deck. Q1185 entered RNZN service in 1943 and was declared surplus in late 1945. She was converted to Army use in the RNZN Dockyard and fitted with a towing bit for towing targets. *Bombardier* was used for general transport duties and target towing in support of 9 Coast Regt, and made four forays to Wellington to support 10 Coast Regt for CMT training and towing duties – Oct 53, Nov 54, Mar 56 and Mar 57. The RNZA masters only had harbour limits certification so she was manned by RNZAF air/sea rescue crews for transit to/from Wellington. The RNZA masters were ranked WO1 and held the army trade of Coxswain RNZA. Well known RNZA coxswain were Joe Rutherford, Dan Foley, Harry McKinnon and Bill Stephenson.

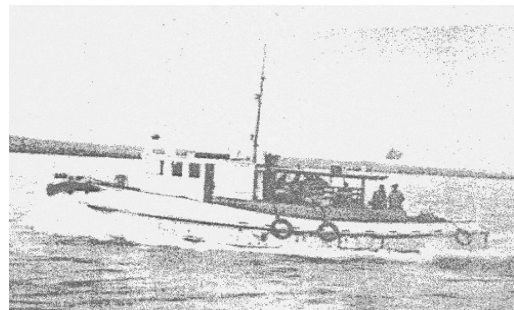


*Bombardier* in Wellington Harbour: Dan Foley photo.

*Bombardier* was transferred back to the RNZN in November 1959, following the demise of Coastal Branch Artillery. During its time with Army the RNZN reclassified the HDMLs as Seaward Defence Motor Launches (SDML). *Bombardier* was recommissioned in the Navy in 1960 as the *HMNZS Manga*, and became part of the Fisheries Protection Squadron with the new number P3567. She also spent some time as a Volunteer Reserve launch before completing her RNZN service and being declared for disposal November 1980. It is of interest that *HMNZS Manga* was in Wellington attached to the RNZVR Division HMNZS Olphert at the time of the *Wahine* disaster, and took part in the rescue of survivors.

One other HDML, Q1348, was fitted for target towing duties and supported 11 Coast Regt at Godley Head, but remained under RNZN control and was manned by the RNZNVR.

The *Lady Roberts II* replaced *Gunner* in RNZA service in January 1948. She was built in Auckland 1944/45 as a 45ft wooden hulled towboat, *Towboat No 1*, initially for the US Forces, but was declared surplus at wars end, was diesel powered with a service speed of 8 knots. *Lady Roberts II* only worked on the Waitemata, primarily on resupply runs to 60 Bty on Motutapu Island and 164 Bty on Waiheke. She remained in service until 1955, by which time she was worn out, and was replaced later that year by a pleasure launch, *Melody*. *Melody* was quickly renamed *Lance Bombardier*, and served the RNZA until November 1959.



*Lady Roberts II* in Rangitoto Channel: Darcy Pollard



The *Lance Bombardier* was the last of the RNZA launches. She was a 38ft wooden boat, built in 1953, had a diesel engine and was capable of 7 knots.



The *Bombardier* and *Lance Bombardier* at the 9 Coast Regt Torpedo Bay Wharf, Devonport: Dan Foley photos.



*Bombardier* back in RNZN colours as *HMNZS Manga*. RNZNM photo.

**Article supplied by Graham Birch**

**10. PONDERISMS:**

1. Ever wonder about those people who spend \$2.00 apiece on those little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backwards: NAIVE
2. Isn't making a smoking section in a restaurant like making a peeing section in a swimming pool? (My sentiments exactly!)
3. OK.... so if the Jacksonville Jaguars are known as the 'Jags' and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are known as the 'Bucs,' what does that make the Tennessee Titans?
4. If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhoea...does that mean that one enjoys it? !
5. If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
6. If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
7. Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

8 Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist but a person who drives a race car is not called a racist?

9. Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?

10. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

11. If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?

12. Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?

13. What hair colour do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?

14. I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older; then it dawned on me ... they're cramming for their final exam.

15. I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks, so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use? toothpicks?

16. Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office?

What are we supposed to do, write to them?

Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they deliver the mail?

17. If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

18. If a cow laughed, would she spew milk out of her nose?

19. At income tax time, did you ever notice: When you put the two words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells... 'THEIRS'?

**11. JUMPING THE GUN**

World War 2 began early in Wellington. At 9.45am on Sunday, September 3, 1939 as the British ship *City of Delhi* steamed through the Heads, two shells from nearby Fort Dorset flew across her bows. It's said they were the first shots in the conflict.

The 7443-ton ship revealed she was no slug. The engines had been thrown into reverse, and she stopped more quickly than onlookers thought was possible for a ship of her size. The *Empire* was on the brink of war, but just how much the Ellerman City Line steamer's skipper knew about the latest developments in Europe is not known.

It was clear, however, that he was not privy to the extent

of the Empire City's preparations. The Evening Post headlined its report *Incident at Heads - Two Rounds Fired. Signals not Obeyed*.

The City of Delhi had ignored the minelayer and harbour minder Janie Seddon, which had been on patrol at the heads that morning. She was Wellington's official examination vessel.

It was the beginning of a routine for all ships entering Port Nicholson for the duration of the war. A red, white and blue flag 8ft by 10ft denoting Janie Seddon's status as the port's gatekeeper and inspector flew from her mast, and an examining officer had been poised to board the advancing ship. The City of Delhi slid on by.

On board Janie Seddon, the reaction was swift. Empire allegiances were forgotten in a trice. There were regulations to uphold. A signal was sent to Fort Dorset at Seatoun, where the examination battery was standing by. A dull boom was heard across Seatoun as the first shot was fired across the ship's bows.

When it appeared to have no effect, a second shot "was required", *The Post reported*. It worked, in fact, said onlookers, the City of Delhi stopped quickly and was able to be boarded by Janie Seddon's examining officer.

He found nothing out of order, apart of course, from the behaviour of the officer of the watch. The trouble was that while New Zealand was not yet at war, a state of emergency had been declared at 5.20pm on the Friday and the momentum for going a step further was gathering pace.

German forces had attacked Poland, reported *The Dominion* on Saturday, a day in which the *The Post* resorted to a veiled exhortation in its lead headline: *NZ Faces Its Responsibilities*. On Monday, the skipper would have learned that any chance of peace in the foreseeable future was remote. In *The Dominion* and *The Post* reproductions of *The Gazette* were published: "His Excellency the Governor-General has it in a communication from His Majesty the King to declare that a state of war exists between His Majesty and the Government of the German Reich, and that a state of war existed from 9.30pm New Zealand standard time of the third day of September 1939". The declaration was signed by Viscount Galway and by the Acting prime Minister, Peter Fraser.

The City of Delhi's skipper had pressing matters elsewhere, however. He would be fined for ignoring the examination official's flag, with an additional £40 for the two "plugged shells" that shot across his bows. The City of Delhi proved to be not only agile in confined waters. Launched in 1925, she survived the war, though 60 of the Ellerman Group 105 ships did not. Forty One of them were sunk by submarine action. The City of Delhi was scrapped in 1956.

The Janie Seddon, a modest minelayer built in 1901 and sailed to New Zealand under her own steam with her twin, the Lady Roberts, had a long career. She was the official examination vessel at Wellington in both World

Wars. After an honourable career she was sold in 1947 for use as a trawler. Her hulk lies on a beach at Motueka.

**Permission was granted by the Dominion Post to reproduce his article which was written by Peter Kitchin and appeared in their paper (Page E8) on Saturday 6 September 2008.**

## ⇒ An Elderly American v French Customs

The elderly American gentleman arrived in Paris by plane At French Customs, he fumbled for his passport. "You 'ave been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. The old gent admitted that he had been to France previously. "Zen, you should know enough to 'ave your passport ready for inspection." The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible. You Americans always 'ave to show your passports on arrival in France!"

The old American gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he said, "Not on Omaha Beach, they didn't."

## 12. TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT AGM AND REUNION - HAVE YOUR SAY

The current AGM and Reunion is held on the weekend closest to Remembrance Day and at Taupo. Why? The time is so that it doesn't clash with the "silly season" (Christmas) functions. Why Taupo?. The Armed Constabulary was stationed in Taupo and it is approx. half way between Auckland and Wellington.

***Possible dates (weekend closest to) we could observe in the future:***

1 Feb - Founding of the 1st two troops of Royal Horse Artillery

24 April - Kap'Yong (Korea) Day

12 May - Battle of Coral (Vietnam)

25 May - Gunners Day

28 May - Battle of Balmoral (Vietnam)

6 June - Battle of Opepe

18 June - Waterloo Day

1 July - First battle of El Alamein began

10 July - RNZA Association formally known as the NZ Permanent Force Old Comrades' Association formed in 1934

18 Aug - Battle of Long Tan (Vietnam)

1 Sept - NZ Permanent Militia (know as The NZ



Permanent Artillery) formed. Royal Regiment of NZ Artillery formed 1947 (as we know it today)

24 Sept - Second battle of El Alamein began

11 Nov - Armistice/Remembrance Day

20 Nov - Battle of Rangiriri

4 Dec - St Barbara's Day

**Possible locations we could hold the AGM and Reunion at:**

Auckland	Rotorua	Taupo
Palmerston North	Wellington	Christchurch

**Where do our members live: (Using the Super 14 boundaries):**

Auckland Blues	123	36%
Waikato Chiefs	62	18%
Wellington Hurricanes	72	21%
Canterbury Crusaders	31	9%
Otago Highlanders	14	4%
Aussie	29	9%
Other Overseas Locations:	6	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>	

Tell Mike of your views so a robust discussion can be held at the AGM and a decision made that members mostly agree with.

### 13. NOTICE BOARD

As Editor it is amazing just what questions/requests come to me:

#### A. Email received from the Netherlands

"Kindly would like to ask you if you can place a little note in the upcoming edition of the NZ Gunner Magazine, as doing research about Allied Artillery units in the Netherlands in 1944-1945, I came a little to my surprise to this grave, because as far as I know no NZ Artillery units fought in the Netherlands, maybe one of your readers, can and would like to tell me some more about this Gunner".



Mrs Faith Goodley of the Army Museum wrote:

I have checked the Roll of Honour and found that Gnr. C. L. Louisson died while Prisoner of War in Germany Unfortunately I am unable to offer any reason as to why Gnr. Louisson was interred in the Netherlands.

The following information is Gnr. Louisson's Prisoner of War details: Camp Number: Stalag 8A - Gorlitz Prisoner of War Number: 32648

#### Further research has revealed the following:

22793 Gnr Louison, Charles Louis: b 1911, d 18 Apr 1945. Son of Cecil and Lucy Maria Louisson, of Auckland City, New Zealand; husband of Alice Louisson, of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

POW Gorlitz, Germany (east border), buried at Nederweert War Cemetery in the Netherlands.

Nederweert was liberated by British troops on 21st September, 1944. From January 1945, the Germans began to long-march POWs away from the east and the threat of the Russian overrun, pushing them 10-15 kms a day for a total march of 1500 kms or more. It seems likely that Gnr Louisson found his way into the Netherlands as part of a column of British POWs. Although he died, aged 33, (from unknown causes, but the long march won't have helped), about the time he arrived in the Netherlands, he may have been lucky to survive as long as he did.

His headstone in the war cemetery bears the Cross of David; he was Jewish.

#### B. Letter received from Dunedin

Ian and I would be pleased if you would insert a few lines in the NZ Gunner to give thanks to his many friends who sent get well messages and donations while he was in Christchurch Hospital.

He is now delighted to be home after 18 months and five operations later. He never wants anyone To catch this awful disease Necrotizing Fasciitis but can only be grateful for the wonderful care he received in both the Dunedin and Christchurch hospitals.

With Kind Regards Ethne Cunningham

**Note from the Editor** - This disease is a rare bacterial infection that destroys skin and the soft tissues beneath it, including fat and the tissue covering the muscles.

#### C. George Klee - NZ ARMY 1903 - 40

##### Can you help solve a family enquiry?

Lloyd says: "Our own family history suggests that the Janie Seddon was used for towing targets out for the Gunners around Seatouns' Fort Dorset, a target that they could never hit. Rumour (verbal from my father) was that one of the gunners became bored and decided to give George a fright and put a practice round through the bridge of the Janie Seddon. If this was true, I assume that their may have been an enquiry or even a court martial. Would those records be somewhere?"

It is likely that this incident occurred around the time of WW2.

For more details about George refer to the excellent write up about him at [http://genealogy.project.co.nz/klee\\_nz/george\\_service.html](http://genealogy.project.co.nz/klee_nz/george_service.html)

#### D. An important answer from Veteran Affairs.

The following is a response received from Veterans Affairs when a recent enquiry was made of them: "Our role is to provide assistance to War Veterans. This service ceases on death but we have the discretion to continue those services that were being provided such as lawns assistance , etc for the spouse **for up to six months after death** to enable that person to deal with their grief and to seek alternative options for funding the services required. There is no ongoing funding for the provision of assistance for services for spouses of deceased veterans. It is suggested that assistance if required is sought from the RSA or from WINZ".

**Note from the Editor:** It makes it so hard when one looks up the relevant web sites and brochures and can not find the relevant information because it is not there. It certainly pays to use someone who knows the system when dealing with "Veteran" matters.

#### E. Researching Murray Connor

I am trying to compile a family history for myself and my children. I discovered that my grandfather was a member of your organisation. Due to a house fire, I have no photos of my grandparent, and have sketchy information at best from my parents. It would be greatly appreciated if any information about my grand father could be sent to me. Regards Rebecca Connor.

#### F. M-73 Prismatic Compass

"I have a M-73 prismatic compass that needs repairing, can you help". This request was posted on our muzzle flashes site and a positive reply was received.

#### G. 1 RAR Reunion

Tom Gosper 1 RAR (Vietnam 1965-66) advises that a 1 RAR reunion is to be held at Campbelltown NSW 10-12 Oct 2008. All NZ gunners who served at Bien Hoa with 1 RAR are invited to this reunion.

#### H. Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Kerry Lee on being appointed to the governing Council of Volunteer Service Aboard (VSA). Kerry and Lyn spent from January 2005 to August 2006 in Timor Leste. Lyn was seconded to the Ministry of Health as a Pharmacy Advisor as part of the VSA programme. Kerry spent time during their time there tutoring Bahasa speaking adults in English and helping the NZ Consul General with office administration tasks.

#### I. Arrears

Oh dear, oh dear! What does it take to get the remaining 70-odd of our members to part with this year's sub? Hey, it adds up to \$1500 in total, if you are delinquent **you** need to pay **your** sub to bring that down. All those in favour of "name and shame"? And I'm only half-kidding! Mike.

#### J. Reunion Registration

It's not too late to register for this years reunion. *See page 17 for details.*







#### 14. The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc) Reunion Friday, 7 November to Sunday, 9 November 2008 – Registration

On Friday, mix-and-mingle at the Taupo RSA before a **buffet meal** at the Spa Hotel.  
The **Reunion Dinner** will be at the Taupo Bowling Club, Tongariro St: **1830 for 1900 hours on Saturday.**

**Dress for:** Dinner and the Sunday commemorative service is formal - gentlemen a minimum standard of jacket and tie, with medals or miniatures.

#### The programme:

Friday 1200-1600 Check-in for Reunion at the Spa Hotel, then at your arranged accommodation  
1600 Taxis depart Spa Hotel only, for mix-and-mingle at the Taupo RSA.  
1800 Taxis (Spa guests only) to Spa Hotel for buffet meal  
1830 Buffet dinner at the Spa Hotel **included in registration**  
Saturday 0730 Breakfast available at the Spa Hotel (\$12.50/\$15 per diner, own arrangement)  
0900 AGM Spa Hotel, Old Dining Room  
1800 Taxis leave Spa Hotel for Reunion Dinner at the Taupo Bowling Club (Registration includes Dinner)  
2130 (Approx) Taxis return to Spa Hotel  
Sunday 0730 Breakfast available at the Spa Hotel (\$12.50/\$15 per diner, own arrangement)  
0930 Commemorative Service conducted by Rev Derm Buchanan at Spa Meeting House  
After Commemorative Service, disperse to home locations.

#### Spa Hotel accommodation

**15 Chalets @ \$95** flat rate per night (there are sufficient beds for two families, with a degree of privacy) + spa pool (9 left)

**10 Studio Units @ \$65** flat rate per night (1 double bed and 1 single) (1 left)

- You may bring a driver/companion who is welcome to take part in **all** Reunion activities **except** voting at the AGM

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**The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc) Reunion 2008  
Friday, 7 November to Sunday, 9 November – Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone \_\_\_\_\_

Surname Initials Known as (for name tag) or email \_\_\_\_\_

I [will] [will not] be attending **Number attending** \_\_\_\_ Negative replies are accepted as apologies for the AGM

**Accompanied by:** \_\_\_\_\_ Surname Initials Known as (for name tag)

**Taxis | Friday from Spa to RSA** \_\_\_\_ passengers | **Friday from** RSA to Spa \_\_\_\_ passengers

**Saturday from** Spa to Dinner \_\_\_\_ passengers | **Saturday from** Dinner to Spa \_\_\_\_ passengers

#### Spa Hotel

**Accommodation** (Circle one) **CHALET (STUDIO** - only one available ) These will be allocated first come, first served

**Meals:** Breakfast Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ number Breakfast Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ number

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ persons @ \$ 70.00 per head for both the Friday buffet meal and the Reunion Dinner

#### PLEASE REPLY BY ASP: Return to:

Mike Dakin, Secretary, The RNZA Assn Inc, 37a Palliser Lane, Browns Bay, **North Shore 0630**

**PAYMENT**  Please make cheques payable to **The RNZA Association**, or

Bank 'On Line' to Kiwibank account NO **38 9007 0694501 00**, or

Use a Kiwibank deposit slip at any Post Shop, to deposit straight into our account – making sure your name is recorded by the Bank for your credit

*Who's Who and What's What*

<i>Patron</i>	Col (Rtd) Donal R KENNING MBE	06 3582849
<i>Colonel Commandant</i>	Brig (Rtd) Graham BIRCH MBE	07 5481193
<i>President</i>	Denis J DWANE	09 2998589
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Michael F DAKIN 37a Palliser Lane Browns Bay NORTH SHORE CITY 0630	09 4755227  <i>RNZA.Association@gmail.com</i>
<i>Committee</i>	Barry DREYER 'Spike' JONES Jeff WATERS	Frank HOPKINSON Ted LILE
<i>Committee At Large</i>	Graeme BLACK John MASTERS Paul O'CONNOR	Bob KERSLAKE Brian (Jerry) MEYER (Australia)
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<i>Blog</i>	'Muzzle Flashes' <a href="http://www.kiwigunners.blogspot.COM">www.kiwigunners.blogspot.COM</a>	

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING, IT IS IMPORTANT**

1. **ACCOUNT INFORMATION:** Association Account Name & Number for Cheques and On Line Banking is: **Royal New Zealand Artillery Assn Inc. Kiwi 38-9007-0694501-00.** ('RNZA Association' is acceptable).
2. **INTERNET AND POSTAL ADDRESSES:** A number of messages sent out by email have come back as not been able to be delivered. In addition two members have gone, address unknown. If you change your internet or postal address, and particularly as Postal Codes are now compulsory (if yours is not showing on your address label) please let Mike know what it should be, thanks
3. **SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Annual subscriptions of \$20 (Full and Associate members) are due on 1 January each year. Please keep your membership up-to-date.
4. **RECEIPTS:** Receipts will be issued for all incoming monies and will be sent out with the next issue of "The NZ Gunner".
5. **INPUT INTO "THE NZ GUNNER":** Stories and relevant "gunner" pieces are desperately needed, (accompanying photographs are always welcome for inclusion). The Editor's e-mail address is **dgroberts@xtra.co.nz**
6. **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. Membership forms are on-line at **www.riv.co.nz/nza/members/joining**
7. **DEATH OF A MEMBER:** If you know of the passing of someone who you think may have been a member please let someone from the Committee (preferably the Secretary) know. Where possible a representative of the Association will attend the funeral.
8. **TIMINGS FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NZ GUNNER:** The following is an indication of when the issues of **The NZ Gunner** are likely to come out in 2008/09:

Period	Close Off Date for Articles	The NZ Gunner sent to the Printer	The NZ Gunner Posted Out
Oct—Dec	3 Dec	5 Dec	16 Dec
Jan—Mar09	15 Mar	18 Mar	31 Mar
Apr—June	14 Jun	19 Jun	
July—Sept	20 Sept	25 Sept	6 Oct