



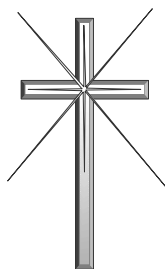
Founded 1934

The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of
THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

Issue Number 140 Dated December 2008

1. LAST POST



*The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not
want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.*

*My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make.*

*Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.*

*Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.*

39931 OPAI, Winata (Jim, Jombo). Jim passed way in Dunedin on 29 April of this year. He had a very swift but relatively painless passing from pancreatic cancer (it was diagnosed 2 months prior to his death). Jim managed to completed his dying wish of laying the Vietnam Veterans Wreath on ANZAC Day, but on his return to the hospice on that day he virtually gave up and didn't speak again. He served with the original 161 Bty in Vietnam in 1965-66 on No3 gun.

WEAVER, Norah. Life Member. At Auckland on 20 October 2008. Norah was an English WRAC during WW2 and somehow met Gordon when he was repatriated. Norah and Gordon were stalwarts of the RNZAA, frequently at the reunions and having a great time.

66523 FORBES, Robert Charles (Bob). At Blenheim on 3 November 2008. Bob was a pre WW2 regular with his early service in

Hamilton. 7 Anti Tank Regt became his parent unit in North Africa. He (more than often) would express his lack of foresight in not taking up an offer to re-enter RF in 1947/48.

38543 LITCHFIELD, Val. Val passed away from general heart failure on 19 November, at Mittagong, NSW, Australia. He was 71. Val was an original with 161 Bty in Viet Nam, serving in 1965-66 as a Bty Svyr. He was twice on the staff at RF Cadet School. His total service spanned 12 years, from 1959 to 1971.

31349 HOPKIRK, William Spottiswoode. Bill passed away on Sunday 23 November 2008. He graduated from Duntroon in 1950 and served at various times with 13 Comp AA Regt RNZA, the School of Artillery and 15 Comp AA Bty, Godley Heads Christchurch. Bill was posted to K Force and served in Korea, 1953-54 with 16 Fd Regt, RNZA as GPO, CPO, Troop Commander and Adjutant.

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LAST POST Continued

466000 O'CONNOR John Augustus (Doc) RNZAMC. Doc passed away unexpectedly in Christchurch on 27 November 2008 aged 70. He served with 161 Bty in Vietnam in 1968, he naturally was the medic.



2. NEW MEMBERS

ANDERSON, John T. JT served the guns between 1952 and 1956, with 3 Fd Regt (CMT) He was a professional jockey and rode the winner of 1 NZ Cup and 2 Auckland Cups. At one of the race meetings he was presented to HM Queen Elizabeth II.

BOTICA, PETER Milan

Nig served the guns between 1965 and 1975, doing three tours with 161 Bty to Vietnam. In 1966 and 1968 he was on No 4 gun and in 1969 was the Tpt Bdr. On return from his TOD he was posted to NCT Waiouru, then back to 161 Bty before working at SCE Ardmore from where he took his discharge. Nig continued in that area working for the NZ Prison Service and at the Oakley Hospital before venturing into the private sector. Nig remembers his first week in the Army. At the end of it he packed his bag and knocked on the CO's door and told him he was leaving. Nig then spent the most his free time for the remainder of his basic cleaning the camp fire engine at Waiouru. (that was the way it was back then, not now). He and Sheryl live on the way to Mangawhai.

BOYLAN, Peter James. Stretch served the guns between 1970 and 1977 touring Vietnam with 161 Bty in 1971 as a Dvr Op. and on No 4 gun. He remained with the Bty as a clerk until 1974 when he was posted to 16 Fd Regt as Senior Clerk. On leaving the Army Peter studied for a Law degree and is currently a practicing Barrister in the Criminal and Commercial field. He has been very successful in off shore power racing, coming 2nd in the World Championships and NZ Champion. He lives in Auckland.

BUSFIELD, Alan Hainsworth. Buzz served the guns between 1948 and 1960. Two of his postings were 1 Fd Loc Bty and 12 Heavy AA. He lives in South Auckland.

DEAZLEY, John. Dezal graduated from RF Cadets in 1961 joining RNZSigs, (4 Bde Gp Sig Sqn). In 1965 he served the guns with 161 Bty in Vietnam as a Dvr Op. Upon his return to NZ he was posted to 1 Sig Sqn then Defence HQ. In 1972 he went to 4 Sign Sqn taking his discharge from RF in 1974, he then joined TF and remained with 4 Sig Sqn until 1988. Between 1974 and 1988 Dezal was a member of the NZ Police.

DONNELLY, Walter Henry. Wally served in the NZ Army (RNZASC and SAS) between 1958 and 1968. He did a TOD with 161 Bty to Vietnam in 1966 as a Cook.

GREEN, Stanley John. Stan served the guns between 1960 and 1966. During his early period of service he had the opportunity to do tours with the Bty to Australia and England. He toured Vietnam with 161 Bty in 1965 on No 2 gun. On leaving the Army he has worked in the construction field. Stan lives in Auckland.

MORGAN, Manuel. Manu served the guns between 1968 and 1971. He initially joined National Service and on completion joined 161 Bty, touring Vietnam with them in 1969/70 on No 2 gun. On his return he was posted to 4 Med Bty then to Papakura Camp. He lives in Te Puke and works in the Kiwi Fruit field.

MANSON, Mayne William. 'Hey you Gunner' served the guns from 1966 to 1978. Graduating from RF Cadets he was posted to the cadre staff of 11 Bty. In 1968 he served with 161 Bty in Vietnam as a Dvr Op. On this return his postings included 1 Loc Tp Waiouru, NSTU Burnham, 31 Bty Dunedin, and then with the TF at 32 Bty Christchurch. Between 1972 and 1984 he was with the NZ Police and now runs a small coach charter business. Mayne remembers when he was a RF Cadet and with the late Frank Lupo they backed the RL into Bob Blankley's new house. Naturally Bob was not happy, but Mayne could never understand why Bob didn't like RF Cadets!!

ST BRUNO, Francis Louis. Francis was in the NZ Army between 1960 and 1968 in RNZEME. He served the guns with 161 Bty in Vietnam in 1966 as a Veh Mech (LAD). He lives on the North Shore.

TE NANA, Hakuene. Huk served the guns between 1965 and 1968. Touring Vietnam with 161 Bty in 1966 as a Bty Svyr. On his return he was posted to NSTU Waiouru. Huk and Jeanette live on the North Shore.

3. RESIGNATIONS

Both Clarence ORMSBY and Dot FOLEY have tendered their resignations from the Association.

3A. STRUCK OFF

We have lost track of Major John R Barrett (not Woody). His subscriptions were in arrears, so he has been removed from the Members' Register until he surfaces again. If anyone is in touch with John, ask him to contact the Secretary.

4. Letter to the Editor: END OF AN ERA: The Last of the RNZA Launches

Reading the article on page 14 of the September issue of the NZ Gunner reminded me of those days bygone. I, [Pat Hicky}, joined the NZ Army and served in J Force, I left NZ aged 17 having my 18th birthday on the troop ship taking us to Japan. On my return I was stationed from 1949 to 1951 on the *Bombardier*, as a deck hand. I then went to Korea and upon my return transferred to the Lady Roberts as engineer from 1953 to 1956. I remained with the RNZA until 1966.

The Crew

Referring to the runs to Wellington for the 10 Coast Regiment training, for the first two trips the Crew on the *Bombardier* were:

Dan Foley, Captain, Harry McKinnon. Navigator, Jim Jamieson and myself (Pat Hickey) Engineers, the deck hand was a Fijian, Mellasissie.

Dan Foley joined the Army before the war and

served on the boats until they were transferred back to the RNZN, then he was posted to Papakura.

Harry McKinnon joined the NZ Navy before the war and was sent over to England to do an Officers course, (which was the thing done at that time), he was told that he was part of the British Navy until the end of the war. Through out the war Harry was Captain of a PT Boat. After the war he became Captain of a cruise ship travelling between England and New Zealand. In England he married a New Zealand girl who came back to live in Auckland. This arrangement never worked out because Harry only saw his wife a few days every four or five months when his ship was berthed in Auckland. So he gave this life up and joined the crew as a Sgt on the *Bombardier*. The Navy said they were going to run a navigators course before our first trip to Wellington. Harry was sent by the Army as he was the navigator on the *Bombardier*. After a few days the Navy found Harry knew more than the instructor, they asked him how come he knew so much. He told them what he had done and finished up taking the course. This is why we never had naval personal with us on the first two runs to Wellington because Harry still had his papers.

Jim Jamieson was in the Navy through the war in the engine room before joining the Army.

Myself, **Pat Hickey**, I left school and worked for the Martha Hill Gold Mine in Waihi. I did an apprenticeship as a fitter and turner before joining the Army.

Mellasissie – we knew little about him.

The crew for the third and fourth trips to Wellington the crew on the *Bombardier* were, Dan Foley, Bill Stott, Jim Jamieson and Ross Goldsworthy who took my place. At the time of these runs Joe Rutherford was RSM in Fiji and Bill Stephenson was out of the Army.

The *Bombardier* had twin Grey marine diesel two stroke engines and had a top speed of 8 knots, until we put new props on her then she gave us around 12 knots.

Article supplied by Pat Hickey

5. 2008 AGM and REUNION - Taupo 7/9 November

Friday - Activities began with the normal informal mix and mingle gathering at the Taupo RSA. Old and new friends including three members of the Royal Australian Artillery Association told stories and reminisced times past.



Graham Hampton (A), Paul O'Connor, Denis Dwane, Wayne Thompson (A) and Kim McGrath (A). (L to R).

Then it was back to the Spa for a buffet dinner and more stories told.

(Neil Rhynd and Nig Botica)



Saturday - With military precision the AGM started not at 9.59am or 10.01am but at 10am.



The Association's out-going President, Denis Dwane, presented his report for 2008:

Membership

The membership for 2008 has had a net increase of 36 members since the 2007 AGM. During the year, we have signed up 59 members but lost 23 through - Last Post (19), Resignations (3) and Struck off (1). This is the third year in a row that membership has moved in a positive direction. The current membership for 2008 is:

253 Full Members
32 Life Members
47 Associate
4 Honorary
366 in total

Committee

Most of you will be aware that, *unlike other politicians this year*, I will not be seeking re-election as the Association's President. This is due to my living in the Cook Islands which has reduced my ability to be hands on (notwithstanding the point that there could have been a jolly good sacking). Over the period that I have been President, I have become acutely aware that the glue that holds the Association together is the Secretary/Treasurer. In previous Reports I have singled out the late John Rout and Graeme Black for their efforts in this post. It is now fitting to single out our current Secretary and Treasurer – Mike Dakin for the role that he has played over the last year. He has worked well above his required responsibilities. To this comment I add that his development of the Muzzle Flashes blog site and involvement at the Vietnam Veterans' Tribute 08 has been highly commendable. Thank you Mike. Having paid tribute to these efforts it is important that we are aware that such enthusiasm and dedication quickly loses its lustre if it is unsupported.

There are also others that I must thank for their contributions to the association during the year;

- Marie Roberts for her editing, publication and distribution of the Newsletter.
- Barry Dreyer and Frank Hopkinson for chairing meetings in my absence, and
- The committee members whose presence at meetings added balance and ensured that decisions made were in keeping with the general wishes of the members. I would also like to single out Ted Lile for his contribution over the years and he would have attended more meetings that most members that I know.

Conclusion

The last 5 years have been a period of change for the Association. These changes originally stemmed from a general Friday night chat in the Papakura RSA with the John Rout the Secretary at the time. The subject was on how to overcome shrinking membership of the Old Comrades Association. Broadening the membership base and changing the title to The

RNZA Association were seen as options. Over the next six years, the NZ Permanent Forces Old Comrades Association evolved from having a restricted RF membership base to be one which is inclusive to all those who served the guns. Finally, changing the title to *The RNZA Association* was initially treated with some caution, but is fitting, as it is close to the original title given to this association in 1934. This was *The Past and Present RNZA Association*. There will no doubt be further discussion on the subject of membership during notices of motion. The point that I must stress is that the main objective set in 1934 must stand *to keep alive the spirit of comradeship and to extend a helping hand to all Gunners who may be in need of assistance.* That is – we are welfare oriented.

I have enjoyed my involvement with the association during the last 6 years and hope to see a drive to target those Gunners that leave the Regiment for civilian life over the coming years. I wish the new President and incoming committee all the best for 2009.

DSJ Dwane MBE JP, President

Other items of relevance from the meeting were:
 24 members attended the 2008 AGM. 75 members sent their apologies, some of them because of last-minute setbacks. (We had 41 people at the weekend re-union.)

A minute's silence was observed for the 16 members who have passed away since the 2007 AGM; and the passing of Betty-May Brown and Georgie Black.

The auditor's report was received but the committee is to review the balance sheet to ensure it is accurate and complete.

- ⇒ The Constitution and Rules need changes to:
- ⇒ Comply with the Charities Act;
- ⇒ Simplify procedures such as auditing, admin, property management;
- ⇒ Clarify membership rules and conditions;
- ⇒ Clarify meaning and intention in several minor rules.

The committee will report back to members with proposed alterations.

Angus and Catherine Rivers are the first **Life Members** elected under the Life Member rule introduced last year. They have given and continue to give great service to the Association through their sponsorship and management of our permanent web site, and their work is greatly appreciated.

Denis Dwane and Ted Lile stepped down as President and Committee Member respectively. Both were thanked by acclamation for their positive contribution over many years.

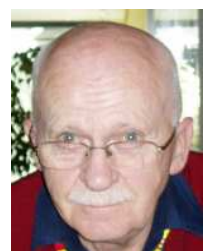


Donal Kenning
Patron



Graham Birch
Colonel Commandant

The new President is Lt Col (Rtd) Frank Hopkinson MBE ED. Mike Dakin continues as Secretary and Treasurer. Barry Dreyer (VP), Jeff Waters and Spike Jones were re-elected to the committee. They are joined by Graeme Black, Alan Taylor and Joe Panoho .



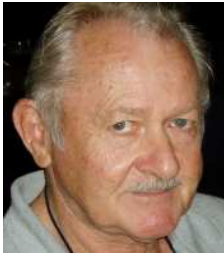
Frank
Mike



Barry



Jeff



Spike



Graeme



The old barrack/stable accommodation



Alan



Joe



The mineral pool where the ladies took the waters while the men partook of an ale or two in the bar. One year the ladies were waited on by an English



Marie Roberts volunteered to continue as Editor of *The NZ Gunner*. Marie pleads for more input from members, especially the stories people swap at re-unions so these are not lost forever.

Gunner Officer who was in full mess kit including spurs.



Suite One where the one for the road was held after the

Sunday Church Service

The Association celebrates its 75th anniversary next year. The AGM and Reunion will on the weekend of 6/8 November 2009, and at North Shore City, to encourage greater attendance and participation in planned activities.



The Meeting House where we hold our church services is the only privately owned meeting house in the country and is protected by a special act of Parliament against being removed from New Zealand.

After the AGM it was free time. The Editor did a reminiscing tour of the Spa.

Saturday Evening we ventured to the local bowling club where a most wonderful buffet was served. The caterer ensured there was enough food available for twice the number that attended. The raffles was drawn and a selection of prizes were shared by many. The usual toasts were made:



The front of the Spa, this hasn't changed.

- Grace - Alan Taylor
- The Loyal Toast - Paul O'Connor
- Absent Friends - Brian (aka Jerry) Meyer
- The Ladies - Barry Cook
- Our Heritage - Frank Hopkinson
- The Royal Regiment - Kim McGrath, President Australian Artillery Association

And around 9.30pm the results of the election or the league test and/or bed awaited.

A selection of photos taken at the dinner:



John and Angeline Webb (RNZIR)



Lyn and Bevin Culhane



Maureen and Barry Cook



Ness and Ted Lile



Don Potter



Brian Meyer



Neil and Shelagh Rhynd

Sunday - A good turn out occurred for the church service conducted by Padre Derm Buchanan in the Meeting House. The majority were in fine singing voice for the hymns , prayers were said and a lesson given by Derm.



After the service farewells and best wishes were exchanged and we all headed off in our various directions.

The following are the number plates and vehicle names that just happened to be around during the weekend:



2009: Our 75th Year Since Founding

The Association was founded in Devonport on 10 July 1934 and, by New Zealand measures, it has reached a venerable age. At the direction of the AGM, your Committee is now making plans for a special Annual Reunion with the AGM in 2009.

The date will be 6-8 November and it will be held in North Shore City (north of Auckland, over the bridge, which is even better then being over the Bombay Hills). The dates just precede Armistice Day and there will be plenty of activities around us to reflect that, although 11 November is the main day.

Barry Dreyer will lead the reunion team of Spike Jones, Joe Panoho, Bill Stewart and Mike Dakin

6. WITH 16 FD REGT ROYAL NZ ARTILLERY IN KOREA 1950-1951

By The Late Col Ralph K.G. Porter OBE

**Continued from previous issue of the NZ
Gunner:**

As we were co-located with the School, all our young officers lived with the Regiment and were available for normal administrative duties with the Regiment after classes at the school.

By November 1950 the Regiment was able to train as a unit having completed all sub-unit training. As Adjutant I was not only the CO's 'A' staff officer but also responsible for technical and operational aspects involved in the fire control of the three batteries of the Regiment.

It was in the technical staff area where we had the greatest training problem. We had to instill the discipline of accuracy while achieving a quick response to calls for fire support. Normally these skills come with much practice and good command post drills but time was a commodity that we had little of, so we were posted to 'Active Service' and went on final leave before we were really technically proficient.

Voyage to Korea

On return from final leave we deployed on our final exercise and then entrained for Wellington and embarked on the *SS Ormonde* (Orient Line). Prior to this all our stores and equipment (our G1098 or War Equipment Table) had been non-tactically packed by the Main Ordnance Depot Trentham, and with an Advance Party of 1 Offr and 14 ORs loaded on to a freighter (*SS Ganges*) which sailed two weeks ahead of the main body. I assumed the mantle of Ship's Adjutant and set up my Orderly Room in the children's' saloon.

On our first night out from Wellington en route to Brisbane we encountered a severe storm off the East Coast of the North Island. I believe the *Ormonde* was some 25,000 tons but this did not stop her from rolling and pitching like a Manly

ferry in a strong SE gale. I never expected a ship of the *Ormonde's* displacement to behave in such a wild manner. Personnel were thrown out of bunks others violently sick.

The ship's dispensary was a mess of broken bottles and spilled chemicals which started a fire. When dawn finally came it was a scene of disaster, not to mention my Orderly Room which was a mix of collapsed trestle tables, other furniture, files and paper careering from on side of the salon to the other with every roll of the ship.

By the time we were off the Brisbane River we had managed to achieve a degree of normally on board. Our visit to Brisbane was a welcome break, albeit only a few days out of Wellington. It was early morning as we berthed up the river. The people of Brisbane gave us a great reception as we marched up Queen and George Streets to disperse at the Botanic Gardens. That evening I was a guest at a reception in the Officers' Mess, Victoria Barracks. Here I was able to meet up with some of my RMC classmates and contemporaries. Queensland hospitality being at its best caused me to worry as to whether all our soldiers would be able to return to the ship before we sailed early the following morning. However, I needn't have been concerned as throughout the night, all sorts of transport returned our gunners and we sailed with a full complement of crew and soldiers. With the aid of a Pilot we steamed north inside the Barrier Reef. At midnight on the following day the Pilot left us at Thursday Island and we set off alone through the reefs of the Aratura Sea, thence to the South China Sea and Manila. Not so lucky and some months later the *SS Wahine* carrying replacement guns, stores and reinforcements ran aground on Marsala Island in the Arahura Sea. The guns, freight and ship were lost but the personnel were picked up by a tanker and returned to Darwin whence they were flown to Japan.

We spent Christmas Day 1950 very comfortably in Manila and sailed on Boxing Day for Pusan. One day out we set anti-submarine watches by day and rehearsed fire and boat drills. On the third morning we entered the Formosa Strait – the nearest point to the Chinese Mainland. The Chinese had entered

Settling in

We were greeted with the news that the UN Command had surrendered Seoul and some 100kms of territory south of the 38th parallel. The next morning we observed that all the activity in the docks was concerned with back-loading US stores and equipment in anticipation that a withdrawal from Korea was inevitable. Nevertheless we disembarked on 31 December with a US Army band playing 'If we knew you were coming we'd have baked a cake'!

Our freighter the *Ganges* had arrived some days earlier with our equipment, guns and vehicles. HQ K Force had set up shop in an office in downtown Pusan while our Advance Party had found a deserted school on the outskirts of Pusan as quarters for the Regiment.

Here we began the laborious task of unpacking stores, taking guns out of their protective wax and grease and mounting wireless sets in vehicles. Ordnance in NZ had packed our equipment non-tactically and consequently we had to find vital parts of radios, for example, which had been packed in a number of cases. The task of tracking down stores in a myriad of packing cases was bad enough but we were also working in sub-zero temperatures in clothing designed for temperate winters.

We found many mechanical problems with the MT as nearly all the vehicles (wartime production) had not been run for years. We also found difficulties with radios – with a combination of damp and cold, man-pack sets using dry batteries were a problem in particular, as the intense cold affected the batteries.

Our boots did not stand up to the constant snow and slush – they ceased to be waterproof and eventually the uppers parted from the soles. Our vehicle scale included motor cycles for our BSMs, orderlies etc. These may have been satisfactory in Europe, but we quickly found that the harsh Korean winter and the poor road surfaces combined to make their use impracticable. We progressively replaced the bikes with jeeps acquired at some cost from the US.

Whilst in Pusan we had a bout of smallpox, so the episode was a bit of an enigma. By working day and night we had, by mid January, sorted ourselves out sufficiently to move to the Miryang River about 80 kms north of Pusan. Here we bivouacked for about ten days on the shingle banks of the river and calibrated our guns.

Calibration

Calibration was done by adjusting all guns to a 'standard' gun. A gun with the least recorded wear was selected as the 'standard' and then by firing we adjusted the mean point of impact (mpi) of each gun on a carefully surveyed target area. The muzzle velocity (mv) calibration markers were then adjusted to that at a given range and charge all guns produced an impact area as close as possible to that of the 'standard' gun. It was slow painstaking shooting over about ten days because it was necessary that the mpis were adjusted under the same, if not similar, meteorological conditions.

It was here, at the Miryang River, that we met the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2PPCLI). They were subsequently to join 27 Brigade. We also had our first casualty – a despatch rider on his way to Pusan was ambushed and killed by bandits.

Calibration completed, we headed north to 27 Commonwealth Brigade (27 Bde) which was then at Naegonni, north of Taegu. On 22 January 1951 – just five months after commencing training in New Zealand, we became operational and immediately relieved the 1st US Artillery Observation Battalion which had been a direct support of the Brigade. Fortunately the Chinese formation facing the Brigade could not have been aware of the change of the artillery, and it was all quiet during the relief.

A Slice of Regimental Life

The American gunners had laid the line.....

To be continued in the next issue of the NZ Gunner

7. Letter to the Editor: With 16 Fd Regt RNZA in Korea 1950 – 1951

Although the following has previously been printed in the K Force Dispatches, the article on page 8 in the September issue of the NZ Gunner, prompts me to resubmit it for inclusion in the next issue (December) of The New Zealand Gunner.

I [Colin Stanbridge] was one of those previously commissioned (in my case infantry) non artillery officers mentioned by Ralph.

Together with those selected from the lower North Island we marched into Linton Camp for what was, from memory, to be about 3 weeks basic indoctrination training. After a few days however we were told it was imperative we start our artillery conversion ASAP. Every day was vital. So off to Waiouru we went arriving inevitably by slow train late at night.

The next morning we assembled outside RHQ with another group we found had come down from Papakura the previous night also. A young RF Officer (a Lt H.B. Honnor who *might* be known by some members) took us off to what we assumed to be our introduction into the mysteries of gunnery, but we ended up in a Q store. There we were told as the South Island contingent hadn't arrived there was no point in starting artillery training until they did. So we proceeded to put together about 1000 sets of web gear. After day one we were no more enlightened on gunnery but had become quite knowledgeable on straps, shoulder left and right, pouches ammunition etc.

Still the next day we did start at the School of Guns to be addressed by Major Hardy Maxwell MC who introduced his team amongst whom, from memory, I remember Howard Jones, Peter Joplin, Fred Bath, Pat Shephard (sorry for any missed out) of a very talented team. In his opening remarks Hardy told us he had been directed to make Gunner Officers of us in 6 weeks! That, in his opinion, would be something of a miracle but they would give it their best shot.

Well in gratitude I think those of us who

actually made the grade would say, if not a miracle at least a close relative. To the best of my knowledge those we supported in Korea always spoke kindly, and often quite generously about our efforts. Finally we had a whip round and on final leave presented Hardy with a brace of beer tankards inscribed: "To Hardy from his miracles".

Article supplied by Colin Stanbridge

8. NO COMPUTER? NO INTERNET?

Visit your local public library and ask one of the staff to show you how to access your Artillery sites:

kiwigunners.blogspot.com. For general information, *Muzzle Flashes* is used to get info out there widely and quickly, normally updated daily:

www.riv.co.nz/RNZA. Is our official website for permanent or historical RNZA information of all kinds

picasaweb.google.co./RNZA.Association, takes you to our photo album, which is currently under development.

9. VECTOR WELLINGTON ORCHESTRA'S SUMMER SYMPHONY CONCERT IN THE BASIN RESERVE

With traditional venue Government House closed for renovations, the orchestra will head across the road in March for one of the highlights of their calendar. The evening's programme will include classic arias and popular hits. Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture will be the grand finale, complete with 16 cannons.

Bryan "Gunner" Townsend of the Wellington Cannon Society said it is great to be able to put their toys to good use. The society consists of about 20 "cannon-mad" members, and almost as many guns. The hardest part about using the cannons in an orchestral performance is making sure they are fired at the right time.

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

It has become somewhat of a cliché to say that as Christmas rapidly approaches it has been another busy year for 16 Field Regiment, RNZA. This comment now seems irrelevant as every year is busy for each unit and the NZ Army as a whole. In summarising the year for the Gunners I would first like to pass on my sincere thanks to the wider NZ Gunner family. Your kind invitations to numerous functions and particularly Tribute 08 have added to the experience of being CO 16th Field Regiment, RNZA.

For 16 Field Regiment it has been another year of balancing the competing priorities of the Crib 11 (Afghanistan) and Gyro 6 (Timor Leste) operational deployments with exercises supporting the School of Artillery, 2nd Land Force Group and our coalition partners in Australia (Exercises Swift Eagle and Long Guns). Add to that various Army experimentation Battle Labs, leadership courses and a wealth of ceremonial activities and the year has quickly filled. However for me the highlights have not been these activities, although they were all conducted in the professional manner that I would expect, but rather participating in other events that have an impact at a more personal level.

I was humbled to attend Tribute 08 in Wellington. The opportunity to spend time with the South Vietnam gunners of 161 Battery was wonderful. There was a huge amount of emotion throughout the weekend. I can only hope that in 40 years the gunners of Afghanistan and Timor Leste can gather and share the same amount of camaraderie. Betty May Browne left us this year and in accordance with her final wishes she was farewelled by her 'darling rogues'. A service in the Linton Chapel, violets on her casket, the gun carriage and laid to rest in the closest cemetery to Linton Camp was what Betty requested and it was exactly what she received. Gunners of all ages attended or provided messages and Betty's sister was present as well.

I also had the privilege to be present at the

awarding of five Chief of Army's Commendations to members of 16 Field Regiment. They were awarded for a variety of reasons that ranged from developing new capabilities to carrying out life saving acts. In all cases they rose above the norm for the sake of their friends and unit. My further congratulations to Lt Tylee, SSgt Makakea, SSgt Prendergast, Bdr Bush and LBdr Kerr.

Finally it was to see the emotion displayed as personnel from the unit deployed or returned from operations. The pride of the haka conducted for the families of Gyro 6 at Ohakea was matched by the joy of returning contingents from Afghanistan.

Both the RSM, WO1 Rob McLean, and myself are posted from the regiment at the end of the year. For both of us it has been the highlight of our careers to have been given the privilege of commanding 16th Field Regiment, RNZA. Our tenure has been short, only two and a half years. We acknowledge that it is the continued efforts of the more long term members of the unit and the wider RNZA that makes the aspirations and successes of 16 Field Regiment and all gunners possible. My thanks to you all. But in particular, the Colonel Commandant Brig (Retd) Birch MBE, Col (Retd) Don Kenning MBE, Mike Dakin, Bob Hammond and Graeme Black.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Lt Col Matt Boggs is to take up command of 16 Fd Regt at a date to be mutually agreed by the two of us. Will be either 15 - 17 Dec (probably just the two of us) or 9-13 Feb 09.

- > **Why** do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are going dead?
- > **Why** do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough money?
- > **Why** doesn't glue stick to the bottle?
- > **Why** doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

11. AUSSIE – KIWI GUNNERS EXERCISE SHOCK AND AWE — ROUNDS CRACKLE AS GUNS BLAZE

The following article appeared in a local Queensland newspaper and was sent over by Edwin Bryant

Artillery Units from Australia and New Zealand combined forces at High Range yesterday to produce an earth-shattering display of firepower. Exercise Long Guns 08 saw the largest combined gunnery concentration in Australia for more than a decade. Soldiers from the Australian Army 1st Division, Royal Australian Artillery units from Townsville, Brisbane and Darwin and the Royal New Zealand Army's 161st Field Battery took part. The aim of the exercise was to maintain and enhance the high standards of timely, accurate and safe indirect fire support that is available to the Australian Defence Force on the battle field.

More than 6000 rounds were fired from light to medium guns sending a deafening crackle through the bush as they left the barrel. Forward observers from the Brisbane-based Australian 1st Field Regiment and New Zealand 16th Field Regiment relay the grid, bearing and direction of the target to the command post. The command post deciphers the locations through their computers and relays the bearing and alleviation to the gun line which then fires a projectile to neutralise the target, in this exercise, about 10km away.

The bigger of the two guns, the M198 Howitzer 115mm, has a maximum range of 30km and requires 10 men to operate. It has a splinter distance of about 100m, meaning anything and anyone within a 100m radius of the landing will be destroyed. Bdr B. Bushell, RAA 24, whose team can spit out 11 shells a minute, said "the exercise was all about fine-tuning. It's about working together in unison to ensure battle supremacy on the battlefield." Bdr Bushell said the role of artillery was vital to the defence force and needed to be kept to a high standard. "On the battlefield you need that fire supremacy which is what we bring to the battlefield, especially with the medium guns,

we bring that extra punch and with the bigger projectiles can make a bigger mess."

The exercise is a rare opportunity for the New Zealand troops to hone their skills. There hasn't been a joint Australian, New Zealand artillery exercise since 2002. 161 Fd Bty Troop Commander 2nd Lt Matt Marinovich said the exercise was a priceless exercise for his boys. "It's good from our perspective because we don't get to do this very often with more than one battery. Back home we have a regiment but at the moment we only have enough men for one battery. We don't get to do missions as such as we have been doing out here. A lot of the boys haven't experienced this before and it has worked well for them." 2nd Lt Marinovich said Kiwis would take home a lot of handy tips. "We have learnt a lot of new stuff, a lot of new techniques and ways to do stuff and will definitely be taking that away with us," he said.



Article sent in by Eldon Bryant

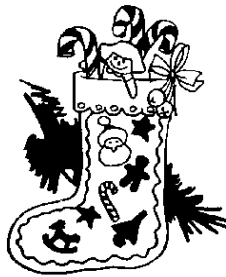


Fire for Effect. Exercise Long Guns, High Range Townsville. November 2008.

12. GREETINGS FELLOW GUNNERS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR ASSOCIATION.

One of the chief reasons our Association came into being in 1934 was the financial plight of old servicemen. We live in a different time now and Governments are much more sympathetic. As a consequence of this, we are not called on as much as in the early days to assist financially.

A greater need now challenges us. Loneliness is an increasing symptom in today's 'me first' society and I call on everyone to keep in touch with their old mates and encourage them not to 'vegetate'. Watch over each other's health and welfare needs.



As we approach Christmas, the Committee and I send all Gunners and their families, whether serving or retired, wherever they may be, Christmas greetings and peace.

Frank Hopkinson, President

13. THANKS TO Lt Col Nick Gillard

On the 11th December I was privileged to review the change of command parade marking the official handover of the command of 16 Field Regiment between Lt Col Nick Gillard, RNZA, and Lt Col Matt Boggs, RNZA. The two years that Lt Col Gillard has been CO of 16th Field and the Regimental Colonel RNZA have been momentous ones for the Regiment. Colonel Nick has overseen two significant 16th Field Crib deployments to the Bamyán Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan, the recent deployment of a Battery (in the infantry role) to Timor Leste, and Kapyong Battery to Townsville to participate in the largest Australian Defence Force gunner concentration for over ten years. Add to this the introduction into service of the radars, command posts and IFF equipments for

43 Air Defence Troop; the test bed work being conducted on unmanned aerial vehicles; the pending introduction into service of a new command post and gun fire control computer system; the introduction into service of LAVs for BC and OP Parties, and you can see what a busy two years it has been. Added further to this is the Regimental Colonel role, which encompasses many of the functions of the old Corps Directorate but without the supporting staff the Corps Directors of old had!

In all this Colonel Nick has been very ably supported by the RSM, WO1 Robert McLean, who has worked very effectively and quietly behind the scenes in underpinning all the above in support of his CO.

Both Lt Col Nick Gillard and WO1 Robert McLean depart the Regiment on posting to Afghanistan. On behalf of the Regiment I thank them both for the guidance, dedication and professionalism they have displayed during their appointments as CO and RSM respectively, and wish them well for their next posting and their continued appointments within the NZ Army. They leave the Regiment in good heart and better off for their time with it.

And to Lt Col Matt Boggs. On behalf of the Regiment, welcome back into the fold, and all the best for a successful and rewarding period in command.

**Graham Birch, Brigadier (Retired)
Col Comdt Royal Regiment of NZ Artillery**

The President and Members of the Royal New Zealand Artillery Association add their heartfelt good wishes to those of the Colonel Commandant in farewelling Lt Col Nick Gillard RNZA. Colonel Nick has been a pleasure to know and we hope we continue to hear from him during and after his tour in Afghanistan. His quarterly column in *The New Zealand Gunner* has always been an informative and interesting read, whether he is bringing us up-to-date with modern artillery or writing about the passing of Betty May. His news from the sharp end will be most welcome. And we look forward to a similar close relationship with Nick's successor, Lt Col Matt Boggs RNZA.

Frank Hopkinson, President

14. COURAGE AND FEAR: Lord Moran's Unique Contribution

By Sir Martin Lindsay of Dowhill Bt CBE DSO - Who commanded 1st Bn, the Gordon Highlanders in sixteen operations, 1944-45

Sir Lord Moran, who rose to fame as Sir Winston Churchill's doctor, died at the age of ninety four.

He became a familiar figure as the Dr Wilson who accompanied Churchill on all his war-time travels and undoubtedly restored him from potentially dangerous illnesses more than once. Just as a CO likes to make his orderly a Lance-Corporal, Prime Ministers tend to honour their personal physicians, and Dr Wilson was made a peer in 1943, which his eminence in the profession fully justified.

After the war he held a number of Government consultancies, and then retired – but not gracefully. For in 1966 he published *Winston Churchill: the Struggle for Survival*. It was a best seller, and not least because it went into all the details of Churchill's health, including the closely-guarded secret that he had had a slight stroke while Prime Minister in 1951-55. All his family were enraged.

I am not competent to form a judgment on a dispute about doctors' ethics. But I have always felt that those who had every justification to feel aggrieved were not so much Churchill's family, but the Chiefs of Staff and senior ministers whose confidences were betrayed. This small group of intimates, who travelled with him to conferences with our allies in the United States, North Africa and the USSR, and spent weekend after weekend at Chequers, had felt that they could talk freely in the presence of Churchill's doctor, little thinking that everything they said was being noted down to be published later.

However, Lord Moran will be remembered for his work on the sources of the fighting man's courage and fear long after the controversy over his "Churchill" has been forgotten. Indeed one can go so far as to say that had he published his *Anatomy of Courage* a year or two earlier,

instead of in February, 1945, the British order of Battle for the D-Day landings in Normandy would surely have been very different.

It was as a regimental medical officer in the trenches in 1915-17 that he learnt how courage is used up in war, how a man is spending his capital until, if unrested or unrelieved, he goes bankrupt – "*the call on the bank may be only the daily drain of the front line or a sudden draft which threatens to close the account.*" And he proved the truth of his conclusions over and over again while studying aircrews during the Second World War.

"The first and last cause of a pilot's collapse is a persistent state of fear. Therefore more pilots break in Bomber Command than in any other section of the Air Force," and *"The pilot enters upon the summer of his career, a period of confidence. . . of success and of achievement. . . . But these summer months must pass, and when autumn comes the picture of the pilot's distress is no different from that of a soldier or a sailor, only the colouring varies."*

This simple truth discovered by Lord Moran, that *courage is expendable*, was something quite unknown to us who fought. Among the most memorable hours of my life were those I spent in a tiny cellar by the Rhine, listening to one of the greatest cannonades of all time as some thousand guns pounded the far bank. Having nothing to do but sit by a wireless set while the leading companies of Gordon Highlanders were ferried over in their armoured assault-craft, I glanced through some newspaper cuttings which I had recently been sent. They included a lengthy review of Lord Moran's *The Anatomy of Courage* – "*Courage is willpower,*" he had written. "*No man has an unlimited stock of it and, when in war it is used up, he is finished. A man's courage is his capital and he is always spending.*"

To be continued in the next issue of the NZ

Why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection?

Why do you never hear father-in-law jokes?

15. PROPOSAL TO AMEND OUR CONSTITUTION & RULES

Why we need to do it? At the AGM, members discussed the Committee's recommendation that we carry through some amendments to the Constitution and Rules. After discussion, it was decided that the Committee would prepare the amendments with an explanation and circulate these to members. They are now available on-line or by mail on request to the Secretary.

In practical terms, some of the proposals are inevitable as the law has changed and we are in danger of losing our tax-free status. Others are desirable, in the Committee's opinion, and it will be useful if all the changes can be made in the one move.

The proposed changes fall into four groups that will:

1. Qualify the Association for registration under the Charities Act 2005;
2. Simplify audit and accounting procedures;
3. Introduce Associate membership for family of deceased non-members and others who are not covered by existing rules;
4. Tidy up administrative matters.

Charities Act 2005

In the past we have enjoyed tax-free status under IRD rules, but the introduction of the Charities Act has changed that. We have reached agreement with the Charities Commission on how the relevant rules should be worded to enable us to register under the Act. The amendments affect what we may do (our Objectives) and the Rules that say how we must do it.

Audit & Accounting

The requirements of professional audits have tightened in recent years, but the cost of meeting the standards is now greater than the need or benefit. Your Committee recommends that we appoint two experienced and competent persons as Examiners who have the same responsibilities as an auditor but do not have to be fully qualified. There are two safeguards with the proposed change: first, that the Committee may at any time appoint a professional auditor, and second, members may themselves instruct the Committee to do so.

To simply auditing and accounting, the financial and membership year will be 1 October – 30 September.

Associate Membership

Partners or family of deceased *non*-members (who

would have qualified while they were alive) will be able to apply for Associate membership, as will full members of other societies that share our own interests and roots (eg, NZ Armed Constabulary Force Re-enactment Society, Stony Batter Preservation Society, both Gunner supporters).

Administration

As we switch more to electronic transactions, communication and records, we need to ensure the rules permit this to happen, and that's the main reason for the changes in this group. Others include ensuring that the Association's assets are recorded and protected, and that each rule's meaning is clear.

Access to the Proposed Rules

You can access the proposed amendments through your home computer or local library by going to docs.google.com/Doc?id=dfcqmts6_159ff9tbfgf.

The current 2007 rules are available by going to docs.google.com/Doc?id=dfcqmts6_160fkr8hvd2.

Or you may find it easier through *Muzzle Flashes*, (kiwigunners.blogspot.com), where there are links to both documents in the right-hand column – '*Proposed Rules*' and '*2007 Rules*'.

If none of these methods works for you, contact the Secretary by 5 January for a postal copy.

16. NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

1100 hours, Thursday, 15 January, 2009

Ranfurly Veteran's Centre Recreation Hall

***539 Mt Albert Rd, Royal Oak, Auckland
(Wallace Ave entrance)***

Agenda

To consider amendments to the 2007 Constitution and Rules that are intended to:

1. Qualify the Association for registration under the Charities Act 2005;
2. Simplify audit and accounting procedures;
3. Introduce Associate membership for family of deceased non-members and others who are not covered by existing rules;
4. Tidy up administrative matters.

We require a minimum of 15 Full Members to be able to conduct this business. Please be there!

Behind the Lines: The Editor's Page

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The patron and Colonel Commandant are, *ex officio*, members of the Committee

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Subscriptions: *Subs are due for the next year now* – please keep your membership up-to-date. Annual subscriptions remain at \$20 for both Full and Associate Members. **Accounting policy:** The 2008 AGM endorsed the Committee's policy of accepting only 'full year' payment of subscriptions, that is, \$20 *or multiples thereof*. This action is necessary because the accounting process does not cater for fractional years. Odd sums will be credited to the Welfare Fund in the donor's name.

Receipts: Receipts are issued for all incoming monies and sent out quarterly with the next issue of *The New Zealand Gunner*.

Email Addresses: Are you on the Internet? The Secretary may not be aware of your address. If you are not getting messages from the RNZA Association and wish to do so, let him have your address. Have you changed ISPs? Have you updated your Internet address? Some mail is being returned.

Input into *The New Zealand Gunner*: Short stories, especially with accompanying photographs are always welcome for inclusion. The Editor's email address is dgroberts@xtra.co.nz

New Members: New members are most welcome. 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 to close family of RNZA Gunners. Membership application forms are on-line at www.riv.co.nz/rnza/folk/join.htm, or *Muzzle Flashes* (kiwigunners.blogspot.com).

DEATH OF A MEMBER: If you know of the passing of someone who was a Gunner or a member please tell the Secretary. Where possible a representative of the Association will attend the funeral.