

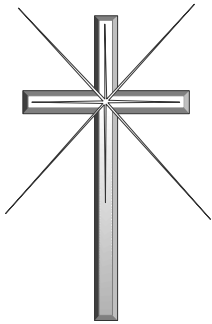


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The New Zealand Gunner

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

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*Our father who art in heaven;
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done, on earth as it is
in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass
against us;
And lead us not into temptation;*

*But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom.
The power and the Glory. For ever and ever.*

1. LAST POST

336978 WILLIAMS, Graham John Major (Rtd), RNZA at Auckland on 27 December 2008. GPO 1965 and FO/BK 1969 161 Bty, South Vietnam.

While I was serving on North Head as an engine room attendant, which ran the search lights, a young chap arrived to run the radar set on top of the hill. This was about 1954-55. I got to know this chap very well and we became good friends.

One day, the office in charge, Major Nutsford said he must sit promotion exams. He said he wasn't interested. After a while he agreed to sit the exams on condition he could sit Lance Bombardier, Bombardier and Sergeant all on one day, which he did and passed with a D (distinction).

Later in 1955 while on a gunnery course in Waiouru they put a form on our desks asking if we would like to sit an officer's course. Most of the men binned them, but my mate left his on his desk. I said, "What are you going to do with that mate?". He said, "I don't know". I suggested he fill it in just for a lark. He did and was selected for the course. When he arrived back at North Head I enquired how he go on. Them mad Bs.... Only taught me how to hold a knife and fork.

In later years he became an officer, and a very good one at that. He served in Vietnam and all the men who served under him couldn't speak highly enough of him. Before leaving the Army he

made Major, still in the RNZA.

Out of the Army, in civvy street, he was well respected in all walks of life. The Auckland Harbour Board, Auckland Golf Club, where he made the top job and the Birkenhead RSA where served he as President for some 14 years and Wellington RSA HQ.

His name was Graham John Williams 336978 regular force, Vietnam vet who passed away on the 27th December 2009.

I must say to his wife Hazel and family, it was a great honour to know and serve under Graham.

P.S. I will say one more thing. All the time he was in the Army Graham was charged only once. That was when RSM Bill Powrie marched us before Lt Redverse Potts. I said "Don't worry Graham it won't cost much because I have known Redverse since he was a gunner with Darcy Pollard in Whangaparoa. It cost us one pound each out of our gunner's pay.

Article supplied by Pat Hickey

BOYD, Elsie

We want to record the members' deep condolences to Allan Boyd for the very sad loss of Elsie. Elsie was a great support to Allan over the years, and an active partner in the Association, until she became ill a year or so ago. We will all miss her lovely manner, charming smile and helpfulness.

Elsie died on the morning of Allan's 90th birthday which made it doubly sad. A number of members were able to attend Elsie's funeral to support Allan and pay respects. Also attending were at least two of Allen's 5 Field Regt gun crew from the Northern Italian campaign and in fine form they were too!

The day was sunny, the atmosphere both sad and good-humoured, and Elsie had a fine farewell.

Rest in peace Elsie, from your RNZA friends.

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2. NEW MEMBERS



CRAKE, William P. Peter served in the NZ Army between 1973 and 1992. His units were: RNZASC (TF), RNZA 73/75 (RF), RNZIR (TF) and RNZAC (TF). Peter and Corinthia live in Matura, Southland.

DALY, Graeme T.

Graeme served the guns in TF between 1977 and 1990 and was RF between 1964 and 1968 serving in RNZE. He did a tour to Vietnam with 161 Bty in 1966 working in the transport area. Graeme's TF units included. 161 Bty, 4 Med Bty, 22(D) Bty and 32(E) Bty. He lives in Napier.



IRVING, Anthony V. C. Sgt served the guns between 1960 and 1977 (TF) with 12 Hvy Ack and Loc Tp/Bty. He and Colleen live in Auckland.

JOSEPHSON, Peter A. Peter served the guns between 1952 and 1954 with 16 Fed Regt in Korea.. He and Elizabeth live on the North Shore.

KUPER, Theo R. Theo served the guns for 32 years between 1975 and 2007 having held every officer position in 161 Bty from Gun Line Section Commander to Battery Commander. His other appointments included: CI Sch Admin, Comdt Army Schools, Military Sec. and Def Advisor, Canada. He and Christine live in Wellington.

PIERCE, Brett W. Brett served in the NZ Army between 1959 and 1968, in the TF. He served with D Sqn NZ Sqn, ! Ak Regt/3RNZIR and 11 Bty, 16 Fd Regt as both Sig and Gun Sgt. Brett and Diana live on the Kapiti Coast.

3. ODE FOR THE FALLEN The Significance of the Ode

The ode derived from the fourth stanza of the poem "For the Fallen" by Lawrence Binyon and is sometimes referred to as "Binyon's Lines".

English Poet, dramatist, art scholar and Assistant Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum, Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) wrote "For the Fallen" in response to the outbreak of the First World War while sitting on The Rumps, Polseath Polzeath, Cornwall. It was first published in *The Times* (London) on 21 September 1914 and subsequently in Binyon's *The Winnowing Fan: Poems on the Great War*. The composer Edward Elgar set to music three of Binyon's poems, including "For the Fallen", as *The Spirit of England* (1917).

Although too old to enlist in the First World War, Binyon went to the Western Front in 1916 to work for the Red Cross as a medical orderly with an Ambulance Unit. He wrote about his experiences in *For Dauntless France* (1918), Binyon returned to the British Museum after the war and retired as the Keeper of the Prints and Drawings Department. He died in 1943.

The Ode was used at the unveiling of the Cenotaph in Whitehall London on 11 November 1919 and, like so many remembrance traditions, passed into common usage across the Commonwealth.

History in New Zealand

In New Zealand, and even prior to the unveiling of Cenotaph in London, Major Fred Waite utilised the third and four stanzas from "For the Fallen" at the dedication to the memory of those who died at Gallipoli in his official history of the Gallipoli Campaign, published during 1919. Several First World War memorials also incorporated Binyon's lines.

The Ode became a part of commemorative services during the 1920s and today is the central feature of the regular, if not daily, remembrance ceremony held at RSA clubs.

FOR THE FALLEN

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea. Flesh
of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit, Fallen in
the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home; They have no lot in our labour of the day-time; They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight, To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

4. POPPY DAY

Significance of the Poppy

The story of how the Poppy became an international symbol of remembrance and a New Zealand icon is a remarkable one.

In Flanders Fields

The association of the red poppy - the Flanders Poppy - with battlefield deaths as a natural symbol of resurrection and remembrance derives from the fact that the poppy was the first plant to grow in the churned up soil of soldiers' graves in the area of Flanders during the First World War.

It was the verses written by Lt Col John McCrae, a Canadian Medical Officer, which began the intriguing process by which the Flanders Poppy became immortalised worldwide as the symbol of remembrance. The inspiration for the verses had been the death of a fellow officer, Lt Alexis Helmer, 1st Bde Canadian Field Artillery, on 2 May 1915, during the Second Battle of Ypres (Ieper) in western Belgium for whom McCrae had performed the burial service. McCrae's poem, which he had scribbled in pencil on a page torn from his despatch book, was sent anonymously by a fellow officer to the English magazine, *Punch*, and published under

the title *In Flanders Fields* on 8 December 1915.

In Flanders Fields - By Lt Col John McCrae

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

The Challenge

Three years later on 28 January 1918 McCrae died of pneumonia at Wimereux near Boulogne, France. On his deathbed, McCrae reportedly lay down the challenge:

Tell them this, if ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep.

The Response

Among the many people moved by McCrae's poem a YMCA canteen worker in New York, Miss Moina Michael (1869-1944) who, two days before the Armistice was signed on 11 November 1918, wrote a reply entitled *We shall keep the faith*.

Michael hereafter tirelessly campaigned to get the poppy adopted in the USA. In September 1920 the American Legion adopted the Poppy at its annual Convention. Attending the Convention was a French woman who was about to promote the poppy - as a symbol of remembrance - throughout the world.

International Symbol of Remembrance

Madame Guerin, conceived the idea of widows manufacturing artificial poppies in the devastated areas of Northern France that then could be sold by veterans' organisations worldwide for their own veterans and dependants as well as for the benefit of destitute French children. Throughout 1920-21, Guerin and her representatives approached veteran organisations in the USA, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and urged them to adopt the poppy as the symbol of remembrance. It was as a result of the efforts of Michael and Guerin - both of whom became



know as individually by the endearing sobriquet "Poppy Lady" - the poppy became an international symbol of remembrance.

HISTORY OF POPPY DAY IN NZ

French Poppy Lady's representative visits NZ

One of Guerin's representatives, Col Alfred Moffatt, came to explain the poppy initiative to the NZ Returned Soldiers' Association in September 1921. The NZRSA duly placed an order for some 350,000 small and 16,00 large silk poppies with Madame Guerin's French Children's league.

NZ Unique

In common with veteran organisations in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, the RSA had intended to hold its inaugural Poppy Appeal in association with Armistice Day 1921 (11 November 1921). However the ship carrying the poppies from France arrived in NZ too late for the scheme to be properly publicised prior to Armistice Day, thereby forcing the RSA to postpone its Poppy campaign until the day prior to ANZAC Day 1922. Thus Poppy Day, as it is was immediately known became uniquely associated with ANZAC Day, whereas in Australia, as with the United Kingdom and Canada, the appeal continued to be associated with Armistice Day.

The first Poppy Day in NZ was met with great public enthusiasm. 245,059 small poppies were sold of a shilling each and 15,157 larger versions of the flower attracted two shillings each, netting after expenses £13,166. The sum of £3,695 was sent to the French Children's League, the remainder was used by the RSA to assist unemployed returned soldiers in need and their families. So began the tradition of the Poppy Day Appeal as the RSA's primary means of raising funds for the welfare of returned service personnel and their dependants.

The Poppy Today

The Poppy is not only visible on Poppy Day and ANZAC Day, and other commemorative occasions, but at funerals of returned service personnel. It is also taken on pilgrimages to be laid at NZ War Memorials and war graves around the world. The RSA Poppy is truly a national icon.

Poppy Day 2009 is Friday 24 April.

5. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Harry Honnor writes:

I would like to comment on 'The first casualty suffered by Kayforce' in the [*New Zealand*

Gunner, issue 140] article 'With 16 Fd Regt, Royal New Zealand Artillery, in Korea 1950-51', by the late Col Ralph Porter OBE. It is *not* often that one can find error in one of Ralph's productions, but this one bears little resemblance to the facts.

A more correct [statement] could be:

The Initial Casualties in Kayforce

These occurred during the Regiment's move from Pusan to Miryang River on 13th Jan 1951, and were WOII Richard Long, BSM 163 Bty, and Gnr Ronald MacDonald, his driver. WOII Long's duties were to be 'tail end charlie' in the Regiment's convoy, to assist any breakdowns. They failed to report in to RHQ at Miryang but their jeep was found, shot up and abandoned on the roadside with a dead NZ soldier inside, by the USA/ROK Military Police early on the morning of the 14th.

I was immediately ordered to take an armed patrol to contact the USA/ROK Military Police and search for the NZ survivor and the perpetrators, assumed to be guerrillas. Gunner MacDonald was identified in the jeep and WOII Long's body was found just outside the village of Samnangjim-ni. He had been shot in the back and had presumably gone to the village seeking aid and warmth. No contact was ever made with the guerrillas.

Charles Purcell writes:

I remember the trip to Korea and the stopover at Brisbane. I particularly remember the march through Brisbane, the morning after our day's leave ashore. Man it was hot, and we were suffering. After a gruelling march through the city we rested at a park where we were given a pie and a piece of dried up fruit cake. Man that was rough! The bout of small pox to which he refers took the life of Sgt Ces Vugler, a very popular senior NCO.

When we arrived our first task was to sort out all the gear. What a pack of rubbish it was. Old batteries which wouldn't hold a charge, battery chargers which wouldn't go, signal wire beautiful on the top layers and then all disparate bits of wire beneath, badly used and dry joined. The guns were all past their use by date and had to be replaced at the first opportunity. My mate was on the ship with the replacement guns that ran onto a brick, clearly marked on the charts and hit on a perfect day. He found that quite remarkable. The trucks were kaput, and couldn't be relied on to go from A to B.

An amusing story loved by the Aussies was about when we were desperately looking for some vital signals gear in the stores at Pusan in which our gear had been unloaded. In the finish an American Top Sgt said that it was no use, but there happened to be an old packing case up in the far corner.

When asked what it looked like he said, "just an ordinary packing case marked Kay one double one, with a fat arsed duck stenciled on it". The Aussies really enjoyed that, and we were often called Kay one double you ones by them.

On the first day's march to Miryang the scammell came in last towing 7 trucks. The tragedy was that one of the guns had fallen out of the line of march and when Sgt Major Long and Gnr MacDonald went back to look for it they were machined gunned by guerrillas and so we had our first two killed in action. They had to go back, but if our transport had been of reasonable standard they could well be alive to this day. Rubbish gear kills. May the Lord God have mercy on those that did that to us.

Alexander Mackintosh writes:

On page 19 of the NZ Gunner September 08 issue, re the Janie Sedden, she was the gate keeper of the submarine boom that went across from in front of Fort Balance to the other side of the harbour.

She was a mine sweeper, so I can't remember her towing targets for gunnery practice (I was at Palmer Head in early 1942), but later she may well have. As for never being able to hit the target they were laying on, you shot between them. As for becoming bored, you never fired until the fortress plotter told you to and with 6 other gunners on the platform you never got bored.

But there was an incident at Godley Head, in order to put a shot across the bow a shot went through the wheelhouse and killed a crew member.

Maybe this will clear up some of the missing links.

Enid Standen writes

Please excuse this letter as I am blind and cannot see what I am writing. I have this stencil frame with elastic across to write between, a big help. The reason I am writing is to ask if you know about a book that is coming out in the New Year some time called *The Pink Hill*, about Crete [in WW2]. My brother-in-law, Ben Standen, was interviewed in chapter 27, for his part in Crete. He was one of seven brothers in the Middle East at the same time.

Ben and two of his brothers, Colin and Ivan, I think were in Div Petrol [or Patrol?]. My husband George did not go to Crete, as being artillery they could not get the big cannons over to the island. (They may have won that battle could they have done so.) Two of the seven brothers were killed there and Ben didn't get off. He was taken prisoner of war for the rest of the war. He did not

come home until long after the remaining boys, as he was so thin and ill he was sent to Scotland to a farm to be fed and brought back to health before his family saw the condition he was in.

George, who some remaining old gunners may remember, was in the Middle East, Cassino and Greece. He had the Africa Star and bar plus a thank you medal from Greece, along with other gongs from Italy, etc. This does not need to be printed if you have heard it all before. I was writing mainly to tell you about this book in case you didn't know about it.

Ben, by the way, who is 91, is the only one of the brothers still alive. He is very, very deaf and, like myself, has lost the sight for writing.

Ayleth Barr writes:

I am writing to ask for help with research into my grandfather's military career.- Capt Charles T.R McLean MBE, RNZA.

I am curious about an incident where a warning shot was fired at a vessel that did not heave-to. The shot passed through the wheelhouse, killing a crewman. Charles McLean may have been connected to that incident - and we'd all like to have the story if you know it.

(Refer to Muzzle Flashes in January for her original request, which has a photo of several gunners who have just received their MBEs or other honour from the Duke of Windsor, in May 1937).

Jack Hayes, Medals Policy Adviser at NZDF writes:

NZDF wish to promote the entitlement of the **NZ Operational Service Medal (NZOSM)** to all members and their families - the medal has been around since 2002 but I still see Gunners on parade not wearing it. It is free (including the miniature) - Jack Hayes, HQ NZ Defence Force NZDF Medals website: <http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz>.

Top 10 Misquoted Phrases

1. A damp squid - Correct: a damp squib
2. On tender hooks - Correct: On tenterhooks.
3. Wrong: Nip it in the butt - Correct: Nip it in the bud.
4. Champing at the bit - Correct: Chomping at the bit.
5. A mute point - Correct: A moot point.
6. One foul swoop - Correct: One fell swoop.
7. All that glitters is not gold - Correct: All that glisters is not gold
8. Adverse to - Correct: Averse to
9. Batting down the hatches - Correct: Batten down the batches
10. Find a penny lick it up - Correct: Find a pin pick it up.

6. WITH 16 FD REGT ROYAL NZ ARTILLERY IN KOREA 1950-1951 Part 3

By The Late Col Ralph K.G. Porter OBE

A Slice of Regimental Life

The American gunners had laid line forward to all their OPs which we accepted as being intact, but to our dismay we subsequently found that all the lines had been damaged or cut by the movement of their half-track vehicles. To make matters worst our man-pack radio battery problems continued to plague us. The intense cold also affected our ten line telephone exchanges which were key links in the regimental system. So it was a long, long night as we strove to overcome these communication deficiencies. We quickly learned to improvise against the cold by for example heating the exchange equipment. We also got rid of our World War II man-pack radios (the old WS No48) and acquired a very much improved version from the US Army.

It may be of interest to readers to note our level of operational experience as we took over the responsibilities of providing artillery support for 27 Brigade. Of the six regular army officers, only two had previous operational experience – Major RJH Webb 2IC and Major RJ Moor BC 162 Bty. While our training had been good we still had some reservations on joining the Brigade, but fortunately our introductions to operations was fairly gentle.

On 30 January 1951, the Brigade moved into IX Corps reserve, but the Regiment continued operations in support of a number of US formations in IX Corps. During this time we redeployed frequently and provided general fire support which did not involve the deployment of OP parties with the units being supported. This gave us valuable experience in survey and deployments. At the same time we fired sufficient rounds to enable our technical staff to further hone our fire control procedure and technical drills.

On 4 February, 27 Brigade was again committed to operations in the vicinity of Yoju, a small town on the Han River and 16 Fd Regt moved back in direct support of the Brigade. Our three Batteries were normally affiliated to the infantry Battalions as follows:

- 161 Bty - 1 Bn Middlesex Regiment (1 MX)
- 162 Bty - 1 Bn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (1A & SH)
- 163 Bty - 3 Bn Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) (CO, Lt Col IB Ferguson).

The BC of 163 Bty was Major EW Hunt, with Captain Harry Honnor and Gordon McLanachan

providing the artillery OPs as required. When the Canadians (2 FFCLI) joined the Bde providing the fourth infantry battalion, these affiliations were changed.

While on the subject of personalities, I returned to RMC, Duntroon at the end of 1959 as the NZ Officer and Artillery Instructor to find Lt Col Bruce Ferguson my Senior Instructor in the Advanced Training Wing. We enjoyed renewing our contact which was to be renewed yet again on my return to Canberra as the Army Liaison Officer with the NZ High Commission in 1976. The Adjutant of 1MX was Captain Nick Carter who, with remarkable coincidence, also returned to Canberra in 1976 to be the Military Advisor to the British High Commission – our next door neighbours! Nick, who was married to an Australian, retired in Canberra and they live at their property near Hall, ACT.

From early February, the Eight Army gradually pushed north. As part of IX Corps (and briefly X Corps) 27 Bde undertook its share of offensive operations in rugged terrain and generally appalling weather conditions. By mid April the Bde had reached Line Utah (an English objective line) three miles north of the 38th Parallel. During these operations we lost our Command Post in a spectacular fire.

Before leaving New Zealand, Base Workshops had built a splendid command vehicle (CV). We operated this with our signals van parked alongside with remote terminals in the CV for the Bde and Regt wireless nets. On the other side a canvas penthouse provide a small conference facility and accommodated the intelligence maps. The penthouse was heated by a stove which was fed by a drip line from the inverted jerrican of MT gas. One evening the CO, 2IC and myself were in conference inside the CV when suddenly the penthouse became engulfed in flames. The talc covered intelligence maps, added to the inferno.

The three of us in the CV just managed to leap out of the CV through the blazing penthouse (there was no other way) before the flames darted in the CV. I shouted to the signalers in the wireless truck on the other side to drive off, which they did, remote leads and all, before the petrol tanks on the CV exploded. Our fire lit up the clear cold night sky for miles around, and when the fire burnt itself out, our CV was only a blackened shell. For the remainder of the night I fought the regiment from a map-board in the back of a very crowded wireless van.

From somewhere we borrowed a large tent and trestle tables and with much improvisation we had the command post functioning almost normally by the following evening. I will not go

into the cause of the fire, but suffice to say we had all learnt a lesson. Mobility became a problem. Before every move the command post had to be packed and the tent struck. A 3 ton ammunition truck from the nearest battery was then detailed to move the RHQ. This rather ignominious situation prevailed until the LAD was able to convert a GMC to another CV.

Not long after this incident, we all received a very welcome issue of cold weather clothing. It was in fact from the British Ordnance Depots in the UK and although of World War II origin, it was better than our New Zealand battledress. String vests, heavy parkas, windproof overalls, a woolen jersey and a balaclava, completed the kit. For those working and sleeping in the open like the gunners and the OP parties, this issue made life in the Korean winter at least bearable.

Shortly after, when the Bde was fighting for those hills nicknamed 'Sardine and Salmon', we had a visit from an Australian Broadcasting Commission radio unit recording interviews. I had just finished recording a discussion on the way we went about fire-planning when we received a call for a regimental target form one of our OPs. The ABC reporter went away well pleased, having not only recorded an interview but also being able to tape all the radio procedure involved and the sound of 24 guns responding with several rounds of gun fire. Apparently this was subsequently broadcast but I was never able to hear the result.

Kapyong

When we reached line Utah, about mid-April, 27 Bde (now commanded by Brigadier Burke), went to re-service just north of a town called Kapyong. 16 Fd Regt however, remained in action in general support of 6 (ROK) (2) Division. In this role we answered calls for fire relayed to us through the HQ of the Division, but did not deploy OP parties. 6 ROK Div moved north of line Utah meeting little resistance and there was a lull in operations. Some of our Maori gunners acquired a pig and preparations were made for a 'hangi', or feast on 23 April. Elsewhere arrangements were being made for an ANZAC Day service to which representatives of the nearby Turkish Brigade were being invited. Neither event took place.

Little did we expect the swiftness and massive weight of the Chinese attack when it fell on 6 ROK Division at about 2230 hours, 22 April. Although intelligence reports during April had pointed to an imminent communist offensive, the enemy succeeded in

To be continued in the next issue of the NZ Gunner

7. THE BATTLE OF KAP'YONG ANZAC RELIVED 1951

The following poem was written by Group Captain Bill Barnes (RNZAF) and delivered as part of the Memorial service at Kap'yong in 1998. It is based on the account of the battle by Captain Ralph Porter (Adjutant 16 Field Regiment).

Around Easter Nineteen Fifty-One
Some Kiwis came to this place.
They prepared to celebrate ANZAC Day
With their Aussie and Pommie mates
The boys had made ready to hangi a pig.
They'd "acquired" from a man of the dirt.
They'd saved up some Soju and beer for the "do",
And had even invited the Turks.

They were keen Kiwi gunners of the new 16 Field
Who'd been raised at the outbreak of war.
They were all volunteers, but were new to this game
A few had served before.
Firing twenty-five pounders in Troops of 4 guns
Directed from an old G.M.C.
The batteries were numbered in sequence, of course,
One-six-one, One-six-two, One-six-three.

Very new to this land, they'd been just three months
Through Miryang Town from Pusan.
They came through Taegu and old Naegon-ni
To Yo'gu on the banks of the Han.
They'd moved to line Utah – Two seven Brigade
And were placed in support of the pack
Of the Middlesex men and 3 R.A.R.
With the Argylls and 2 Princess Pats.

They also supported Korea's 6 Div –
It pushed North of the parallel line.
It was then that the Chinese offensive was launched
On Twenty-two April, night time.
The attack it was swift and came with surprise
The Division was pressed and confused.
The gunners then witnessed a frantic withdrawal
And got one hour's notice to move.
At four in the morning, the guns redeployed
T'wards Kap'yong, and near Naech'on-ri.
In action at eight, but by ten moved back up
With the Middlesex for company.
The Chinese again fell upon the Koreans
And forced their withdrawal from the line.
So by seven at night after H and I fire
The guns made Naech'on in time.

In the dark and confusion the survey was bad
They could only fire targets observed.
The regiment site to the rear of 3 R.A.R
Couldn't give them the help they deserved
The Chinese attack was switched once again

And they outflanked the 3 R.A.R. location.
They attempted to cut the Australian rear,
And threaten the gun's situation.

On Twenty-three April as midnight rolled around
The reconnaissance party moved on
Back down the valley passed 1 Middlesex –
A position quite near Kap'yong.
At fifteen short minutes on Notice to Move
The Regiment's guns have played.
One-six-three was covering the Aussies' defence
While the other two shielded Brigade.

The comms with the C.O. and Recce were loss,
The Adjutant, fearing attack,
Gave orders to move One-six-one and six-two
And at Oh-three-one-five (0315) they made tracks.
From the early wee hours of ANZAC Day's eve
16th Field its Regiments grid,
They delivered the power of Twenty-two tubes
And 3 R.A.R.'s attackers undid.

As the afternoon wore, 3 Battalion withdrew
Through the line of the 1st Middlesex.
It took seven hours down ridge line and vale
In a tactical exit complex.
The Chinese then hooked into 2 Princess Pats
Whom the Regiment covered with fire.
The DF's were fired at the two-round SLOW rate
Till eth ammo was set to expire.
All the while our truckies were steady at work.
Rolling daily down dusty dirt roads.
Eighty miles turn-around from the airhead at Seoul
They brought up their dangerous loads.
The signalers too had a difficult task
Keeping comms over ether and line.
But they ran out of wire and dodged
small arms fire
and had not a comfortable time!

Then late in the night, as the ANZAC moon rose,
They over-ran 2 Princess Pats
So a DF was fired on our Infantry.
Then the Canadians counter-attacked.
Some Two Thousand Three-hundred rounds of H.E.
We fired in under an hour:
By now we were joined by the guns of the Yanks
With some HEAVY Artillery power!

The dawn of the 36th Sacred Day broke
And blunted the Chinese attack,
Until the Commonwealth brotherhood
fighting machine
as it had on the beach at ANZAC.
It is true that the infantry held to the line
Resisting the fiercest on-slaught
But without the Ten-thousand rounds of the guns

In one night they may have been caught.

In valleys and hills of the lovely Kap'yong
Once echoed with fear and dread.
They were blossomed with bay'nets and
Ploughed by the guns
And fed by the blood of the dead.
But HERE was the stand where the
Sandline was drawn,
When the UN resistance was set
And we come here each year to remember our boys,
Lest (that) we (ever) forget!

**Poem supplied by Graeme Smith ex 163 Bty
BHQ 1950-52**

Foot Note from the Editor:

Bill Barnes response to my request to publish his poem:

“Publish away. That poem was delivered at my first turn to speak at the memorial ceremony at Kap'yong itself on 20 April 1998. I had only been in Korea a few weeks. I remember the event well. The Ambassador spoke before me, but his address was drowned out by the baying from the dog farm located right next door to our memorial. (Korean men eat dog meat on special occasions, so they farm dogs for their meat). The dogs stopped barking for me! Something there about having an authoritative military voice! Then the Korean veterans group attending had made a sign that they hung in the trees behind the microphone. It read 'Welcome New Zealand Assistant Soldiers of Korean War'. A Korean Herald photographer took a photo of me reciting my poem in front of the sign, but he only got some of the words. There in the paper next day, behind me and the official party, were displayed the words "Welcome New Zealand Ass...". That made me feel really good! I didn't think the poem was THAT bad!”

Knocked for Six

Although he received no pension, no reasonable person could doubt that he was a veteran of the 1914-18 war. Every year in the season, he showed the strain of his war service by his unhealthy appearance. He knew, if others did not, that the war alone was responsible for his morning languor and the tiredness that increased as the day wore on. For it had been his fate to be transferred to one battalion after another in the course of the campaigns. And no man can attend six reunions in a fortnight without showing the signs of wear!

8. COURAGE AND FEAR: Lord Moran's Unique Contribution. Part 2

By Sir Martin Lindsay of Dowhill Bt CBE DSO.

While the guns rumbled and banged away with the steady rhythm of African drums, I read on entranced. Here, I realised, was someone who could throw considerable light upon a subject which was greatly puzzling me. To begin with, it explained my own case, in regard to which I had begun to be introspective.

Nine months earlier, in the fields and orchards of Calvados, I had positively looked forward to the thrill of battle. Now, after some two dozen regimental actions, large or small, all my old zest seemed to have departed, and I was becoming increasingly imprudent in acts of what I called self-discipline. Meanwhile, *“equivocating, pursuing false hopes and evading the real issues”*, as Lord Moran put it, I told myself repeatedly that I was tired and overdue for leave, so unthinkable was it that I was beginning to lose my nerve.

Alas, before Lord Moran went to print, the generals were just as ignorant about the psychology of courage and fear as we were. When Montgomery was designated to command the Normandy invasion, he considered that more veteran (i.e. battle-experienced) formations were required. He asked for three famous 8th Army divisions (7th Armoured, 50th, and 51st Highland), which had fought from El Alamein across Africa and through Sicily to Italy, to be specially brought home for this purpose. So great a commander would probably have admitted that this was the mistake of a lifetime, for it was well-known to all who were there that the performance of these three divisions at the start of the campaign was very disappointing indeed.

This is no reflection upon any officer or man then serving in those three divisions. Their trouble was that they had been too brave for too long; they had, as Lord Moran would have put it, used up all their stock of courage.

So in Normandy the 7th Armoured Division—the “Desert Rats”—compared very unfavourably with either the Guards Armoured or the 11th Armoured Divisions, neither of which had fought before. Because no-one then understood the problem, two successive generals commanding the Division were removed, when all that was needed was the replacement of battle-worn tank crews, sending them home to train others. Of the two infantry divisions 50th, like 51st Highland incomparable in the desert, had to be broken up. The 51st and 7th Armoured came again and greatly distinguished themselves, but not until they had had so many casualty replacements that they were virtually new divisions.

So now we know the ideal is a well-trained veteran division with no veterans in it except among its staff officers. The staff should be as experienced as possible, but the officers and men who have to do the fighting are at their best when they are entirely or almost entirely, new to battle.

Nor was battle fatigue then understood by the Adjutant-General's branch. The regimental officer at least knew that it was necessary *“to rest a soldier who was not wearing well that he might once more quit himself like a man”* (Moran). Yet on the banks of the Rhine we lost almost the last of our North African veterans, a corporal with the Military Medal. We had had the mortifying experience of seeing over the months the lions of the desert, officers and NCO's with one or more gallantry decorations who had for so long been the linchpins of their platoons and companies, killed off one after each other and, it is important to note, all pretty well useless by that time. But our efforts to get them posted home to training formations were always unsympathetically received.

Lord Moran has preached much good sense about the qualifications for manhood when the guns are firing – *“Courage is a moral quality: it is not a chance gift of nature like an aptitude for games”*, and *“Fortitude in war has its roots in morality for war itself is but one more test of character.”*

To be continued in the next issue of the NZ Gunner

9. ARMED CONSTABULARY BEFORE POLICE FORCE ESTABLISHED

The Police Force Act giving New Zealand a national civil police force was not passed until 1886 but Armed Constabulary forces were present in Opotiki in the 1860's

In 1887 Opotiki was designated an Armed Constabulary district incorporating Te Teko, Te Kapu, Onepoto, Ohuka and Tauranga. The total force numbered 93, of whom 17 were stationed in Opotiki. But only two men were specifically assigned to police work, the remainder were employed in the field force working on road and bridge building.

Other work undertaken by the men was making and improving rifle ranges, maintaining telephone lines, erecting redoubts, taking a census, building houses and stables or in fencing paddocks or laying grass.

The earliest available civil police staffing record in Opotiki showed that an Irishman, Constable Chas O'Reilly was in charge in 1890. He had served with the Armed Constabulary from 1874 and was well experienced when he opted to remain

in the new civil police. He had been a policeman before immigrating to New Zealand in 1873.

Constable (later promoted to Sergeant) O'Reilly was also the Clerk of the Court, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Factories, Returning Officer, Inspector of Abattoirs and Jailer.

Sergeant O'Reilly's district extended from Waimana to Cape Runaway and he was in sole charge until just a few years before his retirement in 1912, when a constable was appointed to assist him in administering the law to a growing population.

Sergeant O'Reilly made his patrols of the widely scattered district on a black Maori warhorse. On his patrols down the Coast the sergeant needed a strong horse to swim the rivers as there were no bridges and, when going beyond Hawaii, it was necessary to time the tides in order to ride round the base of the Marenu Bluff.

Sergeant O'Reilly had the reputation of having his own methods of administering the law and earned the respect of residents, both Maori and pakeha. He had good relations with Rua the Prophet, who always co-operated if any of his people got into trouble.

Stories are legend of Sergeant O'Reilly's single handed law enforcements and some offenders would no doubt have rather faced the due procedures of the law.

An indication of the respect felt by residents was the presentation by the county and borough councils and citizens of the district of an illuminated address when Sergeant O'Reilly retired in 1912.

Along with a purseful of sovereigns, the address depicted scenes of early Opotiki in delicately executed water colour scenes – the old wooden Waioeka Bridge, St Marys Church, and an early street scene' showing the Courthouse Corner with a fireball.

Today the staff at Opotiki numbers four – a sergeant and three constables, with a further constable stationed at Te Kaha.

This article appeared in the Opotiki News and was supplied by Bill Giles

Editor Goes on Golfing Holiday



During February I went up north and played in three Mixed Vets Golf Tournaments. At Whangarei my partner and I had the misfortune to be given a golfing

lesson by Arthur and Kitty Simeon!

10. AN UPDATE FROM MATT BOGGS, LT COL, CO 16 FD REGT, RNZA

The first few months of 2009 have been somewhat hectic and challenging, but despite a few hiccups, the Unit has managed to continue where it left off in 2008. On a personal note, both I and the new RSM, WO1 Steve Harvey, have been fortunate to inherit a Unit that is well managed and continues to achieve excellence in a number of areas.

After a much deserved period of leave, the officers and soldiers of 16 Field Regiment returned to work mid January, and were very quickly involved with Ex Thunder Warrior, a Bilateral exercise with the Singapore Artillery. A period of combined live firing was followed by an independent live firing exercise by Kapyong Battery. For the first time, Thunder Warrior also incorporated a mechanised infantry component – a sign that our relationship with Singapore continues to grow.

The month of February was an opportunity for the Unit to meet its compliance requirements among other things, and we also participated in an Adventure Race co-ordinated by the RSM. This activity required teams to travel from Wellington to Linton using whatever resources were available, and was aimed at growing the junior leadership within the Unit. As we progress through March, we now have a large number of personnel heading to the School of Artillery for individual courses.

Despite all the activities that have been occurring to date, our Main Effort continues to be the preparation of soldiers for overseas deployments. We currently have a large portion of the Unit deployed on Op GYRO 6, and this month I have enclosed an article submitted by the OC of GYRO Company, Maj Chris Kelly, RNZA. We certainly look forward to their safe return in May.

Gunners in Timor-Leste

In May 2008 LCC directed 16th Field Regiment to provide the basis for a rifle company to deploy to Timor Leste as part of TG GYRO 6. The company, composed of officers and soldiers from each of 16 Fd Regiment's sub-units, was supplemented by a platoon-sized element from the TF Regiments, and would eventually form the core for the entire TG GYRO 6 rotation.

The company quickly settled into its role in the eastern half of Dili, the capital, where the NZ Coy has been engaged since the troubles began in May 2006. The NZ Coy forms the third rifle coy of the Australian-led Timor Leste Battle Group – or TLBG – which is currently based on 5 RAR. Of note is the fact that another of 5 RAR's "companies" is also made up of gunners – 110 Bty, 16 AD Regt RAA – and the NZ Coy HQ currently has a three-man sigs detachment from 8/12 Mdm

Regt RAA attached. The presence of gunners was made the most of when St Barbara's Day was celebrated on 4 Dec 2008. A visit by NZ Coy pers to 110 Bty was followed by an afternoon of volleyball and a collective dinner at Kiwi Lines.

The company has been engaged in routine patrolling activity within its area of operations, and, in particular, developing and maintaining its situational awareness of events and possible issues within the area. Patrol commanders regularly meet and talk with community leaders and other stakeholders, such as NGOs, police and UN members, to develop an understanding of issues and problems.

Prior to Christmas, the company engaged in festival activities within the local community, in an effort to enhance the reputation of the ISF. Volunteers carolled with locals at community nativity scenes, and delivered donations of toys to the Dili Hospital's Children's ward and two orphanages on Xmas eve. In the New Year, a platoon deployed to Cova Lima District, to maintain links with the local population that were established during NZBATT's deployment to the district during the period of UNTAET. In particular, it was an opportunity for personnel who were members of NZBATT 3, also a gunner-led deployment, to revisit their old stomping grounds. The scenes have changed slightly, but the people retain their strong relationship to the Kiwis.

The most significant challenge to the deployment is, ironically, the relative calmness of the present security situation. The current situation does not demand a lot more than regular patrolling, and there is ample time for soldiers to reflect on their experiences so far. There is thus an ongoing leadership challenge to avoid boredom and complacency from creeping in, and effort is expended on varying patrol routines, playing sports against the Aussies and locals, training on the range, and planning for the next activity.



The deployment is proceeding very positively and has demonstrated the capacity of gunners, and their non-regular force infantry comrades-in-arms, to operate effectively at the tactical level in a

traditional infantry role. A valuable amount of experience has been gained, as well as the introduction of younger members of the Regiment to the demands of operational life.

Ubique, Matt Bloggs

11. LT COL NICK GILLARD, Chief of Staff, New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team, Afghanistan.

Back in December 2008 the RSM, WO1 Rob McLean and myself handed over command of 16 Field Regiment RNZA to Lt Col Matt Boggs and WO1 Steve Harvey. Presided over by the Colonel Commandant Brig Birch (retd) it was a sad duty given the experience and enjoyment of the previous two years. However, as is typical with the army, a new challenge quickly presented itself. WO1 McLean and I have been posted to the 14th rotation of the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team, Bamiyan Province, Afghanistan. Myself as the Chief of Staff (COS) and WO1 McLean as a Liaison Officer (LNO).

The command team conducted a comprehensive recce to theatre in January 2009 prior to Pre Deployment Training (PDT) commencing mid March in Burnham. This training is theatre specific and focuses on the force protection skills required and the specific tasks allocated to such a mission. We have become proficient at operating independently in small motorised patrols, conducting meetings, using interpreters, advising local authorities on security matters and scoping community based projects. These projects are inclusive of agricultural, educational, legal, policing etc reforms and development. All of this is conducted within a framework of security. Many of the basic soldier skills remain extant and the experiences gained in operations such as Bosnia, Timor Leste and the Solomons remain relevant.

Training has culminated with Exercise AFGHAN STEP at the Tekapo Training Area. True to Afghan form the weather has been a combination of heat and cold. With the tussock terrain and mountain back drop it is as close to Afghanistan as you could get. However the Tekapo locals are far more friendly than the Taliban. The exercise involves the patrols moving through a series of Battle Handling Exercises (BHE) around the McKenzie Basin. Living in Forward Operating Bases the patrols are tasked by 'Kiwi Base Tekapo' to conduct a series of tasks from weapon cache seizure to counter IED (Improvised Explosive Device) drills. A final week of presentations, bag drags and farewells (including **our last beers for six months**) leads into some final leave with our families prior to deployment.

12. HE WAS MORE THAN JUST FORM!

I have been writing other things about Vietnam and some other memories came back. As part of this, I had been searching for Wally Steward to check some facts. While several have said he is still alive, no one seems to know where he is, or how to contact him, including his Brit AAC Association. So having made the effort, I thought why waste those memories. This is about Wally, a character I served with and some memories he gave me. Others will remember Wally in their own way.

Wally was a few years ahead of me. Possibly six to eight years older. I first met him on the 161 Bty Reinforcement Officers Course that was run out of the School of Arty in Waiouru in 1967. The course was being run by Major John Alan RA, a delightful character, Graham Birch as an Instructor Gunnery along with others like Mac Nabbs, Yogi and Ted Lile.

It was an unusual course in that all Officers including BCs, BKs, WOs and some CP Sgts who were being sent to Vietnam in the next year or so, had to attend. It was a special measure taken to improve the professional standards of gunnery, given that some avoidable accidents had occurred the year before in Vietnam. Sometimes I could not work out who was on the course and who was instructing.

In Wally's case he was polishing his skills as a Forward Observer (FO) after a number of years flying helicopters. I had arrived late and was still wet behind the ears. I had just graduated from Duntroon as well as the Australian YO Gunnery Course at North Head in Sydney.

Wally was a big man with all the graces and manners of a gentleman. His suits were tailored in an old fashion waisted style, his shirts seemed to have starched collars and he would never have been seen dead with a Windsor knot in his tie. His shoes seemed to be hand made. They were certainly highly polished, not at all suitable for the steam driven volcanic dust that swirled round the footpaths of Waiouru at that time.

He had a lock of blond hair on the front of his head that was usually slicked down with some sort of hair cream, but it would sometimes fall forward. He would flick it back into place with a toss of his head or a push of his hand, as he stood imperiously looking down on the rest of us. No mean feat as most of us, Geof Hitching, Rod Baldwin, Mike Harvey, Ray Williamson or myself were all plus of six foot, which in those days was tall. He towered over us.

In Vietnam as a fellow FO we got on well. He had been there about 6 months when I arrived

and was an old hand. On Ops you only ever saw the other FOs at Order Groups or at some unusual meeting during the Op. Of course there were communications via radio, but that was all about gunnery support issues.

When not on Ops, back in Nui Dat and while the gun end had to continue in its ready state, we FOs use to get our dose of Kiwi reality by congregating at the Bty. We would spend a lot of time loafing round pretending we were busy. If we saw the BK Clyde Stewart coming with a purposeful look in his eye, we would scurry around making work, or finding an urgent reason why we had to head back to the infantry lines where we also had a bed. Around all that, I use to look forward to meeting Wally in the mess to find out what new little gem of lunacy could come forth from him. He was well read and interesting. Notwithstanding, he was always good for setting up and obtaining a laugh. He had a good sense of humour and seemed innocent to the idea that we were taking the mickey out of him.

Early on, I noticed that Wally did have a strange habit of starting to tell a story, stopping mid-sentence, going on to something entirely different, before returning mid sentence to the original story as though there had been no interruption. Years later I came across a NZ artist (Philip Truston) who did the same sort of thing. He reminded me of Wally, so I decided to enquire about such behaviour over a few beers from one of the Army "Trick Cyclists". I found out that it could be a very normal characteristic of a savant.

Savant or not, Wally was a frustrated helicopter pilot paying his dues to his parent corps, the RNZA, by doing time as an FO. He was a well respected pilot and had what I understood was known as a "Green Entry" in his log book for some good thing he did while a pilot with the Brits in Borneo. I used to wonder at times how anyone else could find room in the small observation helicopters that he would have been piloting at that time.

He was on his second tour to Vietnam, the first had been as a pilot. He and Roger Pearce had been attached to the US Army, flying Huey's. As a big man, walking the bush was not his favourite past time and I was told by one of his supported company commander's who I recently met at a reunion, that he use to gaze with envy at the helicopters flying overhead. Undoubtedly looking for the air conditioned comfort and a load off his massive back.

To me, Wally was one of a kind. Most people I remember though a slight quirk that makes them different, or something they did that caught my attention. In Wally's case there were

three main things.

When I first arrived in Vietnam, he approached me in all seriousness with an urgent concern. He wanted to know anything that I had heard about the then Governor General's daughter. He was streets ahead of me. I didn't even know the GG had a daughter. I only knew the important things like the GG in his younger day had been a sprinter and won a Bronze Medal in the Paris Olympics.

Wally had been British trained at Sandhurst and had adopted a number of those quaint characteristics that we once knew the Brits for. Perhaps one of their most quintessential quirks was their social consciousness. This has nothing to do with modern concepts of social equality, in fact the exact opposite. That was the root of his interest, but his saving grace was he could laugh at himself for having it. I always meant to ask Wally at sometime after we had got back to NZ, if he ever managed to get himself invited to Government House. He would have laughed.

The second thing about Wally was his love of food. The US "C" Ration caramel candy wheel was his favourite. As you never knew which C Ration pack you had, Wally would go to some lengths to trade for it, if he had found he had missed out. Most of us found the C Rations too sweet and too bulky to carry, but not Wally.

He also loved Vegemite and somehow always had a supply. If you gave him a chance at breakfast time, he would rave on about the beneficial properties of Niacin. Niacin? Clearly I had never read the label. Perhaps it was an indicator of a past smoker and may have explained why he would often stand at the bar with a straw in his mouth.

Wally could sit and talk about food for hours. In the modern day he could have been one of those food show hosts on TV. I always thought it was his way of having a meal without eating.

The third thing was when on Ops, he wore US Army issued combat gear complete with name tag and US Army flying wings. All were relics of his first tour. This wearing of foreign gear was not that unusual as the NZ and Australian Army issued gear, other than the Australian boots, was by comparison with the US gear, simply awful. That applied to both its design and its make. The NZ gear had clearly been specified by someone who never went into the field carrying loads, was totally unaware that people came in different sizes and was manufactured by the lowest tenderer without any contract supervision.

In contrast, Wally in his US gear was a picture of sartorial elegance and comfort. Putting the visual aside, when wearing this gear he would usually stink. Now after a few days on Ops, all of us

working with the infantry would stink as well. In Wally's case, he could stink before he left. Part of it was caused by the synthetic material the US fatigues were made from. I subsequently found out there were other reasons.

One day just prior to an Op, I got a good whiff of BO from his direction. I asked him cynically did he ever wash. Without batting one of his eyelids over his imperious eyes, he told me he never had his US fatigues laundered through the contract system as he had lost one set by doing so. Further, he did not want to get crutch tinea, which was rampant. It was believed to be passed on through the bulk laundry contract that had been let to the local Viet Cong cadre and undertaken in the village of Hoa Long, a stones throw south of Nui Dat.

He said he hand washed his gear without soap to prevent his last set being prematurely worn out. In other words he dunked them in his shaving basin a few times and either hung or wore them to dry. He also said he was dreading the thought of wearing them out and having to wear the NZ or Australian field kit. At that time, standing there with calloused sore hips from the continual rubbing under load of those stupidly designed cross over buckle system we had on the waist of our field greens, and also becoming conscious of a developing itch in my crutch, I thought that was some of the most thoughtful thinking I had come across in Vietnam.

He left the NZ Army sometime after returning to NZ. He told me later that he flew commercial helicopters for a while out of his home town of New Plymouth to the gas rigs. Finally he went and joined the British Army Aviation Corps. When I heard on the grape vine that the Anglophile had gone to Droit-land, I thought it would have been a bit like going home.

In the early 90s, I was in UK for several NZ Army purposes and searched out Wally. I was told at an ABCA conference being held at Middle Wallop, the British Army Aviation Corps Centre, that he was in Whitehall in some planning appointment and was about to retire. As I was going there the following week, it fitted in well.

Whitehall behind its very ordered façade is a rabbit warren. As a visiting foreigner you get escorted everywhere by the last person you have seen. They sign you off on a transfer form which gets handed in when you leave and it becomes the security record of your visit. Your previous appointment will usually ring ahead to warn your next appointment and provide them an opportunity to clear their desk. After my last formal appointment, Wally's phone was busy so my escort took me from the garret in the attic where we had been, to the second floor, the home of combat

development programmes. I heard him, before I saw him.

I gave Wally such a surprise as I entered his office doorway, he almost fell off his chair. He was saved only by the lack of space to do so. He shared a cramped office with three other Officers. They were all in civvies so I had no idea of their rank. They had four normal size desks jammed in a square hard up against the window, in a room designed for one. I had to stand in the doorway or sit on the edge of the desks closest to the door.

He looked almost identical to the last time I had seen him. Still the same shape and size. His hair had only slightly thinned, and was now a cross between blond and grey. We quickly traversed many years, many people and had lots of laughs and jokes. Most telling was his glance at my uniform and my red tabs. He said, "I might have got a red hat if I had stayed". His companions all laughed, started giving mock salutes to each other with lots of "Sah's" and banging of feet as though there was a parade ground under their desks. After laughing, I replied he still thought form was more important than substance. At which point his office companions all doubled over, hooting agreement. They then all started doing their hair in an exaggerated way, even the bald one, as an expression of it. Clearly they knew Wally's foibles better than I remembered them.

At about that point he received a call from his General. It could easily have been to keep the noise down, but it was to go and brief him on the new Brit attack helicopter program that Wally was responsible for. He was like a cat on a hot roof. He wanted to talk, but knew he had to go. He went out the door combing his hair and apologising in his diffident way. That was the last I saw of him. Once he had gone, I immediately realised that I had forgotten to ask him about the GG daughter as I had promised myself all those years ago. I had just been so glad to see his vintage form, albeit for 20 plus minutes after 20 plus years. Oh yes, he forgot to sign my transfer form as well, but I did manage to get out of there.

Article Supplies by Neil Bradley

"I've got a frog in my throat", meaning: I'm hoarse from a cold. Origin: Not inspired by the croaking sound of a cold-sufferer's voice, but by a weird medical practice from the Middle Ages whereby infections such as thrush were sometimes treated by putting a live frog head-first into a patient's mouth; by inhaling, the frog was believed to draw the patient's infection into its own body.

"Son of a Gun", meaning An epithet. Origin: In the 1800s, British sailors took women along on

extended voyages. When babies were born at sea mothers delivered them in a partitioned section of the gun deck. Because no one could be sure who the true fathers were, each of these "gunnery" babies was jokingly called a **"son of a gun"**.

"Raining Cats and Dogs", meaning: Torrential rain. Origin: In the days before garbage collection, people tossed their trash in the gutter - including dead pets - and it just lay there. When it rained really hard, the garbage, including the bodies of dead cats and dogs went floating down the street.

13. NOTICE BOARD

A. IAN AND ETHNE CUNNINGHAM

Bill and Emma report that when in the South Island over Christmas/New Year visited Ian and Ethne who are both coping well.

They have come through a tough period but are in good spirits. Ian uses a walking stick and they both have a walking frame available but say they don't get out very often. They appear happy and Ian still has his deep chuckle, it was good to hear it.

They have made life as normal as possible, and apart from the occasional outburst of ROAD RAGE when they meet each other in their narrow passage with their walking frames, seem content with life. When anyone is down their way they would enjoy seeing you.

B. UPDATE FROM SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 15 JANUARY 2009

The Special General Meeting, held on 15 January, approved the revised and updated Constitution and Rules without dissent. The Rules, now approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and the Charities Commission, may be read online at http://docs.google.com/Doc?id=dfcqmts6_211c8gtsww2 (accessible through *Muzzle Flashes*, kiwigunners.blogspot.com). If you are not able to access the Internet, please contact the Secretary for a print copy.

C. CHARITIES COMMISSION, IRD AND DONATIONS

Our Association has been formally registered by the Charities Commission, with the registration number CC37284, and we are now cleared to receive tax-deductible donations.

A charitable donation is generally one that will not directly benefit the donor or a person closely associated with the donor. All donations must be applied to a charitable purpose that falls within the Objectives contained in our current Constitution and Rules*.

In the past, for example, we have supported restoration of the military grave site and memorial

on the Taupo-Napier Road; marked a gunner's unmarked grave; assisted with funeral costs where there was no alternative; contributed funds to kick start the recently published RNZA history; supported the wife of a seriously ill member; and one-off subsidised travel for a destitute gunner.

Inland Revenue has also confirmed that we meet the qualifying criteria under LD3 of the Income Tax Act 2007. This means that you can claim a tax credit for donations over \$5.00, and that certain companies can claim a deduction for donations. This is effective from 1 April 2008.

To qualify for a **personal tax credit**, IRD requires an official receipt from the Association, that is officially stamped, shows the date received and is signed by the Secretary.

A company may claim for donations made, providing that the total donations made to all charitable organisations in an income year cannot exceed the amount equal to nett income for the corresponding tax year.

*Online at http://docs.google.com/Doc?id=dfcqm6_211c8gtsww2

D. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

At its meeting on 26 February, the Committee allocated areas of responsibility to each of its members. Frank Hopkinson, President, oversees all activities to make sure that things happen as planned, while Mike Dakin is responsible for seeing that all necessary administration is carried out.

Mike and Jeff Waters liaise with RNZRSA, with Jeff also responsible for safeguarding our physical assets. Barry Dreyer, VP, takes care of reunions and 161 Battery affairs. Alan Taylor focuses on our archival material which we plan to digitise. Graeme Black will redevelop the Members-at-Large network and would like to hear from any existing or new volunteers. Graeme, with Jeff, represents Chapter 19, 173d Airborne Association members.

Joe Panoho, Spike Jones and Bill Stewart will contribute to welfare, reunions and Q Store, among others.

E. MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

Full Members Former and current members of the RNZA who have had Operational Service or a minimum of three year's service in a New Zealand Artillery unit.

Associates Former and Serving Members of the New Zealand Defence Force or foreign Armed Services who have been **attached to the RNZA**;

Any other person who has **served with any artillery unit** for a minimum of three years, **other than** with the RNZA; Persons, such as immediate family, **who have a close relationship** to a Full or Life Member, or to a deceased person who would

have qualified for Full Membership had they applied; Persons who have a **close affinity with the RNZA** through their service attachment to an artillery unit, or who are Full Members of an organisation deemed by the Executive Committee to **share common historical roots or interests**.

F. NEW FINANCIAL YEAR - HOW IT EFFECTS SUBSCRIPTIONS

The financial year has been changed from 1 July-30 June to 1 October-30 September. This was done for two main reasons: first, to reduce the time lapse between closing the books and the AGM; and second, to align the financial and membership years more closely.

Subs are set by the AGM early in November and applied from January of the following year *but* were accounted for in the July-June financial year. By shifting to October-September accounts, the subscription year (January-December) will be three months behind instead of six months and show subs income more accurately.

Statements and receipts are now sent to you quarterly with the newsletter so you have a written reminder of your financial standing. (If you get no statement you are in the clear, so *relax*.) The statement will show that subs expire 30 September *but* you are asked not to pay until your next statement after the November AGM when subs are formally set.

G. 75th REUNION, RNZA Association

Your committee is planning for our 75th reunion to be held in Auckland over the weekend of **30 October - 1 November**, centred on a North Shore or Auckland City RSA. We are currently in the recce phase, ably led by Bill Stewart, Joe Panoho and Spike Jones. Location to be advised. Format will be much the same as previous years:

- Friday evening drinks at RSA and casual dinner
- Saturday morning organized visits - perhaps Fort Takapuna, or similar
- Saturday afternoon free
- Saturday evening formal dinner
- Sunday morning Church Parade and memorial service
- Sunday morning AGM, disperse around lunchtime Sunday.

The RNZA Band will be in direct support for the weekend.

For those South of the Bombays we want to organize a "billeting" process to defray expenses if there is interest - please email **Mike (RNZA. Association@gmail.com)** if you would like some form of billeting arrangement. We welcome any suggestions/thoughts on the weekend.

Let's make the bookings now and get into gear for the **75th**.

Behind the Lines: The Editor's Page

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Colonel Commandant Brig (Rtd) Graham BIRCH MBE 07 548 1193

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.