



The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of

The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)

Founded 1934

Issue # 147

September 2010

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc) Annual General Meeting to be held at the Spa Hotel Meeting Room, Taupo at 10.30am on Saturday 13 November 2010.

AGENDA

- President's report
- Presentation of accounts
- Election of President, Secretary and Treasurer
- Election of Executive Committee
- General business

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2010

The affairs of the Association are administered by the Executive Committee elected at the AGM:

- President;
- Vice President [*elected by the Executive Committee*];
- Treasurer;
- Secretary; and
- Up to six members

See the back page for a list of current committee members

The Committee, at its meeting on 27 August, 2009, recorded its concern at the rising average age of its members. The age range is 64-83 years, with an average close to 70 years. Health of some members is also a concern. The Committee recommends that younger members come forward now to ensure continuity and familiarity with the Association's affairs. Nominations are accepted at the AGM.

Notices of Motion

1. Motion to amend membership rule to include Regimental Members.
2. Motion to amend minimum service to

three months.

Both motions proposed by the Executive Committee.

Other Items to be discussed at AGM:

REGIONAL REPS

Yes, we need some. Could it be You?

Do you care about the welfare of other gunners?

Do you socialise with other gunners in your area?

If so, how about becoming the Regional Rep for your area (however big or small)

Just email me at rnza.association@gmail.com and I'll get the network re-established

Tony McLeod Secretary)

Background. The idea of having regional reps is so



that we can spread news (good and bad) from all the regions to other interested members around NZ (and overseas). It is not new, it has operated successfully in the past, but it doesn't seem to be now.

We now have Muzzleflashes blogspot available as an excellent source of passing on info, but it is not being fully utilised. Mike Dakin set it up and Kerry Lee has now taken it over and we are very grateful to them. You just email muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com to get your comments posted. The current committee is all based in Auckland but we do not wish to become an organisation just for JAFAs (I am one, hence no offence intended) . Jerry Meyer in Australia provides an excellent conduit to NZ gunners in

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Oz and we thank him for that ongoing support. Get involved, others will appreciate your participation.

Historical Queries

The committee has been concerned that historical queries to the Association are not being handled as well as they might be. We simply put them onto the blogsite and hope that someone `out there` picks up on them. We would like to improve this by forming an `Historical Queries Network` whereby the queries are directed in the first instance to the Col Comdt, Graham Birch who will then direct them to the person who is most likely to be able to help.



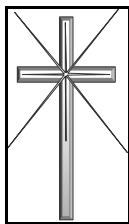
At this stage we have the following "Network", Graham Birch, Sherwood Young, John Osborne, Russell Glackin,

Barry Dreyer, Kerry Lee.

If there is anyone else who would like to help out with this `HQN` could you please let me know, and indicate what area of speciality you are able to help with.

Ubique, Tony McLeod, (Secretary)

1. LAST POST



AGAR, Mrs H (Helen) P, Life Member.

ANDREWS, Ross. A long serving member of the RNZA Band

BATCHELOR, Charles E, Life Member.

X732870 **GERRARD**, Richmond Wills (Pamure), Gnr ex 161 Bty, 16 Fd Regt, SVN, (Gnr on No 4 Gun, 1970) passed away at Porirua on 1 September 2010, aged 62.

MILN, CAE (George), at Auckland, September 2010. George, Patti and Clive regularly attended the Assn's annual reunion. George was a Life Member.

33140 **STANLEY**, MD (Morrie) MBE, at Auckland on 16 September 2010. Born in Christchurch, he grew up in Napier, which had been destroyed by an earthquake. His father was a drill master and the young Stanley became a prefect and regimental sergeant major in the school cadets. In 1949, he joined a special cadet unit in Wellington to complete his final two years at school, and while there won a place at the the Royal Military Academy, Duntroon, in Canberra. He was 19 when he sailed for Sydney for the four-year cadetship.

As a New Zealander, he had more to overcome than the average young Australian cadet. It was demanded of him, as part of the tough initiation, that he sing Waltzing Matilda. But his Kiwi spirit would kick in and instead he would sing the New Zealand marching song Maori Battalion. "I received some attention for my impudence," he recalled politely of what must have been stern punishment. But there was a silver lining to the hazing. He met a young Canberran, Alva, at a church function and they were engaged the day he graduated as a lieutenant in December 1953. They married six months later.

As his army career progressed, he was among 150 soldiers sent to England for ceremonial duties (including guard duties at Buckingham palace and the Tower of London) as well as training with the British Army on Salisbury Plain. Morrie made his name when he toured Vietnam with 161 Bty in 1966 as a FO. During 6 RAR's Long Tan Battle he guided the artillery in the near impossible situation in a monsoonal lighting storm. His actions were more widely know because he was crucial to the survival of the Australians.

MAJOR MORRIE STANLEY, MBE (RTD)

Major Morrie Stanley is one of the many ANZAC heroes that our two nations' history has witnessed. His death on 16 September is mourned by Australians, who are grateful for his service and for his contribution to saving the lives of many of the 108 soldiers present during the Battle of Long Tan in August 1966.

A remarkable thing that strikes you when you read Morrie Stanley's account of the battle is the focus it has on the contributions of others:

- * D Company Commander Harry Smith for his decisive leadership during a time of great confusion and danger;
- * 161 Battery Commander Harry Honnor for his calm advice from the other end of the radio; his radio operator Willy Walker for his efforts in keeping communications working under the most difficult conditions; and
- * D Company Sergeant Major Jack Kirby, for politely and calmly collecting ammunition in the heat of battle for use in defending D Company's Headquarters position.

While he focused on the roles of others, many others have recognised Morrie's professionalism and dedication as the Forward Observer directing fire from New Zealand, Australian and United States artillery during the Battle of Long Tan. It is clear from the accounts of the battle that the precision of the artillery fire was critical in ensuring the men of D Company 6 RAR were able to hold their positions against an enemy force estimated at over 2,000. Morrie was a true ANZAC not only for his service in Vietnam. He was a graduate of Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1953 and he also served as defence liaison officer in Melbourne for four years from 1970. More importantly, he met his wife Alva while at Duntroon. After four years of what he called "relevant manoeuvres" he married Alva in 1954.

**The Honourable Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister of Australia**

Today we remember Major Morrie Stanley, an inspirational ANZAC hero of whom all New Zealanders should be proud. We are truly humbled by the courage, cool-headed commitment to duty, and ANZAC spirit shown by Major Morrie Stanley. His calm actions under enemy fire at Long Tan saved many, many Australian lives that day. I would like to express my deepest

condolences to Major Morrie Stanley's family and friends on behalf of the New Zealand Government. He will not be forgotten.

Best wishes,

The Right Honourable John Key
Prime Minister



Morrie is farewelled with a rousing haka



Morrie takes the traditional last ride

We Will Remember Them

2. NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following:

FISK, Russell, He served the guns between 1968 and 1981, serving with 3 Fd Regt (68-79) and 16 Fd Regt (1980/81).

HOLMES, Gary W. He served the guns between 1969 and 1972, touring SVN with 161 Bty in 1970 on No1 Gun. He lives in Hamilton.

LANGDON, W (Joe). He served the guns with 5 Fd Regt for 4 years during WW11, Joe currently resides in Australia.

MAUNSELL, Michael W,. He served the guns between 1961 and 1984, touring SVN with 161 Bty as a Gnr, Lbdr and Bdr, in 1965, 1968 and 1969 where he was on No2, No1 and No4 Guns. He lives in Morrinsville.

NEILSON, BA (Bernie). He served the guns with 2 and 4 Fd Regts between 1940 and 1945, Bernie currently lives in Hamilton.

TATE, Joseph M. He served the guns between 1959 and 1979, touring SVN with 161 Bty in 1966 as the Sgt Medic. Joe lives in Auckland.

3. IMMEDIATE MC—The John Masters Story (Final Part)

He fired two shots, which had the desired affect of an immediate "Stand To" on the base, so that any weapon pointed at him would be aimed deliberately by someone looking to see what he was shooting at. He stripped off his shirt to look "very white" and walked up to the wire. He had made it back to the company lines!

The Gurkhas who had long given him up for dead, lowered their weapons, and looked on him as if they had seen a ghost! There was a radio on the position and within minutes John was speaking with the CO, relaying the firefight story and the state of the injuries to the CSM. He also passed on a rough Grid Reference of the location of the CSM's position.

That done John sat down to a bowl of soup that he had hardly finished when the CO arrived at the position in a helicopter. John volunteered to return immediately with a doctor and within less than an hour a fresh company of just over 100 of the grimmest looking Gurkhas that could be mustered was assembled to move out. Chris Bullock's depleted company was also to arrive within a few hours, and he accompanied the fresh troops. They moved off into the late sunset and hoochied-up at last light, deep on the Indonesian side of the border.

(SATURDAY) The company broke camp before dawn next morning and moved off, each man determined to find their wounded comrade. About midday, the scouts came upon the river that John had marked but, from his map reading, he figured that they were about two grid squares to the north of the area of the logs. The scouts accepted this and continued south staying parallel to the near bank.

At about 1600, late that afternoon the scouts located John's boot prints and the crossing place. When John saw the logs he had memorised, he went down on one knee and held his head in his hands. For some minutes he was overcome with relief and with the realisation that finally his wounded Sergeant Major would be found. The Gurkhas simply "didn't see him" during these few minutes and then they fanned out with the scouts and trackers in the front. One of the trackers located John's tracks and within about twenty minutes they had located the CSM. He was conscious, but beyond any reaction. John held out his hand and Hariprasad took it, but his eyes were expressionless.

The Battalion Doctor now took over and, after an examination, informed the Company Commander that the CSM was now in deep shock and after 54 hours with untreated wounds in the jungle filth and heat, he not only suspected gangrene but could smell it. Radio messages were then sent back to Battalion. In an instant, kukris and gollocks were drawn and a clearing appeared in the jungle like magic. A helicopter had been approved and was inbound.

A makeshift stretcher was constructed and the CSM's wounds were cleaned and redressed by the Doctor. However, as happens in the jungle, a violent electrical storm with driving rain suddenly lashed the area and so it appeared impossible to get a chopper in. At about 1900, just as darkness was closing in there was a

window of opportunity, a break in the weather, and, amazingly, a chopper appeared overhead and lowered a Neil Robertson stretcher in through the jungle canopy. Within less than a minute the wounded CSM was winched up and borne safely away to hospital. Half an hour later a message was received that the CSM was safe and in hospital at Kuching.

(SUNDAY) They set off back to the gun position early next morning making good progress and arrived just after midday. John was filthy, exhausted, and swaying with fever from the effects of scrub typhus. The CO was waiting at the LZ and conducted an immediate debrief on the spot. His own information added spice. The night after the battle, a radio intercept picked up from Indonesian military radio traffic that they had captured a British Officer and a Gurkha NCO (they had obviously done some intercepting of their own) and were sending them down river by boat. The CO could hardly believe his luck when John Masters turned up at the Company base.

John was ordered to board the first inbound chopper that was to take him to hospital, but before anything else could happen, all of the Senior NCOs of Chris Bullock's company formed up and moved over to where John was standing. Then individually, each proud Gurkha marched forward, halting directly in front of him, standing rigidly to attention, saluting, and then shaking his hand. It was a very emotional ceremony as each man acknowledged the New Zealand Officer's courage and fortitude. This was a moment between men with a shared experience of battle, and John had considerable difficulty holding back the tears as this honour was paid to him by the world's finest regiment of fighting soldiers.

Hariprasad's leg was saved, but only just, and he was invalided home to Nepal. News in later years told of the CSM subsequently fathering three more fine sons. So it was meant to be.

John conveniently "lost" his Compass Prismatic, GS, Mk 1, which, being a Class A store, was a Court of Inquiry offence. Nobody seemed to mind – and he does know where it is!

***Zulu Proverb: "Umuntu ngumuntu nagabantu"
(A person is a person because of other people).***

Note:

The Military Cross (MC) was instituted on 31 December 1914. It is awarded to junior officers and senior non commissioned officers of the Army for courage and devotion to duty on active service. Over 500 MCs were awarded to New Zealanders during the First World War and over 250 in the Second World War. The most recent awards were for service in Vietnam. In 1993 the MC was made available to all ranks in the United Kingdom. In 1999 the MC was replaced in New Zealand by the New Zealand Gallantry Decoration.

***RNZA Assn Reunion 12-14 Nov 2010 at Taupo,
see you there***

4. THE NEW ZEALAND CROSS - Update

In the previous newsletter the article on The NZ Cross related to the original NZ Cross, the worlds rarest bravery medal. In 1999 a new award was instituted to replace the George Cross and is intended primarily for civilians, but can be awarded to military personnel in some circumstances.

Recipients of the new New Zealand Cross are:

Jacinda Margaret AMEY - date of act: 24 April 1992;
year of award: 1999

Reginald John DIXON (Deceased) - date of act: 9 June 1995; year of award: 1999

Citations

Jacinda Margaret AMEY - Special Honours List 1999 issued 23 October 1999

On 24 April 1992 Ms Amey was one of five members of a Meteorological Service team, stationed on the remote sub-Antarctic Campbell Island, who were snorkelling when one of them, Mr Mike Fraser, was attacked by a shark, believed to be a white pointer. The other swimmers, apart from Ms Amey, swam to shore. Ms Amey waited until the shark moved away from Mr Fraser and then went to his aid and towed him to shore. Mr Fraser had lost his right forearm and his left forearm was severely lacerated and appeared to be broken. He was having trouble breathing and required urgent medical treatment. Having got him to shore, Ms Amey then joined the rest of the team in doing what they could for Mr Fraser until he could be flown to New Zealand. Ms Amey displayed great courage and bravery with complete disregard for her own safety in going to Mr Fraser's assistance.

Reginald John DIXON (Deceased) - Special Honours List 1999 issued 23 October 1999

On 9 June 1995, Mr Dixon, aged 47, and his wife were passengers on Ansett Flight 703 when the aircraft crashed in the Tararua Ranges near Palmerston North. Mr Dixon escaped from the wreckage with fractures. However, despite his injuries, he returned to the aircraft to help other passengers trapped in the wreckage. As a result of this selfless action, he was critically burned when a flash fire broke out on the left wing of the aircraft near a hole in the fuselage from which he was helping passengers escape. He was hospitalised and underwent surgery and skin grafts. Mr Dixon remained in a coma, and although he made some initial improvement, his condition worsened and he died two weeks later, the fourth victim of the crash.

The situation in which Mr Dixon found himself was extremely dangerous and he displayed great bravery in returning to the aircraft, although injured, to help other passengers which subsequently resulted in the loss of his own life. His bravery undoubtedly ensured that the loss of life was not greater.

***Thanks to Ken Avenell for bringing this
to my attention.
Editor***

5. REPORT BY CO 16 Fd Regt Lt Col Matt Boggs

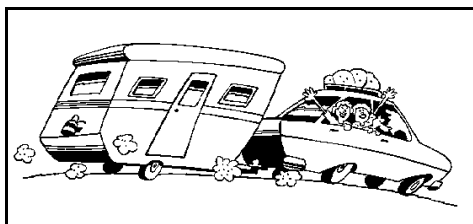
The focus for 16 Field Regiment has for the last couple of months been the introduction into service of the new 'Elbit' Indirect Fire Prediction System (IFPS). School of Artillery and 16 Field Regiment trainers delivered a month of training to 163 Battery on this new system. Separate training was given to Forward Observer (FO) parties, Command Post crews and gun detachments. The data network used for the passage of fire orders in this system has necessitated an up-skilling of all battery personnel on the use of in-service radio equipment. 163 Battery has now deployed to Tekapo Training Area in the South Island with IFPS in order to test it in a live-firing field environment.

39 Mortar Battery recently supported a Mortar Executive Commander course in Burnham. This course successfully qualified a number of Bombardiers, Corporals and Sergeants in the roles of Mortar Section Commander and Command Post Officer. The Mortar Fire Controller (MFC) module was removed from this course and is now taught on the Artillery Forward Observer course. 39 Mortar Battery will now commence user training on IFPS and will shortly make the transition to this new system. By using the same fire prediction system as their 'gun line' comrades there promises to be significant opportunities to combine substantial modules of mortar and artillery courses into homogenous 'Offensive Support' packages.

161 Battery has now returned complete from post-deployment leave (from Timor-Leste) and has been practising their Infantry Minor Tactics skills. These skills will shortly be put to the test in support of Exercise Great Escape. The battery will act as a Hunterforce during this exercise, with the aim of catching potential SAS troopers during their Escape and Evasion training.

A number of 16 Field Regiment personnel will shortly deploy on some short overseas exercises and courses. Of note are Battle Space Management and Targeting courses in the UK, Exercise Gaelic Marauder (calling in French Close Air Support) in the UK, and Exercise Hamel in Australia (which will involve the participation of one BC's party and two FO parties in support of a LAV company).

The next major focus for the regiment this year will be an RNZA 'Corps Fortnight' in late-October and early-November. This will see a number of inter-battery sports competitions, a formal dinner, parade and regimental command post exercise.



6. Lt Col Nick Gallard MNZM reports in from London

I would like to take a slightly different approach in this latest update and provide you with a summary of the current key topic for the British military establishment, the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). Perhaps more so than New Zealand the UK is feeling the full effects of the global recession. As a result the current Tory government have called for a comprehensive spending review across all government departments. Although originated by the previous Labour government the SDSR forms part of that review. The SDSR also falls in a period where there is much public and political debate over the funding and equipping of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The SDSR objective is to develop a coherent approach to the UK's national security priorities across government. The process involves a stringent examination of the UK's current national security capabilities (militarily and more broadly) within the context of the current budgetary challenges. This is likely to result in significant cuts, particularly in terms of the UK's current defence capabilities. This could be by as much as 25%. The intention is to complete the SDSR by October 2010 – a highly ambitious deadline, but one that officials insist is fixed due to its need to feed into a Comprehensive Spending Review that will take place at the end of the year. Certainly the MOD is a hive of activity and the requests of the NZDS are often placed on hold for short periods whilst higher priorities are dealt with. We certainly accept this as being an unavoidable consequence and are able to sympathise given our own Defence Transformation Programme (DTP) and Value for Money Review (VFM) across NZDF. The Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox has also highlighted the need for a change in culture at the MoD "which will see a leaner and less centralised organisation combined with devolved processes which carry greater accountability and transparency." Again there are parallels with our own DTP and VFM.

There remains a strong paradox between equipping the services for the current war in Afghanistan, ensuring that appropriate personnel and equipment contingencies are in place for future conflict scenario's and, improving efficiency and effectiveness across the services. The current government and MOD consider that they are fighting 'the war' in Afghanistan rather than 'a war'. It is certainly perceived as main effort across the forces but with Army providing the bulk of the 'heavy lifting' for the operation. As a consequence and under the auspices of Op Entirety over 90% of the British Army's training is based around preparing soldiers for the battle in Afghanistan. This is a staggering number and in sharp contrast to prior training regimes. Consequently it is a policy that has generated much debate. Particularly so in conjunction with the SDSR.

Recent publicised analysis has called for an end to the 'salami slicing' approach by the MOD. Whilst a 25% reduction in defence spending across capability is entirely possible the call has been made for a clear articulation of what the UK armed forces should look like in 15 years and beyond, and what role they are to take on the world stage rather than just saving money. A

pertinent example is the question as to whether the UK wishes to maintain a credible expeditionary capability. If so, then it will need both Elizabeth class carriers about to be built. If not, then it requires neither. The same applies to the UK amphibious capability and the potential merging of the RM into the Army. Britain currently finds itself at a cross roads in terms of its foreign policy and defence role in the world. Certainly the nuclear deterrent has been ring fenced as it is seen as a political capability more than a military one. However the form of its deployment will be up for review. The key question is around whether a like for like replacement of the current Trident submarine fleet is the most viable option. Thus far it has been made clear that despite being main effort the Army is unlikely to escape the cuts. The current operations in Afghanistan do lead to some breathing space out to 2015 (advised estimated date of the withdrawal of UK combat troops from Afghanistan) but some capabilities such as heavy armour and medium artillery are seen as less pertinent in the future. It is likely that such capabilities would be reduced and held at a cadre level rather than disbanded. However given likely timelines for regeneration, skill fade and equipment obsolescence there is caution over this possible course of action. The same caution is exercised by the other services over capabilities such as Harrier, the Type 45 destroyer and some support helicopter fleets.

This is a fascinating time to be watching from the wings. There is much we can learn and much we can contribute to the process. We are certainly regularly briefed in a very candid manner and our opinions are always requested. All that I have discussed is in the public forum and is regularly debated on television and in the written media. It is often front page news. Unfortunately it also shares the media spot light with the often repeated scenes of young service men and women being repatriated to the UK. Their bodies solemnly paraded through the town of Wooten Bassett near RAF Lynham. It is a sobering, although often unavoidable, reminder of decisions made and consequences felt.

As a final note. Recent published statistics indicate that the UK armed forces are currently at 99.7% of their full time establishment. Willing recruits are turned away and the attrition rate of those leaving the service has dropped by 9.8%. Concurrently there remains an overt and vocal pride in the armed forces from the people of the UK. Despite casualties and budget cuts the British forces remain in good health. My regards to all. Particularly those in Christchurch who may have been affected by the earthquake and those in the central part of the country who have been subject to flooding and high winds.

**Nick Gillard, Lieutenant Colonel, Military Advisor
New Zealand Defence Staff, London**

The New Zealand Defence Staff London participated in the London to Windsor Bike Ride on Sunday 5 September. The course covered a distance of 29 miles along the River Thames towpath from Richmond to Windsor. As well as a good team building event for the defence staff the ride was aimed to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. The sum of \$500 was raised.

7. HISTORICAL ITEM - Operations of 2 N.Z. Div. 9-16 Apr 1945, including crossing of the SENIO

Part One

8th Army from left to right

- ⇒ 2 Polish Corps – astride Route 9
- ⇒ 2 N.Z. Div.
- ⇒ 78 (Brit) Div.
- ⇒ 8 Ind Div.
- ⇒ The Cremona (Italian) Div.
- ⇒ 56 (LON) Div. who had already assumed the offensive on the Southern shores of Lake COMACHIO

THE PLAN.

The 8th Army plan in broad detail was that 2 Polish Corps, 2 N.Z. Div and 8 Ind Div should launch a simultaneous assault on the enemy positions on the SENIO, and, having crossed the SENIO, attack and cross the SANTERNO, establishing bridgeheads on a three divisional frontage. Prior to the assault of the SENIO, all troops were to withdraw to a safety line to enable the enemy

F.D.Ls and the area stretching back to the SANTERNO to be thoroughly softened by an air and

artillery bombardment. The 2 N.Z. Divisional Commanders plan was to attack under a barrage on a two brigade front of 4500 yards, to a depth of 4000 yards, with 5 N.Z. Brigade on the right and 6 N.Z. Brigade on the left. 9 N.Z. Brigade was to be in reserve, with one battalion held in readiness to occupy COTTIGNOLA in the wake of 5 Brigade. The attack was then to continue in three phases culminating in the assault crossing of the R. SANTERNO, if possible on the night of D+1 day.

The Division at this stage was occupying the Eastern flood bank on the entire divisional front and the enemy had no positions East of the river. During the planning stages the Divisional Commander had appreciated the immense value of holding the Eastern flood bank prior to the assault of the SENIO, and had carried out a special operation which cleared the enemy from both sides of this bank. 5 and 6 Brigades had manned the flood bank for a fortnight before D day which gave time for the gapping of the minefields and wire and for reconnaissance of the river by the troops who were going to carry the assault. It was subsequently proved that the early capture of the Eastern flood bank paid a handsome dividend and enabled the division to get away to a flying start over their neighbours, the Polish Corps and 8 Indian Division, who were not in control of the Eastern bank. D day was to be 9 April, if weather permitted the bombing programme to be carried out, and H hour for the crossing of the SENIO was 1920 hours, one hour before dark.

ARTILLERY.

An intense bombardment programme was laid on, the outline of which, based on H hour – 1920 hours, was as follows:-

1350 – 1520 Bombing by heavy bombers of APPLE area between CANALE DI LUGO and R. SANTERNO. Fighter bombers on targets West of R. SANTERNO.

1520 – 1920 Arty bombardment programme, divided into five gun attacks, the last of these ending at H hour. After each of the first gun attacks, all guns will be silent for 10 minutes, and fighter bombers will attack the enemy's R. SENIO positions. After the final gun attack, i.e., starting at 1920 (H hour), they will do the same runs up and down the SENIO, but will not open fire, and the runs will last only 2 minutes. During this 4 hour period, fighter bombers will be engaging targets, adding depth to the artillery. From 1915 to 1920 artillery will fire a proportion of smoke.

1920 – 1922 Intense flaming of the far bank of the R. SENIO followed immediately by infantry assault. All guns silent during this period.

1922 – 1932 Artillery opens 400 yards plus of and in conformity with river line.

1932 – 1947 Artillery lifts 100 yards – still in conformity with shape of the river line.

1947 – 2005 Artillery lifts to barrage opening line, which is a straight line 600 yards plus of the river line on the inter-brigade boundary.

2005 onwards Artillery barrage lifts in accordance with programme at rate of 100 yards in 5 minutes.

At 1500 hours, prior to the artillery and Fighter Bomber bombardment, all troops are to withdraw to a line 400 yards in rear of the near flood bank as a safety precaution against the shelling of the river line itself. During the fifth and last gun attack commencing at 1850 hours, medium artillery was to lift and the shelling of the river was to be confined to 25 pounders only, to decrease the safety margin and to permit flamethrowers and infantry to move forward to within 200 yards of the river as a prelude to the assault proper. The artillery employed on the divisional front to fire this programme was as follows:-

- (a) For the gun attacks – six Field Regts and two Med Regts (5.5)
- (b) For country battery – one Heavy Regt (7.2) and three Med Regts (5.5)
- (c) For counter mortar – one Field Regt, one S. P. Regt, and one battery Heavy AA.
- (d) Enfilade fire -- Three Field Regts, 24 4.5 Mortars and approximately 60 3" mortars.

AIR

Aircraft employed on the Corps' front included: 500 Heavy Bombers, 48 Medium Bombers, 470 Fighter Bombers. With a supplementary night bomber allotment of: 70 Heavy Bombers, and 80 Light Bomber sorties.

To be continued in the next issue of The NZ Gunner

8. DEDICATION OF THE 173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE MEMORIAL AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, USA

On 30th May 2010, Denis Dwane and Danny McCort, accompanied by their respective wives, hereinafter to be known as "Chief Clerk and Sports Rep" arrived in Columbus, Georgia for the dedication of the above Memorial, upon which is engraved the names of Sgt Al Don and Bdr R. (Jock) White who were killed in Action, whilst serving with the Brigade.

On Monday 31 May, (Memorial Day in the States) there was the rehearsal prior to the arrival of the Dignitaries, the Veterans and the accompanying multitudes. This gave us the opportunity to take photos before the crowds engulfed the memorial. Before leaving NZ, a wreath was ordered that would be uniquely NZ and Jeff Waters was asked to do a card in his fancy pen work

Young Jeff kindly donated the card and the Chief Clerk told me to pay for the wreath. We were informed the day before leaving NZ that a wreath was being supplied by the 173rd Airborne Assn for both the Aussies and the Kiwis, so we took our anyway.



Tuesday 1 June was the official dedication of the Memorial. NZ Defence Force has sent an Official Party to represent NZ. The party consisted of Brig. Dave Gawn, Land Component Commander, Lt Col Andy Shaw, NZDF Washington and WO1 Wayne McAsey, RNZA

who is on a course in Texas.

Prior to departure from NZ Chief Clerk suggested that we should take an NZ flag with us, good idea because the only NZ flag that the organizers had was wrapped up for the parachute jump. So our \$5 flag from AJ's emporium (Rotorua) was the flag used for the colour party. The flag was of very light material (made in China) and as the colour party formed up out of sight the NZ flag was the only one that was being moved by the breeze.



The ceremony started with the marching on of the colours, the colour party was all dressed in 'cams' in 'cams'

except WO1 McAsey, he was in SD's in temperatures of 92+ degrees. Whilst the other flag bearers fidgeted in the heat, our man was rock steady. He really did do a great job and made us feel very proud of him and his great effort. Many favourable comments were passed about his professionalism.

The Band then played the three national anthems after

which came all the speech making. Brig Gawn delivered the NZ address and blew everyone away with an excellent address, even the Aussies commented on how good it was, (he will probably make a good officer one day).



After all the speech making was over, the colour party and official wreath layers moved up to the Memorial for the Official Dedication. The Padre did the Benediction and then came the Wreath laying. The serving members of the Brigade were first, followed by the 173rd Assn, the Aussies and then the Kiwis. Our wreath was laid by the Brigadier, accompanied by Denis and Danny.

As soon as the official ceremony was over Lt Col Shaw came up with the wreath from NZ and that was laid beneath Al and Jock's names. We never had a chance to photograph the wreath because the multitudes engulfed the memorial.

The whole experience was very moving, and both Dennis and I felt very privileged to be able to represent those who served with the Brigade at such an important event. The memorial is situated on The Walk of Honour, to the rear of the Infantry Museum just outside Fort Benning in Columbus. So if you ever make it there, go and see Jock and Al.

After the dedication our little party continued on to Myrtle Beach for the Assn reunion, but that's another story.

Article supplied by Danny McCort.

9. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ref Mag 146 Page 9 Historical Item

The para that starts "In 1953" I feel is referring to North Head and not Narrow Neck Camp. The 8" gun is the Armstrong Disappearing Gun moved from the top of North Head to its now position at the Memorial Saluting Bty, which is where the Flag Pole and Plaque is??

Arthur Simeon and Pat Hickey and myself were involved in this move.

The Devonport Borough Council has not existed since the North Shore City Council was established. The fact there is no date with the article could be part of the trouble.

Article supplied by Ross Goldsworthy.

**RNZA Assn Reunion 12-14 Nov 2010,
see you at Taupo**

Ref Mag 146 Page 9 Historical Item

The recent article in "The New Zealand Gunner" regarding Fort Takapuna poses the question as to whether Forts such as this were built to a British Colonial Design and specification. Can anybody provide further info. I had been a resident of Ft. Cautley in the early 1970's when I was posted to Auckland Army Area who were stationed at Cautley, later I had been taken through the old fortifications by the late D'arcy Pollard, who was to become Camp Commandant at a later stage, The late Col. Cocks was Boss and the Adj. was Jim Dreaver, at this time, RSM was non other than Ted O'Neil, the late Jack Keinzley was at FF Command and the QM was Ross Goldsworthy. FF Command who were in the old Union Coy buildings in Quay St Auckland, Then it was ABC [all bloody changed] Auckland Army Area, who had originally been in the Camp, was sent 'overseas' to Quay St. and FF Command arrived with all their trappings at Cautley, and took over the majority of the old Gunner Barracks. Sometime after this shift a small Camp HO was established with D'arcy Pollard as Camp Comdt. 3 RNZIR [the 3 Ringed Circus] was also stationed at Cautley with some lesser units From memory there was a Transport Plt. Of "Ali Slopers Cavalry." I digress, Now back to the gun emplacements, At that stage the 2 Disappearing Gun Pits had substantial wooden covers over them but the underground tunnels were in excellent condition, I well remember the water well and the twin walled glass emplacements in the walls for candles. From memory the gun emplacements were similar to that at Mt Victoria/ North Head where the 'replica disappearing gun is today' or I hope it is as I have not been back there for many a year.

I spent some time at weekends with a group trying to find hidden Tunnels in these areas where there was supposed to be some Crated aircraft, notably a Boeing and Westervelt floatplane that originally came from the Walsh Bros Flying School at Mission Bay, it had been crated up in the Depression Years and placed in one of the many tunnels with some other aircraft, it was never found. Some remnants came out of the seat Torpedo Bay buy Boeing said they were not from their aircraft. Perhaps it is still there to this day lying undiscovered. No doubt many readers will be familiar with this story.

Fast forward a few years and I am working in Australia on a place called Magnetic Island, just off Townsville, I became involved with some of the operations of 11 Brigade, [an Aust Reserve Unit] which had its headquarters at Jezzine Barracks on the Northern side of Townsville. There was there an almost identical Underground Fort, which I was taken through it was built during the 'Russian Scare' of the 90's It reminded me very much of Cautley. So much so that on trip to NZ in the late 80's I took a series of photos at both Cautley where I could, [I was not able to access the underground areas], and Mt Victoria/North Head and gave them to the then 2 I/C, 11 Brigade, Lt Col Phil Gould for comparison. What became of this I am uncertain. Perhaps the Devonport Council may be interested in this information in their attempt to have the site designated 'Historic'.

Article supplied by Brian Edmonds

10. OPERATION GALLIPOLI 2010

The Beginning

In April 2010 I stood in awe on Chunuk Bair as I gazed about me; awe at the effort it takes even now to reach this point from the beach; awe at the view from here in all directions; awe of the effort and commitment of the Turks who threw the Allied troops off this critical point of tactical importance, and awe at the continuing development of this Turkish National Park.

Later there came a touch of humility because the Turks allow us to share their history here among the dignity of the graveyards and memorials. From time to time there is also a measure of sadness at the cost to all of the people involved in writing this piece of our mutual national histories.

Having witnessed the 60th Anniversary ceremonies in 1975, this year's 95th was overwhelming. The magnitude of the organisation and logistics in 2010 are astronomical by comparison. There have been great improvements in the park layout, the access roading and the amenities to deal with the thousands of visitors on this and other Turkish holidays. Instead of the ad hoc ceremonial and individual representation which was evident in 1975 there is now a planned, rehearsed and dramatic celebration. In 1975 the official parties of four nations filled 5 buses with another one or two for spectators. There were no grandstands or carparks for pedestrian spectators. This year there were 500 buses, plus security vehicles, media trucks and hundreds of people on foot. Traffic control and security at all levels were major tasks. Well done the Turks. We ANZACs are fortunate to be able to participate in our small corner of the 95th commemoration of this historic event which has such deep significance for the modern Turkish nation.

The New Zealand Contingent

Operation Gallipoli 2010 was a combined NZDF and VANZ effort to take a band of veterans, young people, Defence ceremonial party and some VIPs to take part in the 95th commemoration of the Allied landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Rick Barker, MP and Lt Gen Mateparae travelled with us. The NZDF planning and execution of this whole operation was exemplary. The patience and skill of the loading group, cabin crew and supervisory staff were outstanding, both when all went to plan and when the plan was tested by revision.

The youth group had self selected by excelling in a written, spoken or similar presentation of their interest in the 1914-18 War. The secondary school yr 13 group was rounded out by NZ Cadet Corps representatives, making a very impressive cross section of our national youth. For them it was a new experience. The self discipline needed to make a cohesive party, the active participation and the need to look after strangers soon showed the character of each one. It is a pleasure to say that the quality and behaviour of individuals was refreshingly positive. To watch the social skills and interactions of the group reassures me that the future is in good hands if these are to be our leaders.

22 New Zealand veterans were chosen by ballot after proving eligibility by direct relationship to an ANZAC on Gallipoli and having qualifying service defined by

NZDF. For us this was a trip down memory lane. The whole process of joining, assembly and movement of a large group raised many memories and reflections. We had all done it before in some form or other. There was representation from WW2, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam and UN Peacekeeping. And there were members from all three Services over the post war period including two gunners, Gordon Garwood [2 tours with 161 Bty] and myself.

One thing which was surprising at first was that most of us had relatives who survived the Dardanelles campaign. On reflection it is reasonable since we are all direct descendants of a Gallipoli veteran. Besides, so much is made of the casualty lists that we overlook the fact that of the 8556 New Zealand soldiers who landed on the peninsula, 5835 survived.

25 April 2010

The official program was in three parts. On 22 April, guard and ceremonial parties began rehearsals and for everyone there were battlefield tours. The lasting memory of this ground is the proximity and higgledy piggedly mixture of Allied and Turkish positions along the succession of high points. The geography has been described ad nauseum but the small cramped area where so many men were locked together for months is the eye-opener. 23 April is Children's Day Holiday in Turkey.

On 24 April the Turkish, French and British commemorations were a prelude to those on 25 April. By far the most dramatic of all was the Turk National Memorial Service with massed bands, wreath laying and marching on a full parade ground. The nearby French and British sites completed the Cape Helles services and are a fitting reminder that the British and French Imperial Armies were both involved here. The multi-service nature of the action was underlined by the naval and air demonstrations at the end of the formal proceedings on the Turkish site. The formalities were completed by the ceremonial planting of trees by dignitaries from each of the official delegations.

On 25 April the day began at 0230 [without breakfast] so that we could be driven from our hotel, link up with the VIP convoy (I counted 36 assorted vehicles), ferry cross the Dardanelles and drive the 15 km to the Commemoration site for the Dawn Service. On the way we learned of the helicopter crash at home and that put a reflective damper on our bus as we had been at 3 Sqn only days before.

At the official commemoration service in the dark, the expected speeches lasted until day break. The whole experience became charged with emotion as a solo bugler saw the sun rise over the Aegean Sea and light up the high ground and The Sphinx behind the assembled 10,000.

Now it was onto the buses and away to a sumptuous breakfast provided by the Turks, before driving up to Lone Pine to begin the forty-five minute ceremonies at the Australian, 57th Regt (Turkish) and New Zealand memorials. All three were of a familiar format and very moving. An amazing number of people walked the eight km from the Dawn Service on North Beach up to the high ground to be there for the three locations. By now the day was hot and dry so the pedestrians worked very

hard to be able to participate. Each nation set their own catafalque guard on their cenotaph and formal wreath-laying was followed by placing personal tributes. For our party, poppies were placed on all memorials and many were placed on individual grave or burial markers as well.

Return to New Zealand

The return bus trip to Istanbul and flight home were as planned and enabled a very satisfied and now homogenous group to return home and disperse.

Article supplied by Kerry Lee

11. THAT ARTILLERY PORT

It has been noted that little is recorded on this subject south of the Strait so we remedy the defect.

In the olden times when the Army was much more different than it is now the TF were able to achieve much, as follows...

Quote from an e-mail. Masters to Gregory dated Wed 2 Dec 98.

“Here is what I know. I am quite sure the year was 1978. At the time my appointment was DRNZA. One day at my desk I was rung by Capt Max Carpenter, 1 FD Regt. I barely knew Max and was rather surprised that I should be called by a Territorial Officer obviously operating well outside normal channels of command. I did not know that he was a ‘young man about Auckland’ and I found out that he was the agent for NZ for Robard and Butler. His message was that his agency was ‘developing a concept for wine marketing in NZ using quality English branding’.

They had supply arrangements with a very reputable European wine shipper and, more to the point, he had particularly fine quantity of well-aged, estate-bottled port for which he wished to develop a label. His proposition was that it be called Artillery Port, and that is be appropriately badged and dedicated. His question to DRNZA was ‘What is the protocol?’ We talked about the commercialized badge and suitable regimental phrases before we returned to the protocol issue. By this time I had gathered my wits and responded by observing that at the time the CGS was a Gunner (Gen Ron Hassett) and that the Colonel Commandant of RNZA was Brig Blackie Burns. He already knew that I was DRNZA. My judgment was that a case to each of us would certainly solve the Protocol issue. Capt Carpenter said that this was the precise and expeditious sort of problem he expected from Army GS and thanked me for my help”.

Of course we in the South were not privy to this ‘deal’ and I was forced to find out on one of my trips to Wellington and to discover that Robard and Butler did not include the Gunners of the South in their distribution. The scramble for supplies included some fancy foot work but eventually we won through. It should be noted the original supply of ‘well aged, estate bottle’ port did not last for ever and a somewhat newer quality was

offered when this disaster took place.

As I sit penning these notes there is before me an empty (alas) bottle inscribed B Battery 1863-1988. Nothing changes!

Thank you John! (John is Lt Col JM Masters MC).

(DRNZA is Director, Royal NZ Artillery and CGS is Chief of General Staff).

**Article supplied by Lt Col (Rtd) Russell Gregory
(Otago) aged 82,
who retired in 1971 from the RNZA, TF**

***[It should be noted that this article first appeared in
Newsletter #127, August 2005]***

12. NOTICEBOARD

A New Version of Artillery Port Available

Funds obtained from the sale of the port is used to fund the RNZA history projects. It can be obtained via dean.cootes@nzdf.mil.nz or by Ph 0800 16 Fd Regt and ask to speak to the RSM, . There are 2 types of Port available: 16 Fd Port @ \$20 or 60th Anniversary (limited) @ \$25.

B. Vietnam Artillery Veterans website:

1st Battalion 83rd Artillery was in Vietnam from 1966-1971. From 1966-1968, 3 Batteries were at Nui Dat right down the road from 161 Battery of the Royal New Zealand Artillery.

Their website has over 150 active users who email regularly. Included in their group are some Australian and New Zealand veterans. Perhaps some New Zealand artillerymen would enjoy the site. The 1/83rd Website link is... http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/

C. Return visit to Vietnam: Meeting

Planning is well under way for veterans and their families to revisit Vietnam. The dates are likely to be 19-27 April 2011 and you should budget for up to \$4000 (maximum) per person. That figure covers the basic tour, and includes airfare, ground transport, accommodation and your out-of-pocket expenses. If you served in Vietnam and have not yet had a subsidised battleground visit, you will be entitled to about \$1800 toward your airfare.

At this time, we have 44 people interested in the tour. If you can make it, be at Papakura RSA at 1230 hrs on 14 October, to discuss every aspect of the trip. Let Mike Dakin know if you will be there (Mike.Dakin.NZ@gmail.com or 02107 85850).

D. Returned Mail

Mail has been returned for the following, does anyone have a current address for any of these members:

Goddard R.
Johnson CVj.
Rattary LW.
Round J (Mrs).



RNZA Assn Reunion 12-14 Nov 2010 (Taupo)

Now is the time for all Good Gunners to come to the Party

Yes, the 2010 Reunion is nearly upon us, and it promises to be a beauty-but only if you turn out for it! Its easy to register. Return the form below or go to online to Muzzle Flashes – today.

Your committee is preparing to give you, your partner and mates a great time.

Mix and Mingle. The Reunion will commence with a mix and mingle at the Taupo RSA from 1600 onwards. A la carte dinners are available from the RSA servery at very reasonable prices.

The Annual General Meeting will take place at 10.30am at the Spa Hotel Meeting Room. Come and have your say, and get involved in the running of your association.

16 Field Regiment will be manning a display of current equipment from 1.30pm until 4.00pm at the Spa Hotel Grounds.

Dinner. Saturday night we have our semi-formal dining-in, at the Taupo Yacht Club. Enjoy the lakeside ambience from 18.00 for 19.00; a cash bar will be running. Wine will be available for purchase by the bottle before we dine. Music will be provided by the Taupo Big Band. Enjoy the `swing`. Before that, of course, you`ll want to take tickets in our raffle, drawn right after the dinner.

Commemorative Service. On Sunday at 10.00am we will reconvene at the Spa Hotel for a short memorial service before we all go our separate ways for another year.

RNZA Association Registration for 2010 Reunion and AGM

Your Initials &Name;.....Name for label:.....

Your Regtl # (if you are a Vet);.....

I will be accompanied by;.....Name for label;.....

Address for mail/email;.....

Due with Registration; Saturday night dinner; **\$60.00 per person** Encl

Annual Sub 2011; **\$20.00**

Any arrears for subs;

173rd AB Assn Sub 2011; **\$20.00**

Total enclosed

Notes; Mail; RNZA Assn Reunion; 34 Tennyson Ave, Takapuna, Auckland 0622
Email.rnza.association@gmail.com

Internet Banking; The RNZA Assn Inc, Ac # 38 9007 0694501 000 (make sure you are identified as the payer)

Behind the Lines: The Editor's Page

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Subscriptions: *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.

Donations: All charitable and welfare donations over \$5 are now tax deductible as the Association is a Registered Charity.

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 MuzzleFlashes.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.

Muzzle Flashes items to Kerry at: muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com

Secretarial/Treasurer Matters to Tony at: RNZA.Association@gmail.com

Items for *The NZ Gunner* to Marie at: dgroberts@xtra.co.nz