



The New Zealand Gunner

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The past 3 months have been very active from a Gunner point of view, with Association members being involved in Waikato Artillery Centennial Celebrations, ANZAC Day commemorations, Korean Citation celebrations and Gunners day dinners. All these activities have been ceremonial acts of commemoration, and they have provided an opportunity for all gunners to congregate, meet with old comrades, reflect on shared experiences, and remember those who are no longer with us. The number of people who have attended these events may not be great, but the spirit is. The artillery presence in the Waikato did not actually make it to 100 years, but the spirit certainly did!. The determined efforts of Hugh Vercoe, Graham Black, Barry Cooke, Ted O'Brien and others made a commemoration to be remembered. A similar effort went into other Gunners Day celebrations around the country: Jeff Waters efforts in producing another marvellous dinner in Papakura, Roger Newth's continued efforts in Horowhenua, Rick Reynolds organising the Wreath Laying service in Wellington, Skin Frances and the active core of gunners who gathered in Christchurch (and who are looking forward to good support from North Island Gunners for the Reunion in November), Tom Roche and the ex gunners who attended the Korean Citation celebrations in Linton with 16 Field Regiment. The level of participation in all these activities show that the 'gunner spirit' is very real throughout the country and the committee of the RNZA Association does have a real, albeit intangible, product to work with and help to foster. The common bond which links us all is our service to our country in the same Regiment, the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery and this common bond now must be developed to create more relevance to the activities of serving and younger ex-gunners. It is an ongoing challenge, and one in which we welcome any and all feedback on how it can be achieved.

Even though he's no longer Sec/Tres, Mike Dakin continues to make a huge contribution to the Association and he is to be thanked and applauded for arranging the return to VietNam trip in April,

marking 40 years since 161 Battery returned from South Vietnam. The vets and their families all reported how meaningful the experience had been and it all began from an initiative by Mike.

I had the pleasure of sitting next to Pam Miley (Terry) at the Papakura dinner on Gunners Day. Pam is an Honorary Gunner, having been so appointed after nursing soldiers in both Malaya and South VietNam, and her vocation of providing support to the needy has continued throughout her life (she was awarded a QSM for her work for others). We chatted about how best to help others, and always came back to the need to establish a network of people who are prepared to simply keep in touch with other people and listen to how they're coping. It doesn't require a degree in social welfare, simply a sympathetic ear and then knowing where help may be available. Mike Dakin, Lindsay Skinner and Pat Duggan are very experienced in the field of veterans rights, so if you do come across someone who may be in need of assistance, have a chat to these people first (their phone numbers are on the back page), and they may very well be able to help. None of us are

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getting any younger.

It is very sad that one of the main meeting places for Association members is funerals, and over the past 3 months it has been very sad farewelling Michael Brunton, Brian Millyn, Bert Duff and Ted Lile. Their passing leaves a void in all our hearts and our thoughts are with their families as always. We will remember them.

I would hope that as many North Islanders as possible are making their arrangements to attend the Reunion to be held in Christchurch 11-13 November this year. Let's show our support for those who have been so dramatically affected, and continue to be, by the earthquakes, and get a great turnout.

Best wishes to you all.

Tony McLeod, President,
RNZA Assn



1. LAST POST

(We will remember them)

Frank Jennings RNZA, passed away this week (19 March 2011). He served in England, then the desert, Greece, Crete, Italy, J Force, K

Force. Then he was very active in a number of sporting activities when he got home.

He was a character. I remember one day our BSM Allan Boyd, myself (Sgt Ack in Dog troop) and Frank went on a swan back to Seoul and Inchon. We bought beer from street traders, (American cans) at a dollar a can, which was good money. I went to pay my whack when Hoppy said, "Let Frank pay, he's got plenty".

I later found out why. As BSM of 161 Battery he used to go to the NAAFI in Seoul for the Battery grog allocation. Apart from a bottle of beer for everybody about once a week he also got the monthly spirits. There was one bottle of scotch, a bottle of rum or gin and another bottle of some sort of liqueur. That was 3 bottles a month for senior NCO's and the officers got 7 bottles all up! Nobody drank it of course, we were too busy selling it to the Yanks. \$30 US for a bottle of whiskey, (which cost us NZ\$1.20 a bottle and \$20 for the others.

After a while Frank got cheeky and one day went down and put in for 164 battery. (There were only 3 batteries, 161, 162 and 163) They handed it over so he was literally rolling in it. He used to pick it up and drive immediately to HQ of an American Division nearby. He had permanent customers over there and they loved it. In the end he was so well off he bought his own truck. Fair dinkum. In the end, like me, he was posted to Kure Japan where he was RSM. One time 3 of our Maori boys were caught by the Redcaps in Kure after curfew. They took off but the Redcaps cornered them in a dead end ally. The screws went in after them so the boys turned around and gave them a father of a hiding. Next day an ID parade of all the Maori boys. Suspicious the Redcaps asked the major, "Are all the men on parade Sir" "All present SGT Major?" "Yes sir"

Actually of course Frank had hidden them round the back of a hut under the floor.

The MP's were suspicious and came back a couple of days later. Same charade. So we posted the boys up to the Regiment as fast as, where they were safe. But that was Frank, often called Hobo, God bless him!

Also you mention Kapyong in your latest newsletter. We were there of course, supporting a ROK Division, whilst our Brigade Infantry were out on rest. 27 Commonwealth Brigade, made up of the Middlesex Regt, the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, 3 Battalion RAR (Aussies) and 2 Bn Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Our battery was actually over the 38th parallel at the time but HQ thought we were over exposed so we went back to the rear. Our position was such that we could not clear the hills immediately to our front and thus were crested, so effectively we were LOB. Not that there was anything happening. Remember that the 25 pounder fired in the lower registry, anything above 45 degrees was napoo. About 1 am in the morning of the 24th April (not too sure of the date) but about ANZAC Day I was hurriedly told to get my gear and follow our Troop Commander Snow Turnbull and that the guns would follow us down to the corner of the road leading North. We got set up and anxiously awaited the arrival of the forward batteries who were to come back past us to set up another position to the rear. A bit nerve racking as we were literally over run by the retreating South Koreans. A Division is a lot of guys, and as the Chinese were known to infiltrate the ranks of a retreating bug out we were straining our eyes to try and see the difference. Trust me, they all look the same in the dark. After what seemed an age the Battery furthest North came back, then after another age the central battery came past. I heard the crackle of a Sten gun and the rear Gun Sgt was firing over the heads of the large number of Sth Koreans hitching a ride on his gun and limber. They were like flies. Anyway, his tractor could not get up a rise, so he was warning off the passengers, and they took the hint. At long last we were told to limber up and skedaddle. Halfway back we ran across the Aussies. We got a shellacking from them of course. In fact I remember an officer one time remarking that if an Aussie didn't call you a bastard you would think you must have offended him in some way. Kelly Griffiths I think it was.

So from then on it was rush and start supporting our guys.

Then a hasty retreat again, then fire and fire. We soon drained the Div Ammo Depot of all its reserves and then they flew in more from Japan in flying boxcars. There was no time to unload in the Div Ammo Base so our 10 Company RNZASC drove direct from the airport to our gun positions and dumped it on the ground as we blasted away. This went on for some days, at one time being asked to fire on the Aussie position as the Chinese had set up a mortar barrage and taken serious casualties on the way in. They just didn't care. In the end, after 4 or 5 days we fired off our last ammo. and the infantry in the hills walked down off the

hills and we took them out in our trucks with us.

One of the things I well remember is that the Aussies and the Canadians in particular, put up an epic stand. The next morning ,or the morning after. there was this terribly long line of jeeps with 2 stretchers, one above the other with the wounded followed by a couple of 3 tonners with the dead. They were covered with blankets but their boots were sticking out and they still had their boots and the slightly long anklets they wore. There were 98 in that file, dead and wounded. A sorrowful sight. They and the Canadians had put up such a good show that they were awarded the US Presidential Citation. They had stood fast, against an enormous attack by the Chinese, but at a considerable cost to themselves. They talk about the ANZAC spirit, but I can assure everyone that at all times it was alive and well.

Funnily enough after we all pulled out the Infantry had to regroup ,(a lot of gaps in the ranks) and we were returned to action after one night. To what? To support the Koreans of course! We were not too pleased after our prior encounter, but they sent up a British Battalion (Argyles?) to provide local defence. Later the Koreans found that the senior officers of their Division had been flogging off their troops rations on the black market. Starving men do not make good troops. So they shot a General or two and a number of other senior officers, and then it was business as usual. So of course that is but a brief summary, but it will give you a rough idea as to what it was all about.

Kind regards, Charles Purcell

331103 LILE, Edmund Crichton (Ted), Major & QM (Rtd), RNZA, at Middlemore Hospital, Auckland on 9 June 2011.



Ted was in the 6th Intake of CMT in 1951, joining the RF on the 20th October 1952 and was posted to Papakura M.C, Artillery Wing, which was then commanded by Major Dinty Moore. In 1954 he and Nes got married and he was posted to the School of

Artillery as a Technical Field Artillery Instructor. In 1968 Ted was posted to 161 Bty SVN as the BG in Geof Hitchings Bty. He returned to the Sch of Arty where he was Q Commissioned, in a rare move he remained there as an IG. Around 1973/74 he was posted as BK, 161 Bty Papakura.

Ted became the resident expert at the School on anything technical – CP work, meteorology, counter bombardment, artillery intelligence, and regt and formation survey. He had a significant influence on technical and tactical skills of a generation or two of NZ gunners. His overall technical knowledge and ability to impart this knowledge was probably second to none in NZ. He was most meticulous and a highly trained instructor, leaving no stone unturned. On the



very rare occasion that he did not know the answer, he would either research it or tell you where to research it to come up with the answer. At one of those bigger than Ben Hur Div CPX's based in Linton a question arose about some tech aspect of Sound Ranging. The Arty Loc adviser on the game board who had attended a Subject 4 for WO Sound Ranging cse at Manly, found the question was more complex than he could answer. Ted was asked for the answer and in bugger all time he had written the various sound ranging formula's and diagrams from memory and explained in very great detail, much of which went sailing over the advisor's head. **What a very clever man he was.**



ORME, Ian Albert. On 4 February 2011 in his 90th year. Ian was a WW11 Gunner, having served with D Troop, 5th Fd Regiment (25 pounders) thru the African and Italian campaigns (including the Battle of Monte Cassino)

42845 BRUNTON, Michael Stanley RNZA. Died 22 May 2011 aged 60. Mike served with 161 Bty in SVN on No 4 Gun in 1968.

L924541 DUFF Albert JC (Bertie) RNZA. Died 31 May 2011 aged 76. Bertie served with 161 Bty in SVN as a Bty Clerk in 1969.

475244 GYNNE Richard (Dick) RNZIR. Died 10 June 2011 in Western Australia. Dick served with the Infantry in Malaysia between 1963-1965. He served with 161 Bty in SVN as a gunner on No 3 Gun in 1967.

304690 MORUNGA, Pouwaka Wehiwehi, RNZA. Died 15 June 2011 aged 73. Pouwaka served with 161 Bty in SVN as a Bty Storeman in 1967.

Condolences

The President and Members of the RNZA Assn extend their condolences to Ron Moroney on the recent passing of his wife Lee.

3. Report from Lt Col (Rtd) Barry Dryer, Col Comdt, RNZA

The Royal Regiment has had a busy few months, although for the serving Gunner this is life as it is.

The most significant activities have centred around the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong during the ANZAC Day period in Korea in 1951, where 16 Fd Regt distinguished themselves in battle in less than a year from when the Regiment was formed. Graham Birch has provided a good summary of the battle and the Regiment's contribution on the Gunner Blog at <http://muzzleflashes.blogspot.com/>.

Suffice to say here that the infantry involved – PPCLI from Canada, 3 RAR from Australia and the Middlesex from the UK – were still talking about how important the Regiment's contribution was when I accompanied a group of NZ Korean veterans and serving 16 Fd Regt personnel to Korea for the 60th Anniversary celebrations in April this year. The Commonwealth infantry veterans actively sought out the NZ gunners amongst the hundreds attending over the week, to say how close they had come to disaster and how it was the NZ guns that gave them the edge to break up Chinese massed night and daytime attacks, and eventually make the clean break under pressure to consolidate the Commonwealth Brigade's position at Kapyong and halt the Chinese advance on Soeul.

For the more recent gunner this is the same view the Australian Long Tan, Balmoral and Coral veterans have of our Regiment.

The Korean celebrations included ceremonies at the UN War Cemetery at Bussan; UK, Canadian, Australian and NZ ceremonies at the various battle sites overlooking the Imjun River; and, at the Korean National War Memorial on ANZAC Day. In between were a couple of visits to the DMZ and still important and occupied OP positions overlooking the Armistice Line.

As well as the travelling contingent, we were joined by Minister of Defence and CA from NZ. It was an important few days for NZ, Korea and the Regiment.

Just prior to the visit, the 1951 award of the Korean Presidential Unit Citation to 16 Fd Regt was finally approved for wearing by those serving in the Regt or attached to it in Korea between 15 Dec 50 and 1 Nov 1951; and, by any soldier in 16 Fd Regt while they are serving in the Regt.

This has been a long time coming.

The Korean Govt, and NZ Departments of Defence and Veterans Affairs put together a presentations' week for Korean Veterans and 16 Fd Regt in New Zealand around Gunners' Day a week or so ago.

This centred on a full ceremonial parade by 16 Fd Regt on the Regimental parade ground in Linton on Gunners' Day. All three gun batteries paraded, with the RNZA Band. The Reviewing Officer was the ROK Minister of Patriot and Veterans, a retired Lt Gen Corps Comd. Minister Park personally presented

Citations during the parade to the 25 or so eligible veterans who were present as guests of the Regiment. Hon Judith Collins, Hon Dr Wayne Mapp and CA Maj Gen Tim Keating were also received on parade.

The Regiment did a splendid job – the parade was as good as they can get. So congratulations to CO, RSM and all ranks as well as to the Band.

I intend, like others before me, to work hard to ensure the RNZA Band works as closely as possible with the Regt.

Informal afternoon tea followed as well as the usual Gunners' Day dinner and get together that evening.

I might add that as part of the parade there was a ceremonial gun salute – see the parade photo. Judith Collins was sufficiently impressed that she wondered if she could get some 105 mm guns for the Police Force as she thought their effect would be somewhat better than a taser.

The day before in Wellington, and the day after in Auckland, Minister Park and the Korean Veterans laid wreaths at the National War Memorial and the Auckland War Memorial Museum, and the Minister hosted lunches for Korean Veterans and other dignitaries attending. In all we would have had about 120 Korean Veterans attend the ceremonies and some 40 receive their Citation personally from Minister Park. That he came to NZ for a week just to do these presentations after a very busy week or so in Korea at the 60th Anniversary celebrations shows how important the Korean Government hold NZ's contribution to the Korean War, and in particular the contribution of the NZ guns. It is an important part of NZ gunner history.

CO and other contributors will have outlined other Regimental activities.

It is with great regret that I note the passing of two Gunners who contributed much to the RNZA.

Major John Allen, RA, was CI at the School of Arty in Waiouru, on secondment for quite a few years in the mid 1960s. I think he slotted between Don Kenning and John Masters as CI. He had a significant impact on the RNZA bringing a range of technical and operational skills and knowledge to us. He and his family fitted in to the NZ way of life superbly. They retained close links to New Zealand and the RNZA over the years – John visited when he could and his house was always a welcome place for visiting NZ gunners on the Salisbury Plains. He taught lots to a generation of NZ gunners.

Major Ted Lile has just passed away this week after a reasonably short illness associated with cancer. Ted will be well known to my generation of gunners – and the generation before! Like John Allen, Ted had a significant impact on the technical and gunner skills of a lot of NZ gunners. He served on a number of occasions at the School where his TARA/Op CP, CB, met and survey knowledge were probably second to none – and he was able to impart this knowledge quickly and well. Ted served as BG in 161 Bty under then Maj Geof Hitchings in 1968, and was my BK in 161 Bty in the early 1970s. Ted was the epitome of the

NZ gunner – technically good, self effacing, a very good peacetime and war time soldier and a devoted and loyal gunner.

To the families of both John Allen and Ted Lile, the deepest sympathy from all in the RNZA.

To all ranks in the RNZA, best wishes for the next few months. I hope I can catch up with as many of you as possible as I get around the country.

Ubique, Barry Dreyer, Colonel Commandant



CO 16 Fd Regt and BC 161 Bty's driver from Kapyong, Jack Frewen await presentation by Minister Park, at the NZ Memorial Kapyong.



Wreath at Kapyong Memorial Rock,
16 Fd Regt, Linton

3. Report from Lt Col Matt Boggs CO 16 Fd Regt

Gunners Day in Linton 2011

60 YEARS OF COMMITMENT

60 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

The Peace, Prosperity and Liberties That We Cherish Today

Are Built On Your Selfless Sacrifices And Contributions.

Korea Is Forever Indebted and We Will Continue To Build The Trust And Friendship Between Our Nations. (From the Korea thank you certificate – The Forgotten War 60 years on)

On the 26 May 2011, 16th Field Regiment Royal New Zealand Artillery (16 Fd Regt) celebrated the 295th Gunners Day. It was only fitting that the occasion also be used to present the Korean Presidential Unit Citation for actions in the Battle of Kap'young in April 1951, recently approved for wearing, some 60 years after it was awarded.

The format of the day was Gunfire in the gunner's barracks, a parade and then a formal function.

The parade was threatened by appalling weather, it had been raining all week to the point where the wet weather alternative was becoming an option. However the RSM made clear his point of view by stating "Unless my shoes are full of water, we will march on".

RSM's have a reputation of being quite close to God and sure enough, after a final rehearsal, the weather broke and the parade was on. This was the first time in years a Colour Gun was on parade. It fired two 105mm blank rounds on the general salutes at the start and completion of the march past and reminded the RNZA band that they were gunners as well (they were positioned to the front of the gun and of course well outside the safety distance). The Reviewing Officer Minister Park, (Korean Minister of Patriots and Veterans) presented the citation to 30 odd veterans who stall tall, proudly watched by their friends and family. CO 16 Fd Regt received the citation on behalf of 161 Battery, 163 Battery and 39 Mortar Battery.

There were also a number of other dignitaries who attended, specifically: the Honourable Judith Collins, Minister of Veterans' Affairs; the Chief of Army (CA), General Tim Keating; Col Commandant RNZA, Col Barry Dreyer and Commander 2LFG, Col Howie Duffy. Feedback from the veterans (including a couple of old Warrant Officers – so it must be true) highlighted the power of the Powhiri for Minister Park, the precision of the drill, and the steadiness of the soldiers.

The parade concluded with Minister Park laying a memorial wreath accompanied by a piped lament. Afterwards, and at afternoon tea Minister Park presented certificates of thanks to the CA and the Regiment. The CA also presented the text of the citation to the Regiment.

That evening there was a top end buffet dinner supplied by the soldier cooks of the 800 man mess and this was followed by entertainment from the RNZA Band. Veterans, serving members of the Regiment and the wider RNZA swapped tales, brought each other drink (in moderation of course) and started making plans for the next Gunner's Day (a number of current WO2s became somewhat nervous at this time). A great finish to an extra-ordinary day.

The Unit Citation is to be worn by all 16 Fd Regt personal posted to the unit and those veterans who

served with 16 Fd Regt from 15 Dec 50 – 01 Nov 51. Veterans wishing to obtain a citation should contact the NZDF Medals office with their service number and appointments held during the period.

Lt Col Matt Boggs, CO 16 Fd Regt



Minister Park presents Citation to Kapyong Veteran.



Minister Park received on parade, Linton. 163 Bty centre, saluting gun rear.

4. Report from Lt Col Nick Gillard in London

Anyone who says that London doesn't have the odd spot of good weather should be here today. It's about 25 degrees and wonderfully sunny. I'm not sure what I am doing indoors writing this. Since my last report we have had ANZAC Day and I have had the privilege to attend the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

ANZAC Day in London is a special occasion and a fitting tribute to those who 'came from the uttermost ends of the earth'. Attended by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon John Key there was a dawn service at Hyde Park Corner followed by a gunfire breakfast at NZ House. From there we made the short journey to the Cenotaph on Whitehall. Wreaths were laid by the PM, High Commissioner, all Commonwealth representatives and by the British Service Chiefs. It was great to see the combination of veterans, current serving NZDF personnel, ex pat Kiwi's and many Brits all mixing together to pay their respects. The day was capped off with a memorial service at Westminster Abbey.

Over the period 16 - 23 May I had the privilege to

attend the commemorations in Crete. The Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Force joined nine veterans of the battle for a range of services and activities. The NZDF was also represented by a tri service group who are currently deployed to the UK as part of Exercise Long Look. More than 200 Kiwi's attended including veterans tour groups and the RSA. There were moving services conducted by each of the main participating nations. The Australians at Rethymno, the British at Souda Bay, the Germans at Maleme and the Kiwi's at Galatas. The Cretans also commemorated their own struggles both during and post the battle.

For me there were several highlights. The NZ dawn service at Souda Bay where our veterans had the opportunity to pay their quiet respects to their mates buried there. The address given by Maj Gen Sandy Thomas (Rtd) at Galatas where he gave a highly personal account of the fighting in the very town square where we were standing. He concluded by introducing one of the local women who 70 years before had wrapped him in a blanket and given him milk after he had been wounded. There wasn't a dry eye in the place. The German service at Maleme also had special significance. Commemorating those who died during the bitter struggle for the airfields and port the service took place in the cemetery overlooking Maleme Airfield. The 4500 Germans buried there are testament to the pyrrhic victory achieved.

By sheer chance (although it may have been the RNZA corps belt and beret that gave me away) I had the opportunity to meet and chat with Col Peter Hanson ED (Rtd) and his wife who were also attending the commemorations. As a couple of ex CO's of the regiment it was good to briefly compare the then and now of 16 Fd Regt. Our conversation took place under the walls of Firkas Fort on the Chania waterfront whilst watching a display by the RAF Red Arrows. Not the most normal of circumstances or location for an ex CO get together.

My attendance in Crete was the first time I have had the privilege to participate in such a commemoration. My admiration for our veterans is huge. Their comradeship and courage both in 1941 and 2011 were unforgettable. I can only hope I am the same in my 90's. Talking to them about the battle and its effect on them over the ensuing years will be an enduring memory. It has undoubtedly been one of the highlights of my posting thus far.

I have just been on the phone to the current CO of the regiment. Matt has given me all of the latest information on future Army structures, policy and finances. It is a difficult time across the defence force but I am confident that we shall emerge on the other side. Perhaps looking a bit different but still maintaining our outputs and traditions in a manner familiar to all gunners.

Regards to all.

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

5. HISTORICAL ITEM - Operation of 2 NZ Div: 9 - 12 April 1945, including crossing of the SENIO (3rd & Final Part)

12 Apr 45 Following was uplifted from AAD and delivered to Ammunition Points.

25 pr	61100)	
105 mm	25240)	
3.7	2800)	<u>1412 tons</u>
5.5 HE	4400)	
4.5 HE	3200)	
75 mm	11000)	

36000 rds of 25 pr were issued from Ammunition Point on 12 April

13 Apr 45 Ammunition Points established vicinity LUGO (MR 3636) and all ammunition was transferred from previous dump to new location – **3018 tons.**

Following was uplifted from AAD and delivered to APs and gun positions 13 – 15 April 45.

25 pr	124700)	
105 mm	10000)	<u>2790 tons.</u>
5.5 HE	10980)	
4.5 HE	4000)	

Dumping programme of 500 rpg 25 pr, 400 rpg 105 mm, 200 rpg 5.5 HE and 200 rpg 4.5 HE was carried out over two nights (13 – 14 Apr 45) – **1500 tons**

Issues for the same period. 25 pr 32000 rds

16 – 17 April Total holdings in dumps at LUGO moved forward to new location vicinity MASSA LOMBARDA (MR 2740) in 24 hours – **1200 tons.**

The following was uplifted from AAD and delivered to Aps 16 – 17 April 45.

25 pr	33600)	
3.7	3200)	<u>786 tons.</u>
4.5	1980)	
5.5	2500)	

To ensure an adequate supply of ammunition on the adoption of a new location, the following system was employed. 400 rounds per gun and a further 200 rounds per gun were on wheels at B Echelon. As soon as notification was received from the forward Recce that the new position was ready to occupy, the vehicles at B Echelon moved direct to the new position, dumped their 200 rounds per gun at the selected gun positions and returned to the former gun positions where they replenished from the ammunition left on the ground. In spite of the bad roads and obstacles and the heavy commitment of artillery, there was never a shortage of ammunition at the gun positions during this offensive.

6. WITH MIKE DAKIN IN VIETNAM

Having a great time with the tour group, in Saigon at present. The Vietnamese are remarkably friendly and open, as well as being keen to relieve us of our last dollars. They are doing quite well in that area. After arrival Tuesday we had lunch at Indo-Chine restaurant although we probably were not in the mood after the two flights - I slept well but others could not get off and were a bit grumpy. We settled in at the Rex Hotel (Shirley, it's Rexcellent thanks) large air con rooms, good facilities in the heart of Saigon which is beautifully set out. Many of the buildings are French Colonial, dating from the mid-1800s as do many of the inner city parks and avenues. There are many very modern buildings including a skyscraper with gigantic swimming pool cantilevered out 2/3 of the way up.

The traffic is intense, mostly light motorbikes and scooters. Nothing stops except at the rare traffic lights, it simply slows and merges with other traffic that flows on and on. Even pedestrians move through the stream, technically on marked crossings, but still nothing stops completely. Today, Wednesday 20 April, we had our city tour starting with a sobering two hours at the War Relics Museum. Cheery at first, we gradually became more thoughtful as we moved through the exhibits. Of course, it was presented as seen through Vietnamese eyes and may be thought to be slanted because of that. But I thought it covered the facts quite well, if somewhat deficient on any bad stuff the VC might have done and heavy on US atrocities. The rest of our day tour was interesting but unremarkable. Thursday we go to the tunnels at Cu Chi, Friday on to Vung Tau (for which I will send another bulletin).

The Cu Chi Tunnels were a major achievement for Vietnamese 'Number 8 Wire' engineers. Their ingenuity on every side - concealed ventilation and cooking smoke exhaust, bomb blast damping chambers, body-size constrictions to limit American passage; and, of course, body traps designed to maim but not kill. This latter feature wasn't for humanitarian reasons, but to tie up enemy resources removing the wounded, to delay pursuit by bottle-necking and clogging tunnels, and to maximise escape time for themselves. For us, going through the tunnels was an exercise in itself - or self-inflicted injury at least. Although not everyone had a go, those who did found it hard going but worth the effort.

On Friday 22 April, we bused to Vung Tau, passing Bien Hoa, a former air base and Ba Ria. It was totally confusing, as what was a barren wasteland occupied by various military units is now a fully built-up and unrecognisable commercial strip-development, all the way from Saigon to Vung Tau. Settled in at the familiar Grand Hotel, we had Saturday free to explore old haunts. We rediscovered a few and found some new ones as well. Naturally enough, the Vietnamese have removed all signs of the occupation, and Vung Tau has boomed and grown due to offshore oil and gas, so navigation was tricky at first. Thankfully, traffic is less hectic than in Saigon but we were 'welcomed' by a

swarm of street vendors - women on motorbikes, who circle us, divided and attempted to conquer. No sooner did we break free and move on than they were on their bikes and leapfrogging to another ambush site.

Sunday we tiki-toured with our good guide, Breaker Cusack, an ex-pat Aussie. The main place of interest was Nui Dat, of course, itself now stripped of all trees and looking like an open=cast quarry. The Battery area now has all of its rubber trees regrown, with few distinguishing features. But a concrete director-stand was found, marked with 'G Love, 1967'. After calling at other places of interest to us, back to base to be ready for ANZAC Day.

Monday 25 April, we're up at 0300 hrs and on the road by 0400; it's still a long way to Nui Dat from Vung Tau, even in a comfortable coach. We walk through the rubber to Long Tan Cross, and there we join a great many Australians, perhaps 250-300. We are well unnumbered but when the service begins equal credit is given to the Aussies and the Kiwis by all three speakers including the NZ Ambassador H.E. Heather Riddell who spoke extremely well and acknowledged our presence. We met and chatted with her after the service and included her in the Battery group photo.

26 April, and we get back to Saigon after two minor travel glitches, which were quickly fixed by gunner initiative. The tour company has apologised with a free one-hour water puppet show. Our last night together will be marked by a barbecue, the nearest we can get to a hangi.

The tour is all but over. The camaraderie has been wonderful, with many personal anecdotes to share and friendships made stronger. We have all had the pleasure of meeting a few of our group for the first time as well as catching up with mates. I hope I will see them all again—we plan to do it again in 2013, it has been so good.

There is a short postscript, a catalogue of losses by various folk: 2 cameras, 1 wallet, and 1 mix of medications. No names, no pack drill! Now we disperse, some bound for NZ, some for a stopover in Singas, some going further into Vietnam; and me, off to the UK for family time.

See May 2011 Muzzleflashes for more of the photos taken.

YAMAGUCHI BREWERY

A brewery was operating in Yamaguchi, and beer was available. It was quite palatable but like that obtained in Italy was very weak owing to the shortage of sugar. In the evenings we would sit down to a dozen bottles each and by 2000 hrs



ANZAC Day at Long Tan Cross: Gunners with the NZ Ambassador H.E. Heather Riddell



Gunners at Nui Dat 161 Bty location by director stand



The Tour Group in Saigon

would be getting quite talkative.

To obtain supplies the powers-that-be ordained that each unit have an authorized 'beer Officer', but as we rarely saw an Officer,
(Continued on Page 11)

9. A HISTORICAL ITEM - KAP'YONG : APRIL 1951

April 2011 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Battle of Kap'yong, the battle that resulted in 16 Fd Regt being awarded the Korean Presidential Citation. The battle is recorded in detail in the official history of the Korean War (*New Zealand and the Korean War, Volume 2, Combat Operations, pages 108-139*); and in *The Gunners, A History of New Zealand Artillery. (pages 387-390)*. 16 Fd Regt also produced a booklet just prior to the Regiments departure from Korea in 1954, and extracts from this booklet are used as the primary source of information for this article.

By way of background New Zealand, as a member nation of the United Nations, agreed to deploy a force (K Force) to Korea following the invasion of South Korea by North Korea in June 1950. Two New Zealand frigates comprised the initial response, followed by a land force component, the major element being a Field Artillery Regiment. Thus 16 Fd Regt was raised under Emergency Force regulations. On 29 August 1950 some 1100 men entered Papakura, Linton and Burnham Camps. Fewer than one in ten of these volunteers had any previous gunner training, and only a third had seen service of any sort. September saw the officers and men of the Regt completing a minimal four weeks of basic training, fitness training and working towards becoming efficient fighting soldiers. Then followed six weeks corps training, completed before the Regt officially came into being as a unit on the 27th October 1950. During this formation period the situation in Korea changed markedly. Initially the UN Forces drove the North Korean invaders back into the north, however in October the communist Chinese entered the fray and a totally new situation arose.

The main body of 16 Fd Regt sailed from Wellington on 10 December 1950 and reached the South Korean port of Pusan on New Years Eve. The Regt joined 27 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade, the infantry component at that stage being the 1st Bn the Middlesex Regt (1 Mx), the 1st Bn Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders, and the 3rd Bn Royal Australian Regt (3RAR). A fourth infantry battalion also joined 27 Bde at about the same time as 16 Fd, the Canadian 2nd Bn Princess Patricia's Light Infantry (2PPLI), and 16 Fd supported all of these battalions from time to time.

The following account of the Kap'yong battle is primarily drawn from the 16 Fd Regt booklet:

...“The Regiments first major test came in April when the Chinese attacked in great strength and sought to achieve a complete breakthrough. When 27 Bde moved up into the line 16 Fd went with it across the Pukhan River and on to

Kap'yong. There the brigade remained in reserve while the Regiment moved up in support of a South Korean Division. About this time the Chinese threw in a heavy counter-attack and the South Korean troops collapsed, opening up a ten mile gap in the front. At this stage the Regiment was located in a narrow valley which led over the 38th Parallel, directly in the line of the Chinese advance.

Taking advantage of the gap which had been opened up in the front line the Chinese troops poured through in mass, and it was immediately apparent that they threatened to split the UN Army in two. Had they not been stopped later at Kap'yong they might well have succeeded. 27 Bde, still in reserve, was some twenty miles further south, but as the South Korean troops broke and started to filter back 1 Mx was rushed up to provide the 15 Fd gunners with local cover. It was dusk on 23 April -two days before ANZAC Day, and the Australians and New Zealanders were to make another heroic stand. This time they were to break the back of the Chinese Communist advance in what was later described by a newspaper correspondent as ‘some of the bloodiest and fiercest fighting ever to take place in ANZAC history’.

In the words of another observer:- “The gunners remained by their guns, and as dusk was falling they were given their first target—valleys along which the enemy were advancing”. Orders to withdraw were given that night, the main task of the guns in the valley to cover the Middlesex as they came down from their protective perimeter in the surrounding hills. Firing at almost point-blank range the gunners put down a heavy curtain of fire as the infantry withdrew from the high ground. As each company reached the valley floor one gun was taken out of action, the infantry scrambled up on the guns and vehicles and the dash back to new positions started. One gun tractor, towing a trailer and a gun, moved out with more than twenty British soldiers clinging to every conceivable handhold.

The orderly withdrawal continued until only the four guns of Baker Troop remained in action. They continued firing at increasingly shorter range until the last of the infantry were ready to pull out. Then Baker Troop, bringing the last of the infantry with them, joined the mad race out of the valley. It was a nightmare journey along a narrow winding road. No lights were allowed, and the road was clogged with disorganised retreating South Korean troops. Just a few minutes after the last B Tp vehicle roared out of the valley and on to the main road the advancing Chinese over-ran the South Korean Divisional Headquarters.

In the meantime the rest of 27 Bde, rushed

up from reserve to stem the gap, hastily prepared positions to form the next line of defence. The NZ gunners sped back into position and opened up in support of 2PPLI and 3RAR – the target – the mouth of the valley from which the Regt had just emerged.

Only two hours after they had deployed into their new position, at 0100 hrs on 24 April, ANZAC Day eve, the Regt was forced to move again, back to Kap'young. There were unfounded reports that the Chinese had penetrated the gun position. For the next four days and nights the Regt was to fire almost without pause, the gunners sweating over their smoking paint-blistered 25 Pr guns.

By this time 3RAR was bearing the full brunt of the savage Chinese attack, taking place about 40 miles north of the South Korean capital Seoul, and for some time the Bn was cut off. 3RAR was under very heavy pressure with bitter hand to hand fighting in all company areas, and 16 Fd was allocated seven US batteries under command to give added firepower to the defence. The NZ gunners, stripped to the waist, continued to pound the enemy relentlessly but, in spite of heavy losses, the Chinese repeatedly threw wave after wave of troops into the artillery barrage in suicidal attempts to overrun the Australian positions. The quantity of artillery available permitted a terrific volume of fire to be directed against the masses of Chinese advancing in waves in the open. In the thirty hours preceding the dawn of ANZAC Day the Regt fired almost 10,000 rounds at targets ranging in distance from 10,000 yards to 3,000 yards. Australian casualties were heavy, but the infantry, with the support of the artillery, accounted for an estimated 1,000 Chinese killed and 3,000 wounded.

At dawn on ANZAC Day all the Bde infantry battalions were holding their ground when the Chinese massed for the greatest massive assaults of the battle. Meeting the assault with murderous fire the Australians with gunner support piled up at least 500 enemy dead about their perimeter. Then the attempted breakthrough began to frizzle out. A new ANZAC tradition had been made. Victory was announced by the laconic radio news item: 'Pressure eased considerably'. It was not until the night of 28/29 April that the gunners, drawn back into a harbour area behind the Pukhan River, were able to enjoy their first real sleep in six days". ...

For their deeds during this period 3 RAR was awarded the US Presidential Citation and 16 Fd Regt the South Korean Presidential Unit Citation. The citation was presented to the Regt in February 1952 by the South Korean Minister for National Defence, Mr Ko Pong Lee, at an impressive ceremony. With the flags of the Republic of Korea, the United States and New Zealand flying above them, the Regiment was inspected on the parade ground by senior officers of the Republic, the Commonwealth Division – which had been formed by this time – and the Corps with which the Regiment was by then operating.

The South Korean Presidential Citation

A translation of the Citation reads;

"The President takes profound pleasure in citing for exceptionally meritorious service and heroism the 16th New Zealand Field Regiment.

Its performance in the April enemy offensive merits the highest praise.

Two batteries were initially forward in support of the 6th Republic of Korea Division and these were skilfully withdrawn to join the balance of the Regiment in a new position which the 27th Commonwealth Brigade had been ordered to hold at all costs.

Throughout the battle, during the nights of the 23rd and 24th April, and all day on 24th April, it operated its guns ceaselessly and efficiently and played an important role in holding the position"

Compiled by Brig (Rtd) Graham Birch



16 Fd Regt Kapyong veterans with Col Comdt, CO and RSM at NZ Memorial Kapyong.



Plaque presented to 16 Fd Regt by Korean Govt, Kapyong

8. KOREA PARADE

It's been decades since their valour saved the lives of Commonwealth soldiers during a crucial Korean War battle, but the veteran gunners from Linton's 16 Field Regiment have finally received formal recognition from the Korean Government.

About 20 veterans from 16 Field were presented with the Korean Presidential Citation during a ceremony at Linton Military Camp yesterday.

South Korea's Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Hon Sung Choon Park, was there to award the citations, which recognise the New Zealand gunners' efforts during the Battle of Kapyong in April 1951.

The 16 Field gunners fired more than 10,000 rounds at the advancing communist forces during the battle, despite coming under heavy fire themselves.

Lieutenant Colonel Matt Boggs, the commanding officer of 16 Field, said their efforts not only slowed the advance but allowed many Commonwealth soldiers to safely retreat.

"The Battle of Kapyong was significant in the Korea conflict in that it was the blunting of the North Korean offensive and it prevented the capital of Seoul being captured," he said. "What it did was it prevented a rout and it enabled them to fight another day. Everyone else was retreating and withdrawing and these guys just held the line."

The award was initially presented in November 1951 but Commonwealth protocol at the time meant New Zealand soldiers did not formally accept the citations.

Lieutenant Colonel Boggs said it was good to see the veterans finally get official recognition.

"We won't be able to do this much longer. These men are all 80 at their youngest. We had about 50 veterans here, of which 20 were eligible [for the citation]."

About 220 soldiers marched at the ceremony, which was attended by Minister of Veterans' Affairs Judith Collins, Chief of Army Major General Tim Keating, Colonel Commandant of the Royal New Zealand Artillery Colonel Barry Dreyer and 2LFG Commander Colonel Howard Duffy.

Mrs Collins held discussions with Mr Park while at Linton.

"New Zealand and the Republic of Korea have a special relationship that began on the battlefield more than 60 years ago," she said.

"Minister Park has personally travelled to New Zealand to present the citation to the regiment, which is a sign of the close relationship that has developed between our two countries."

Article supplied by The Manawatu Standard

YAMAGUCHI BREWERY (Continued from Page 9)

Let alone one per unit, subterfuge became necessary: For 25 Battery I typed a letter authorizing myself as 'beer Officer,' signed it with a factitious signature, and presented it at the brewery. There it was accepted without question! (*Continued on Page 13*)

9. HOROWHENUA ARTILLERY ASSN HOLD EL ALAMEIN DINNER

The Horowhenua Artillery Association held their annual El Alamein Dinner at Levin RSA on 25 May 2011. As always this event was on the Wednesday before Gunners Day, to enable participants to join other Gunners Day celebrations on the 26th. With 38 veterans ranging in service from WW2 to Timor Leste, the dining total of 54 included 10 serving personnel from 16 Fd Regt.

This year's address was a very moving personal account of one man's revisit to scene of the Commonwealth Brigades' actions at Imjin River and Kapyong in 1951. A mortar sig NCO at the time, he was eventually captured with the survivors of the Gloucesters and after the war, came to New Zealand as a signals instructor. Ted was lucky enough to be included in the official tour of the Korean War Commemoration in April 2011 in his capacity as a British K Force Veteran and his address began in that capacity.

Ted Marion writes:

I have been asked to tell you about my recent visit to Korea during last April. I should tell you that at the time of the Korean War I was a Regular Soldier in the British Army and served in that war as a member of the British 29th Infantry Brigade. I was the signals NCO of 'C' Troop, 170 Mortar Battery which was attached to the 1st Battalion of the Gloucester Regiment. The purpose of the visit was, for me, the commemoration services to be held at the various memorials but particularly the IMJIN RIVER battle. This was made famous by the stand of the Gloucesters on Hill 235 overlooking the ancient invasion route from the NORTH into the SOUTH. Over the years I have been a little concerned that this stand has overshadowed what some other units did in their own battles at this time.

The Chinese Spring Offensive had an aim, amongst others of taking Seoul, the capital of South Korea, by 1 May, a significant date for the Communists. In the EAST the drive was against an area held by a ROK Division, which was supported by 16 Field Regiment RNZA in the area of Kap'young. When the ROKs collapsed the British 27th Brigade was summoned out of reserve and sent to plug the gap. A tidy old battle ensued involving Australian, Canadian and British Infantry supported by New Zealand gunners. Among other unit awards the Regiment was awarded the Syngman Rhee Distinguished Unit Citation. After many years this Citation is to be presented to the Regiment at Linton Camp tomorrow, and as many veterans as possible should be there to support the Regiment.

Here was read an extract from Max Hastings, THE KOREAN WAR, page 250.

Their achievement has been overshadowed by the bloodier and even more dramatic action that took

place further west at this time. But 27 Brigade won much professional admiration from their allies for the fashion in which they broke the communist attack north of CHONGCHON-NI. It is a typical irony of history that, because their battle ended in success at small cost in Commonwealth lives, it is little remembered. There, at the centre of the UN front the line stabilised, and held. The surviving attackers withdrew. One arm of the Chinese offensive was shattered.

About 20 miles to the WEST the British 29th Brigade was holding a line along the IMJIN RIVER with the Gloucesters holding an area on the left of the Brigade front. The nature of the ground, together with the length of the front required to be covered meant that companies were dispersed on hills in support of each other but with gaps in between which enabled the Chinese to infiltrate and get around to the rear of both Brigade and Battalion. In the ensuing battle the Gloucesters were surrounded and cut off and in the end on April 25th had to try to break out individually, but sadly only a few made it. The making of this into an epic constantly overlooks the action which the rest of 29 Brigade underwent, and it was very lucky to get away with it. As a whole the Brigade suffered 25% casualties.

Back to my trip

For many years I resisted going back as I was given to understand that the site of the battle was unrecognisable due to the roads that had been put in, bridges, etc but I was asked by my old friend of those days, living in Britain, if I could possibly make it, and thanks to Forbes Taylor and Des Vinten of NZKVA I was included in the British Contingent but able to travel with the Kiwis. After the British party arrived on Tuesday evening and having re-acquainted myself with my friend Tommy Clough, four of us were invited to take part in a battlefield tour and be interviewed by British TV and a sound recorder so in the morning we started out. After quite a bit of time driving around we turned off the road down a short sandy track to the north bank of the IMJIN RIVER. The leader of our group pointed out an overgrown track leading down to the river on the opposite bank and told us that this was the track which the Centurions [tanks] took when they crossed on a recce before the battle started. To my amazement I instantly recognised it as Gloucester Crossing, the very place where we waded across after being captured on the 25th! We were standing as near as dammit to the very place where we climbed out of the river! After all these years (60), to be able to recognise it so easily was quite emotional.

We then went on to Gloster Hill and once again I recognised features, our final gun Position, the gully up which we scrambled in the early hours of Tuesday (24th) morning, the first hill which we [the Mortar Troop] occupied and the final hill which we occupied late that afternoon and from which we took off after receiving the words "EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF"! After all these years it really was quite

remarkable.

We went back as a group to the memorial on the 23rd and to KAP'YONG on the 24th where we marched down the High Street to the Memorial [and that was hilarious] following a parade at the KAP'YONG site.

After my visits to the IMJIN site we went to the Commonwealth Cemetery where we were rained out. This is in Busan, and we went by Bullet Train. It was quite impressive when the TV screen showed that we were going at 307 kmph, You'd never have thought it by the way the train was running, smooth, quiet and steady. It was large train [in dimensions] too.

On the 25th we observed ANZAC Day at the National Memorial followed by a corking good breakfast and the next day we were off home tired out but extremely happy that I had made the trip.

I was impressed by the genuine gratitude of the Koreans towards us for what the UN did back then.

Article supplied by Roger Newth

10. LADIES DINING IN NIGHT, GUNNERS DAY, PAKAKURA RSA

From all reports another excellent evening was had by all those who attend the above. With attendees including many personnel from 11/4 Bty, 161 Bty as well as non RNZA pers on attachment.

The menu was:

Soup - Creamy Pumpkin Soup with toasted croutons

Entree - Scallops poached in white wine with a vouttae sauce

Mains - Lamb shank roasted in red wine and vine tomatoes

or - Chicken breast served with spiced apricot jus topped with Panchetta

Vegetables - Parsnip and carrot mash, minted baby potatoes, long beans, red onion, courgette

Desert - Banoffee Pie served with cream and chocolate fondant

Cheeseboard - selection of fine cheeses and seasonal fruits, assorted crackers

A Composite Brass band from the Pakakura RSA augmented by members of the RNZA Band played throughout.

Service was provided by the Air Training Corps Cadets as the Usual Army Cadets were not available, and they did a wonderful job.

Jeff Waters is to be commended for organising an excellent evening.

Toasts were made proposed by:

Loyal Toast, The Queen: Mr Vice, 2Lt Jasvinder Singh

The Regiment: Major Terry O'Neill RNZIR

Reply: Major Anthony Michelson, BC 11/4 Bty

Absent Friends: John Dealzey

The Ladies: Roly Flutey



Top Table Diners: Tony McLeod, Pam Miley-Terry, Binney O'Neill and Major Terry O'Neill (RNZIR)



Top Table Diners: Major Antony Mitchelson, Daphene Shaw, Lyn Barrett, John (Woody) Barrett.



Retired Gunner Don Potter is entertained by today's gunners from 11/4 Bty



Committee Members: Bill Stewart (Korea), Joe Panaho (SVN) and Colin Jansen

ANOTHER VERSION OF A DEAR JOHN LETTER

Dear George

Nothing much doing here. I am sure we all envy you out there in Korea, right in the thick of things. Bet you never have a dull moment and it's really terrific.

I was over to see your wife last night and I read all your letters. They are a bit mushy but I don't blame you, that Frances is a swell girl. Wonderful figure, good looks and man, what a personality! The guys still whistle at her when she walks down the streets in those tight, short dresses.

Your brother-in-law, Snedley dropped by. He was wearing the brown suit you brought just before you left. Fran gave it to him as she thought it would be out of style by the time you got back. Several other couples dropped in and we killed three cases of beer. We wanted to chip in for it but Fran wouldn't let us. She said you send her ten dollars extra to spend as she wishes. One of the boys is going to buy your golf clubs too. He paid \$20 for them and pick them up tomorrow. That's more than she got for your movie camera and projector.

Frances was the life of the party. I thought she would be a little shaken after the accident last week, with your Chevy, but you'd never know that she had a head-on collision and smashed your car to bits. The other driver is still in hospital and threatens to sue: too bad Fran forgot to pay the insurance, but the funny thing is she's not a bit worried about the whole thing. We all admire her courage and nonchalance, and especially her willingness to mortgage the house to pay the bill. Good thing you left her the power of attorney before you left for Korea.

Well, back to the party, you should have seen Fran do the imitation of Gypsy Rose Lee. She was still going strong when we said goodnight to her and Claude. Guess you knew Claude is rooming at the house. It's a lot closer to his work and he saves a little on gas and lunch and takes a nap every noon hour.

Nothing much new with me except my wife got another raise, \$110 a week now, so with my \$95 we're doing O.K. Its getting late so I'll stop writing and mail this letter. I can see though the window to your porch....Fran and Claude are having a night cap. He's wearing the smoking jacket you were so proud of.

Well buddy, I wish I could be over there with you. You don't know how lucky you are. Give those commie Koreans hell!

Your Pal, Jack

Received in the mail by the Editor from ???

YAMAGUCHI BREWERY (Continued from P 11)

The beer was not very expensive, but strange to say crates cost quite a bit more than the contents, so, having two regular carpenters on my 'staff,' a workshop, plus a good supply of timber, I put the tradesmen to work (in their spare time of course) making crates. These Tom and I 'traded' in at the brewery. *(Continued on Page 18)*

11. TOM REILLY Reports in from Afghanistan

Those of you who thought I was dead, then you are not quite right. I am still very much alive and kicking and enjoying the 'high life' in Afghanistan.

I am nearing the end of my third year of my second posting in Afghanistan. At the end of June I will have been here three years, a year longer than the first time I was here in 2002-2004. I will take up my new post in Mogadishu, Somalia. I am hoping that post will be as challenging and as interesting as this one.

Before you all think I am really crazy I will actually be working out of Nairobi, Kenya for a while. Two years or so there then I may retire, perhaps.

Three years here has gone by very quickly. The country had changed drastically in the time I was away. The security situation here tends to be measured in number of incidents per day/month/year, all very familiar?

Well we went from about 1600 incidents per month to 2300 last month. We spent most of last month locked up in our compounds avoiding crazy suicide attackers. That said it is still an amazing part of the world to be in. Where else can one trace the footstep of Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Temur Leng (Tamerlane), the Moghul and other great Dynasties; follow the rise and fall of the British in the 19th century; rub shoulders with the friendly but fierce Pashtun and wake up every morning not knowing what the day will bring.

Ohh almost forgot; where would one get the opportunity to take care of Angelina Jolie: not once but twice. Wonderful experiences to brighten ones twilight years.

There is quite a large Kiwi Expat community here. You will know many of them. Nev Reilly (Brig rtd) . our Ambassador; Sel Heaton (Col Rtd) and his lovely wife Rosie; Kevin Baff (Ex RNZAF); Lt Col John Barclay; Fred Estall; Willie Epiha and so on.. Sadly we don't meet as often as we would like but often enough to exchange old and new stories.

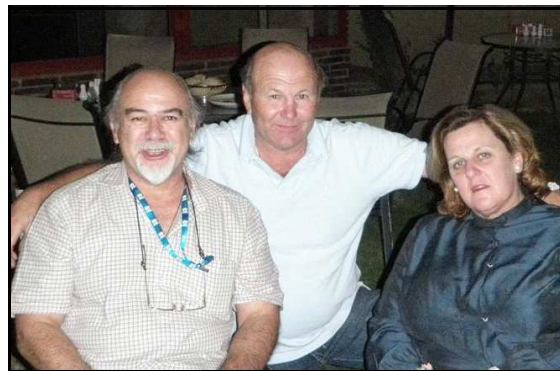
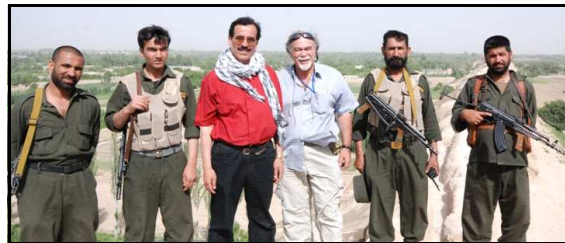
I thank the Association for keeping me in touch with home and what is happening there. It is sad however to see old comrades falling regularly. My sympathies and aroha are always with their loved once who are left behind. Enough of my waffle. If any of you should be in Africa later this year please look me up. Always a bed, a beer and a feed.

Noho ora koutou katoa, Ka Kite Ano (See you again) and Stay Safe

Tom O'Reilly, Senior Field Safety Adviser
UNHCR Branch Office Kabul, Afghanistan
UBIQUE, Tom

Those who have the know how (hehehe) and the energy can keep up with me in Facebook - tomo_reilly@hotmail.com

A copy of the photos sent by Tom. #3 is I believe Tom and Angelina Jolie (the actress)



12. Selection of Photographs taken at 4 (G) Medium Bty's Centenary Celebrations, March 2011



16 Fd Regt Gunners relaxing at breakfast in Morrinsville



Ex BSM 4 Mdm Bty, Barry Cook preparing to say the Ode for the Fallen at the Memorial Gun.



Padre Bob Scott with Director of Music Band of the RNZA WO1 Denis Schofield in background at Sunday morning memorial service at the Gun Memorial in Hamilton



Col Comdt and Mayor Judy Hardaker with Bdr Marcus Gustafsson, Pronto of 11/4 Bty RNZA, promoting him to Sgt.



The Band of the RNZA leads a mounted troop from 16 Fd Regt through Morrinsville Saturday morning.



Elements of 16 Fd Regt and 11/4 Bty, and previous members of 4(G) Mdm Bty at the Formal Parade reviewed by Hamilton Mayor Julie Hardaker, Hamilton City Square, parade Commander Maj Anthony Mitchelson, BC 11/4 Bty RNZA.

13.



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
National Reunion and Annual General Meeting
Christchurch 10 – 13 November 2011
PROGRAMME

Date	Timing	Event	Administration
Thursday 10 November:	15:00-17:00	Registration Open	Speights Alehouse
	17:00-20:00	Happy Hour – Meet and Greet	Speights Alehouse
Friday 11 November:	09:00-10:00	Registration Open	Speights Alehouse
	10:00-10:30	Morning Tea	Speights Alehouse
	10:50-11:00	Armistice Day Parade Forms-up	Venue TBC
	11:00-11:45	Armistice Day Service	Venue TBC
	12:00-13:00	Light Lunch	Speights Alehouse
	13:00-18:00	Free Time	Individual Responsibility
	18:00-	Happy Hour – Meet and Greet	Speights Alehouse
Saturday 12 November:	09:30-10:00	Morning Tea	Speights Alehouse
	10:00-10:30	Bus to Godley Head	Mainland Coaches
	10:30-14:30	View Godley Head Coastal Artillery site	Lunch (organisers)
		Deployment and Equipment Display by 39 Mortar Bty RNZA	BC/BSM 39 Mtr Bty
	14:30-15:00	Bus to Bealey Speights Alehouse via Lyttelton	Mainland Coaches
	18:30-19:00	Pre-dinner Drinks	Speights Alehouse
	19:00-	Dinner	Speights Alehouse
: Sunday 13 November:	09:30-10:00	Morning Tea	Speights Alehouse
	10:00-10:30	Memorial Service and Wreath Laying	Venue TBC
	10:30-12:30	RNZAA Annual General Meeting	Speights Alehouse
	12.30 - 13.30	Light Lunch	Speights Alehouse
	13.30 -	Disperse to Home Location	Individual Responsibility

2. How to Register:

Registrations for the reunion and AGM are now open and should be made using the attached Registration Form to: Registrations Secretary, RNZAA Reunion and AGM 2011, P.O. Box 43, Lyttelton 8841

Contact: Pete Dawson, Phone:021-334381, E-mail: pete@fishcon.net

Payment can be made by cheque made out in the name of: **3 Field Regiment RNZA Charitable Trust** Or by direct credit to: 3 Field Regiment RNZA Charitable Trust, Westpac Papanui Branch **03-0854-0692872-00**

P L E A S E N O T E :

In order to enable organisers to confirm catering and transport requirements there is a registration cut-off date of close of play on Wednesday 9 November 2011. The first 30 registrations will be automatically entered into a free draw for early registration spot Prize so get in quick.

3. Central Venue:

The central base venue for the reunion weekend will be the: Bealeys Speights Alehouse, 263 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch

4. Armistice Day Service

Throughout New Zealand the annual Armistice Day memorial services are taking on more and more significance. This is the case in Christchurch and Christchurch Returned and Services Association and the Christchurch City Council invite registrants of the RNZAA Reunion to join them at this important memorial service. The Service will commence at 11:00 on Friday 11 November at the Christchurch Bridge of Remembrance.

Wreaths will be laid during the service.

5. Saturday Field Trip:

The planned field trip on Saturday will be a short coach trip from the Speights Alehouse to the historic Godley Head Coastal Defence Artillery Battery which is situated on top of a prominent headland at the entrance to Lyttelton Harbour. This headland is a breathtaking coastal location, only 30 minutes from Cathedral Square, Christchurch. Built in 1939, the fort is ranked in the top ten New Zealand coastal defence heritage sites.

Even before the fort was built, the look out qualities of the headland were used to guide ships around the peninsula, with the help of the Godley Head light. the lighthouse, built in 1865, had to be moved during WWII to make way for the fort. In the threatening early years of

World War II, Cantabrians were comforted that the long-range guns of the fort ensured their city was not undefended against a surprise attack. In its heyday, the fort was staffed by over 400 men and women and was a self-contained military community.

Godley Head Coastal Artillery Defence Battery

It closed in 1963 and remaining today are three large gun emplacements, seven military buildings, and other features. A complete WW2 anti-aircraft gun on long-term loan from Ferrymead Trust has been returned to the site.

Ongoing restoration work is being undertaken on the many buildings and structures around the headland. Visitors can now explore one of the underground magazines, thanks to electric lighting installed. To view the other magazine, a torch is required. Onsite interpretation panels have been placed all around the site, to explain the significance and historic stories. The Godley Head Heritage Trust is in the process of establishing a museum in the former regimental headquarters building and quartermaster's store. During our visit to this iconic coastal defence installation we will also be able to observe a deployment by 39 Mortar Battery RNZA, the newly established and only operational RNZA unit based in the South Island. The Battery's equipment will also be available for our inspection.

Lunch will be provided for those who participate in the field trip. Refreshments will also be available throughout the trip on a cash basis. The return coach trip will be via Evans Pass down into the Port of Lyttelton (the epicentre of the 22/02 earthquake) where other important Coast Defence Artillery sites such as Battery Point, Fort Jervois (Ripapa Island – disappearing guns), Naval Point and Magazine Bay (home of the restored pre WWI torpedo boat) can be viewed and their history outlined.

The cost of the field trip is **\$30.00 per person.**

6. Reunion Dinner:

The Bealey Speights Alehouse has reserved the entire restaurant and function room for this dinner. It will be organised in the format of an artillery ladies dining-in dinner. Details of the dinner will be circulated closer to the date however a 4 course meal will be served including some wine as well as port plus table service. The cost for the dinner is \$70.00 per person.

We hope that all Gunners will find the time to join us on this occasion in Christchurch. UBIQUE

7. Accommodation Options:

All accommodation bookings for the reunion are the responsibility of individuals registering to attend. We recommend early bookings as the reunion weekend coincides with Christchurch's Anniversary Day and annual Show Weekend. We can offer the following accommodation options for registrants:

- **Bealeys Speights Alehouse,**
263 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch
Facilities: Bar, Restaurant, Function Room,
Off street parking
Approx Price: \$99.00 per night
Phone: (03) 479-8660
E-mail:info@bealeysotel.co.nz
- **Tudor Court Motel,**
57 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch
Approx Price: From \$120.00 per night
Phone: (03) 379-1465
E-mail:tudor@xtra.co.nz
- **Avenue Motor Lodge,**
136 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch
Approx Price: From \$95.00 per night
Phone: 0800-500-283
E-mail:info@avenuemotorlodge.co.nz
- **Bealey Avenue Motel,**
229 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch
Approx Price: From \$100.00 per night
Phone: 0800-379-911
E-mail:stay@bealeyavenuemotel.co.nz
- **Bella Vista Motel,**
193 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch
Approx Price: From \$120.00 per night
Phone: 0800-235-528
E-mail:bella_vista_motel@xtra.co.nz
- **Avalon Motel,**
301 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch
Approx Price: From \$99.00 per night
Phone: (03) 379-9681
E-mail:infoavalon@callplus.net.nz, <http://www.avalonmotel.co.nz>
- **City Centre Motel,**
876 Colombo Street, Christchurch
Approx Price: From \$130.00 per night
Phone: (03) 379-0540
E-mail:stay@citycentral.co.nz
- **Pavilions Hotel,**
42 Papanui Road, Christchurch
Approx Price: From \$175.00 per night
Phone: 0800-805-555

Website:<http://www.pavilionshotel.co.nz>

- **Sherborne Motor Lodge,**
94 Sherborne Street, Christchurch
Approx Price: From \$135.00 per night
Phone: (03) 377-8050
E-mail:stay@sherbornemotorlodge.co.nz
<http://www.sherbornemotorlodge.co.nz>
- **Heartland Hotel Cotswold, 88-**
96 Papanui Road, Christchurch
Approx Price: From \$150.00 per night
Phone: (03) 355-3535,
E-mail:Cotswold@heartlandhotels.co.nz

YAMAGUCHI BREWERY (Continued from P 13)

But as Robbie Burns once said about the affairs of mice and men that 'gang aft agley' all good things come to an end. One day while at the brewery we watched the old Jap "bottle-o" filling crates with empty bottles. He had one of our 'ring-in' crates but could get only 23 bottles into it (in Jap crates the bottles stood upright, not on their sides as in the current New Zealand variety). After considering the problem for some minutes and muttering to himself, the old bloke woke up. He departed for the office with the ring-in, and that was the end of our little game. Still there were no repercussions, and we did well while it lasted.

We suspected one of the carpenters deliberately made the crate undersized but hesitated to tax them with their crime.' They were too useful in other respects.

Article written by Sgt Wally Ruffell, 25 Bty, RNZA, J (Japan) Force 1946

17. NOTICE BOARD

Pat Duggan's Book

39782 Pat Duggan RNZA who toured SVN with 161 Bty in 1966 and 1970 has written a book about his experiences. The forward has been written by the Late Lt Col John Masters. If anyone wants to order a copy of my book directly from him they can. the details are....

His Bank Account details are. ANZ account number 117911 0282004 00

Please advise a postal address and as soon as the money is in the account the book will be sent. Postage in NZ is \$4 by normal surface mail. If you would like Courier track and trace then the cost is \$6.

Please when you are making payment include your name and the word 'Rain' on the deposit slip. that way Pat will know who made the payment.

Many thanks for your order. I do hope you enjoy my book.
Sincerely Pat

Photograph required

Pat Duggan writes:

I am trying to get copies of photographs of one 42103 Gnr Warren Cox who served with the Battery in SVN as a clerk in 1968. The request comes from his family. The only photo they have of Warren in uniform is a photocopy of someone else's photo. If anyone can help please can you have the make direct contact with me at patrick.duggan@paradise.net.

RNZA Assn Welfare Officers

In pursuing our goal of becoming a more effective organisation for helping members with welfare issues, we have formalised our network of RNZRSA qualified welfare officers. These volunteers are familiar with the operation of WINZ, VANZ and the RNZRSA and can help people with ensuring that valid claims for compensation due to army service are properly dealt with.

The intention is not to replicate the services which currently exist in the RSA or VANZ. The aim is to help those who may not have been properly served by these agencies, as well as those who may not be members of RSAs. If there are any other members who would like to volunteer for this network please let me know. Our sincere thanks are extended to the following RNZA Assn Welfare Officers;

Northern; Mike Dakin Ph 021 0785850, (H) 09 4755227

Central; Lindsay Skinner Ph 0275 303319

The Association's Face Page

Hi everyone, as you would be aware we have a new Facebook Page with lots of content, and invite all members who wish to, to utilize the page as a social and communications Hub to keep up with what is happening. We are presently making in-roads to the serving Batterys with information about us and our Web presence included in the battery news letters so expect increased input from them on what the Regiment is up to.

Although the FB page is monitored by Colin Jansen it is purposely set up to be as open as possible so anyone can now directly post messages, photos, video, create or add to existing albums, create event notices (Which are automatically sent to all page members), and more. So if someone is organizing a Gunner related social, commemorative or other event, or has any other news gunners would like to know - Put it or get a mate to put it on our page and share it with your brothers in our Gunner family.

Regards Colin

Guidelines for Advertising in `NZ Gunner` Quarterly Magazine

Advertising in the Newsletter is deemed to be a very effective way of generating income for the RNZA Association; The following guidelines will apply;

1. The advertising will be on the back page of the Newsletter in a Directory style.
2. The Page will be divided into 1/8ths, with each 1/8th representing an advertising unit.
3. The standard cost of an advertising unit will be \$100 (we are not registered for GST) with advertising space available in one, two, four or eight unit blocks).
4. The cost of units will be discounted on the following basis;

One unit	\$100
Two unit	\$180
Four units	\$320
Eight units (whole page)	\$500
5. Further discounts will be available for multiple adverts as follows;

One entry	no discount
Four entries (one year)	20% discount, to be taken up on final issue (ie first three issues cost standard amount say \$100 each, fourth issue costs \$20)
6. Members will receive a 10% discount

The following rules will apply;

The advertised product or service must be relevant to the membership.

The advert must not be political in nature, or contentious according to public opinion

The product or service must offer clear value, not implications of value with added costs in fine print

Payment for the advert is to be made at the time of placing the ad, which is to be at least two weeks before publication cut off.

Insertion of Fliers

The Association is open to fliers that apply with the above rules being included with The New Zealand Gunner when it is posted out.

Method of supplying the flier and cost of insertion to be negotiated.

The Secretary and Editor will handle the sourcing and liaison with advertisers.

The Treasurer will handle all payment related matters.

Behind the Lines: The Editor's Page

Patron	Col (Rtd) Donal R KENNING MBE	06 358 2849
Colonel Commandant	Lt Col (Rtd) Barry Dreyer	09 307 5692

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

President and Secretary	Tony McLeod	09 486 0910
	34 Tennyson Ave	
	Takapuna	RNZA.Association@gmail.com
	AUCKLAND 0622	

Committee	John BOTICA	(Assistant Treasurer)	Mike DAKIN
	Colin JANSEN	(Assistant Secretary)	Bob KERSLAKE
	Joe PANOHO	(Vice President)	Bill STEWART
	Jeff WATERS		

Committee Members at Large	Graeme BLACK	Brian Jerry MEYER (Australia)
	Roger NEWTH	Paul O'CONNOR
	Tom ROCHE	Lindsay SKINNER

Welfare Officers	Northern: Mike DAKIN	021 0785850	09 4755227
	Central: Lindsay SKINNER	0275 303319	
	Southern: Pat DUGGAN	021 02615773	03 9807233

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	Catherine RIVERS	crivers@riv.co.nz

Website riv.co.nz/rnza/ **Blog** muzzleflashes.blogspot.com

Face Book Site: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=209794913801>

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.

Newsletter by Email: In order to save the Association money, please consider receiving your newsletter by email. Please notify the secretary at rnza.association@gmail.com

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 months "Gunner" 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 and to Gunners of any nation around the world. 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: MuzzleFlashes.blogspot.com

Secretarial/Treasurer Matters to Tony at: rnza.association@gmail.com

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