



The New Zealand Gunner

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The past 3 months have been quiet from an Association viewpoint, which is generally a good thing as it means less of our comrades have passed away. Whilst not a gunner, Colonel Tom Aldridge (RNZIR) was known to a lot of us and his passing away in Auckland in July was a sad occasion.

We now look ahead to the next Reunion/AGM in Christchurch 11-13 November, and I would encourage as much support from our North Island members as possible. The organising team under Skin Francis have put in a lot of work and have prepared a great weekend, so please get there!. All the info is on our blogsite `Muzzleflashes`. The AGM will be on Sunday 13 November and we will once again be seeking office bearers and committee members for next year. The committee has traditionally been selected from the Auckland/Waikato area for the purely practical reason of facilitating attendance at meetings. However this does not exclude members from other areas and we need members from throughout the country who can help represent the Association in its various welfare and commemorative activities. It is not arduous, it just requires an interest in the `Gunnery`, and a sympathetic ear for the welfare needs of our fellow servicemen.

Tony McLeod, President, RNZA Assn



Take a look at the programme for the 2011 RNZA Association Reunion and AGM, then check out who's already registered; and finally, fill out and return the registration form
NOW!

It will be great to see you there!

Ubique, Tony McLeod, President RNZAA

1. LAST POST



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

*A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose, a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew, a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*

31066 Henry SALT, MBE. Died in Australia on 12 September 2011.

2. NEW MEMBERS HATTON, Paul Anthony.

Paul served the guns from 1956 to 1964. He was a CMT Instructor with; 6LAA Narrow Neck, 63 Bty, 6LAA Cambridge (Cadre), A Bty NSTU Waiouru (BQMS). He lives in Whanganui.



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3. REPORT FROM THE COL COMDT

You will all be aware there are big changes afoot in Defence and particularly the Army. I thought it would be useful to bring the readership up to date in broad terms about the thrust of the changes and how it impacts the RNZA.

The initial impetus for change came from Government looking to cut core Government expenditure across the board. The Defence expression of this was the White Paper of a year or so ago, outlining strategic options and the defence direction to address these options.

The outcome for Army this year, under the CA Maj Gen Tim Keating, was his wish to “operationalise the Army”. In short this means civilianizing Army’s non-operational tasks and placing the cash and asset resources into operational roles and activities. Uniformed garrison roles will go. The drive from a soldiers point of view is good; the priority and focus is on operations – CA has about 400 deployed at any one time on operational activities, another 400 preparing to go away, and another 400 just come home. That is a big chunk of his manpower. He also wants to give these operational soldiers the best kit he possibly can – for example, sending LAVs to the PRT in Afghanistan, and upgrading the armour protection for them. The equipment spend will increase, with a focus on fighting.

Now this does not mean that there is any down grade to combat support activities – engineers, sigs, and the logistics effort all have a clear focus too – support in combat/operations. We will see A1, A2 & B Ech back in the Regt! And money spent on top grade operational gear – radios, combat engr plant, Unimog replacement, etc

The thinning down in manpower also focuses on operations – generally, if you are not able to get yourself fit for operations you get a discharge, so the long term unfit depart the service.

Now from an organizational point of view, I will concentrate on the RNZA. Just to give the umbrella, an operationally deployable formation/national HQ is being established – with some gunner posts. A “light combat brigade” with three RF battalions and support arms and services will be the structure in NZ.

16 Fd Regt will have three identical gun batteries, each capable of deploying six guns or twelve mortars with FOs and a UAS (drone) in each battery. The gun batteries will be 161, 163, and 11/4 Btys. RHQ will be in Linton with 161 and 163 bty, while 11/4 will be in Auckland and Burnham. 11/4 will have about 25 RF, the remainder TF with an FO group and UAS in Burnham to support the South Island battalion. Btys will train as much on mortars as they do on guns.

The guns are undergoing full rebuild to extend their life for another 20 years. All the latest kit, ranging from some seriously good comms gear, through UAS, CP tech gear, and FO kit will be in each of the btys. Essentially, all gunner badged soldiers will be in the Regt.

Just a quick word on the mortars and other aspects of fire control. Experience in Afghanistan has

mortars firing four or five times more rounds in contact than guns – the issue being collateral damage. Now the guns still have a serious place but in close contact and in urban areas the mortars and close in Javelin missiles are used more often than guns. The gunner problem has not changed: the acquisition of targets and the application of the best available target engagement resources. Hence the focus on Joint Tactical Air Controller posts as gunner tasks (see article from WO1 John Weel) and ensuring the FO can acquire targets and apply indirect fire from any source. The gunner role still includes the control and co-ord of all forms of fire support.

There are very good opportunities now for both RF and TF gunners at sub-unit, unit and formation levels, in 16 Fd Regt and the other assigned gunner posts in various operational and shadow posted tasks. Overall it is a very good outcome for the RNZA, and the CO and his team deserve congratulations on a job well done for our Corps.

Barry Dreyer, Colonel Commandant RNZA

Col Comdt Visits Whangarei for Korean War Remembrance Activities



Colonel Commandant and Captain Jason Simpson, BK 161 Bty, lay a wreath on behalf of the RNZA



Mrs Joan Yates, widow of Bdr Alan Yates an FO party member at Kapyong, presents a print of the Kapyong battle to the Regt.



Brig (Rtd) RNZA, Harry Honnor receives his PUC from the Consul General

4. REPORT FROM CO 16 FD REGT, LT Col Matt Bloggs

After four long, busy, challenging and hugely successful years as the Master Gunner WO1 Damon Mitchell relinquished the position to deploy on operations as a Joint Tactical Air Controller followed by a posting as Battery Captain, 163 Battery. On his departure and on the 16th of June 2011 WO2 John Weel, RNZA was promoted to WO1 and appointed the Master Gunner, School of Artillery. Below is a short piece on his recent attendance on the UK Gunnery Career course.

In June 2010 I was approached by the CO and RSM, 16 Fd Regt and asked if I would be interested in attending the Gunnery Careers Course in the United Kingdom. I saw this as an opportunity to extend myself professionally and also for my family to see some of the world. After a brief discussion with my wife I accepted the offer and spent the next few months going through the administration and logistics required to move five people 11000 miles to the other side of the world.

The aim of the Gunnery Careers Course is to develop the professional knowledge and skills of selected Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers in order to prepare them for increased technical and training responsibility at regimental duty and gunnery staff.

The course syllabus covers:

- * The organisation, roles and tactical employment of UK and NATO gun and Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) formations.
- * Detailed understanding of current and future gun and MLRS weapon and command and control systems.
- * Range planning, conduct and safety procedures, and
- * The delivery and evaluation of training including practical assessment of student instructional ability.

The Gunnery Careers Course is a year long and ran from 10 August 2010 until 5 August 2011. I found attendance on the course very rewarding and benefited from the exposure to different equipments and methods of operation. While on the course I used or was briefed on all of the equipment in the Royal Artillery arsenal and also learnt current tactics, techniques and procedures. The course was broken into three terms. In term one we learnt basic equipment principles, term two covered employment of artillery and term three focused on range planning and safety.

Training within another army was a very good experience and the value gained from this cannot be understated. It is also a bonus that I enjoyed the course from start to finish and made some very good friends along the way.

I am now a Qualified Gunnery Instructor and on my return to New Zealand have been posted as the RNZA Master Gunner at the School of Artillery.

I was very lucky that the posting was accompanied so my wife Kelly and three daughters (Brooke 15, Georgia 11, Charli 1) also came to the United Kingdom. This was a great opportunity and when I wasn't immersed in gunnery we did our best to see all

we could see.

WO1 John Weel, DSD. Master Gunner. RNZA

5. WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Robert Barker ex Adjutant of 3rd Fd Regiment writes:

After serving 8 years in RNZA, in Xmas '77 handed my notice in to late John Masters I left for Australia.

Entered the computer industry with IBM and carved out a 30 +career with multi-nationals across the IT&T industry holding various senior and National roles. Hard work enabled success and indulging in corporate excess saw me travelling and partying extensively courtesy of my multinational employers.

Jumped out of the corporate world in 2007 and now provide IT &T Consulting services in the ICT Strategy and Vendor Management environments.

Together with Suzanne (wife since 161 Bty days), for some 20 yrs also owned and operated 3 x Lingerie/Sleepwear shops in Melbourne. As part of our slowing down we recently accepted an offer for the entire business which has given us our weekends back together and for Suzanne a time to seriously relax.

My hobbies are still principally following sport, though am actively surfing, paddling a surf ski, ocean swimming, playing golf and racing a laser yacht. I also collect wine, enjoy property investing & remain an outdoors person with adventure style activities like trekking the Andes, the Himalayas and visiting Antarctica.

I have kept in touch with various x16th & 3rd Fd folk and have visited NZ frequently over the years including this year with a 2 week RWC tour and of course the Christchurch November meeting. In 2008 I visited Burnham to be dismayed at the dismantling and disappearance of my beloved 3rd Fd Regt. When I think the effort of previous staff in maintaining the history the photos, the silverware, the traditions and culture I was disappointed with the reality of the new political speak 'moving forward'.

We enjoyed Melbourne, its elegance, tremendous sporting facilities, fine dining, and the Victorian Country side. For most of our time we have resided Melbourne's inner Bayside suburb Middle Park some 50 yds from the beach, with summer daily swims and paddling my surf ski, enjoy breakfasting at the local eateries. Also being 400 metres from the Albert Park lake & Grand Prix provided added enjoyment.

We have recently moved to a little town – St Leonards at the end of Bellarine Peninsular (familiar to ex Staff College folk), are subdividing some land and building an eco friendly solar powered, water friendly low maintenance house and beginning to relax more. Google Pt Edwards Reserve, here I paddle, walk and cycle to relax in serenity and beauty looking East across the bay to OCS Portsea and North on the horizon to the Melbourne city skyline where I have known to ring business colleagues and ensure they are working hard.

Look forward to seeing you at the Christchurch meeting in November.

Rob Barker

6. LT COL NICK GILLARD REPORTS IN FROM LONDON

It hardly seems like three months since I wrote my last submission for the NZ Gunner. The summer has passed without really being noticed and Autumn has arrived. The leaves are turning and the wind is a bit colder in the morning. The Rugby World Cup is in full swing although coverage in the UK never quite reaches the same level as for the football. Wayne Rooney's hair transplant is still more important to your average Brit. Every time the All Blacks find new and inventive ways of getting knocked out of the World Cup I find myself in some foreign country being subject to the taunts of the victorious locals. Lets hope the English don't win or London will be no place to be.

In June I had the pleasure of catching up with the CO and RSM of 16 Fd Regt while they were visiting the UK. It was good to catch up on all of the regimental gossip and to assist in a small way to their fact finding visit. The chance for them to discuss contemporary operations with British regiments recently returned from Afghanistan will help shape our future training, structure, doctrine and procurement.

I thought this week I would bring you up to date with the latest on the British Forces. Like the NZDF they are facing times of increasing austerity amid a high operational tempo. October 2010 saw the release of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) and as I have previously reported its intent was to provide a 'hard headed reappraisal of Britain's foreign policy and security objectives'. This essentially has translated into a cut in defence spending of eight percent over four years. Add to that a predicted over spend in new military capability of £38 billion and you end up with a very deep hole that requires some dramatic measures to rectify. In addition conduct these cuts in an uncertain wider economy and in an operational environment that sees ongoing operations in Afghanistan out to 2014 and a short but expensive campaign in Libya. I can assure you its hard to get a jammy dodger biscuit and a cup of tea at the MOD these days!

In terms of capability it has meant the end of the Harrier jump jet and Nimrod surveillance aircraft fleets, the loss of 7000 personnel from the Army (with the likelihood of another 5000 to follow, 5000 job losses from the RAF and Navy and whilst both Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers will be built it is likely that only one will actually enter service with the appropriate 'cat and trap' equipment to operate the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF). Noting that the vertical take off and landing JSF will not be purchased.

In such an environment Britain is reviewing its status on the world stage. By possessing a nuclear deterrent it maintains a place on the UN security council and this capability has been ring fenced from cuts. Old and new alliances are being either refreshed or grown. Britain is seeking greater co-operation with France in a way that is roughly parallel with our relationship with Australia.

There is discussion in the press (and no more than that at this stage) that as many as eight of the

existing 36 infantry battalions should cease to exist over the next four years. Several units historic names and cap badges could be lost to the cuts. If this were to come to fruition and famous names such as the Black Watch or the Green Howards being lost it is highly likely that public opinion will go against the government. This leaves an alternative of 'salami slicing' all regiments leading to smaller units with limited utility. To mitigate against this scenario (and to provide fiscal, equipment and personnel savings) the Army is forming Capability Directorates that will combine combat, combat support (including the RA), intelligence support and combat service support functions. For example the combat directorate will be an amalgamation of infantry and cavalry units with one cavalry squadron being added to each infantry battalion. Whether this results in a 3:1 square battle group or a 4:1 ratio remains to be seen.

One of the beneficiaries of these turbulent times is the Territorial Army. The TA is set to increase in numbers to 30,000 by 2015 and provide not just individual augmentees but formed units for specific operational theatres and tasks. This increase in TA numbers is projected to make significant cost savings although the jury remains out as to whether this will actually occur. It also forms part of the current governments 'big society' project that will see a greater emphasis on communities helping themselves to solve issues. It is felt that a greater presence of the military across all communities, rather than just those in the vicinity of camps and bases, will help raise a sense of community discipline and pride. They will also have a greater role in UK homeland defence and natural disaster management.

In addition there have been young soldiers convicted as being part of the London riots and accusations of prisoner abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan yet the Army's profile in the UK remains positive. The bravery and professionalism of the vast majority is far more important to the public than financial and governance issues at the top or the disgraceful actions of a few. By way of example the repatriation of service personnel killed in Afghanistan now occurs through RAF Brize Norton rather than RAF Lyham and Wootton Bassett. Despite this change when the first KIA was repatriated a few weeks ago thousands still lined the route as a mark of respect.

I hope that the spring is on its way and that we win the World Cup. Regards to all.

**Nick Gillard, Lieutenant Colonel, RNZA
Military Advisor, NZ Defence Staff, London**

RNZAA 2011 Reunion, Christchurch

Take a look at the programme for the 2011 RNZA Association Reunion and AGM, then check out who's already registered; and finally, fill out and return the registration form NOW!

It will be great to see you there!
Ubique, Tony McLeod, President RNZAA

7. HISTORICAL ITEM BELHAMED, AND THE RAMMER OUR MOST TRAGIC DAY: 1 DECEMBER 1941

1 December 2011 marks the seventieth anniversary of the Belhamed battle, part of the 8th Army Cyrenaican campaign in Libya known as Operation Crusader. By way of background the NZ Division was taking part in the relief of Tobruk; however Rommel in a counter-offensive forced it to withdraw from the Sidi-Rezegh Belhamed area and cut the Tobruk Corridor. On 1 December 1941, in an action that lasted all day, the Gunners helped to hold the German and Italian armoured and infantry columns at bay, enabling the 2nd NZ Division to extricate itself at nightfall, however not without very heavy losses in 6 Brigade and its supporting 6th Field Regiment guns..

The battle is recorded in detail in the official history of the RNZA in WWII (*2nd New Zealand Divisional Artillery, pages 267-277*); and in *The Gunners, A History of New Zealand Artillery (pages 231-238)*.

In outline, at dawn on 1 December many of the 6th Field guns were limbered in anticipation of orders to withdraw. A force approaching was initially mistaken for a South African Brigade, and when it became apparent that it was German the gunners frantically

unlimbered and positioned for anti-tank action. As the battle progressed firstly 30 Bty was overrun, followed by 47 Bty, a Troop of 48 Bty and all but one gun of a Troop of 29 Bty. This was the most tragic day in our Regiments history, with 6 Fd Regt, and 47 Bty attached from 5 Fd Regt, between them losing 57 killed, 113 wounded, 96 taken prisoner (many of the prisoners were also wounded), and losing 23 out of their 32 25 Pr guns. Additional gunner losses from within the remainder of our Divisional Artillery brought the total up to 275 NZA. The CRA, Brigadier Reginald Miles, was wounded and taken prisoner.

At Belhamed the New Zealand Artillery suffered its heaviest losses ever in a single action. The battle was witnessed by Brigadier H.B. Latham, Brigadier Royal Artillery of 13 Corps, who went over the battlefield three days later and was much moved by what he saw:

“...The first thing one noticed was that the Gunners had obviously put up the hell of a fight. And I was so impressed that I picked up a rammer and after having it roughly inscribed* sent it to Freyberg.

Practically every gun was a ‘write off’ though in the (work) shops it might have been possible to make up one out of the parts of two. The dead were lying around each gun, each man nearly in his place, and burnt out tractors and trailers were just in rear. Here undoubtedly there had been no thought of surrender or withdrawal and all had died in the service of the guns. ... The whole thing gave me the feeling of the fort in “Beau Geste” and I thought to myself: I have seen these chaps fighting for many a day now and something has happened here quite out of the ordinary...a battle royal had taken place between the German tanks and the NZ guns, which ended in the utter annihilation of the latter...I found poor Mile’s car, on its side with his kit still in it, and I went back sadly to Tobruk to ask the New Zealander’s there to send a party out to clear the battlefield and bury the dead...”

General Freyberg in reply to Latham said that ...“I have handed over the precious rammer to Colonel Weir to show it and your letter to the Officers and men of the NZA. And it is then to go to the NZ War Museum...”

Weir failed to follow Freyberg’s direction. Miles did not survive the war, and after his return to NZ Weir

handed the rammer to the Miles family. And there it remained until the early 1980s when the

then Colonel Commandant, RNZA, Brigadier Blackie Burns, requested CGS General Poananga arrange the retrieval of the rammer and placement in the Army Museum (now established at Waiouru), as originally intended. The CGS duly tasked the DRNZA, the then Lt Col Ray Andrews and his successor Lt Col Graham Birch, to achieve this. After much delicate and prolonged negotiation by both, with Brigadier Miles’ elder daughter, the rammer was eventually returned.

The rammer is now on permanent display at the National Army Museum.

The inscription on it reads:

“This Rammer was recovered with a 25 pr from the BELHAMED position 18 miles S. East of TOBRUK and presented to the CRA 1st* New Zealand Div, by the HQRA 13th Corps in memory of their very gallant stand made by that Div, in the area on Dec 1st 1941”

* The inscription should have read 2nd New Zealand Div.

Graham Birch Jul 2011



The Belhamed Battlefield
Photo by (Bdr) Des O’Connor, who was there

8. LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Marie,

Through you I would like to congratulate your contributor who wrote the "HISTORICAL ITEM, Operations of 2 NZ Division 9-12 APRIL 1945" for his excellent portrayal of the gunners' WWII operational practices. I commend the article to all those who have not yet read it and I am sure that historical researchers will find it a most useful reference. May I suggest to him a minor knit pick amendment to complete the "Control of the Attack" description, along the following lines.

Bofors 40mm: firing tracer ammunition for three tactical purposes:-

1. Firing single rounds at 10 or 15 second intervals marking boundaries and the attack direction to guide the assault troops.

2. Firing one burst of three rounds to tell the attackers that the barrage is lifting to the next line.

3. Firing a burst of ten rounds to indicate a pause line. This would be followed by a burst of three rounds at the end of the pause to indicate that the barrage was lifting to the next line.

As the sole survivor of the HQ 2 NZ Div Arty staff of that time I thought that it might be appropriate for me to complete the story with the following article about the HQ, its staff and their workings at that time.

HQ 2 NZ DIV ARTY

Establishment

The Commander RA (Brig), exercised his command and discharged his responsibilities using his officer staff consisting of :-

Brigade Major	(Rank Major)
GSO III	(Capt) (Operations)
Staff Capt	(Capt) (Logistics)
IO	(Capt) (Intelligence)
CMO	(Capt) (Counter Mortar)
CBO	(Capt) (Counter Battery)
ACBO	(Lt)

In addition to this staff, the HQ "hosted" a number of attached officers who liaised with the staff or represented services which supported the Divisional artillery in discharging its responsibilities. These were:-

One liaison officer* from each of the field regiments and one from 7 Anti Tank Regt. (All were Lts except for one who was the senior, ranked Capt)

Commander H Tp, 2NZ Div Sig Regt	(Capt)
2 I/c H Tp	(Lt)
NZEME Rep	(Capt)
Chaplain	(Chap Class II)

* These LOs were rostered by the BM as Duty Officers in the Armoured Command Vehicle (the Operations Office manned by the GSOIII) and to undertake other general duties.

The Incumbents

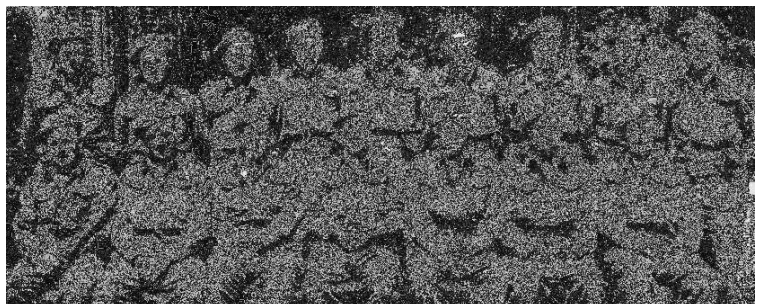
From the 12th Mar 45 until 11th May 45 the incumbents were:-

CRA	Brig R.C.Queree*
B M	Maj S.F. Catchpole
GSOIII	Capt L.W. Wright*
Staff Capt	Capt R.J.H. Webb*
Staff Capt (Designate)	Capt R.D.P. Hassett*
IO	Capt M.E.H. Pledger
CMO	Capt F.H. Mullins
CBO	Capt R.D. Moffat
A/CBO 2	Lt N. Webber
LO 4 Fd Regt	Lt Harris
LO 5 Fd Regt	Vacant - see Note 2 below.
LO 6 Fd Regt	Lt T. Haughey
LO 7 Anti Tank Regt	Capt J. McSkimming (SLO)
OC H Tp	Capt J.W. Stenberg*
2/IC H Tp	2/Lt Wilson
NZEME Rep	Capt T.H. Chapman*
Chaplain	Rev O.R. Marlowe (RC)

Notes:- (1) * denotes Regular Force Officers.

(2) I reported to the CRA on 12 Mar 45 and assumed the post of GSOIII from Ron Hassett on 14th March. Hassett moved on as Staff Capt (Designate) to replace Dick Webb who was to return to his Regiment to command a battery. However, the CRA postponed the Webb to Hassett move in the light of the Divisional Commanders' Spring offensive plans involving intense operational and logistical planning at HQ Div Arty for which Webb's expertise was necessary, assisted by Hassett. From the manning viewpoint this postponement meant that the HQ was over strength by one (GSOIII LW Wright) who was held against the 5 Fd Regt LO vacancy. The staff list set out on page 694 of the Official History of the 2NZ Div Arty by WE Murphy is inaccurate. It reflects the Military Secretary's manning table to "balance the books" rather than reflecting the way in which the CRA employed his officers.

This photograph of the Div Arty HQ staff and attachments that manned the HQ between 12 Mar and 11 May 1945 was taken at the HQ location, "Castel Miramare", on the CRA's instructions ("before we all



NQ 2 NZ Div Arty Staff and Attachments March—May 1945

Back Row: Capt JW Stenberg (H Tp Div Sig Regt), 2Lt Wilson (H Tp), Capt I Chapman (EME), Capt M Pledger (IO), Capt JW McSkimming (SLO), 2 LT N Webber (ACMO), Rev OR Marlowe, Lt Harris (LO), Lt T Haughey (LO).

Front Row: Capt RD Hassett (SC Des), Capt M Mullins (CMO), Maj SF Catchpole (BM), Brig RC Queree (CRA), Capt RJH Webb, Capt RM Moffat (CBO), Capt LW Wright (GSO III).

disperse “) between the end of hostilities on 8 May and 11 May 45 when Webb left the HQ for his delayed posting. The photo is reproduced on page 299 of the book “THE GUNNERS”.(A History of New Zealand Artillery.) without an identifying caption.

Safety Principles.

When I reported to Brig Queree on 12 Mar he said to me, amongst many other things, ‘you may make an honest mistake but you may not make it twice’. However having already had just on a years experience in good gunnery in the regimental posts from Section Commander to Troop Commander I knew that an ‘honest mistake’ really was never acceptable. The standard safety principles of “double check” were rigorously applied to the production of all fire orders.

Operation Order No15

The Planning

Brig Queree was a very professional tactical and technical gunner. He had also been General Freyberg’s GSOI from Sep 1942 to Jun 44 and he thus well knew the GOC’s thought processes and operational practices. These two officers with their combined skills and long experience together were formidable planners who, with the Brigade Commanders, planned this successful operation to cap the many they had planned together in the past.

The Mechanics

The CRA issued his instructions separately to each staff section. As the GSO III I was responsible for the Operation Order, fire orders for the gun attack, the barrage and the defensive fire plans around the Divisional objective so the Brigadier started the process with me by dictating the fire plan boundary point grid references which Hassett and I plotted on our respective battle maps. The two plots were identical thus completing the first of the many double safety checks that the draft order and its many traces underwent. Without “breathing down our necks” the CRA watched the co-ordination and development of his plans into ‘hard copy’ orders. The BM meantime directed the staff and resources for the co-ordination. printing and processing of the draft documents as they were completed. For the double check process he paired the HQ gunner officers, including the LOs, in various combinations so that every detail was examined by two officers, neither of whom was the author of the document being checked. In this modern age it is perhaps interesting to note that all script “skins” were typed on an upright Imperial type writer and reproduced on a Gestetner hand operated printer and the traces were reproduced from the hand drawn “skins” on a hand operated Fordigraph.

As for all 2 Div Arty Operation Orders the initials of the accountable drafting officer and of the typist appear on the bottom left of the authorisation page. In this case “LWL”. Regrettably I do not remember the name of the typist, the traces were drawn by Sgt Crippen. 46 copies including 3 spares were originally produced. The spares were issued and were replaced as spares by copies 47-48. Copy No 47 was issued before the attack and I have Copy No 48.

Tail Piece

Walter Murphy’s Official History at page 697

has this statement:-

“The 4 order, signed at 9.25 p.m. on 6 April by Major Catchpole, was by far the most complicated of the NZA operation orders of the Second World War and the number of appendices was easily a record.”

Article Supplied from Brig (Rtd) LW Wright

9. KOREAN MEMORIAL Hamilton, CANADA July 28, 2011

Korean War Veterans Day event held Thursday at the HMCS Haida and the HMCS Star to remember the Korean War. Korean and Canadian veterans from the Korean war listen to tributes.

Gary Yokoyama/The Hamilton Spectator

The event took place in the HMCS Haida visitors’ centre at the foot of Catharine Street North, where a luncheon was followed by tributes and Korean music. Afterwards, everyone toured the Haida, which served two tours in the Korean War.

The Haida, the only Tribal Class destroyer left in the world, was known as a train buster as it had a high success rate shooting up enemy trains that carried supplies and protected enemy lines close to the shore, explained HooJung Jones, project coordinator for the Korea Veterans Association of Canada.

“This is what we should continuously do, so when the time comes, they will still be remembered,” Jones said of the ceremony she organized. “We hope to have this ceremony each year to promote and educate military accomplishment during the war and to honour veterans.”

When the war began on June 25, 1950, some 26,791 Canadians were sent to Korea. Jones said only 12,000 veterans remain, very few of them are mobile and many are in nursing homes.

Private Wesley Beetham served 18 months in Korea. Seoul had just been bombed by the Chinese when he got there. He said the only thing left standing was the fire hall tower.

“I was with the artillery, and then I became service corps,” said Beetham. “I eventually became a cook — because I couldn’t stand the cook’s food.”

Beetham is president of the Korea Veterans Association, which has roughly 32 members who come from many countries, including the United States and United Kingdom. However, that modest number keeps getting smaller. In 2009, they lost three members.

The association has a tight-knit group in Hamilton they call the “Coffee Club.” Around a dozen of these old friends get together on the second Wednesday of every month at the Woodward Restaurant on Woodward Avenue near Barton Street East. They chose the Woodward because the owner’s brother also fought in Korea.

“We have a real good gab session, a nice chit-chat,” said Lance Corporal Ken Griffith, who served in Korea for 414 days but insists he wasn’t counting.

Asked how he wanted Canadian soldiers in the Korean War to be remembered, Griffith said he “just wants them to be remembered, period.”

Article supplied by Pappy Patchin



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

**National Reunion and Annual General Meeting
Christchurch 10 – 13 November 2011**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Payment Method: **CHEQUE** / **DIRECT CREDIT** (Strike out inappropriate method)

Date	Event	Price	Number	Total Cost
Thursday 10/11/2011	Happy Hour – Meet and Greet	Own Cost	_____	\$0.00
Friday 11/11/2011	Armistice Day Parade	Nil	_____	\$0.00
	Light Lunch	Nil	_____	\$0.00
	Happy Hour – Meet and Greet	Own Cost	_____	\$0.00
Saturday 12/11/2011	Field Trip to Godley Head/ and 39 Mtr Bty Display (Lunch Supplied)	\$30.00	_____	\$_____
	Annual Dinner (includes wine and port on tables)	\$70.00	_____	\$_____
Sunday 13/11/2011	Memorial Service & Annual General Meeting	Nil	_____	\$0.00
	Light Lunch	Nil	_____	\$0.00
			Total	\$_____

Signed : _____

Date: _____

Post to: The Secretary, RNZAA Reunion and AGM 2011, PO Box 43 Lyttelton 8841

10. 11th INTAKE (24 September – 8 December 1953) - COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING (CMT)

The first part of my training was called corps training, and was at the Burnham military training camp. There were quite a lot of things we got up to during this part of the training. Some that I can remember were;

We had one of the permanent soldiers on once by showing him a few things that we got up to when not involved with the army. Some of these involved a broom. You got the person to stand on one leg and put his other leg behind, putting the top of the broom on his foot and seeing how far you could kick it. As I had shown him before he thought it was quite easy, and thought he could kick it further so he gave it a real good kick. When you kick from behind you hit the front leg and it knocks the front leg away from under you. As he was such a big guy he hit the floor with a bang. We are certain the hut we were in shook a bit.

With learning this trick he asked us if we knew any more and I said “yes” so I showed him another, again involving the broom. This time it also involved a handkerchief. What you did was to get him to bend down and put the broom at the back of his knees and bring his arms on the other side of the broom. You then had the broom in place. Now this is where the handkerchief came in. You tied the handkerchief so that it was round his wrists and then told him to see how tight he could get the handkerchief. When he had done this we got one end of the broom and tipped him over on his side. He couldn't move in this position. He thought this was good so he went back to the barracks and tried it on one of his mates. When he got him in this position he went away to the pictures (bar!!) and when he came back his mate was still in this position.

That was the first part of our training. I then found myself and a few of the others from the same hut in the artillery. While there these were some things we got up to. We went for a live shoot one day at Birdlings Flat. That night some of the guys decided to walk to a pub a few miles away, but when they got there a Regular Force soldier opened the door and made them walk all the way back to camp. When we had leave on some Friday nights we used to go into Christchurch but when you got back to camp you had to check your bed as the ones who didn't go to town used to doctor your bed.

Each year after the Corp training you had to do three week training for three years. The first was at a place in the North Island called Te Hoi. This was a bit of hell hole between the flies and the volcanic dust, but I wasn't so bad as I was attached to two guns and when one gun outfit asked me where I was I said I was with the other, and got away with it. I also stayed in a different tent than either of these crews. The one and only morning that I went out to the wake up call found that they had already gone and the Sergeant was still there, so I landed picket duty that night as punishment. On picket duty I knew the Sergeant and between myself and others we gave him a hard time saying that it won't

be long before he would be equal to us when the training had finished. But we did as we were told; when the officer in charge at night came around I struck the shift of “lights out” and another guy and I had the greatest pleasure of telling some of the officers to put their lights out as it was past lights out time and I didn't think they should be able to have their lights on.

The next three week camp was at Waikaouti (Orbells Crossing). This was to be the last time that the 63rd Battalion would exist as they were disbanding. I struck being in the officers mess. I was told if I looked after I could have whatever I wanted to drink (beer mostly). One night the Sergeants and Officers were having a “do” and the Major got wheeled to his tent in a wheelbarrow by a Sergeant – the next morning the Sergeant was called out on a charge (he didn't know what he had done the night before) and when he came up before the tribunal he was told the charge was for driving without lights and unlicensed vehicle – his punishment was to play the game Grandmother Huff. This involved saying Grandmother Huff, Grandmother Huff, Huff, Grandmother Huff, Huff, Huff etc – if you made an mistake you had to drink a glass of beer.

The final camp I went to was up at Tekapo where I got the cushy job of looking after the Officers and Sergeants showers, (slept most of the time). My mate Bill McMillian, who last camp it was also got the job of looking after the “phone” between the guns. One day he went to sleep under one of the trucks – the truck took off and he was still lying there - he had to jump up and chase after the truck and start winding the wires in – some of our mates were laughing and having him on. He came back with some smart answer and lost his false teeth – he had to jump down off the truck, get his teeth, and rush after the truck to reel the wires in once again. I was on picket duty at the gate one night towards the end of the camp when some of the guys asked if they could go out to the pub at Tekapo – I said yes as long as you bring us back a couple of bottles of beer, possibly some of those empty bottles are still lying under that duty picket hut.

Article supplied by 924983 Gnr Les Bryant, Light Anti Aircraft Battalion (Aged 18 years)



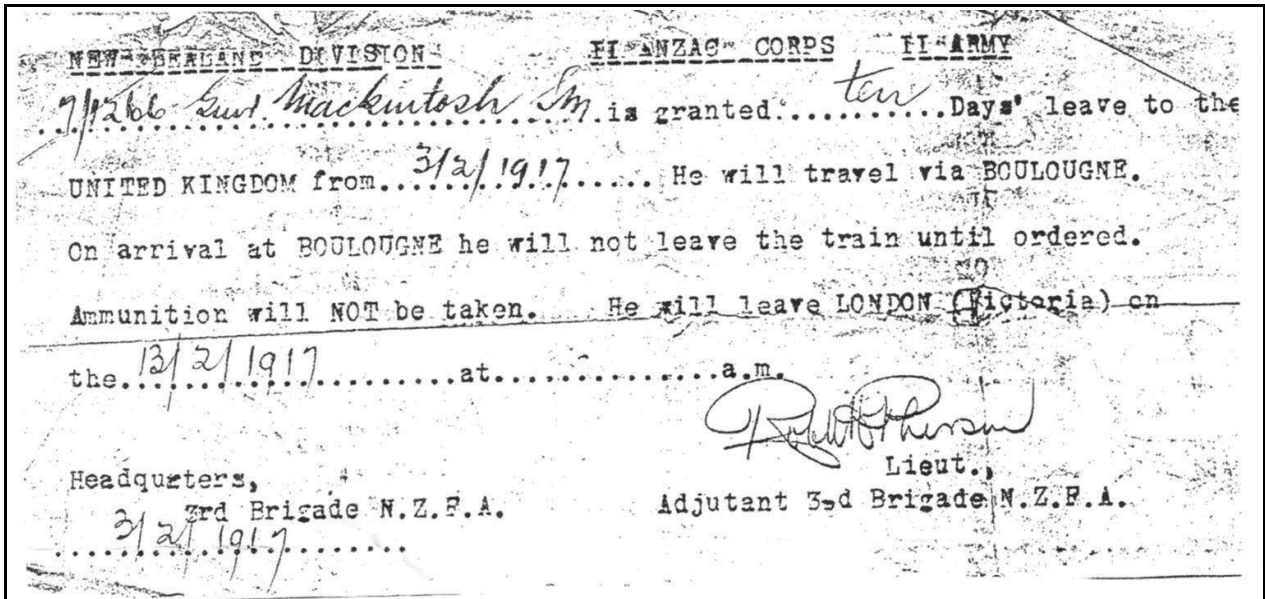
Take a look at the programme for the 2011 RNZA Association Reunion and AGM, then check out who's already registered; and finally, fill out and return the registration form NOW!

It will be great to see you there!

Ubique, Tony McLeod , President RNZAA

11. Historical Item World War 1—Gnr SM Mackintosh,

AW Mackintosh of Cambridge has sent me the following two papers that relate to his father's service in France



Translated the one above reads:

New Zealand Division

ANZAC CORPS

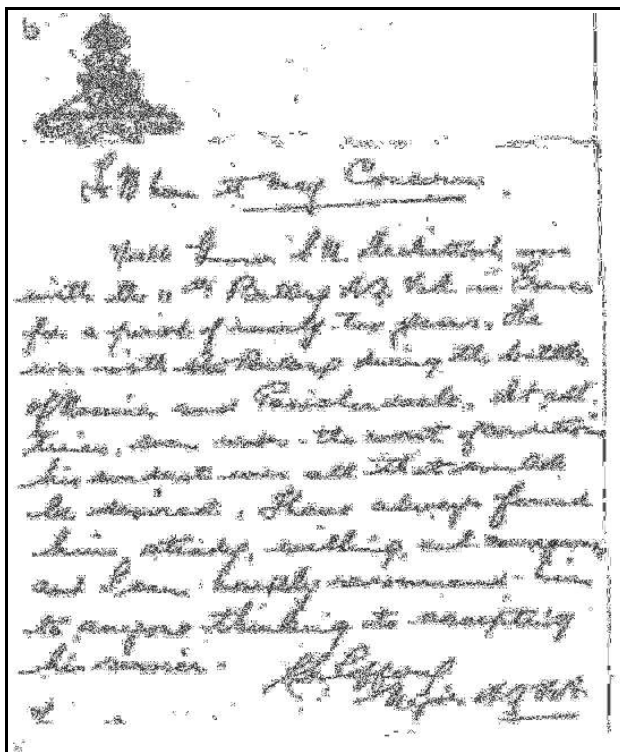
ARMY

7/1266 Gnr Mackintosh SM is granted ten Days' leave to the United Kingdom from 3/2/1917. He will travel via BOULOGNE. On arrival at BOULOGNE he will not leave the train until ordered. Ammunition will not be taken. He will leave LONDON (Victoria) on The 13/2/1917 at am.

Headquarters,
3rd Brigade NZFA

Lieut.,
Adjutant 3rd Brigade NZFA

3/2/1917



Translated the one on the left reads:

To Whom it May Concern

7/1266 Gunner SM Mackintosh was with the 11th Battery NZFA in France for a period of nearly two years. He was with the Battery during the battles of Messines and Passchendaele. At all times, even under the worst of conditions his conduct was all that could be desired. I have always found him steady, willing and courageous and I can honestly recommend him to anyone thinking of accepting his service.
Major NZFA



Opening of the Sgts Mess, Nui Dat, November 1966

Back Row (Row 5) (L to R as facing the photo): SSgt Don Potter and Sgt Terry Hughes
 Row 4: WO2 Steve Parker, Sgt John Brand RNZAC HQ NZ V Force, Sgt Gerry Meyer, Sgt B McKenzie RNZEME,
 Sgt Bill Giles, WO2 Ian Trueman
 Row 3: Sgt J Tate RNZAMC, 2Lt Gordon Stevenson, WO1 Darcy Pollard, Sgt Trevor Pilcher, Sgt Bob Wirihana,
 E5 John Lane US Army, Sgt Danny McCort, SSgt Steve Day RNZAOC
 Row 2: Sgt Colin Ryan, Lt Col Smith Comd NZ V Force, Maj Harry Honnor, Maj Red Potts, Sgt S Geldard RNZE,
 Sgt P Boyd RNZ Sigs
 Front Row: Sgt John Lynch (Cook), Sgt Dave Roberts, Sgt Matt Hotere

Feedback for the newsletter about the above from anyone would be much appreciated.

Letter to the Editor

What a coincidence! I just finished reading the Greybeards, the Korean Veterans Assn magazine and the articles about The Commonwealth Brigade nearly paralleled each other. As a Yank and a person having served in Korea, albeit much later, the legends of the heroic stands have been those I have heard for years. As a former Gunner the numbers of rounds expended to stop the assaults and the displacements to new firing positions bring back terrible memories of a peacetime Private in training to do those exact things. Sergeants yelling, Officers checking and guns moving. Executed numerous times until the drills became rote bears nothing like the ordeal of having to do it in actual combat. The Chapter to which I belong has numerous cross border visits with the Canadians. They come south to visit us and at times the RNZA Gunners are mentioned. I smile when this is said because I have had the honor of knowing some of those men from my visit to Waiouru and Burnham so long ago. They were younger then but just as intense. What young Gunner's can learn from these lessons is immeasurable. The dedication it still there.

The pictures of the tour group were very nice, although it was a bit strange to see eyes that were not bloodshot. Must have been the sleep.

Ubique, Pappy Patchin, B 3/319th Arty, 173d Abn Bde

St BARBARAS DAY (Sunday 4 Dec 2011)

Jeff and I are members of your committee and have been given the task of organising a game day on St Barbaras day (Sunday 4 Dec) to this end we have booked the Papakura RSA from 10am till later.

Depending on support we had thought of playing indoor and outdoor bowls, pool & darts with teams of 4, which you could make up or we would put you in a team on arrival. Format would be arrive 10am for 10-30am start nibbles or lunch at 12-12.30pm continue playing until 2-30 then make your way home.

An entrance fee of \$1 would cover the nibbles even if you only come to watch. If this is a success it would hopefully become an annual event. We would hope that at least 32 mates would attend so give as a ring or email with your intentions prior to 14th Nov for planning purposes and meals etc. at.

nomadic_kerslake@xtra.co.nz, phone 09 2985060 or E42669JDW@xtra.co.nz, Phone 092962457.

Regards Bob Kerslake and Jeff Waters.

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

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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