



The New Zealand Gunner

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Presidents Report: "The Way Ahead"

Over the past month I have attended two luncheons with groups of older gunners; the Auckland Artillery Officers Mess, and the WW2 Auckland Gunners Group (Bevan's Army). Both these groups are dwindling in numbers but the spirit and esprit de corps is very real and quite an inspiration. I think it is very important to maintain our links with these older groups, and not just let our old and bold fade away, forgotten. For that reason we are planning to formalise a 'Veterans' Liaison Network', whereby we will attempt to identify suitable people to be our points of contact with these groups. The network will come under the direction of our RNZRSA Rep (David Weston), and it will essentially be a local liaison network for the Regional Reps. The network will become the 'eyes and ears' of the Assn, and would alert us to any welfare problems (through our 'Welfare Officer Network'), and advise us of funeral arrangements etc for members who pass away. I would ask members to think (whether they could help out in this very important area, do you read the obituary column in the local paper?) and to contact us through any of the points of contact on the back page.

In our plan 'The Way Ahead' we are not just looking backwards to make sure our links with older generations of gunners are maintained, but we are also looking forwards to establish new links with our serving gunners. At the moment we are working in conjunction with 16 Field Regiment to try to establish two programs; a 'Mentor Program', whereby members of the Assn will be linked to NCOs and Officers in the Regiment. Their role will be to provide 'wise counsel' if and when required by the serving gunner. The second program is a 'Transition/Employment Program' in which we intend to utilise the HR expertise of our members to provide assistance to gunners leaving the service, and help link them to employers. There will be a lot more info on these Programs over the coming months, and once again I would ask all our members to consider how they may be able to help in these 'mentorship' and 'employment' areas.

We would also like to develop the 'Areas of Common Interest' which we share as gunners, areas such as technological developments in ordnance, communications, survey, target acquisition, battlefield tactics etc etc etc, and we see this newsletter and the blog 'Muzzle Flashes' being ideal forums for

developing this area. So if you are interested in these areas and read publications/periodicals/magazines which contain articles which others might enjoy reading, please forward them to the editor. Ideally we would like to establish a base of members who are able to contribute articles on a regular basis, so if that's you, please let us know and get involved.

There are many other areas which we would like to develop or improve going forward; things such as developing a database of 'all' gunners, not just financial members, establishing a database of artillery relics and memorials spread throughout the country (e.g. a record of the guns sitting outside RSAs around the country). On this note I would like to draw members' attention to a recently published book by Geoff Lawson 'Our Gun' which examines the history of the Krupp Gun at the Whanganui War Memorial during the Boer War, an excellent read.

All of the plans and programs I have mentioned will come to nothing if they don't have the support of a lot of willing helpers. It hasn't escaped my attention that most of our present membership are in early retirement, and what better way of doing something useful than getting involved in one of the projects in which you are interested. Don't wait for others to do something ('they' should do this or 'they' should do that), please help make these plans a reality and let us know how you would like to help make the Assn a more relevant organisation.

Tony McLeod, President

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1. LAST POST

M698751 Major Andrew George **HATT** (Rtd) died in Levin on 27 January 2012, aged 67. Andy was a long serving Territorial from National Service days in 22 (D) Bty.

211877 SSgt Peter (Spud) **MURPHY** RNZA and RNZ Provost Corp on 12 Feb 2012.

Linda **JONES** beloved wife of Spike, passed away on the night of Thursday, 29 December after a sudden illness. Linda and Spike have been strong supporters of the Association, attending almost all reunions until Linda's health began to fail.

34327 WO1 Yogi **YOUNG** passed away last Tuesday and was cremated on Friday 9 December at the request of his son in Australia. Sadly his funeral details were initially not known, therefore Yogi's farewell was not very well attended. Yogi toured Sth Vietnam in 1967 with 161 Bty as the BSM.



2. NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to the Association the following :

Lloyd **BELL-BOOTH** of Auckland ex 5 Fd Regt.

Ray **CRANCH** of Auckland, Lt and Gun Sgt, ex 4 Fd Regt.

John **FOOTE** of Auckland, GPO ex 5 Fd Regt Italy and 49 Bty Treasury Island Pacific.

Eric **GRAINGER** of Auckland, ex 7 Atk Regt.

Bevan **HAYSOM** of Auckland ex FO Ack with 5 Fd Regt.

Nell **WALTER** of Auckland. Widow of Ralph Walter who served with 5 Fd Regt.

Ethne **CUNNINGHAM** of Dunedin. Widow of Ian (Slim) Cunningham who served many years with the "guns". He served in the Navy during Korea, did a tour to Malaya with the Bn and toured Sth Vietnam with 161 Bty as the BG in 1965 and 1967.

Congratulations NEIL AND HAZEL MacMILLAN

A little belated perhaps but huge wraps to Neil and Hazel MacMillan from Okaihau in the Mid North on their unique achievement of a husband and wife double award of the QSM in the New Years honours list for their service to the community and particularly farming and rural New Zealand. Neil is an ex RF Cadet (Ardagh Class) and served in Sth Vietnam (1970) with 161 as a Bty Surveyor. He may have been one of the youngest soldiers to serve in 'our' war. He and Hazel are a credit to themselves and the Vietnam veteran community and both are working their 'butts' off to ensure the success of the EVSA 2012 Reunion at Waitangi. Well done.

Article from Ross Miller

3. REPORT FROM COL COMDT -

Lt Col Barry Dryer

The first-quarter is usually quiet for the Regiment. The focus has been on the reorganisation and redeployment of people, as well as planning and preparation for the new training year.

The Regiment

There has been recent newspaper and radio comment on the declining morale of the Defence Force. I want to give you my views on that. From what I have seen, as far as the Regiment goes, and I suspect the great bulk of the Army, those reports are totally wrong. Let me go over some of the ground from earlier newsletters.

The government have ordered a reduction in defence cost of some hundreds of millions of dollars by 2015. The response of Chief of Army to this has been to ensure that the money spent in Army is focused as much as possible on operational matters. He wants as many soldiers as possible in the Army properly equipped, trained and fit for active service. This has meant civilianising garrison level jobs throughout New Zealand – this saves about 25% in pay costs per job civilianised. In addition, those uniformed personnel who were unlikely to ever become fit for operational service have been offered civilianised roles, or have left the service.

These changes have given Army and the Regiment a clear focus on operations, and allowed the Chief of Army to spend more money on kit and equipment that will enhance the operational capability, despite the reduction in budget.

Make no mistake, the new gear that the Regiment is getting or has got is at the top end of usefulness for combat. The guns are going through a complete refurbishment, there is state-of-the-art target acquisition, battlefield control, communications and fire support control systems in service or about to come into service. Personal kit and local defence gear is also of a very high standard.

The Army has also restructured to meet the Chief of Army's requirements. The Regiment has done well out of this with the integration of 11/4 battery back into the Regiment. That means that we maintain a TF sub unit in the operational Regiment, equipped and manned identically to the two Regular Force gun batteries. With a significant slice of the Territorial Force battery based in Burnham, it also means we retain RNZA Regular Force postings in Burnham, Linton and Auckland.

16 Field Regiment is required to be able to man three gun batteries each capable of deploying either six guns or 12 mortars, or a mix of the two. The two regular force gun batteries will essentially rotate between one being operationally ready, and the other providing support and working up to being operationally ready. The Territorial Force gun battery will provide manpower and support to the Regiment as required at unit level, while continuing to train and develop at gun battery level.

None of that is much different from 16 Field Regiment activities stretching back to the early 60s.

The only difference is, in my opinion the gear is much more state-of-the-art.

Morale is high, the Regiment is busy and focused, and there are clear operational preparedness objectives for them to meet.

The Band

You will probably be aware that there was a Defence intention to do away with all of the Territorial Force bands in the Army – with a Defence Force our size it was hard to justify 14 bands. There has been a vigorous defence of the contribution and value of our Band, and we will know the outcome in April. Suffice to say that the Colonel Commandant is quietly confident that the Band of the Royal Regiment will continue to be part of our Regiment well beyond the Band's 150th anniversary in a couple of years time.

The Association

Tony McLeod and his Association committee have also been busy. Tony will have commented in other parts of this Newsletter, but the committee have a number of initiatives in hand to both progress the work of the Association, and the welfare and camaraderie of the gunner community in general. The aim is to make the Association more embracing across the community of gunners from the young soldier serving in the Regiment through to our most senior and older generations of gunners.

The work will not succeed just through the work of Tony and his team. I would urge all readers to get in behind the Association efforts in these areas as the results will only be good for our community.

Some Visits

I have caught up with a few of the old and bold from my time recently and they all wish our readership well. Don Kenning (Palmerston North), Harry Honnor (Whangarei), and John Horsford (Pakiri) in particular send their regards. I'm sure they would also appreciate a catch up call or visit if you are in the area.

Tony McLeod and I lunched with a group of WWII gunners who get together on the North Shore two or three times a year – this was a memorable gathering and we will let the Association know the next date so more of us can join this great team at their lunch.

I caught up with Graham Birch, Clyde Stewart and Russ Martin in Tauranga – all relaxed and well. And Janet Ross (Al Ross' widow in Tauranga) and Colleen Brooker (Pete Williams' widow in Auckland), both well.

As an aside, I am back on my first return visit to Vietnam in early April, for a fortnight, and will be placing a few poppies at Long Tan and An Nuht.

ANZAC Day

The Regiment is parading on ANZAC Day as follows:

163/161 Bty

Raglan - Cenotaph Party
- Main Body 5 pers
Paraparaumu - Cenotaph Party
- Firing Party
- Freedom of the City
- This where most of the Regt will be

11/4 Bty

Auckland - main body

CSS Bty

Hunterville - Cenotaph Party
- Remainder of Regt

Colonel Commandant will be at Raglan.

I encourage all Gunners to attend at least one service, and if you are near where the Regiment will be, get out in support of the soldiers, and make yourself known to them.

Have a very good next three months.

Ubique, Barry Dreyer, Col Comdt

4. REPORT FROM CO 16 Fd Regt - Lt Col Matthew Weston

Fellow Gunners, to start 16 Field Regiment's 2012 contributions to *The New Zealand Gunner*. I thought it appropriate to introduce myself and the RSM to you all. Below you will see an autobiography for us both. We at the Regiment, look forward to a healthy and growing relationship with the RNZA Association. We see this relationship as an important vehicle from which to further the interests of the RNZA and its serving and non serving members.

2012 promises to be an exciting year for the Regiment as we build on the excellent work commenced by our predecessors Lt Col Matt Boggs and WO1 Steve Harvey. In spite of the economic doom and gloom and increasing fiscal constraints across Government the Regiment is well poised to continue a transformation plan to make us more deployable with better equipment than we currently enjoy. We will endeavour to provide further information on these developments in upcoming editions of this publication (if our articles survive editorial review!).

There will be more challenges to meet and a strong relationship between the Association and 16 Field Regiment will assist us all to prosper. We look forward to making regular contributions to both this periodical and RNZA activities over the next 12 months.

Ubique, Matt Weston

Biographical Notes:

Warrant Officer Class One Evan Kareko, RNZA

In Dec 2001 he was posted to the School of Artillery as an Assistant Instructor Gunnery then later on as the Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery. In Dec 2004 he was then posted back to 163 Bty as the Battery Sergeant Major until Dec 2006.



WO1 Kareko was posted to AGS as a Career Manager of the Artillery and Armoured Corps in Dec 2007 and then posted as SI NCO Coy Dec 2008. He was then posted to 2nd Land Force Group as the Ops WO in Dec 2010. WO1 Kareko currently holds the position of RSM 16 Fd Regt as of Oct 2011.

WO1 Kareko has deployed to East Timor, with NZBAT3 as the Mort platoon SGT, Bosnia as the LOT WO and Afghanistan as part of CRIB 10 as the Company Sergeant Major.

WO1 Kareko is married to Polly has four Children, daughters Sharda, Rocharn, Tyra-Shay and son De-Andre.

Biographical Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel Matt Weston, RNZA

Lt Col Weston joined the Army in January 1993 as an Officer Cadet. He graduated from OCS (NZ) in Dec 1993 and was posted to 163 Bty, 16 Fd Regt. His initial posting was as Command Post Officer and this was followed by postings as Gun Line Section Commander Fox Troop and subsequently Gun Position Officer. In 1996 he was posted to 19 Regt, RA on Exercise Longlook.



Lt Col Weston transferred to the TF in 1998 in order to study and was posted to 32 (E) Bty. In 1999 he transferred back to the RF and was posted to OCS (NZ) where he fulfilled instructional roles within Tactics and Leadership Wings. He was posted back to 16 Fd Regt as a FO in 2002.

In 2004 Lt Col Weston was promoted to major and posted to OCS (NZ) as Chief Instructor. He attended Australian Command and Staff College in 2006. On his return to NZ he was posted to BC 163 Bty, however this posting was curtailed by a short notice transfer to S3 HQ 2LFG. Lt Col Weston was then posted to Tactical School in 2009 and became Chief Instructor in 2010.

Lt Col Weston was promoted to his current rank in June 2010 and posted to Commandant of the Land Operations Training Centre. He was then posted to CO 16 Fd Regt in Dec 2011.

Lt Col Weston deployed to East Timor in 2002 as Adjutant of NZBAT6.

Lt Col Weston is engaged to Josephine and they have a brand new daughter named Daisy.

5. Lt Col NICK GILLARD REPORTS IN FROM LONDON

Over the past few months I have been part of an NZ

Inc team organising the reburial of the remains of a New Zealand soldier found at Messines in the Ypres Salient. Archaeological and historical investigation determined that he was a member of the NZ Rifle Bde and was killed during the assault on, and subsequent defence of Messines 7 - 14 June 1917. His battalion and actual identification remains open to conjecture. It is probable from the location of the remains that he was part of the 4th Battalion but given the chaos of the day this is not certain. It was determined that he was about 25 years of age when he died. He carried no personal identification but did have the accoutrements of the NZ Rifle Bde. Currently NZDF does not have a policy of using DNA evidence to determine actual identification and he shall remain 'Known to God'. I believe this is appropriate. It is certain that his name does appear somewhere on the memorial to the New Zealand missing at Messines.

The reburial took place on a bitterly cold afternoon 3 February 2012 at the Messines Ridge British Cemetery. He was laid to rest with full military honours alongside many of his fellow Kiwi's. The cemetery also contains the memorial to the 840 New Zealand officers and men who fell in the area and whose graves are not known. The memorial is erected on the site of Moulin Hospice, a mill that was converted into an Regimental Aid Post (RAP) during the attack. Like many mills and bunkers it formed a recognisable reference point to concentrate and protect the wounded on what was a barren landscape. Ironically most Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Cemetery's are based on battlefield RAP located around bunkers or other structures.

The senior New Zealand Government representative was the Minister of Defence, Honourable Dr Jonathan Coleman. He was joined by the New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General Rhys Jones, the New Zealand Secretary of Defence John McKinnon, the New Zealand Ambassador (Belgium) Mr Vangelis Vitalis, and the Head of Defence Staff, New Zealand High Commission Brigadier Antony (Lofty) Hayward. The official delegation was also joined by representatives of the Flemish Government, Messines and Ypres local authorities, the Belgian Chief of Defence Force, the Australian Defence Force, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), the Royal British Legion and the local community. The service was covered by TVNZ, TV3 and the local Flemish news channel. You may have seen the story on television. What was very apparent was the way the people of Messines and Ypres continue to honour and respect the sacrifice made by the Kiwi's. They have vowed never to forget.

Our soldier was reburied with the dignity and respect deserving of one who made the ultimate sacrifice 12000 miles from home. It was a great honour to have been part of this ceremony and the one conducted at Longueval on the Somme in February 2011. There is no doubt that our soldiers will keep being rediscovered in the salient and on the Somme. There is also no doubt that we shall continue to lay

them to rest in the manner which they deserve.

Finally, I am still training hard for the London Marathon 22 April 2012. As you may be aware I am raising donations for the Army Benevolent Fund: The Soldiers Charity. Thus far I have raised £1200 of my pledged £1600. Any assistance from New Zealand would be greatly appreciated. The easiest way to donate securely is via my 'Just Giving' Webpage - www.justgiving.com/Nick-Gillard

Regards Nick Gillard

6. THE LIFE AND DEATH OF AN ARTILLERYMAN - Lt RALPH D DOUGHTY MC

It is 95 years since Ralph Doughty gave his life in the defence of his adopted country and of course his homeland. However he left an interesting legacy that has come to light as his great nephew Peter Kivell, an Associate Member of the RAA Association NSW, has transcribed and researched his story from five remarkable diaries that Ralph compiled from 1915 to shortly before his death in 1917. All of Ralph's service was with Australian gunners and snippets from the diaries will be published in The NZ Gunner.

Ralph Dorschel DOUGHTY was born in Stratford, New Zealand on the 1st October 1891 and was the youngest of eight children born to William and Susanna Doughty. He had spent his early years growing up in Stratford but on leaving school he went to serve five years with 'H' Battery in the New Zealand Field Artillery service, after which he left at the completion of his service. Then, after getting his first job as a warehouseman in Stratford, he decided that when he was old enough he would travel over to Australia to seek a job that was more rewarding and better paying, this he did in 1913 at the age of 22.

Ralph gained residence in 'Craignathan', Hayes Street, Neutral Bay, Sydney, NSW, but from this point onward little else is known about his personal life while living in Australia, things like whether he ever managed to get the went over the Tasman Sea for.

It was not until Ralph entered the military service for the A.I.F. on the 24th August 1914 and records started to be kept that more information was gathered on his life. These military records were obtained from both the Australian National Archives, who supplied the family with a total of 93 documents, and from military information that was gathered from the A.I.F. project database.

Four days after joining the A.I.F. (Australian Imperial Force) and being allotted army number 193 (showing how close he was in being first to sign up), Ralph enlisted with the 1st F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) 2nd Battery unit in Sydney. He then began his initial training in Australia before he embarked for overseas service from Sydney, N.S.W. aboard the Transport A8, Argllshire, on the 18th October 1914 to travel onto Egypt to complete his training. It was from here that Ralph started his first of five diaries, supplying his own military record that show that his

life in the service of the A.I.F. was a complete, full and rewarding one.

History and Diary Records

As a Kivell family member Peter has been very privileged to have seen and read Ralph's war time diaries that he began on the 5th April 1915 in Egypt, through until his fifth diary that he had finished on the 16th March 1917 at Passchendaele. The family has been very fortunate that he had had the inclination to take with him through his military service a means to record his personal experiences as an artilleryman through several campaigns. And that he also had had the fortitude and willingness to be able to make day-by-day entries that so dramatically and vividly explain what the life of an artilleryman was like during WW1, and for this we will be forever thankful.

13 July 1915

Up at 4am this morning. Turks counter attacked in force and gave us particular 'H' with vengeance. We've just stopped firing for the 3rd time this morning and as far as we can find out, the ground gained yesterday (1000yds) has been held by our chaps. 6am. Had a glorious time. Started at 6.30am stopped firing at 9.10pm. Worked the old gun til the springs broke and the piece itself was so hot that the bearings expanded with the heat and stopped the recoil. We fired 1160 rounds. My hands are burnt beautifully. Can hardly close my left. Got a whack on the knee which put me off the gun for half an hour but it's O.K. again. Heavy fighting all night. 8pm. What a day. One of the hottest and best we've had. Got another 3 trenches in the centre, but don't know how the right got on. Have Clark, Adams, Cairns and 2 others all out of it. We're all like niggers. Absolutely black with cordite smoke and dust. Like Mater to see me now.

With the diaries now being over 93 years old and written with indelible pencil the entries have faded from view slightly, but with meticulous care and skill they have all been transcribed into a readable format.

The above article appeared in the March 2012 issue of the RAA Association (NSW) Inc magazine "Gunfire" and will be **continued in the next issue of The NZ Gunner**

I am Bob {Poody} Kerslake and every so often as I sit on the throne for my morning constitutional I recall an incident that happened in Burnham during an early intake of CMT.

Jack Flowerday was the parade RSM but on this occasion Jimmy Upton was standing in and it went something like this.

"I have instructed to pass on that too much toilet paper is being used in the ablutions. {seemingly it was thought that Officers and NCOs were taking it home better than news paper squares} so to his stooge he said "how much do you use " Pte Smith. His quick reply was 3 pieces S/Sgt, then after a slight pause, 1 wet 1 dry 1 polish, the parade erupted".

7. WAR IN THE PACIFIC : PART 1 **PRELUDE TO WAR**

December 2011 marks the seventieth anniversary of the entry of Japan into WWII, with much greater emphasis being placed on the defence of New Zealand. For the WWII requirements were for a threat beyond any previously called for. Our artillery played a major role in this, including the regular force RNZA and the territorial force/emergency force NZA. We also raised a major anti-aircraft capability for the first time. It will be necessary to cover all this in a number of parts in order to do justice to this aspect of our Regiments history. Part 1 covers the build-up to war, commencing with the development of NZ defence policy in general and artillery in detail following the 1921 reorganisations.

In 1921 we were still in expeditionary force mode, with an Imperial requirement to deploy a Division overseas and with minimal defences in NZ (with in due course a Singapore based RN fleet to protect us!!). The Army Order of Battle (ORBAT) in 1921 was:

OPERATIONAL ORBAT : 1921

GHQ (Wellington)

HQ Northern Command

(Auckland)

Mounted Rifles Regt x 3
Infantry Bn x 4
Medium Artillery Bty x 4
Heavy Artillery Bty
Pack Artillery Bty
Coastal Artillery Bty

HQ Central Command

(Palmerston North)

Mounted Rifles Regt x 3
Infantry Bn x 4
Medium Artillery Bty x 4
Heavy Artillery Bty
Coastal Artillery Bty
Support Units

HQ Southern Command

(Christchurch)

Mounted Rifles Regt x 3
Infantry Bn x 4
Medium Artillery Bty x 4
Heavy Artillery Bty
Pack Artillery Bty
Support Units

The medium artillery btys were to be equipped with either 18Pr or 4.5in How, the heavy either 6in 28cwt How or 60Pr, and the pack btys 3.7in How. The Northern Command coastal bty was to be on North Head and the Central Command bty at Fort Dorset. Each location was to be equipped with two 6in BL Mk7 guns and associated 'electric lights' (searchlights). It was decreed that there was to be no coastal artillery in the South Island and that all South Island forts were to be dismantled. However as this organisation came into effect the 1921 depression struck, many servicemen were discharged and training was drastically reduced.

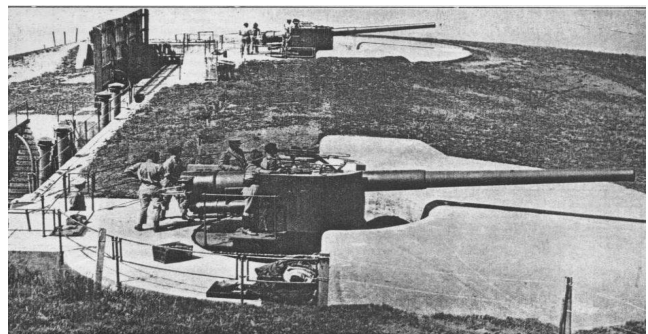
After 1925 conditions improved and by 1930

17000 men were in the TF. Then depression struck again, pacifism swept the country and the force was reduced to 3000 TF and 349 Permanent Staff/RNZA. In 1932 only four soldiers were recruited into the RF, all into the RNZA. Morale was not good. Maj Gen Kippenberger later said of the 1930s: "The period 1930-1939 was probably the most discouraging the NZ Army had survived. Those who soldiered on, Regular or Territorial, knew that they had no support or sympathy from the Government or the great majority of the people".

1933 was a turning point in defence thinking. Japan had invaded Manchuria in 1931, and in 1933 Hitler became Chancellor of Germany. These events had an impact and Cabinet in NZ began to consider rearmament. Coast Artillery wise the 1932 meeting of the Committee on Imperial Defence stated that "coast defence should be by co-operation of the three services, the gun retaining its place as the main deterrent against naval attack", and in 1933 the NZ GOC recommended four x 6in BL 45° coastal guns for each Auckland and Wellington, two x 6in BL

Mk7 for Lyttelton and 4 x BL Mk7 for Dunedin. Two anti-aircraft guns were recommended for each Auckland and Wellington. The Committee on Imperial Defence also discussed the need for 9.2in guns to counter the Japanese 8in cruiser threat, but these were to be a long time coming.

So rearmament began. By 1936 Narrow Neck/ North Head and Fort Dorset were beginning to look like modern harbour defence installations.

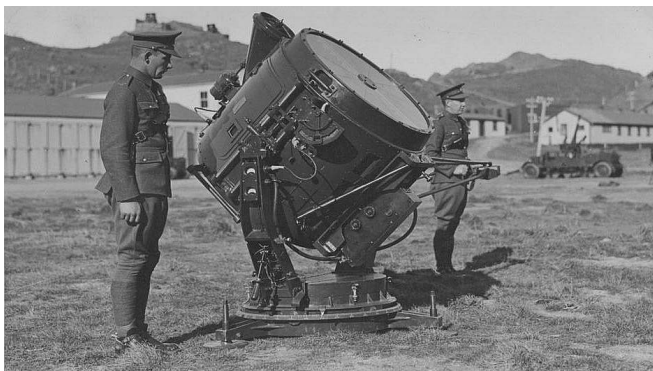


6in BL Mk7 guns at Fort Dorset 1938: Assn Photo

The 6in BL Mk7 fired a 100lb shell at up to 7.5 rounds per minute out to a maximum range of 12,000yds, although 11,600yds was considered the maximum effective range. The new air defence capability was minimal, a total of four guns with their associated searchlights and directional instruments. The guns were 3in 20cwt AA and fired a 16.5lb shell at a rate of 20-25 rpm out to a maximum horizontal range of 12,400yds and maximum ceiling of 25,200ft, although 15,700ft was considered a realistic ceiling. The searchlights were 90cm, and were a mobile version of the coastal artillery Projector Fortress 90cm. They were powered by a 15kw generator and had an effective range of about



A 3in 20cwt AA gun at Fort Dorset 1938: Assn Photo.



AA 90cm mobile searchlight Fort Dorset 1938: Assn Photo

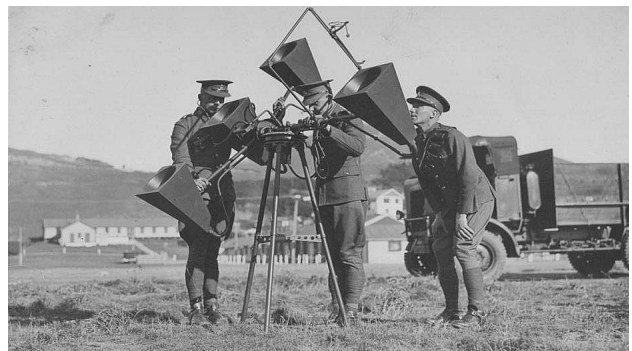
1937 heralded an Imperial Conference that frightened Prime Minister Savage with its disinterest in Pacific defence. Further measures were announced to upgrade the forces. Key defences were improved with the installation of 6in BL Mk21 guns in Auckland (Motutapu Island) and Wellington (Palmer Head), and Mk24 guns at Lyttelton (Godley Head), all with 45° mounts and capable of ranges over 20,000yds. Updated instruments for range and position finding were purchased and a system of coordinated fortress range finding was introduced. New searchlights were installed.

A new system of coastal defence training was also introduced in 1937 to give concentrated training to a Special Reserve of the Territorial Force. This training was carried out over a period of three months at a time, and a number of drafts were put through. This scheme proved very worthwhile and really allowed us to have a

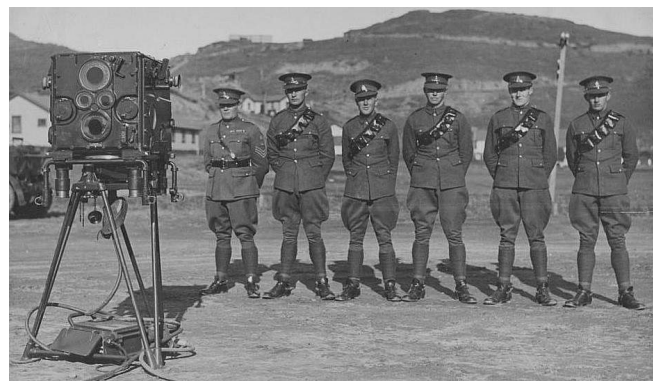
number of well trained gunners available to man the guns, instruments and searchlights in the precautionary period before the war, and to be able to man the btys, but not up to establishment for 24 hour working, when war in Europe broke out.

Our field artillery had not changed much since the 1921 reorganisation, the 18 Pr and 4.5in How btys initially classified as medium were reclassified as Field in 1924, and in 1938 came mechanisation. Trials had been held for a number of years, trialling various models of tracked and wheeled gun tractors. New Leyland Terrier gun tractors were purchased for the AA guns and the heavy field guns, Morris tractors for the lighter guns. Pneumatic tyres replaced the old wagon wheels, and the new gun tractors replaced the horses. This changeover was marked with a Regimental parade at Fort Dorset.

12,000ft on concentrated beam, or between 4 and 6,000ft on dispersed beam.



AA Sound Locator Fort Dorset 1938: Assn Photo.



AA Predictor and Detachment: 1938 : Assn Photo



Mechanisation: The Morris Gun Tractor



Leyland Terrier Gun Tractor and 3in 20cwt AA Gun

By 1939 the NZ Government was becoming very concerned about the Pacific situation in the event of a three enemy war (Germany, Italy and Japan), and called for an Imperial Defence Conference specifically to discuss Pacific affairs and the strategic importance of the Pacific Islands in the event that a British fleet did not reach the Far East and Singapore fell.



March out the Horses: Fort Dorset 1938

To be continued in the next issue of The NZ Gunner

8. WHY do we have less than 5% of eligible full members in the RNZA Association? Membership; AUTOMATIC?, FREE?

A couple of weeks ago I posted an entry on *Muzzle Flashes* proposing that membership of the RNZA Association should be automatic for all gunners, once they had completed basic training and marched into the Regiment. The current rules allow for this (in general terms), but the current process is clumsy (and invisible to those without the internet) and puts people off becoming members. Our current approach to our membership has led to a situation where less than 5% of people eligible to be full members (ie ex serving gunners) of the Assn are actually members; our membership has stabilised at around 350 members over the past decade. It has been suggested that the physical act of applying makes a member more connected with the organisation, and I agree with this. However where it leads to such an under representation of the eligible membership I think it acts as an obstacle to the aims of the organisation. I would love to see the Association represent the full 'family of gunners', not just those who came across an application form at some stage. It has been suggested that non-members should not be allowed to attend our reunions and social gatherings, and I am totally opposed to that approach. I think we should welcome and try to assist 'all' gunners through

our various networks.

The other aspect of membership which I raised was that I think membership should be FREE. I need to elaborate on this point. The RNZA Assn is a Charitable Organisation which raises its income through a \$20 annual subscription for members. This money is mainly used to fund our quarterly newsletter, which is an important link to reaching our members and thereby maintain our welfare network, our charitable work. Members who have not paid their \$20 sub for more than two years may be 'Struck Off' the membership. I have just been reading through the old newsletters of the Assn and discovered some very interesting items; I was struck off in June 1997, (along with Lt Col Hugh Weatherhead and Trevor Pilcher), and I didn't even know, and nor did it matter in the least to me. However we were in good company; in June 1992 Capt GB Black BEM was struck off, in Dec 1991 Maj JB Vryenhoek was struck off, in September 1989 fourteen members of my staff from the School of Artillery (when I was Chief Instructor, Les Jackson and I had encouraged the staff to become members) were struck off. In trying to figure out what type of mentality would lead an organisation to strike off its members, I came across this explanation by the then President of the Assn; "*Most of us in the older age group consider an Association worth joining is worth supporting. If we come to believe otherwise we say so, try to improve it or resign. Obviously the above named (my fourteen ex staff) no longer consider the Assn worth supporting. But without exception they have continued to accept our transactions for well over three years without saying a word-or sending us a cent. It makes us wonder what the modern gunner is made of.*" It makes me wonder who was more at fault here; the gunners who no longer saw any relevance in the Assn (and to whom this act would have been meaningless), or the Assn for not recognising that these gunners were their 'customers' and their needs are what should have been addressed. It has been suggested that people do not value what they are given for free (e.g. free membership to the Assn), and I would not disagree with this point of view in general. But where it leads to such under-representation of its eligible membership, I think a fresh approach needs to be taken.

I would not see the requirement to pay \$20 per annum changing, and only those who had paid the 'sub?' would receive a printed newsletter. I have seen how generous members are with adding a 'donation' when they pay their sub, and I only need to go back through the past month and thank Janet Ross and Wayne Waretini as being representative of those generous folk. I don't think we would lose income by making membership free, we could still 'request' donations at a rate of \$20 per annum, and I'm sure that most members would be happy to donate. Where we have a need for large(?) amounts to be spent, such as in the development of some of our welfare programs, or updating our website and databases, then we would have to raise funds specifically for that purpose, eg through the Lotteries Commission, or Lion Foundation or similar organisations.

I would not see any need to change our Associate Member category, and of course the Life Member and Regimental Member categories would become redundant. This does not mean that a special category might not be retained to honour 'special service' to the RNZA.

As we strive to make the RNZA Association a more meaningful and relevant organisation, I think we need to 'amend' some of our traditional thinking, and look to a sustainable model for the future. This is just my opinion, and I would welcome any feedback, both in support and against, before any changes will be made.

Tony McLeod, President RNZA Assn

9. WREATHS ON ANZAC DAY

In February we made an AMAZING OFFER, to pay for wreaths to be laid throughout the country on ANZAC Day. To be eligible for this FREE OFFER all a member has to do is have a photo taken with at least 6 gunners at the wreath laying and we will pay for the Wreath. The aim of this initiative is not to lay a wreath per se. It is to reconnect gunners at the local level, to act as a catalyst to bring gunners together and thereby spread our welfare network. It may not be too late; act now to see whether you can lay a wreath at your local ANZAC Day Service. (Remember you will have to organise the purchase of the wreath, the coordination with the local organising body, and taking the photo of your group of gunners). Act Now!

The following chart shows where representatives of the RNZA Assn will be laying wreaths on ANZAC Day, 25 April 2012.

Location	Time	Contact
Auckland - War Memorial	10.30am	Tony McLeod
Browns Bay	09.30am	Mike Dakin
Papakura	10.00am?	Jeff Waters/ Bob Kerslake
Waikato - Raglan	09.30am?	Barry Dreyer
Waikanae	09.30am?	Kerry Lee
Paraparaumu	0930am?	Roger Newth
Wgth - Whenua Tapu	1200noon	Lindsay Skinner
Wgtn - Central	0930am?	David Weston
Christchurch	0930am?	Skin Frances
Dunedin	0930am	Bill Olsen

Please check the blog MuzzleFlashes for updates to this information

10. GUNNERS FROM DUNEDIN REPORT IN

Following the recent announcement by the RNZA Association of the offer of funding the laying of a wreath at ANZAC Day services, an informal group of ex gunners who meet in Dunedin on the last Thursday afternoon of each month for a social hour (or two, three), until recently at the Dunedin RSA until it closed, for a convivial ale and to reminisce about The Regiment, have determined it is time to act. This group has, very loosely, entitled itself "Gunnery Inc" and comprises about 20 odd members with, on average, about 10 members per meeting. The former formal "Gunnery Association" folded some 20 odd years ago



WW2 Gunnery still active. The quarterly luncheon of the Auckland WW2 Gunnery group met at the Browns Bay RSA on Weds 14 March.

(L-R) John Foote, Ray Cranch, Warren Brabant, Barry Dreyer (Col Comdt), Bevan Haysom, Con **Thode** RNZN, Eric Grainger, Lloyd Bell-Booth, Don Sutherland, Graham Burgess (RNZAF). Photographer Tony McLeod. A wonderful occasion and great opportunity to hear from those who were there. Most of the ex gunners were members of 5 Fd Regt. If you should wish to attend the next luncheon in 3 months time, please **contact Bevan Haysom on 09 4449606.**

PS Con Thode, aged 101 years, was the only RNZN officer to command an RN Submarine during WW2.

and has never been resurrected mainly due to apathy among the majority of ex gunners in Dunedin who are mainly former "CMT" and "National Servicemen". Until now there has been no official "Artillery specific" representation to the ANZAC day wreath laying ceremony. The Dunedin "Gunnery Inc" group now believe it is time. The announcement by the RNZA Association is timely and this group would like to take advantage of the offer.

Below is a (not very good) photograph of 9 (former 31(B) Battery, 3 Field Regiment) members of the group taken at the "Forbury Racecourse franchised Bar" during our last get together.



From left to right: Al Martin, Warren Harris, Bill Olsen, Doug Boyce, Brian Donaldson, Ben Bolton (RAA), Wally Dalziel, Geoff McLennan and (crouched front) - Alan Riddle.

Following the closure of the Dunedin RSA bar and the holding company of the building and facilities being placed into receivership, the group will meet on the last Thursday of each month in the Garrison Club (former WO's & Sgt's mess) of the Kensington Army Hall (KAH) usually from about 1700 hours till 1900 (or 2000, or 2100) hrs or whenever the last of the players & stayers determine they have had enough!

Fraternal greetings, Bill Olsen

11. FACT OR FICTION

A SUPER-powered gun that fires rounds more than 160 kilometres at several times the speed of sound is being developed for the US Navy warships.

The weapon, known as an electromagnetic **rail gun**, consists of parallel rails and uses a magnetic field and electric current instead of chemicals to generate power.

The US Navy said on Wednesday (NZ Time) an industry built prototype of the gun is being tested at the Naval Surface Warfare Centre Dahlgren Division in Northern Virginia. At this stage they're focused on measuring the gun's barrel life and structural integrity because it is capable of firing rounds at up to 9000kmph or more than seven times the speed of sound. More research and development is needed over the next five years to ensure the weapon can cool down

and handle repetitive fire. The Navy wants to be able to fire 10 rounds a minute.

They're also working to ensure that the roughly 18 kilogram metal projectile the gun will ultimately fire can withstand the heat and G-forces from the launch and will not disintegrate. And they need to make sure any electronics such as a GPS system, are safe.

US Navy researchers said the weapon's high-velocity and range would allow ships to provide support for Marines storming a beach. It could also target enemy ships and provide self defence against cruise and ballistic missiles. Currently 5-inch guns on destroyers have a range of about 20kms.

As you can see it represents a significant increase in range, Roger Ellis, the Office of Naval Research's electromagnetic **rail gun** programme manager, said in a conference call with reporters. Ellis said that because the gun can fire at such high speeds it wouldn't necessarily have to shoot an explosive to inflict damage, either. He would only say that it would carry a "lethal mechanism".

The Navy has been developing the weapon since 2005 at a cost of about US\$240 Million (NZ \$286m).

The Editor has just a few questions to as they say start the ball rolling: Will the ship tip over? What size/length of barrel would be needed? How much rail would be needed? Do they have enough unoccupied land in Northern Virginia to test this weapon?

The above article appeared in the NZ Sunday News on 4 March 2012.

12. RNZA Assn Veterans Liaison Officers (VLO's)

As our veterans get older and decrease in number, we are in danger of losing contact with those remaining. The purpose of the Veterans Liaison Network is to help spread the eyes and ears of the RNZA Assn throughout community. The Veteran Liaison Officers should try to maintain social contact with RNZA Veterans in their area. They are asked to advise the Assn of any significant occurrences within the group, such as members passing away. Welfare issues which are identified as not having been properly handled through the main agencies VANZ, WINZ and the RSA, should be reported to the Assn Welfare officer for the area.

The RNZA Assn representative to the RNZRSA will be the coordinator of the network, and will liaise with the network as appropriate, e.g. provide a copy of his report from the RNZRSA Affiliate and General Meetings to the VLOs.

Notes; The intent is to get as many 'different' names into these boxes as possible. The VLO does not need to be a veteran himself/herself, especially in the case of WW2 and Korea. It is hoped the VLO will not be the Regional Rep, as we need to spread our network through as wide a group as possible, not just place the

burden on a few. These people will in effect become the Regional Reps 'local area network'.

By 'formalising' what may already be in place in an ad hoc manner, we can make everyone more aware of the welfare responsibility of all 'members' of the Assn.

Areas	Service Areas
Auckland	WW2
Central;	Korea
Wellington	SVN
Sth Island	Post SVN

Tony McLeod, President RNZA Assn

13. "A TOUCH OF HUMOUR"

Colin Stanbridge writes to the Editor:

I believe it was the War Historian Max Hastings who said: "Few fields of human endeavour have inspired so much memorable anecdotes as warfare/soldiering". Perhaps we could have a column in which our members could relate their stories. Some may be personal, some from hearsay. No doubt some will lose nothing in the telling but they should be of interest to members and they do not necessarily have to be about guns or the gunners.

If you agree, I enclose a few either told to me personally or involving myself.

So Colin has started the "Touch of Humour" column off with the following two stories:

This story relates to the late Brig. Kim Morrison.

As a Major he was sent to the J.S.S.C (Joint Services Staff College) in England and took over the house occupied by his NZ predecessor Major, later Brig. Tom Campbell. Having no car he looked around to see how he could get to Latimer Hall (College) some 2 miles away. In the garden shed he found a ladies bicycle. Being reluctant to ride a ladies cycle he found an old broomstick handle, brought some black paint and a brush at the local store, painting the handle and fitted it as a cross bar to the cycle.

Riding to College on his first day he was passed by all the other students in their late model BMW's etc as he rode up the imposing avenue to this former English stately home to be met by an officer in the full dress uniform of the Scots Guards who said: "You must be Morrison from New Zealand. Sgt take this vehicle to the car park. After the Sgt left Kim asked how did you know I was from New Zealand? Oh said the Guards Officer your predecessor rode a cycle but at least yours is a gentlemen's bicycle.

This one is by the late Colonel Kevin Miles.

In late 1939 he found himself promoted rapidly from L/Cpl to CQMS of his NZASC company stationed at KEB (for young gunners King Edward Barracks), Christchurch. They had not long converted to motor transport and he was charged with returning a great deal of equipment from the horse transport days. He had almost sorted everything but had a swag of

brass rings which he could not find in his equipment table (The old Brit G 1098 we worked from before the NZET).

He took his problem to the RQMS of 1 Canterbury Regt (long versed in things Q) who said lets look in your G1098. You have to find the right generic heading. There "Ropes, Head Hemp complete with ring". Kevin said but how do I describe them on the voucher to MOD. Easy said the old Q bloke. Put "Ropes, Head Hemp complete with ring, without rope"!!!

Don't forget to send your stories to the Editor!!

14. 16 Fd Regt UPF Items for Sale

Description	Price	Postage
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(A) 16 Field Regimental Anniversary Port made by Sapich Wineries. **Clean Skin Port**

Limited stock \$28:00 NZD

NZ \$7:00 NZD/Overseas: To be negotiated

(B) 16 Field Regimental Port made by Sapich Wineries **Clean Skin Port**

\$28:00 NZD NZ \$7:00 NZD/Overseas: To be negotiated

(C) Print of the Moore Gun position that depicts gunners over the year's incl weapons systems. 64 X 40 cm

Original Artist J. Blackburn

\$25:00 NZD

NZ \$5:00 NZD/Overseas: To be negotiated

(D) Medium Gun print. Original Artist J. Canfear 67 x 48 cm

\$5:00 NZD

NZ \$5:00 NZD/Overseas: To be negotiated

(E) Corps Jerseys (last of the stock)

Blue, Gold and Red. **Sizes OS,S, M, only**

\$20:00 NZD

NZ \$7:00 NZD/Overseas: To be negotiated

(G) 16 Field Regiment Crest Black, white and gold Cloth Badge

\$7:00 NZD

NZ \$3:00 NZD/Overseas: To be negotiated

(H) Locating Troop Metal Badge (last of the stock) \$4:00 NZD

NZ \$3:00 NZD/Overseas: To be negotiated

All enquiries or orders can be sent to:

WO1 E. Kareko, RSM

Email: Evan.kareko@nzdf.mil.nz

Cell: 027 442 3268, Landline (06) 3519105

Note: Cheques should be made out to 16 Fd Regt UPF

15. Require a 3rd Fd Regt Lapel Pin.

Alan Riddle from our Dunedin Gunners has offered to have Pins manufactured provided he can get requests for 10 or more. Alan's contact details are:

alan>riddle@nzdf.mil.nz.

Behind the Lines: The Editors Page

Patron	Colonel (Rtd) Donal R Kenning MBE	06 358 2840
Colonel Commandant	Colonel Barry Dreyer	09 307 5692
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RNZA Historian;	Brig (Rtd) Graham Birch MBE	
Facebook Site;	http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=209704013801	

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** 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 MuzzleFlashes.blogspot.com.

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

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

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

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

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