



The New Zealand Gunner

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Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)

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1. LAST POST



31348 Brig (Rtd) **HONNOR**, Harry B CBE, MVO RNZA. TC 163 Bty, FO, GSO3 (Arty) 1st Commonwealth Division, BK 162 Bty. 2nd BC of 161 Bty SVN (June 66 – May 67), replacing Don Kenning and handing over to Tom Martin.

Harry was at both the Battle of Kaypong and the Battle of Long Tan. He was DRNZA 1967-69. Harry passed away 3 February 2013. From Whangarei.



30663 Brig (Rtd) **BIRCH** Graham Douglas RNZA. DRNZA 1981-83. FO 161 Bty SVN 1965. Passed away 16 March 2013 aged 72. Graham was from Omokoroa.

Col (Rtd) **BURNS** Robert Angus OBE, ED RNZA (TF). At Wellington on 24 March 2013. Bob had a long period of TF service with a number of units including 22(D) Bty, 3 Fd Regt including a period as CO, and HQ 3 Brigade and FF Comd.



206045 **TUSTIN** Anthony B (Tony) RNZA. Korea and 161 Bty SVN Sgt No 4 Gun 1965.. Passed away 9 March 2013. From Picton.



42669 SSgt **WATERS**, Jeffrey David RNZA. RF Cdt (Crump Class). Toured SVN 1970 as a Gnr on No 2 Gun (Andrews Bty) and No 3 Gun (Masters Bty). Passed away 14 December 2013 aged 62. From Papakura.

The following poem by Mike Subritzky, RNZA was read by the Col Comdt at the funerals of Harry, Graham and Jeff.

A SOLDIER'S FAREWELL

*I've saddled up, and dropped me hooch,
I'm going to take the gap,
my Tour of Duty's over mates,
and I won't be coming back.*

*I'm done with diggin' shell scrapes,
and laying out barbed wire,
I'm sick of setting Claymore Mines,
and coming under fire.*

*So, no more Fire Support Base,
and no more foot patrols,
and no more eating ration packs,
and sleepin' in muddy holes.*

*I've fired my last machine gun,
and ambushed my last track,
I'm sick of all the Army brass,
and I sure ain't coming back.*

*I'll hand my bayonet to the clerk,
he ain't seen one before,
and clean my rifle one more time,
and return it to the store.*

*So, no more spit and polish,
and make sure I get paid,
and sign me from the Regiment,
today's my last parade.*

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207721 **ALLSWORTH** Gnr Ivan Francis - 163 Bty, 16 (NZ) Fd Regt, K Force. Passed away 27 December 2012. From Masterton

814620 **ASHLEY** David Shakespeare Hart, RNZA. 16 Fd Regt Korea and 161 Bty SVN 1970 as a storeman. Passed away 4 March 2013

aged 80 yrs.. From Wellington.

BRIGHT Stanley Albert, 32 Fd Regt, 46 Bty Passed away 6 February 2013 in his 91st year. From Wellington

618615 Gnr **CAMERON** Roy Donald (Barney). Passed away 17 December 2012. From Wellington

449699 Bdr **CLARKE** Alexander Maurice, NZ Artillery WW2, from Wainuiomata.

4312703 Gnr **DARBY**, George Spriggens Hughes RNZA Korean War 1951 - 53. Passed away 13 March 2013 at Stokes Valley, aged 88 years

203785 Gnr **GIFFITHS**, Llewellyn Stanley Tom (Stan). 161 Bty Korea. Passed away 27 January 2013. From Te Poi.

203602 Sgt **GOLDSBURY**, Reginald Martin. 16 Fd Regt Korea. Passed away 28 January 2013 aged 82. From Hamilton.

76244 Lance Bombardier **MACKAY** John Robert (NZ Army 1939-45) from Lower Hutt

42753 **ROYAL** David Paul, RNZA, ex 161 Bty SVN 1967 as a Dvr Op, passed away on 10 January 2013.

F920696 WO **SINCOCK** Lawrence Robert MBE, RNZA, passed away 28 November 2012, at Hamilton. aged 80 years.

41824 **SOUTHON** Gerald Vita (Gerry). Ex 1RNZIR 1969-71 Malaysia, 161 Bty 1966-67 (Gnr on No 2 Gun) and V5 1970-71 SVN, passed away at Whakatane, on Wednesday 6 March 2013 aged 66. From Matata.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of all these members who have passed on. *We will remember them*”.



Picture Theatre Baria 66.

2. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Our new Constitution, amended as per the motion passed at the AGM of 10 November 2012, has now been submitted to the Commerce Commission. This has formalised the policy that all gunners, who have worn an RNZA badge for more than 3 months, are now automatically Full Members of the RNZA Association, unless they wish not to be (there is no compulsion). This membership is free; a gunner is deemed to have paid his or her dues to be a member by virtue of his or her service to the Royal Regiment of NZ Artillery. This is a major step forward in the reason for being of the Association. It no longer makes the Association representative of a small group of ex-gunners who managed to stumble across a membership form at some stage during (or after) their service. It makes the Association responsible to all gunners, retired and serving, and it means that the Association must look to maintain relevance for, and communication with, ALL gunners. This is a huge challenge, which cannot be achieved in one hit; it will take many small steps over a long period of time, with input required from a lot of people, if it is to come anywhere near to being achieved. I believe it can be achieved and that we have made some very important initial steps.

The new website is launched and despite a slow period for the first 6 months, it is now under continuing construction. Deb Giles, the new webmaster is always looking for new material to post, so please contribute to whichever area may be of interest to you. The Facebook page continues to grow and is becoming an ever more important way of getting news out quickly, our thanks to Colin Jansen in his continuing efforts with Facebook. Facebook and the website are our best means of communicating with the younger generations of gunners, but the printed version of the newsletter is still critical for our older veterans, so if anyone comes across an older gunner who would like a printed newsletter please let us know; this is a membership wide responsibility not just a committee duty.

The connection between 16 Field Regiment and the Association has never been stronger and the Mentor scheme is one of the most important services which the Association can provide to our operational brothers. We have already linked up several serving gunner officers with `older and wiser` heads, and this program will be expanded this year (details of the program are on the website for anyone who may be interested in helping). My sincere thanks to those retired officers who are already a part of the program, and to those who have agreed to become a part this year.

The RNZA Historical Trust has now been established and formalised, and the second meeting of Trustees took place in Linton in February 13. The aim of this Trust is to record and preserve artillery items throughout the country, starting with the Regimental items already held in Linton by 16 Field Regt. The call has already gone out for volunteers for regional teams, which will search regional areas for items of interest

and ensure those items which belong to the `Artillery` do not go `awol`, or perhaps `drift` into private ownership, never to be seen by the wider gunner community again. Once again, my thanks to those who have already agreed to be a part of these teams, and I would urge anyone who is interested in helping to step forward now.

Unfortunately funerals have been the main forum for our members to associate over the past few months, and our sincere condolences are extended to the families of Brig Honnor, Jeff Waters, Tony Tustin and Bob Burns who were major supporters and contributors to the affairs of the RNZA Association. Jeff's passing will leave a big gap in the Papakura area, but others in the area have stepped forward to ensure the annual gunners Day dinner will still proceed. Harry served at both Kapyong and Long Tan and with his passing this leaves Bill Giles as the only one left, from these two battles, he was a gunner on Dog 2 at Kapyong and at Long Tan he was the BC's (Harry's) Survey Sgt). Perhaps the biggest loss to the Association, and the RNZA as a whole, has been the passing of Brigadier Graham Birch, who was not only our patron at the time of his passing, but also Chairman of the recently established RNZA Historical Trust. Graham actively contributed to the RNZA for over 50 years, and that contribution was invaluable. To the families of all our gunners who have been accorded their `Last Post`, we offer our sincere condolences, and it remains the duty of those of us still around to carry on their legacy; that legacy is the esprit de corps which has developed over the past 100 years in New Zealand, the spirit which created the phrases `the family of gunners`, and `once a gunner, always a gunner`. We shall remember them, through our thoughts and our deeds.

Tony McLeod, President, RNZA Assn

3. REPORT FROM COL COMDT

Greetings to all Gunners and members of the Association. I hope your Christmas through to Easter went well in the glorious weather that we have had in the last three or four months.

Sadly we have lost a number of gunners in the period, and particularly four who have contributed to the Regiment and the Association over a long period of years: Brigadiers Harry Honnor and Graham Birch, Tony Tustin and Jeffrey Waters. Comments on Brigadiers Honnor and Birch are elsewhere in the newsletter. Tony Tustin served on the guns in both Korea and Vietnam and would be well-known to the older brigade. He was also a skilled craftsman and produced a lot of scale models of brass cannon which for years were used as prizes at our annual get-together. Jeffrey of course had a major contribution for more than 20 years organising and presiding over the annual Gunners Day Dinner in Papakura. These, and others who have served the regiment, whom we have lost in the last four months will be sadly missed.

One of the things that occurs nowadays in the Regiment is that most postings occur in the December

period, so we wish all those that have been posted in a successful tour in 16 Field Regiment, and for those posted out good luck and we look forward to welcoming you back.

Shortly there will be a change in RSM's as WO1 Evan Kareko is posted to a one-year senior leadership course in the United States. On behalf of all Gunners I wish he and his family well for the year overseas.

I know 16 Field Regiment have had a busy start to the year. There is a new crop of young officers due in from their initial Gunner training at the School and quite a large bunch of new Gunner recruits coming out of the basic courses and now engaged on their initial Gunnery training. Welcome to the Regiment, and may your service be both enjoyable and rewarding.

I can also say that the Regiment did a splendid job in Paihia for Brig Harry Honnor and an equally good job for Brig Graham Birch in Tauranga.

Have a good autumn and early winter
Ubique, Barry Dreyer, Colonel Comdt, RNZA

4. REPORT FROM CO 16 FD Regt Lt Col Matt WESTON

A. Coming in from the cold – 11/4 Battery re-established with 16th Field Regiment

In January 2012 11/4 Battery was officially re-established as a Battery under the Command and Control of 16th Field Regiment, RNZA. Prior to this it had come under the Command and Control of 3rd Auckland North Battalion, along with the remainder of the other `funnies` – Engineers and medics, who share the Battalion's floor space in Arch Hill.

For 11/4 Battery, this is an exciting time. Primarily, it has provided an opportunity to refocus and hone artillery skills after more infantry focused training whilst with 3rd Auckland North Battalion. Jan-Feb 2013 saw a comprehensive coursing camp run for the TF at the School of Artillery in their brand new buildings in Linton Camp. Here the Guns and Signallers Basic were schooled and instructed in the bread and butter of gunnery – drilling and familiarity with the Light gun; and the passage of swift and effective fire orders over a radio net. For the first time in many years, 4 TF students were also qualified as CPO's.

It has also provided an opportunity to kindle a closer affinity with the Regiment. This can be seen both in attendance on RF exercises, and in Regimental activities. Recent examples are a mixed battery crew for an 1812 Overture in Howick Park Auckland, as well as a strong TF presence on Exercise Kiwi Koru, a combined arms live firing, 1 (NZ) Bde exercise in November 2012. Looking towards the future, 2013 is already shaping up to be a good one. By the time this article goes to print, the Battery would have conducted its first exercise for the year. Ex Tuu Taua will focus on all-arm skills such as the conduct of a combat



24th Feb, 2013

Photographer Joseph Jun

patrol, weapon drills and CAEVAC procedures. The main effort for April as usual is ANZAC Day, with 11/4 Battery providing catafalque guards in Swanson and Papakura, and a minute gun in Hamilton. Training in May, August and September as well as testing the Battery in their all arms skills, will teach, develop and hone gunnery skills. This will include deployments around Auckland in Kaipara, Ardmore and local farmland. This is all in build up for the annual TF Live Fire Exercise (LFX), scheduled for November 2012.

Re-aligning with 16 Field Regt has brought its fair share of challenges however; namely with the integration of mortars and the standardisation of fire discipline across both weapon systems. The Battery has still not reached full integration, however with more training and 'time on the steel,' the Battery will soon be at a suitable state.

With the closure of the ANR chapter of the Battery history, its re-establishment with 16 Field Regt has brought about a new one. Whilst this brings about its fair share of challenges, the officers and soldiers of 11/4 Battery are more than up to the task of meeting them.

**Article supplied by:
Lt Oliver Lynn, 11/4 Bty Cadre.**

B. Canadian Visit a Hit with 16 Fd Regt Team

Eight NZ Soldiers including a full gun detachment from 161 and 163 batteries, 16 Fd Regt, recently worked with the Canadian School of Artillery (W Bty) in Canadian Forces Base Gagetown.

The exchange lasted seven weeks from mid October until early December.

The purpose of the exchange was to further the understanding and co-operation between the NZ Defence Force and the Canadian Forces, and in particular for the Kiwis to study the introduction of the Digit Gun Management System that is in use with the Canadian 155mm M777 medium guns.

A similar system might eventually be introduced on the 105mm L119 Light Gun used by the NZ Army. The Digital Gun Management system, or G-NAPS as it will be known in NZ, is a digital fixation and orientation device that will be fitted to each gun, doing away with the need to provide time consuming orientation to each gun as it enters on to a gun position.

The BAE M777 is a new lightweight medium gun recently introduced to service with the US, Canadian and Australian Armies. It is of 155mm calibre and fire a 48kg projectile out to a range of 24km using standard ammunition natures. It is also capable of firing the Excalibur Precision guided munitions which has a far greater range and due to its GPS guidance can hit with 10m of its target. The M777's great advantage is its titanium construction which gives the gun great strength with considerable savings in weight. Both the M777's and Excalibur round have provided sterling service to their respective nations in Afghanistan.

During the exchange the Kiwis were exposed to the weapons, equipment and vehicles used by the Canadian Artillery and the Canadian Army and they were impressed with some of the larger equipment not usually used in NZ. The high standards and excellent practical and technical skills shown by the Canadians during their time in the field was also impressive.

During their time off the Kiwis were shown a good deal by their hosts, from tours to breweries to watching a Sea Dog hockey game, as well as some sight seeing around Canada including getting to experience the flavour of the French Canadian culture of Montreal. It was also a special experience to attend Remembrance Day activities in Omorocto and have a few beers with some veterans from past and current wars.

New Zealanders and Canadians last fought by side in the Korean War, notably at the Battle of Kapyong in which 16 Fd Regiment played a key part, with both the Canadians and 16 Fd being awarded Korean and US Presidential Unit Citations for their bravery.

The highlight of the trip was without doubt the change to fire the M777 in danger close missions in support of the Canadian Forward Observe Officers Course.

Article taken from the Army News, March 2013 issue.

Stop Press: Wreaths on ANZAC Day`

Once again the RNZA Association will pay for you to lay a wreath on ANZAC Day.

The usual conditions apply; just take a photo of at least four gunners and yourself (total 5) with the wreath, and send it through to us with your receipt (or Invoice) for the wreath.

The purpose of us paying for these wreaths is not to lay a wreath per se; it is to get fellow gunners together at the `local` level, so that you can get to know which other gunners live in your area. It is through this type of networking that the Association can perform its major objectives of providing a medium for camaraderie, and also how we can find out who may be in need of our Support Services, those who may have fallen through the cracks of the major Support providers. Arrange with your local council or RSA organisation to lay a wreath NOW. Next week may be too late!.

5. SELECTED EULOGIES

A. Brig (Rtd) HARRY BOWEN HONNOR CBE, MVO

Harry Honnor's testimonial from his Certificate of Service from the New Zealand Army reads:

"Brigadier Honnor enlisted in the Regular Force as a staff cadet at the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1946 and was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of the New Zealand Artillery in 1949. He served on active service during the Korean War and again, as Battery Commander, in South Vietnam. He attended the British Army Staff College in 1959 and the Joint Services Staff College, England in 1969. Among the various staff and command appointments he has undertaken, Brigadier Honnor has served as the New Zealand Instructor at the Australian Joint Services Staff College, as Commander 1 Infantry Brigade Group and as Head, New Zealand Defence Liaison Staff Washington. He was appointed Movements Officer for the 1963 Royal Tour and was awarded the MVO for his services during that tour. Brigadier Honnor was appointed to his current post as Deputy Chief of Defence Staff in 1980.



Harry, 16 Aug 66, target observation from the top of Nui Dat.

Brigadier Honnor has invariably met the highest standards in (the) performance of his duties; both as a commander and a staff officer he has inspired confidence and respect by his leadership and example. His enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication are an example to all. Brigadier Honnor's long and distinguished service and his selfless attachment to his work have brought great credit to himself and the New Zealand Army.

Brigadier Honnor was awarded the CBE in the 1982 New Year Honours."

Harry was an inspiration, help and mentor to several generations of gunners. We thank him for the part he has played in the heritage of the Regiment.

B. Brig (Rtd) GRAHAM DOUGLAS BIRCH MBE

Graham was born on the 20th March 1940 and lived for the first thirteen years of his life at Devonport, attending Devonport School. His father was a serving soldier and the family moved to Waiouru in 1953 where Graham attended Ohakune District High School (to become Ruapehu College in 1955), matriculating in 1956.

He entered the Royal Military College Duntroon in January 1957, graduating as a Lieutenant into the RNZA in December 1960. His military career covered a wide range of operational, command, administrative, management, training and diplomatic appointments, up to his retirement in 1996.

Following his Young Officers' Course at the RAA School of Artillery, North Head Sydney, Graham was posted to 161 Bty as Troop Commander A Tp. 1962 saw him as GPO 161 and 1963 an OPO. He was appointed Adjt 16 Fd Regt in 1964, an appointment he relinquished in June 1965 to join 161 Bty as a FO on the Btys initial deployment to Vietnam. The Bty at that stage was attached as the third Bty of the US 3/319 FA Bn of the 173rd Abn



Bde, primarily in support of the Australian 1 RAR.

G r a h a m served as an FO up to Operation Crimp in Jan 66, when 1 RAR landed on top of a section of the Cu Chi tunnels, flushing out the HQ of the Vietcong Military Region 4. He then

served as BK 161 until he returned to NZ in March 1966 to assume an appointment of IG at the School of Artillery. Graham was appointed MBE for his service in Vietnam. ERE appointments followed – GSO2 HQ ATG and then MA to the CGS. He attended the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham and then the Staff College Camberley Sep 69 to Dec 70, and was posted back to NZ as the GSO2 HQ LSG. Regimental postings followed – BC 161 Bty and then 2IC 16 Fd Regt, and then to HQ Home Comd as a Lt Col AQMG. His only other active RNZA appointment was as Director (DRNZA) 1982-84.

Graham commanded at every rank level from Lieutenant to Brigadier. Non ERE key appointments were as a Lt Col commanding the Waiouru Training Depot, as a Col commanding the 2nd Task Force Region/ 2 Bde and then the Army Training Group, Waiouru, and as a Brig commanding Support Command. He served as DCGS (now DCA) 1989 to 1992 and then as the Military Adviser at the NZ High Commission in Canberra from 1992 to 1996.

He was very proud to be appointed Colonel Commandant of our Regiment from 2004 to 2010, a wonderful culmination to his RNZA career.

Graham will be sadly missed by all those he came in contact with during his 55 years of selfless service to the Royal Regiment of NZ Artillery and the NZ Army as a whole.

C. Col (Rtd) ROBERT ANGUS (Bob) BURNS, OBE ED

I first met Bob Burns in the late 1960's through 16 Field Regiment RNZA while he was serving as Battery Commander 22 Battery based at Fort Dorset, Wellington. At that time I was a very new Second Lieutenant at 161 Battery Depot undergoing my pre-deployment training before a posting to 161 Field Battery RNZA, in South Vietnam.

In late 1970, just after I had been posted as the Regular Force Adjutant to 3 Field Regiment RNZA (the Southern Gunners), Bob was posted in as Second – in – Command of the Regiment. When the then CO (Lt Col Kit Iversen) was posted to the Reserve, Bob was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and became the CO. He led the Regiment through a period of major change – going from a guaranteed intake of soldiers and officers each year to having to attract and recruit all ranks into the unit on a voluntary basis. This was brought about in late 1972 following a change in Government and the scrapping of the National Service scheme.

Following his time as CO, Bob was promoted to the rank of Colonel and held appointments as the Deputy Commander 3 Brigade and later as Territorial



Force Military Secretary; a staff appointment at Headquarters Field Force Command. In this position, Bob was responsible for the oversight of the administration and management of all Territorial Officers in the New Zealand Army – a very demanding and critical post.

Bob, through his civilian career in the Lands and Survey Department, was involved in the preparation and printing of what I understand was the first 1:50 000 scale Metric map in New Zealand – of the Tekapo Training Area in the Mackenzie Basin where 3 Field Regiment conducted all its live firing practices and exercises for many years. This map provided much more realistic training for all concerned at 3 Field Regiment, and other South Island based units who used the Training Area.

During my service in the New Zealand Army, I have had the privilege of serving alongside some very capable and effective officers – both Regular and Territorial – Bob Burns was one of these. He had a long and distinguished connection with the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery and gave freely of his time outside of family and work to serve his country as an active member of the New Zealand Army.

David Weston, Major (Rtd), RNZA

D. JEFFREY DAVID WATERS

Jeff was a true gunner. After starting his military service as a Regular Force Cadet, he joined 161 Battery and saw active service in South Vietnam as a gun number. On return to NZ he was promoted to Lance Bombadier and became an excellent mentor to the younger gunners. He developed his trade knowledge and became an instructor, eventually becoming an Assistant Instructor- in –Gunnery at the School of Artillery.

Jeff continued to play an active role after his release from the regular army; he served on the executive of the Papakura RSA a number of times and was a tireless worker for the cause. He was involved with the RNZA association as an executive committee member, and a member of the `at large` committee, and for nearly 20 years he organised and ran the annual Gunners Day Dinner in Papakura. Gunners came from far and wide for the dinner, most of them prompted by Jeff. Jeff involved himself in gunner matters whenever he was asked; he mounted our medals, he wrote the script on regimental certificates,



and he anchored the tug of war team. He was a gunner through and through.

The Corps, the wider Army community and the Papakura region will miss his work.

From the Editor: Jeff was one of the singlese that lived in the Sgt/WO's barracks during the early 70's. This group formed the Moawhango Surf Club. This club was a registered surf club and was associated with the Titahi Bay Surf Club. The Moawhango Surf Club was the highest above sea level surf club in the world. This group used to organise the most entertaining functions. I recall one such function when Jeff decided that as they were a surf club they should have sand. Thus he had tarpaulins laid on the floor in one area of the mess and had deposited numerous amounts of sand on top of them. This was great except everywhere the party goers went sand was spread, thus all areas of mess at some stage during the evening became covered in various amounts of sand. The following day being Sunday the then RSM made his regular visit to the mess. The sand of course was still there as Jeff and his mates were still in bed. All gunners present in the mess at the time were detailed by the RSM to clear the mess/sand up. It is fair to say that it took a while for Jeff to win over his gunner mates after this episode.



Could you imagine Jeff on one of these out on the golf course

6. THE STORY BEHIND THE LAST POST

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the American Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia .

The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler.

He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as 'The Last Post' used at military funerals was born. The words of 'The Last Post' song are:

Day is done.
Gone the sun.
From the lakes
From the hills.
From the sky.
All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.

Fading light.
Dims the sight.
And a star.
Gems the sky.
Gleaming bright.
From afar.
Drawing nigh.
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise.
For our days.
Neath the sun
Neath the stars.
Neath the sky
As we go.
This we know.
God is nigh

7. HISTORY OF THE WHITE LANYARD

The contentious issue for so many years has been that the gunners wear a white lanyard as a reminder of cowardice in the face of the enemy, among many others.

NOT TRUE, you little gruntesauruses and other detractors. To explain away this misconception, I offer the following extract from a letter from Brig. (Rtd) W.D. Tarr HQ, Director Royal Artillery, Woolwich, London. Dated 13 August 1969.

For the reason why our lanyard is white and not coloured, we have to go back to the origin of the lanyard as a military article.

The lanyard first came into use in the artillery as the end of the nineteenth century, and consisted at the time of a simple piece of string about four feet long, whose purpose was to secure the jack-knife which all gunners were required to carry. The spike of the Jack-knife was used as a hoof pick to remove stones from the horses' hooves, and the blade was used in emergency to cut loose horses which became entangled in the Head-Ropes and Heel-Ropes on the picket line. The lanyard was also used to secure the fuse key used to set the fuses for shrapnel shell.

The Jack-knife and fuse key were carried in the right breast pocket of the service jacket because the bandolier, then worn in the Artillery made it difficult to extract articles from the left pocket. Gunners therefore wore the lanyard on the right shoulder.

The string lanyard soon became dirty and looked unsightly when hanging loose. This did not matter in war, but in peace time it was plaited and blanched white to make it look smarter and to match the white waist belts worn in those times. For this reason Artillery and the Cavalry, to whom the lanyard was issued as an article of military use, still wear white lanyards, whereas other Regiments and Corps, who have adopted the lanyard purely as an adornment, wear coloured lanyards.

Thus the Artillery lanyard has an honourable and useful history and we can be proud to wear it white and not coloured.



Horse and Cart Vung Tau 66.

8. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP of the RNZA Assn - Chris TURVER, War Correspondent SVN

Chris joined the RNZA Association as an Associate Member many years ago, and whilst he has not literally “served the guns”, he was formally attached to 161 Battery for three months from July-October 1965 as the first accredited New Zealand war correspondent. He was then switched by the NZPA to cover the last rotation of 1 RNZIR on the Borneo border at the tail-end of Confrontation.

He saw active service with 161 Battery, notably Operation Ben Cat, and undertook ground patrols with 161 Battery Forward Observers with 1 RAR and the US 173rd Airborne Brigade.



Bien Hoa about to head out with a forward observer party with 1 RAR

He is a full member of the RSL (No. 23906), a full member of EVSA, (he was granted the Veterans Badge in 2008), and he holds the Operational Service Medal, General Service Medal “Vietnam” with Warlike Clasp, the Special Service Medal (Mururoa), and the South Vietnam Campaign Medal (the 6 month qualifying period was waived by virtue of being wounded in action near Ben Cat).

In 2008 he was directly involved in “Parade 08” with the privilege of being the only civilian to be invited to carry one of the 37 honour flags for those killed in Vietnam (Al Don) during the Parade through Wellington and at Parliament.

He was also honoured by EVSA to co-lay the Vietnam Wreath at the National War Memorial on Anzac Day in 2011 and 2012.

The RNZRSA unanimously agreed in a remit at its last National Council to allow “civilians” who



served in hostile environments and were awarded the Operational Service Medal to be given full ‘Returned’ status because with a volatile style of warfare they are at just as much risk as serving personnel.

We would like to thank Chris for his valuable service to the RNZA, and congratulate him on his appointment to Honorary Membership of the RNZA Association

9. AUCKLAND ARTILLERY BAND ASSN INC

The Band of the Royal Regiment NZ Artillery - Newsletter March 2013

Dear Association Members

Once again this Newsletter is rather overdue, but you can probably appreciate that life has been a tad difficult since ‘disestablishment’. Frankly, it would take a book to explain all that has happened but the main thing is that your Band is still in business, if struggling for funds to secure its future.

Initially, we received a number of handsome indications of financial support from organisations rallying to support the survival of the Band. However, despite countless letters and meetings, after some nine months none of these has yet materialised, and early ‘promises’ have been heavily watered-down and constantly postponed. Nonetheless, we remain hopeful of two moderate sums by mid-year. In the meantime, we remain solvent and our fund-raising negotiations will continue unabated.

One positive piece of news has been the signing of a Memorandum of Affiliation of the Band to 16th Field Regiment RNZ Artillery, thanks to the initiative of our Patron and Colonel Commandant Barry Dreyer - granting the Band the retention of the Band’s title, the wearing of uniforms and ranks, and payment for tasked engagements. Apart from two bugling assignments, this has yet to be put to the test, but an Artillery Weekend is tentatively planned in Linton in mid-October. It is hoped to establish similar Memoranda with the newly amalgamated 3/6 RNZIR, and NZSAS.

The Band remains busy - a lot busier than typical civilian brass bands, including mid-week engagements, which put a strain on members’ work responsibilities and taking time off. One such event was the official launch of the ‘Poppy Partnership’ by Auckland RSA and Sky City when the Band played for an hour with great credit in the foyer of the Sky Tower on Thursday 31st January.

Please come and enjoy the Band at 3.00pm on Sunday 7th April at Falls Park, Henderson when they will be playing ‘Brass at the Falls’ for the first time (bring a folding chair). Prior to this, on the same day, they will be at MOTAT Military Day from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

They will also be out and about as usual on Anzac Day - leading the Birkenhead RSA Parade at 9.45am, then to Auckland Domain for the 11.00am Citizens’ Service, and from there to Ranfurly Trust Veterans’ Home for their annual commemoration at 1.30pm.

The Band will also be combining with RNZ Navy Band, RNZAF Auckland Band and the Auckland Police Pipe Band in the annual Massed Bands Concert at the Bruce Mason Centre (BMC) on Sunday 25th August, and playing ‘Morning Melodies’, also at the BMC on Monday 14th October. They will

also be playing at Gunners' Day Dinner at Papakura RSA on Sunday 26th May.

We have recruited our youngest member, William Filimoehala, aged 10 - a remarkable soprano cornet player, for whom we have managed to find a uniform, and he is proving to be an asset to our ranks. This, of course, is possible now that we are no longer governed by Defence Force rules.

We still need to recruit new members, particularly cornet, tenor horn and percussion, so if you know of anyone please introduce them to us.

Our Australian member and principal euphonium, Peter Downey, has recently been appointed Deputy Bandmaster. I can't remember whether I have previously reported that Neil Hilton, who leads our bass section, took over from Chris Wade as Drum Major.

Amidst all the time and energy spent on guiding the Band through the new situation, our 150th Anniversary in 2014 has not been forgotten, although the programme of events has yet to be mapped out. Whilst no-one has been able to pin down the date of the inaugural meeting in 1864 (it may have been July), it is planned at this stage to focus on the September/October period for the main celebrations, although no doubt there will be other activities during the year.

Please note that the AGM of the Association will be held on Tuesday 27th August 2013. Prior to this, the Association's Constitution has been revised to reflect the Band's new non-NZDF status, and will be the subject of a Special General Meeting in the fairly near future.

With best regards to you all, Bob Davis, Hon. Sec

10. The "RECKLESS" US MARINE

Staff Sergeant Reckless was the only female to serve in the US Marines during the Korean War and she was in fact a racehorse who later became a decorated veteran. Reckless was a mare at the Seoul Raceway when purchased in October 1952 for \$250 US by Marine LT Eric Pederson from a Korean boy who trained her for his mother. He desperately needed the money to buy an artificial leg for his wounded sister and Lt Pedersen needed a packhorse to carry the ammunition for his squad's recoilless rifle. In Korean the mare was named *Ah-Chim-Hi* which translated was *Flame of the Morning* but the marines renamed her *Reckless* after the name they called their recoilless rifle. She was a small chestnut mare with a white blaze on her face and three white stockinged feet.

Platoon Sergeant Joe Latham was given the task of putting her through "equine boot camp" learning to jump into and out of a jeep trailer, and how to take cover by St Latham tapping on a front leg and she would quickly lie down. She was taught to carry loads of ammunition on a pack saddle and also string out telephone cable. The platoon built a bunker and fenced in a small area for pasture. Her personal handler was Private 1st Class Monroe Coleman.

As the recoilless rifle took 3-4 men to carry it and

rounds weighed 25 pounds each,

Reckless was invaluable at carrying the weapon and ammunition. The recoilless rifle could fire a 75mm projectile several thousand yards with great precision but had one major drawback due to its terrific back blast, which made it impossible to conceal its position. After firing five rounds the weapon had to be moved to escape counter battery fire and on a steep hillside *Reckless* was invaluable in moving the weapon to a new position. During the Battle of Vegas on a steep hill in March 1953, *Reckless* made 51 trips of between 500 and 700 yards up the hill during the 72 hours the battle lasted carrying 386 rounds and sometimes bringing back wounded marines even though she was twice wounded by shrapnel.

Incredible as it may seem she sometimes made these trips on her own without a handler and through a gauntlet of Chinese fire. She would carry between six to 10 rounds and would pass marines carrying three rounds each up the track to the recoilless rifle. She would do a trip in 20 minutes which was twice as fast as marines could. *Reckless* saved the day for the Leathernecks who won the battle. All the marines with the exception of two were wounded and *Reckless* was promoted from Corporal to Sgt. During her time with the until she carried over 9000 pounds of explosives and was involved in action at other outposts like East Berlin, Reno, Carson and Ava as well.

Reckless loved being with the marines and would wander around their base and sleep with them in the winter in their tents beside their stove. She would eat anything and besides oats, sorghum, hay enjoyed coke, beer, apples, carrots, loved scrambled eggs, bacon, buttered toast, peanut butter sandwiches and even a little drop of bourbon or whiskey. Some Aussie gave her a slouch hat, however she would wear it and finally ate it to get rid of it.

After the war in 1954 she was brought to America free of charge by Pacific Trade Lines and was quartered at Camp Pendleton, the US Marine Base in California. Here she lived as *Sgt Reckless*, "The Pride of the Marines," and wore a gold and red blanket with her Sgt Stripes and war decorations attached.

Before she died on May 13th 1968, she had four foals of which three survived her. She is remembered with a



monument at Camp Pendleton and in a book. For her service she received two Purple Hearts, National Defence Service Medal, US Korean War Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal and ROK Presidential Unit Citation.

11. RNZA ASSN REUNION 2013

1. Location of Reunion

The Royal NZ Naval Association (Palmerston North Branch), has confirmed the availability of its Clubrooms, at 20 Domain Street (Corner of Domain and Willis Streets) for the **RNZAA Reunion between Friday 18 to Sunday 20 October 2013. (note the date has been changed to fit in with 16 Fd Regt activities).**

For those not aware the Palmerston North RSA has closed up.

2. Programme Outline for Friday 18 to Sunday 20.

- Friday 4pm- till closing Reception. Social gathering. Welcome and discuss programme for the weekend. Require an evening meal - couple of choices. Smorgasbord self-help.
- Saturday, members will gather approx 0930 for coffee etc Most of the men will depart 10am for Linton Camp. The Ladies will head into town etc. Expect majority to be back at the Club approx 1pm, for lunch. Majority are likely to depart for free time (granny naps) until about 5.30pm, gathering for a few drinks/cocktails before departing for Linton Camp at approx 5.45pm. The 16 Field Regiment, RNZA, is hosting a Regimental Dinner for all members and partners. We expect that the buses will return at about 10 pm.
- Sunday approx 9.30pm, we would like to hold a brief memorial service 15 minutes - perhaps on the courtyard in front of the Club, or some other suitable location. Then move the gathering inside for morning tea and a formal 'Annual General Meeting', which should take about 90 minutes. Lunch then at about 12.30pm, before the majority depart.
- The Royal NZ Artillery Band, is planning to come to Palmerston North over that weekend, and will certainly play at the Regimental Dinner, and at the Memorial Service on the Sunday morning.

3. Accommodation Possibilities

There are attractive options in terms of accommodation reasonably close to the Clubrooms:

- BK' s Motor Lodge (27 studio units and 8x 1 bedroom suites).Fronts onto Cuba Street, but has a rear entrance with locked gate. This gate would be opened allowing direct access across the road to the Clubrooms.
- The Cafe du Paris Inn, (20 rooms, with a mix of double ensuite, twin shares etc). In Domain Street immediately opposite the Clubrooms.
- The Travelodge, 175 Cuba Street, (offering a range of options including a breakfast option). Travelodge, is 5-10 minutes walking distance from the Clubrooms heading into the Square.
- The PN Kingsgate and numerous other motels are situated along Fitzherbert Avenue about 10 minutes away by car.

The first three options are certainly convenient - allowing members to leave the cars parked at their accommodation and walking to and from the club rooms.

On the Saturday, I envisage busses being provided to transport members to Linton, in the morning (approx 1015) for the 'Visit and Display' and again in the evening for the Regimental Dinner. Might also require a small bus to transport the ladies to the 'Herb Garden' or some other such activity in the morning

A. B-K's Palmerston North

We would be happy to accommodate your attendees over the weekend of the 18th – 20th October.

We have 27 studios and 8 – 1 x bedroom suites ranging in price from \$138 – \$170 per night [**1-2 persons**]

Four of our ground floor 1 x bedroom suites will accommodate 1 couple and 2 singles [or 2 couples with 1 couple in 2 single beds]

We have 16 Shower Studio @ \$138.00 per night

9 Spa Bath Studios @ \$147.00 per night

2 Twin Studios @ \$140.00 per night [upper level only]

4 – 1 x bedroom suites [1 queen & 1 single bed] @ \$165.00 [upper level only] = 2 persons or [3 persons would be \$190]

4 – 1 x bedroom suites [1 king & 2 single beds] @ \$170.00 [ground floor only] = 2 persons or [3 – \$195, 4 – \$220]

What we will offer by way of incentive to book with us, is a 10% discount for 2+ nights bookings.

People can book through our website www.bkspalmerstonnorth.co.nz to receive this discount. They need to indicate being part of the RNZ Artillery Association and we will adjust their booking according if they book 2 or more nights.

If anyone is not sure, please let them know we are happy to speak directly with them on the phone 0800 222 830.

Thank you for the offer to do some business.

Kindest Regards Roger & Margy Clark

B-K's Palmerston North Free Call 0800 222 830

Call 06 353 5995 Fax 06 353 5993

info@bkspalmerstonnorth.co.nz

www.bkspalmerstonnorth.co.nz

Centrally located at 102 Cuba Street Palmerston North

B. Travelodge Palmerston North

I would be happy to offer the following rates for the below mentioned dates.

\$130.00inc GST per room per night, room only, per room per night

\$148.00inc GST & full breakfast for 1, per room per night

\$166.00inc GST & full breakfast for 2, per room per night

If you have any questions or would like go ahead with a booking please do not hesitate to contact me at any time
Kind Regards, Sharlene Albright | Reservations Manager,
Travelodge Palmerston North

T: + 64 (6) 3535 763 | **F:** + 64 (6) 355 5958

Address: 175 Cuba Street, Palmerston North

BOOK ONLINE @ www.travelodge.co.nz or call

Travelodge Reservations:0800 101 100

12. Notification and Invite to 2013 Gunners Day Dinner Papakura RSA



Peter R Anderson
30 Taonui Street
Rosehill
PAPAKURA 2113

GUNNER'S DAY DINNER 2013

Gunners, past and present, attached personnel and partners are once again invited to attend this years dinner to be held at:

**The Monte Casino Lounge
Papakura RSA
Sunday 26 May 2013
@1830 for 1900**

The cost this year will unfortunately be **\$75.00** per person.
This increase was necessitated by:

- a. The RNZA Artillery Band no longer being on the Defence Force payroll and consequently requiring a stipend for their services.
- b. A large increase in price for the RSA's catering.

However you can once again be assured of another enjoyable evening of camaraderie and renewing old acquaintances.

Dress is formal (gentleman a minimum standard of jacket and tie) with medals (miniatures).

TIMINGS

**1830 Pre dinner drinks
1900 Dinner
2100 Toasts etc
Mingling and reminiscing**

ADMINISTRATION

Please return reply slips with remittance by 1st May 2013 to:

**Gunners Day Dinner 2013
C/- P Anderson
30 Taonui Street
Rosehill
PAPAKURA 2113**

Cheques payable to: **Gunners Dinner**
For further information I can be contacted at the above address etc
I look forward to seeing you on the evening.

REPLY SLIP

_____ will/will not be attending the Gunner's Day Dinner 2013.

Enclosed is payment for _____ at \$75.00 per head.

Please return by 1st May 2013.

Behind the Lines: The Editors Page

Patron

Colonel Commandant Colonel Barry Dreyer 09 307 5692
The Patron and Colonel Commandant are ex officio members of the Committee

President Lt Col (Rtd) Tony McLeod 09 4860910, 027 2698472

Secretary Correspondence: Bernie McCort
Membership: Peter Fraser

Treasurer Peter Fraser

PB 110107 **rnza.association@gmail.com**
Auckland Hospital
AUCKLAND 1148

Committee: Kemp Solomon (Vice President) Mike Dakin
Colin Jansen (Asst Sec Facebook Mgr) Greg Thwaite
Peter Miles Robert Downs
Peter Fraser John Botica
Ken Davie Alister Irving

Committee Members at Large:

Graeme Black (Waikato)	Brian Jerry Meyer (Australia)	Bob Kerslake (Auckland)
Danny and Bernie McCort (BOP)	Tom Roche (Manawatu)	Roger Newth (Horowhenua)
Lindsay Skinner (Wellington)	Rob Hitchings (Wellington)	Rob Munro (Wgtn)
Brian (Skin) Frances (Upper Sth Island)	Bill Olsen (Lower Sth Island)	
Catherine Dymock (16 Fd Regt)	Dave Weston (Wellington, RNZRSA Del)	

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RNZA Historian;

Facebook Site; <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=209704013801>

Subscriptions: For those members wishing to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter a \$20 fee is payable. Please forward by cheque to The Treasurer, PB 110107, Auckland Hospital, **AUCKLAND 1148**.

Subscription **Associate Members:** \$20 per annum. Please send cheque to above address.

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

Email Addresses: Are you on the Internet? The Secretary may not be aware of your address. If you are not getting messages from the RNZA Association and wish to do so, let him have your address. Have you changed ISPs? Have you updated your Internet address? Some mail is being returned.

Input into The New Zealand Gunner: Short stories, especially with accompanying photographs are always welcome for inclusion. The Editor's email address is **dgroberts@xtra.co.nz**

Member Registration: New members are most welcome. **ALL** Gunners are eligible for Full Membership, it is **FREE**, and automatic once a gunner has served in the Regiment for more than 3 months. 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 the new website: rnzaa.org.nz.

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 Debbie at: muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com

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

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

RNZA Assn Bank Ac # 38 9007 0694501 00