



The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of the

Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)

Founded 1934

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1. PRESIDENTS REPORT

The past 3 months have seen ANZAC Day and Gunners Day celebrated throughout the country. What is very satisfying is seeing the increasing number of gunners attending these events. These are occasions when we remember not only those who made sacrifices for our country over the past 150 years, but they are also occasions when we remember the mates we have served with as fellow NZ gunners and which we can use to check on the health and well-being of those mates, and then REMEMBER to do something to help those who may be in need. I would urge members to check out the "Support" section of the website to see what agencies may be available to help those in special need. Our own network of "Support Coordinators" may be the first step.

The "enhanced" website was launched in May, and this now provides a structured portal to the whole Regiment (including 16 Fd Regt, the Association and the Historical Trust), and provides an enhanced membership list of persons who are eligible for Full Membership (because they have served for at least 3 months as a gunner) but who may not yet have registered with the Association. If we have not included your email address on the membership list then we may not have your contact details, so please check that we do have your details, and those of your mates. The RNZA Association is all about facilitating members to associate with each other, whether that be one on one or in group functions such as dinners and the annual reunion. To achieve that people need to know how to contact each other; our membership list is designed to meet that need. Best wishes to you all.

Ubique. Tony McLeod



**2014 RNZA Assn Reunion
Programme and Registration
Form can be found on
Pages 8 and 9.**

2. "EX BEN CAT" will be held in Waiouru on Thursday 18 September 2014

The CO 16 Field Regt has extended an invitation to ex gunners to spend a day in the field with the current gunners as they exercise in their operational role. This year 161 Battery will be into their 2nd day of an airmobile exercise.

Details are as follows;

Thurs 18 Sept: Travel to Waiouru own arrangements. RV at the Waiouru Primary School carpark at **10.00am**.

Embus, tpt to exercise area 16 Fd Regt. Lunch provided in the field.

Approx 1500 hrs return to Waiouru, overnight accommodation and dinner available.

Fri 19 Sept: Disperse to home locations own arrangements.

Don't forget how cold and wet Waiouru can get. You must provide your own cold/wet weather kit. Ear protection will be provided.

Those who wish to attend should notify the Secretary at rnza.association@gmail.com by **Friday 5 September 14**. Numbers will be limited to **16 pers**. First in, first served.

Tony McLeod, President

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3. LAST POST

441206 Gnr CLAPP, Keith Robertson, 2 NZEF, 1939-45. Died peacefully at Carterton on 12 June 2014 aged 91 years.

203928 Capt FLACK, James Cooke 16 (NZ) Field Regiment RNZA, Korea, died 1 June 2014 at Hutt Hospital aged 84 years.

38384 Capt GOSNEY John E, RNZEME, Tiffy (L/Cpl) with 161 Bty in 1966/67. John passed away with cancer on 27 March 2014 in Auckland. He spent his army career in Ngaruawahia, Waiouru, Singapore, Takapuna and Papakura, finally retiring at the rank of Captain. John had spent the last 6 years living happily in the warmer weather in Chaingmai, Thailand where he was highly respected in the local community,

65764 HOLMES, Edward AC (Ted) of Australia. A few weeks after wishing all a "Happy New Year to All and May it bring you good health and lots of laughter", and recounting the story that appeared in the last issue of The NZ Gunner, Ted left us to fight our own battles on the 2nd February 2014.

462352 McKINNON Hugh Matekino RNZA and 3842 NZ Police. Passed away on 5 June 2014 at Auckland.

MILN, Patti McLean (Widow of George). Patti passed away on 20 May 2014 in her 94th year at Auckland. George, Patti and Clive were frequent attendees at the Old Comrades Assn Reunions at Taupo.

32974 O'NEILL, Edward Terence (Ted), WO1 (Rtd) RNZA. WWII, J Force, RF until 1973. Passed away at Papakura on 3rd June 2014 in his 91st year.

251064 Sgt TOOBY, Douglas Ernest, Heavy AckAck, Hospital Ship. Died 12 June 2014 at North Shore Hospital.

4. CHRISTCHURCH RSA TO BE NEW POPPY SUPPLIER

RSA National Office is delighted to announce that Christchurch RSA has been confirmed as the new national poppy supplier after a very robust and independent tender process was launched by National Office in February 2014.

Christchurch RSA's tender offered the lowest price for poppies hands down, leaving more funds available for the support of our ex-service community. Due diligence was performed as part of the tender process and the independent tender panel and National Office have complete confidence that Christchurch RSA can back up the incredible price they're offering for poppies with great quality,

consistent supply, and excellent service.

Christchurch RSA have recently developed their own state of the art automated manufacturing process which will allow their members to produce poppies on site. This has enabled them to provide the best outcome for our ex-service community, while bringing the production of poppies back to New Zealand for the centenary of Gallipoli and throughout the WW100 period.

This is a great result and together Christchurch RSA and National Office are looking forward to giving you the best service, at the best price and with the best result for our veterans and ex-servicemen and women.

Please join us in thanking our previous supplier Cash's, for their highly professional service since 2012, and extend a hearty congratulations to Christchurch RSA!

National Office will release more information detailing how we'll be making the transition from Cash's to Christchurch RSA, when and how RSA's can place an order with the Christchurch RSA, and with full pricing details. In the meantime, if you have any questions please email davidm@rsa.org.nz or get in contact with your District President.

Article supplied by

David Moger, RSA Chief Executive.

5. 161 BTY (VIETNAM) REUNION 2015

A committee has been formed and planning is under way for a reunion to commemorate the 50th anniversary of 161 Battery reporting one gun ready in Bien Hoa, South Vietnam. The reunion will be held at Palmerston North as close as possible to the 15th of July 2015.

The reunion is open to all personnel who served with or were attached to 161 Battery in South Vietnam between 1965 and 1971.

An invitation to attend is also extended to the widows and descendants of any 161 Battery (Vietnam) veteran.

As soon as the final details have been decided, they will be promulgated throughout the gunner network.

For further information you can contact the reunion secretary/treasurer John (Woody) Barrett on (07) 5494829 or jonlynbar@yahoo.com



6. COL COMDT REPORTS IN

Ubique 300

26th of May 2016 marks 300 years since the founding of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Ubique 300 is the worldwide activities to mark this event. The *Captain General's Baton* will be taken around the world, including New Zealand, and be presented to Her Majesty, our Captain General, at a Royal Parade at Larkhill on Gunners' Day 2016. Planning has started for New Zealand with requests that we assist 94 (NZ) Headquarters Battery of the Royal Artillery to progress the *Baton* through the country.

There will be other requests from the Royal Artillery involving NZ. It is early days yet. The RNZA Liaison Officer is Captain John Garton RNZA, Adjutant 16 Fd Regt, in Linton. If you would like to be involved please contact him directly. There will be more to come on this.

Colonel Commandant's Activities

Anzac Day in Raglan. This was immediately followed by the commemorations around the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gate Pa in Tauranga, CO, RSM and myself attended on behalf of the Regt. We were able to spend some time with the UK Deputy Chief of Army who was leading the British delegation. A gunner, who as a BC in Bosnia, had a troop of Kiwi gunners from 16 Fd Regt in his Battery. For Gunners' Day activities I started in Wellington, and joined the Gunners' Day Dinner in Papakura. Queen's Birthday weekend I was in Rotorua for the EVSA reunion where I gave the address at the Memorial Service.

I have been involved in moving the Miles papers ahead on behalf of the Historical Trust. A weekend with 11/4 Battery at mortar deployment training at Matakana. The Bty were able to use the land of Max Carpenter (a previous BC of 11 (A) Battery).

Regimental Activities

The Regt is busy. Retention is excellent and there are 29 new Gunner recruits currently under training. The Regt has soldiers deployed in Europe, Hawaii and Australia – about a quarter of the Regt is overseas. We have a good sprinkling on operational service in Afghanistan, the Middle East and Africa. Longlook activities are about to get underway.

Last week A Bty 3/7 Arty from the US 25th Division in Hawaii arrived in Linton and they will be in the North Island for a couple of weeks on familiarisation training before heading to Waiouru for live firing. The Bty is from a field artillery battalion and they are equipped with exactly the same gun as 16 Field Regiment. There was a welcome for the Bty from our Regt in the Mess in Linton last Friday evening and the trustees from the RNZA Historical Trust joined the gathering for an interesting and entertaining evening. I will be joining the Bty for some live firing next week –

lucky me. The second half of the year looks just as busy, if not more so.

RNZA Historical Trust

Under the leadership of Rob Munro, the Trust last met in Linton in early July to plan the data collection process, and other ongoing work. Recording teams are being formed in each of the regions tasked with identifying, locating and recording gunner items. This is a major task for the Corps and will take some time. If you are asked to assist in any way I encourage you to participate.

If you have spare time and would like to join the teams, please contact either me or the President of the Association, Tony McLeod. With at least 150 years of service to the nation, the country's Gunners have accumulated a large quantity of trophies and memorabilia that we must locate and record, for the sake of future generations of Gunners. It will be time-consuming and rewarding work.

The other item of historical significance is progress with the diaries of Brig Reg Miles, one of NZ's most distinguished gunners. Further on in this newsletter is an extract from his diary covering the landings of 4 Howitzer Battery NZFA at Anzac Cove during the night of the 25/26 April 1915. The then Lt Miles went on to become the Commander of NZ Artillery in 2 NZ Division in Greece and North Africa until he was captured during the gallant action by 6 Fd Regt at Sidi Rezegh in early December 1941 during the 8th Army operations to relieve Tobruk. T

he Trust has possession of a large collection of his letters and diaries from 1911 until 1943 when he died. This is an internationally significant collection of material.

We are very pleased to say that the Trust has engaged Chris Pugsley, the renowned military historian, to research the Miles papers and diaries and write a book for publication by the RNZA Historical Trust. We aim to publish the book during 2017. This will take some focus and effort by all involved, but we hope the outcome will be superb.

Ubique. Barry Dreyer, Col Comdt

Artillery

Artillery is a Danish thrash metal band. They participated in the early development of the genre, and their highly energetic, riff-centric and often fast-paced music is similar in style to that of Voivod, Coroner, Megadeth and Sabbath from the same era. After releasing three full-length albums and touring extensively throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Artillery disbanded in 1991, but decided to reform seven years later, only to disband once again in 2000. However, they reformed again in 2007 and are still together today.

7. GUNNERS AROUND THE COUNTRY ON GUNNERS DAY AND ANZAC DAY



HAMILTON



Jim Madgwick, Howie Masters & Tutu Ormsby
Bernard Bailey, Dave Bowler, Paul Greg
& Hugh Vercoe

WELLINGTON

A fine but windy Wellington day was the scene for the 2014 Gunner's Day celebration in Wellington . This year the service was held at the Wellington Cenotaph in downtown Wellington as the National War Memorial is undergoing major work in preparation for the 100th ANZAC Day celebrations in April next year. A total of 22 Gunner's paraded for a short service led by Rev David Bahler (late 3 Fd Regt and 16 Fd Regt). The Colonel Commandant RNZA Col Barry Dreyer addressed the parade and laid the wreath in memory of Gunners past. A period of reminiscence and fellowship followed at the "Back Bencher".

**"Ubique", David Weston, Wellington Rep,
RNZA Association Committee**

CHRISTCHURCH. Pre dinner drinks at the Bush Inn then a meal around the tables.



Mike Dennis, Adrienne Fraser, Colin & Karen Waho, Mickey Fitz's head



Colin & Karen Waho, Linda and Paul O'Connor,
Mickey Fitzgerald, Cat Duffy, Willie Wilson
Adrienne Fraser, Mike Dennis



(Minder) Paul, Terry Hutchinson, Jean, Junko and David Bolam-Smith



Wellington Gunners in front of the Wellington Cenotaph Gunners Day 2014

More from CHRISTCHURCHchristchurch



Graeme Hutchenson (a 95 yr old Gnr – ex 5 Fd Regt WW2 - and still going strong) and his grandson (minder) Paul



Woody Barrett, Shona & Max Newman, Jill Frances (Skin off doing something), Steve Howard, Ray Brown, Ted Shears

DUNEDIN. Gunners Day Dunedin 26 May 2014. 6 Rounds Fire For Effect, 2 x Bottles of Port, 1 x 25 Pounder Field Gun equates to a handful of very happy Gunners!! Ubique



AUCKLAND Gunners' Day Dinner Papakura RSA.



More from the GUNNERS DAY Dinner at PAPA KURA RSA



ANZAC DAY EAST COAST BAYS 2014



L-R: Tony McLeod, Anthony McLeod, Backrow; Bill Stewart, Mike Dakin, Bill Brown (WW2), Front row; Bevan Haysom (WW2), John Foote (WW2), Lloyd Bell-Booth (WW2), Colin Jansen

ANZAC Day CHRISTCHURCH



Local Gunners at the dawn service in Christchurch.: 3 Fd Regt standard bearer Mickey Fitzgerald, wreath holder Allan McClure, with Max Newman and Skin Frances

The Wellington Returned and Services Association is a hive of Gunners.

Ron Turner, Matt Beattie, Theo Kuper, Rob Munro, Con Flinkenberg and Mark Ogilvie to name a few. The WRSA, like all RSA, is seeking new members from returned, ex and serving Defence personnel and those with an affinity to the same. WRSA is established on a sound financial basis that allows for general expenditure but more importantly welfare activities.

The WRSA Patron is Peter Adamson ex RNZAF. We hope that he may be able to attract some Air Force personnel to the fold. ANZAC Day in the Capital is a busy time for WRSA. The Dawn Service, organised by Neal Garnett, a service at Wellington's Cathedral of St Paul, the National ANZAC Day Commemoration Service, this year at Parliament and a commemoration at the Kemal Ataturk Memorial.

The last couple of years have seen the day completed with an Australian Rules Game at Westpac Stadium.

This year a Super 15 rugby match between the Hurricanes and the Reds, on the Saturday night, ended the weekend. Gunners were represented at the kick off. Below Lt Col (Rtd) Ron Turner RNZA recites the ode at the Super 15 match.



And the Hurricanes won!

8. RNZA Assn 2014 Reunion



***Royal New Zealand Artillery Association
80th Annual General Meeting and Reunion
West Plaza Hotel, Wellington,
7 – 9 November 2014***

The 80th Annual General Meeting and Reunion of the Royal New Zealand Artillery Association will be held on 7 – 9 November 2014 in Wellington. The weekend's events will be centred on the West Plaza Hotel, 110-116 Wakefield Street, opposite the Town Hall, and Michael Fowler Centre, and within 5 minutes walk from Willis and Manners Streets.

Registrations Forms are also available on the RNZA Assn Website (rnzaa.org.nz) and may be returned by downloading the Registration Form and returning by email or post. Full details are on the Website.

Costs: Full registration \$100-00 per person; Dinner Only \$75-00:

Friday 7 November 1500 – 1900 Registration open Ground Floor, West Plaza Hotel
Mix and Mingle, Bar open
Dinner Own arrangements – dinner will be available at West Plaza
(2 or 3 course set menu, complimentary roll and glass of tap beer or
house wine, reservation essential at Reception)

Saturday 8 November 1000 – 1200 AGM, Cornish Room, 1st Floor, West Plaza Hotel
Lunch Own arrangements, lunch will be available at West Plaza
1330 Buses depart from West Plaza for tour of Wrights Hill Fortress
(return approx 1600) (see www.whfrs.org.nz)

Partner's activities – Zealandia Sanctuary, Karori (see zealandia.com)

There is an extra charge of \$12.00 for this option.

1800 – 1900 Pre-dinner drinks – cash bar, Cornish Room, 8th Floor West Plaza
1900 – Semi-formal Dinner – Dorset Suite, 1st Floor, West Plaza

Sunday 9 November 1000 RNZA Association Commemorative Service, Wellington
Cenotaph, corner Lambton Quay and Bowen Street.
Followed by Morning Tea (location TBA) and Dispersal

Accommodation: The West Plaza Hotel has provided the following deal on accommodation for the weekend:
Arrival Friday 7 November Departure: Sunday 9 November

Standard double or twin room Rate: ***\$135 incl GST and breakfast, per room, per night***

Quote “Royal NZ Artillery Association” when booking, Book direct with hotel (reservations@westplaza.co.nz) Note: offer is **NOT** available through travel agents or third party website

A wide range of other accommodation options is available in central Wellington – suggestions will be published on the RNZA Assn Website.

Partner's Tour: This will be a visit to Zealandia Sanctuary – a predator free wildlife sanctuary in Karori where visitors have the opportunity of seeing and hearing, in their natural environment, many species of native birds (tui, bellbird, saddlebacks, stitchbirds, tomtits, NZ robins, fantails, kaka etc) as well as tuatara. Transport will be on the buses going to and from the Wrights Hill Fortress. In the time available, a short walk will take visitors to areas where the birds and tuatara may be seen. A major audio-visual exhibition is available for a small charge in the entrance building alongside a cafe.

8. RNZA Assn 2014 Reunion



80th Annual Reunion and AGM 7 – 9 November 2014 **Registration Form**

Number Attending: _____

Initials and Surname: _____

Contact Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ (Mobile preferred)

Service No: _____ Active Service theatre and years: _____

Names for labels: _____

Registration fee: \$100.00 per person – includes all following activities except entry fee at Zealandia.
Dinner only \$75-00.

Please indicate numbers attending.

<i>Day</i>		<i>Event</i>	<i>Numbers attending</i>
Fri 7 Nov	PM	Registration/ Meet & Greet	_____
Sat 8 Nov	AM	AGM	_____
	PM	Tour Wrights Hill Fortress	_____
		Partner's Tour – Zealandia Sanctuary (cost \$12-00)	_____
	Evening	Reunion Dinner	_____
Sun 9 Nov	AM	Commemorative Service	_____

Payment: *There is a non refundable administration fee of \$20.00, which covers the basic cost of the registration documentation including Name Tags, Venue Hire and incidentals.*

TICK THE METHOD OF PAYMENT

_____ I have paid by Direct credit to the Association's Kiwibank Account (38 9007 0694501 00).
Ensure your name is recorded with Reunion in reference box.
Fill out OnLine Registration form on www.rnzaa.org.nz

_____ My cheque is enclosed
(Mail cheque with this form completed to: RNZA Assn, 18 Walford Drive, Rotorua 3010)

Email Contact Details: rnza.association@gmail.com

Registrations will close on 30 September 2014

9. RNZAA 80th BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION PHOTO

Thursday 10 July marked the 80th Anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the “The NZ Permanent Forces Old Comrades Association”, later to become “The Old Comrades Assn”, and in 2007 to be renamed “The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association”.

The occasion was celebrated by 25 “Old Comrades” with a photo taken outside the Masonic Hall at Devonport, (the site of the inaugural meeting back on 10 July 1934), and afterwards a cup of tea at the Devonport RSA.

We received an apology and congratulations from Brig (rtd) Les Wright (WW2), and Bob Bilkey(WW2).

Inclusion in the photo shoot was a small gesture by those who attended to reinforce the message that “we will remember them”.

Ubique. Tony McLeod, President, RNZAA Assn



Back Row (L-R); Tony McLeod (Pres), Alister Irving, Tony Irving, Bill Stewart (Mal), John Stewart, Max Carpenter, Trevor Pilcher (SVN), Ross Goldsworthy (SVN), Peter Miles (SVN), Harry Akarana (SVN), Bernie McCort (Sec/Tres), Greg Thwaite (Vice Pres), Doug Swanson (SVN)

Front Row (L-R); Mike Dakin (SVN), Alan Taylor (KForce), Colin Stanbridge (KForce), Bevan Haysom(WW2), Lloyd Bell-Booth (WW2), Ray Cranch (WW2), Barry Dreyer (SVN,Col Comdt), Frank Whiting (WW2), John Foote(WW2), Brig (Rtd) Ray Andrews (SVN), Alan Hayman (KForce), **Unknown**, and Rod Simpson (SVN).

The New Zealand Permanent Force Old Comrades Association Is Born

Gunners of the Auckland RNZA Station began the Association, chief amongst its initiators being WO2 (BSM) Thomas Sinclair Power of the Coast Cadre, North Head. He called a meeting of serving and retired members of the Permanent Force and Armed Constabulary of whom 30 met in the Masonic Hall, Devonport, on **10 July 1934**.

Capt WQ Kewish RNZA Rtd, the senior present, was asked to preside. Lt VG Jones, who had retired in 1931 as a WO1 (Honorary Lieutenant), briefly outlined the object of the meeting, after which the Chairman called upon BSM Power to provide the details. Tom Power gave the reasons why an association should be formed, not least of which was the need to assist former comrades who had fallen upon hard times. It was decided at this meeting to call the Association “Past and Present RNZA Assn” but at the first meeting of the Executive Committee on 18 July 1934 the President, Major General Sir George Richardson KBE,CB,CMG, who occupied the chair, moved to the adoption of the title “The New Zealand Permanent Force Old Comrades Assn”. This title, he asserted, was more apt because it indicated the origins of its members.

11. "A" Bty 2014 Reunion



150 YEARS OF ARTILLERY IN AUCKLAND!

There was an attempt to form a volunteer artillery company in Auckland in 1858. This failed due to lack of guns and the unit became infantry. A Battery Auckland Artillery Volunteers was then formed in 1864, when there were guns available. Dunedin asked for a Bty in 1863, but it took a long time to get the request to the Govt in Akld and approval back to Dunedin, and gazetted. By that time Akld had got ahead with A Bty. All of this was officially recognized in 1878 with the formation of the New Zealand Regiment of Artillery Volunteers when A Bty was named and accepted as originating in 1864.

Barry Dreyer
Colonel Commandant, RNZA

27 SEPTEMBER 2014

The Alpha Battery 150th Anniversary Committee calls **All Gunners**,

- Old or current,
- horse-drawn or motorised,
- field, medium, heavy, antiaircraft, or coastal,
- Regular Force, National Service, or Territorial Force,

to help celebrate the 150th year of the presence of Artillery in Auckland. This is a dual celebration, for Alpha Battery, and for the Artillery Band. **Bring another Gunner with you!**

The key events are as follows:

1. Parade, Saturday 1100 h, Quay Street, Downtown Auckland.
2. Brew-Up, Saturday 1500 h, Gun Lines, 11/4 Battery, Arch Hill, Grey Lynn.
3. Formal Dinner, Saturday 1800 h for 1830 h, Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, Westhaven.
4. Artillery Band's Church Parade, Sunday 1000 h, St Mathews in the City, Hobson Street.

The cost of the Formal Dinner will be \$80 per head, with a cash bar.

Please respond promptly with the form overleaf to:

A Battery 150th Anniversary
C/o Peter Fraser
21 St Andrews Road
Epsom, Auckland 1023 or

Email: peter_fraser@xtra.co.nz or

Mobile: (021) 908208 or

Fax: (09) 3798449

.....For updates, visit the RNZA Association website: rnzaa.org.nz.....

11. "A" Bty 2014 Reunion



Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Battery & and dates of service: 11(A) Battery or successor subunit

Battery: _____

Dates: _____

Position (e.g., BC, or BG) or Trade (e.g. gun crew): _____

Other Battery(ies): _____

Dates: _____

Regimental number (optional): _____

Attendance - Partners are welcome

Attending Parade? No/Yes

Attending Brew-Up? No/Yes _____ persons

Attending Formal Dinner? No/Yes _____ persons

Attending Band's Church Parade? No/Yes _____ persons

Attending Band's Church Parade? No/Yes _____ persons

The cost of the Formal Dinner will be \$80 per head, with a cash bar.

Payment Method (circle one):

Cheque: Please make cheque payable to "A Battery 150th Anniversary" and post along with the registration form to: A Battery 150th Anniversary, C/o Peter Fraser, 21 St Andrews Road, Epsom, Auckland 1023.

Direct Credit: "A Battery 150th Anniversary", ASB Mt Eden, 12-3048-0494015-03 (with your name in the reference field, so we can identify your payment) and post, scan or fax your registration to Peter Fraser as above.

11. A SELECTION OF PHOTOS FROM THE EVSA REUNION HELD AT ROTORUA



Graeme Black BQMS 1965 and Chief Clerk 1967 and Ivan (Pud) Kerslake BG 1966



Paul O'Connor
Bty Svyr 1966 and
Svy Sgt 1969

John (Woody) Barrett
Bty Svyr 1968



Kevin Stone Dvr Op 1968



RNZA ASSN VISITS HAKARA RSA,
Peter (Nig) Botica and his display

12. THE ANZAC LANDINGS

Extracts from notes written at the time by Captain Reg Miles RNZA, 4 (How) Bty NZFA

Saturday 24th. We left our quiet anchorage at 6:30 a.m. and steamed about 20 miles then "stood by" all day, proceeding "slow ahead" in the evening. We had to go down to Cape Helles to hand over some horse boats to the British division before proceeding to our landing place. At about 4 a.m. on the 25th (Sunday) we were awakened by the thunder of big guns, the first time I had heard guns firing in earnest. I was not long in getting up and we could see the flashes of the ships' guns. As it got lighter and we came in closer we could see the ships firing and the shells bursting on the shore. We sailed up between two lots, one of which was bombarding the Asiatic coast and the other, the Peninsula. A Russian ship was banging in broadsides as hard as he could go a few hundred yards from us and British, French and Russian were at it all round.



Pat Killalea
"E" Gun 1968



Peter (Nig) Botica
No 4 1966 & 68
Tpt 1969

Then the "Lizzie" got hold of something and fired broadside after broadside of 15 inch guns, for a time firing lyddite at short range into a small space. The effect was fearful, all we could see was a ghastly inferno of flame and smoke and flying earth. It was "the iron rations for the Turks' breakfast going ashore". I do not know what she fired at but there could not be much of it left, the bombardment was probably the heaviest in history and a sight I never expected to see, and expect never to see a gain. Later on we could see our fellows (British) advancing by rushes in the good old style and gaining ground well. By about 10 a.m. we had got rid of our boats (*Ed. at Cape Helles*) and made up for this place.

The landing here was to be made by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps less the mounted troops. Here there seemed to be much less bombarding and things did not seem to be going so well. We were greeted by the sight of an upturned boat and later by boatload after boatload of wounded. However, I will give an account as I understand it took place.

Unlike the country at Cape Helles which is open and moderately flat after climbing a bank about 100 feet from the seashore – this country rose straight from the beach in steep precipitous banks and precipices about 700 feet into a hilly area covered with thick shrubs from 5 to 8 feet high and intersected by deep steep sided ravines. The steep slopes facing shore were entrenched in places and Turks and machine guns hidden in the scrub right down to the water's edge, while concealed gun swept the seafront with shrapnel. Against this the 3rd Australian Brigade under Col MacLogan started to land under cover of darkness, the covering party of 1500 men was brought as close as possible in torpedo boat destroyers, then transferred to boats and rowed ashore. The instructions were that the officer in the bow of each boat was to be the first to land and form up his boatload on the beach, lying down if under fire.

What happened was, there were a good many casualties in the boats and as soon as shallow water was reached the men scrambled overboard, threw off all equipments except rifles, bayonets and ammunition, on the beach and made a desperate rush. There was no forming up, every man was his own general and with a mad rush they took the trenches without firing a shot. Even then they did not stop but found their way up the hill by following the retreating Turks, the only mistake they made was that they did too well. They went ahead so fast that they got ahead of their supports, their ammunition and their entrenching tools. When the Turks were reinforced our fellows could not hold on but had to fall back and the supports could only help that

withdraw until they got some sort of cover, held on desperately and dug in.

It was in falling back that the casualties were so heavy and though the men stuck to their mates marvellously, carrying them back with Turks following at 40 yards, yet nearly all the wounded had to be left. Maj Grant, my old company commander, was shot through both legs, one of his men carried him until he was again shot, this time through the stomach and had to be left. Hill, in charge of my old platoon was shot through the mouth, Barclay killed, and so on. In the 3rd Brigade were four Duntroon men, Smith, Patterson, Boase and Selby – the first three were killed the first day, and Selby has since lost his right arm.

By the evening matters were very critical and the artillery were not allowed to land. At 10 p.m. the infantry off our boat went ashore – we turned into bed then but at midnight word was brought for us to go ashore. Out we tumbled and I had to superintend the slinging of the guns and wagons out of the hold and into the pontoons, while Gardner watched the horses go over. It was raining slightly and pitch dark but shortly after 2 p.m. we had the left section (half battery) ready. The tow did not come for some time and it was nearly daylight when we got ashore. The pontoons were grounded stern on, ends lowered and guns and wagons limbered up and run ashore by hand. Teams from an Australian battery were waiting and with the help of drag ropes hauled the two guns about 50 yards up the hill. One gun was brought into action, our Colonel gave us a rough line and range and "bang" went the first shot our battery had ever fired, just to let the infantry know our guns had landed.

We were the first New Zealand battery in action and owing to the steep hills were the only guns of much use during the first week. Major Falla detailed me to take charge of the second section when it came ashore – I went off and found two gun epaulements partly prepared in a position to support our left. I then scrambled up the hill with a telephone and two men to find a place to control from, only to find I had reached the same place as the Major from the other side of the ridge, no good both being there so down again and off in another direction. By this time the guns were ashore. We scrambled along through thick prickly scrub over rough gulleys and skirted the bottom of the cliffs trying to find a way out. At last we came to a ridge our infantry were holding and scrambled up it until we eventually landed in the foremost trenches and here we have been ever since, though the infantry are somewhat further on, and our little spot is now comparatively peaceful and serene.

The next entry is dated 3rd May 1915.

13. THE EXPERIENCES OF A LIFETIME -People, Personalities and Leaders in the First World War. The Centenary History of New Zealand and the First World War.

Location: Old Museum Building, Massey University, Wellington.

When: Friday 22 August 2014, Saturday 23 August 2014 and Sunday 24 August 2014.

The First World War shaped our country - it gave us the sense of ourselves as New Zealanders, as an independent nation, and forged our place in the world.

While it separated us physically, the war brought us together emotionally, and strengthened the bond with Australia that has continued down the generations.

The First World War was pivotal to world history, creating a lasting legacy with repercussions to this day. New Zealand which had a population of just over one million people at the time, sent more than 102,000 men and women overseas to support the Allied war effort. Of these nearly 60,000 became casualties and some 18,000 were killed.

And yet the full story of the New Zealand's experience of the First World War has never been told.

Until Now.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War, Massey University, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, and the New Zealand Defence Force and the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association have joined forces in "The Centenary History of New Zealand and the First World War" project to produce a definitive history of New Zealand's experience during the deadliest conflicts in world history.

Progress Update: Considerable progress has been made since its inception in 2011.

(a) The Books: Two volumes in the series have been published, six more are in the preparation and work on two more has commenced this year. The books in the Centenary History series will number up to 13 in total, will each explore a different aspect of the war, covering the major campaigns in Europe and the Middle East, New Zealanders' contributions in the air and at sea, the experiences of soldiers at the front and civilians at home, the Maori war effort, and the war's impact and legacy.

(b) The Project: The project will have a digital presence, with interactive content, maps, statistics

and school resources published via the firstworldwar.govt.nz website.

(c) The Conference: The experience of a Lifetime: People, Personalities and Leaders in the First World War is the major international conference hosted by the Centenary History Partners, the proceedings of which will be published.

Speakers include:

Gerry WRIGHT- New Zealand's First World War 1 Casualty.

Dr Mesut UYAR - Esat Pasha on 25 April 1915: Ottoman 111 Corps in Crisis.

Dr James WATSON - Two styles of Leadership: Churchill, Kitchener and Turkey, 1915.

Dr Christopher PUGSLEY - Major-General Sir Andrew Russell and the New Zealand Division-A Command and Tactical Assessment.

Cost to Attend: The conference fee is \$250 per person and includes Friday evening opening, morning and afternoon teas and lunches Saturday and Sunday (No GST).

For further enquiries please contact Tessa Lyons t.r.lyons@massey.ac.nz

However for the history to be truly complete and a fitting tribute to all those who served and suffered, donations to complete the series are being sought. For more information or to learn how you can support the Centenary History project please contact Maree Hoare at m.hoare@massey.ac.nz



14. Q STORE ITEMS FOR SALE



1. POLO A: (Above)

Word Gunners (logo) on right breast with Gun Crest on left breast. **Cost: \$65.00 each**
Colour: Black with Red piping and embroidered logos.



2. POLO B: (Above)

Gun Crest on left Breast. **Cost \$60.00 each**
Colour: Black with red piping and embroidered



crest

3. POLO C: (Above)

Word Gunners (Logo) on left breast. **Cost \$55.00 each**
Colour: Black with red piping and embroidered

Note: Due to the manufacturer having a minimum order quantity requiring the RNZA Association to have paid purchase requests for 10 or more shirts there may be a reasonable lead-time between placing/paying for and receiving your shirt.



4. NAME TAG (Above Left)

Laser etched with gold lapel pin permanently affixed **Cost: 27.50 each** **Colours** Black background, white lettering.

5. LAPEL PIN (Above Right)

Cost \$10.00 each



6. Right RNZAA Baseball Cap Type B (Right)

New style, embroidered Gun Crest. **Colours:** Black with red piping
Cost: \$25.00 each



7. RNZAA Coffee Mugs (Above)

Colours: Cobalt Blue with gold printed logo.
Cost \$25.00 each

Behind the Lines: The Editors Page

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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, 18 Walford Drive, Lynmore, ROTORUA 3010.**

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.

Web Items to Web Master at: **webmaster.rnzaa@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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