



ESTABLISHED 1934
**NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES
 ASSOCIATION (INC)**

Secretary. (John Rout)
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WEB SITE - www.riv.co.nz/rnza/

NEWSLETTER No. 114

JUNE 2002

ROUTINE ORDERS

LAST POST:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| ✓ Mrs Joan Transom | Wife of the late Terry Transom a long time member and committee member of the Assn in Auckland Feb 2002. |
| ✓ Phillip Pryce | Life Member in Levin Jan 2002 |
| ✓ A.S. (Darkie) McWhinnie | Life Member in Palmerston North, December 01, age 89. |
| ✓ Lt Col J.F. Spring MBE | Life Member in Auckland on 8 April 02 |
| ✓ Doug Adams | Associate Life Member in Wellington on 1 April 02 |

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| ✓ Hugh Gibson | to: Hodgson House, Botanical Road, TAURANGA |
| ✓ Bill Beveridge | to: Beaver Lodge, 1 Summerhaven Place, Ohauiti, TAURANGA |
| ✓ Capt R. Croker | to: 39 Horore Drive, RD 4, PALMERSTON NORTH |
| ✓ Maj Paul Kitney | to: Villa 11 Grevillea, 27 Temperley Street, Nicholls ACT 2913, AUSTRALIA |
| ✓ Maj R.G. Stephens | to: 2B Karina Crescent, BLENHEIM |
| ✓ Maj Roger Newth | to: 36 Hollis Road, PARAPARAUMU BEACH |
| ✓ Gavin Thrush to: | to: 20A Lloyd Drive, HAMILTON |
| ✓ Harry Crawford | to: 21/33 Bruce Road, Woodridge, Queensland 4114, AUSTRALIA |
| ✓ Lt Col John Wasson | to: 7690 Goulburn Valley Hwy, Kialla, Victoria 3631, AUSTRALIA |
| ✓ Maj Shay Bassett | to: M6/45 Stanley Point Road, Devonport, AUCKLAND |
| ✓ Maj Denis Dwane | to: 384 Great south Road, PAKAKURA |

NEW MEMBERS

Captain John Blaker, new associate member.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS (On reaching the age of Eighty)

Capt Peter Dixon, Mrs Helen Agar, Major Bryan O'Connor, Major Jerry Meyer.

RESIGNATIONS

G.R. Anderson

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Year to date we have collected just over half the subs required to make members financial till December this year. This is a good response however, there are still a good number who need to pay up. Unfortunately we have had to delete eleven of our members from the roll for non payment over three years. These members may be re-instated under Assn' Rule 4(f) i.e. they will need to pay all arrears due by them at the time their membership ceased.

FROM THE EDITOR

NEW ZEALAND OPERATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL.

The government have approved the issue of this new medal. It is available for issue to all service personnel who have taken part in Active Service Operations, for New Zealand, since World War II. If you think you are eligible you will need to apply for it. I can supply application forms or you can apply directly to: The Medals Section, C/- 5 Base Logistics Regiment, Trentham Camp, P.O. Box 905, UPPER HUTT. You will need to supply: First Name(s) & Surname, Current Residential Address, Military Service Number, Last Rank Held, the Theatre, Unit and dates of Operational Service, and any Campaign Medals you have been awarded.

MORTAR & GUN LOCATING RADAR. (extracts, with permission, from the RAA Assn' "GUNFIRE" Magazine)

During WWII LAA Radar operators, at Anzio in 1943, discovered that they could detect Mortar Bombs in flight. As a result of this discovery Mortar Locating Radar came into being. At first AA Radars were used and I am sure many of our members will remember the RNZA's first attempts with 3 Mk 7 Radars, Artillery Boards and complicated mathematical formulas. This all took time but could produce a location accurate to within 25yds.

How things have changed. The latest Radars exploit revolutionary advances in radar technology. Radars such as the European tri-national COBRA (Counter Battery Radar) use active phased arrays. These comprise hundreds of small radar transmitter/receivers built into a single antenna, operating collaboratively and able to track many projectiles simultaneously. This Radar is designed to locate 40 batteries (which means locating several guns, mortars or rocket launchers in each battery and deducing battery centre) in 2 minutes. Of course the Modern Locating Radar can also observe own artillery fire and in most cases can not only detect the hostile battery location but simultaneously calculate the target location and direct own fire back onto it.

Radar is active, that means it emits a beam that is easily detected and the source located by electronic warfare systems. This vulnerability means that they are normally only switched on for short periods when a listening post reports gun fire etc. So the human ear is still needed, although likely to be replaced by new, passive, sound ranging systems linked directly to the Locating Radars.

AUCKLAND AIR DEFENCE ARTILLERY DURING WWII. (Copied from a report by Major Martin Blampied in the Auckland Herald 1964)

In September 1939 two 3 Inch Mobile Anti Aircraft Guns were deployed on the summit of Mt Victoria, North Head. There was no hint then that by the time the war threat to New Zealand receded in 1944, there would be, 46 Heavy Anti Aircraft, 36 Light Anti Aircraft guns and many Search Lights positioned round Auckland. At that time Auckland was classified a "First Class Defended Port". How lucky we all are that these defences were never needed.

2002 REUNION IN TAUPŌ

Guest Speaker. The guest speaker at this years reunion dinner is to be Chief Inspector Sherwood Young of the NZ Police. Chief Inspector Young is an official historian for the police and is at present producing his third volume on Police History. He is still employed part time by the police. Our origins date back to the NZ Armed Constabulary so come along and listen to the Chief Inspector.

Reunion Dates. A reminder that the dates to set aside for this years reunion are: arrive pm Fri 1 Nov, AGM and Dinner Sat 2 Nov and Church Parade Sun 3 Nov. **Come and join us we do have a great time.** Notices for attendance, accommodation etc will appear in the September News Letter.

Reunion Padre. The committee has decided that the time has come to give Padre Bill McLeay a well earned rest. Padre Bill has been a good friend to the Assn' and has conducted our Reunion Church Parades for many years. As a mark of respect for his excellent service Padre Bill and wife Tui will stay on the roll as Honorary Members. At future reunions the Taupo RSA Padre assisted, when possible, by a serving Army Padre, will conduct the Church Parade. At this time the RSA Padre is The Rev John Dermot Buchanan. In the Queen's Birthday Honours Padre Derm was made a Member of the NZ Order of Merit, for services to the Community. Congratulations Padre.

REUNION 2001

At the Feb 02 committee meeting the following vote of thanks, to be published in this News Letter, was passed:

It was moved Graham Black seconded Shay Bassett that a vote of thanks be accorded to John Rout for the great success of the 2001 Reunion. The dinner in particular will take a lot of beating.

The vote however should not overshadow the sterling efforts in the past by Jim Ross. It could be likened to Jim setting the Stage and John turning on the lights.

NOTICES FOR FUNCTIONS GATHERINGS ETC

If you want to advertise a function etc in this News Letter please remember that we only produce four a year in March, June, September and December. Therefore we need the information well in advance of the News Letter being printed e.g. for Gunner's Day we need it in February for the March issue and for St Barbara's Day in August for the September issue.

FROM THE WEBSITE (Webmaster Catherine Rivers)

Website Address: www.riv.co.nz/rnza/

BEST SITE In the May 02 Net Guide our Website was listed in the Top 50 sites and was one of the six best international sites with information about the Viet Nam War. The report in the Net Guide headed "Kiwis at war" included a small photo' of an FO Party resting while on patrol. The site is now receiving 4000 hits a week. **Well done Catherine all the glory for this is yours.**

5th FIELD REGIMENT Northern Reunion.

On 2 May about six original 5 Fd Regt members of 2 Echelon and nearly 40 others from later reinforcements gathered at the Mt Wellington-Panmure RSA to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of their departure from NZ. Among those present were Allan Boyd (the organiser), Ken Gibson (A Tp Commander), Terry Nolan, Jimmy Nichol, Bob Cox, Alan Paton, Fred Anderson, Sid Amies (from Kerikeri), Ron Hassett, and Alec Henderson. The event was so successful, they have decided to gather again next year to celebrate the 63rd anniversary. A similar function was held in Mosgiel.

HOW TO VIEW THE WEBSITE WHEN YOU DON'T OWN A COMPUTER

The address of the website is riv.co.nz/rnza/ (pronounced: riv dot co dot en zed slash ar en zed ay slash), and you can view it using any computer that is connected to the internet. Most public libraries have such machines and anyone can use them by paying a small fee, usually around \$5 for half an hour. Ask at the counter and tell the staff that you want to visit this website.

When you load the site, you will see the main page with images and text. Any text that is blue is a link to another page, so click on it with your mouse and you will be taken there. Some of the images are also links, so move your mouse around the screen and over the images until the cursor changes into a hand – then click with the mouse. Lo! Another page will load. You are now surfing the net. You can't break it. Enjoy yourself. Try not to spend longer than one hour at a time at this.

To see recent additions to the website, visit the "What's New" page and click on the links there. Catherine is still looking for any gunner material. If you have something that may be of interest, no matter how trivial, Catherine will accept it and if possible use it. You can get in touch with Catherine by Email through the secretary link in the Website, by telephone (06) 327 8831, by surface mail to: C. M. Rivers, RD3 MARTON, or through the secretary (see the News Letter Heading)

Catherine intends to take a computer to the reunion this year to show, those interested, how to use the Internet.

FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS

Bill Beveridge & Hugh Gibson, are both recovering from a recent illnesses. They did manage to get to the Gunner's Day luncheon in Tauranga, a good sign.

Major Denis Dwane has been posted back to Papakura where he will serve out his time as the Papakura Camp Commandant. For those who don't know, the SAS and a few support personnel are moving back into Papakura Camp, which has been considerably refurbished and down sized.

John Wasson, Has checked in from Australia, he is working as a project manager, development and business, for a construction company in South Australia. He and other Ex Viet Nam Vets gather at the Shepperton RSL on Friday nights to swing the lights. One Vet he sees quite often is Barry Toohill who was an FOO attached to 161 Battery. John sends his regards to all who know him.

Pat McInernney, was commissioned into the rank of Lt & QM last Sep'. Pat is working in the Honours Secretariat in the Prime Ministers Dept, Parliament Buildings as Defence Liaison Officer.

Peter Dixon, now 80, says that it is catching up with him a bit but he is still on the right side of the grass. He wished to be remembered to all the 10th Coast and 14th Comp AA members of his time.

Bryan and Paul O'Connor. Bryan, now a Life Member, had a couple of rounds of golf at a recent Army Museum Fund Raising tournament. Paul went along to the prize giving with his dad and it was a great reunion. Others attending were Graeme Henderson and Tillyshort from the deep south. Paul also mentioned a gathering with Dave Roberts and Bill Giles during their travels, at the Christchurch RSA. Paul is on the executive of the RSA and another gunner, Pat Duggan, is the Secretary Manager.

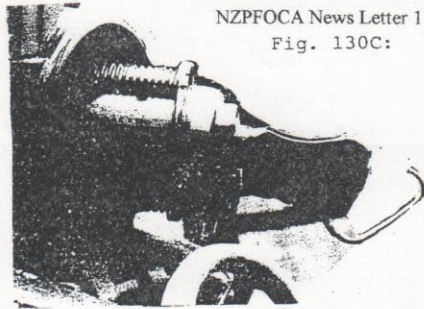
Jim Horn has been in touch from the deep south. The Southern Gunners were to celebrate Gunner's Day in Bluff with a wreath laying ceremony at the war Memorial and afternoon tea etc in the Bluff RSA. Hope the weather was kind to you all Jim and the taste of the etc was enjoyed by all. Jim Also reported that Maurie Chittock is not in the best of health.

Darkie Forrester came up to Auckland to attend a Navy reunion and stayed a lot longer than intended. While in Auckland Darkie ended up in North Shore Hospital, then a short time in Greenlane for surgery, back to North Shore then home to Christchurch three or so weeks later than planned. All the best for a rapid recovery Darkie.

GUNNER'S DAY

Gunner's Day Dinner Papakura.

All up, 122 people attended our 286th Birthday Dinner in the Papakura RSA on Sun 26 May. The Dining President was Rod Baldwin ably assisted by Mr Vice, Neil Moros. Col Graeme Wilson, RNZE, proposed the toast to The Regiment and our Col Commandant, Brig' Ray Andrews, replied. John Barrett proposed the toast to Absent Friends and Maj Dennis Dwane the toast to the Ladies. During his reply Brig' Andrews mentioned that the RNZA History, being written by Alan Henderson was running a couple of months behind time. At this time WWII was complete and J Force K Force under way. He also mentioned that the painting, depicting each of three guns, 25pdr, L5 Pack Howitzer and the Light Gun, served by 16 Field Regt had been completed and would be unveiled in July. The Guns are shown, in Waiouru at the bottom of the Argo Track. The 25pdr and L5 are painted as ghosts as are some of a group of gunners standing round a Chuffa. The title is "Gun Picket". Prints of the painting will be available at a later date.



The Martini-Henry rifle lock shown in Fig. 130C was also fitted to early BL 6-in 26-cwt howitzers.

When the BL 15-pr became obsolete after the South African War the British Government offered them to N.Z. at half price - and we were still buying them as late as 1906.

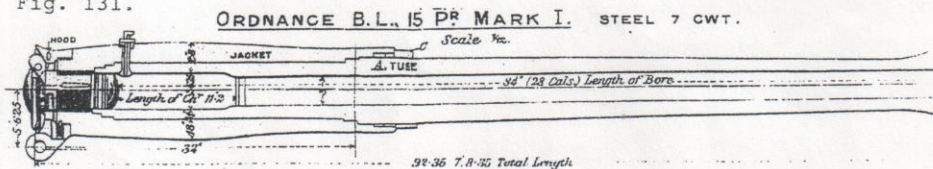
GUN CONSTRUCTION IN THE BL ERA:

THE BUILT-UP GUN: Early BL guns followed the lines of the latest RML types in length and construction, a typical example of which is given in Fig. 100. They were made by shrinking wrought iron 'hoops' or 'coils' over a rifled steel 'A' tube. A 'coil' was a hoop or tube made by coiling wrought iron of square section then welding the coils into a hoop or tube.

Steel was not then deemed of suitable quality for the heavier outer components owing to the possibility of hidden flaws. However, it was being improved by the makers, and a series of experiments in 1881 finally confirmed its reliability and superiority over wrought iron for all purposes. In 1882 it was therefore decided guns would in future be made entirely of steel.

At first the breech screw screwed directly into the 'A' tube but as the latter was subjected to the greatest stress longitudinally as well as torsional stress due to the expansion of the chamber on firing, the resulting uneven stress on the threads of the breech screw created a tendency for the latter to strip. In guns made after 1883 the breech screw was therefore made to screw into the jacket. See Fig. 131.

Fig. 131.



The BL 15-pr began life in 1883 as the BL 12-pr 7-cwt, and was issued to both RHA and RFA. To provide a lighter gun for the RHA, the BL 12-pr 6-cwt was produced in 1894. In 1896 the BL 12-pr 7-cwt was converted to the BL 15-pr 7-cwt simply by making a heavier shell for it. Modification was not difficult; changes were made to sights and firing arrangements only. The use of cordite (introduced in 1891), a more powerful propellant than the gunpowder formerly used, compensated for the reduced chamber space caused by adoption of the heavier shell. Range was 5,500 yards.

The New Zealand Government began buying BL 15-prs in 1899 and continued buying them until 1906 even though they had been superseded by the QF 18-pr in 1904 - because they got them at half-price.

Heavy BL guns were at first only some 25 calibres in length but with demand for more range, especially in the Navy and coast defence, they soon became longer. By World War 1 many had increased to 50 calibres.

As guns became longer they needed greater longitudinal strength. Instead of a series of comparatively short 'hoops' from 1885 guns were made by substituting a number of longer steel tubes. A typical example of the new construction is shown in Fig. 132, which features the BL 6-in gun thirteen of which were purchased by the New Zealand Government in 1885 for installation in the defences of the main ports.

TO BE CONTINUED