

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. 116

December 2002 SEASONS GREETINGS

Your president and committee send all members their best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. At this time our thoughts are with those of you who have lost loved ones during the year and to those of you who have not been in good health we wish you a speedy recovery.

ROUTINE ORDERS

LAST POST:

Capt Wally Russell: Life Member, suddenly in July 2002, at home in Glenfield Auckland.

Frank Wood: Life Member. Frank died approximately 2 years ago in Warkworth.

Brig John Lindsay (Lin) Smith CMG, CBE: Passed away peacefully in Tauranga on the 11th of September 2002.

John Hancox: on 3 November in Auckland.

Morrie Chittock on 22 Nov in Invercargill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Hugh Gibson to: Hodgson House, 51 Botanical Road TAURANGA 3001.

Maj Kerry Lee to: 199 Barnard Street, WELLINGTON 6001.

Lt Col Rick Williams to: 3 Valhalla Lane, Richmond, NELSON.

Lt P.L. McInerney to: Officer's Mess, Trentham Military Camp, Private Bag, LOWER HUTT.

Mr Tom Morgan to: Te Mana Home, 23 Gatman Street, Birkdale, AUCKLAND.

Lt Col John Wasson to: 6 Alan Street, Shepparton. Victoria 3630, AUSTRALIA.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs P. Connor

NEW LIFE MEMBERS (On reaching the age of eighty)

(Remember you need to let us know when you turn 80)

Brig Les Wright, Robert Forbes, now 84 I believe and Mrs Irene (Rene) McLean.

TAUPO 2002

By Graeme Black

Reunion 2002 saw us again gather in Taupo to enjoy a great weekend of friendship, anecdotes, plain old fashion bull dust and swinging lights.

Twenty six members and their guests were accommodated at the Spa Hotel which is now under new management. The accommodation, meals and service were top rate providing all who stayed there with an extremely enjoyable weekend. Whatever was asked for was provided.

The visit to the RSA on Friday was, as usual, a very nostalgic gathering of everyone who had not seen one another for the past 12 months and, as was to be expected, we were treated with true hospitality by the members and staff of the Taupo RSA.

The Spa Hotel guests returned to the Spa for the evening meal and of course more liquid refreshments. With the change of management at the Spa we were to see a number of improvements that suited our people very well. The main bar is now open again with splendid, well priced, bistro meals available and accommodation at its normal high standard. Each morning there was a buffet type breakfast provided that could only rate as 5*.

This year the AGM was held in the old Meeting House which in itself added a certain degree of nostalgia to the gathering

The AGM:

PRESIDENT'S OPENING ADDRESS AND WELCOME The AGM was held at 1000 on Saturday 2 November 2002. Bob Kerslake stood in for Bob Blankley who was unable to attend the weekend, and Graeme Black stood in for John Rout who was also unable to attend. Both Bob and John had expressed their regrets at being unable to attend and apologised.

The acting President welcomed the members to the weekend and introduced Chief Inspector Sherwood Young who was the Guest Speaker for the Formal Dinner.

Present. 30 Members and Associate Members. See the list of persons who attended the Reunion Dinner, plus Mike Subritsky, Bill Beveridge and Bert Dyson.

APOLOGIES were received and accepted from John Barrett, Bob Blankley, Alan Boyd, Brig Blackie Burns, Spencer Cocks, Ron Cross, Ivan Doak, Doug Dumbleton, Dan Foley, Neil Forbes, Frank Gibbison, Bill Godfrey, RA Harris, Jackie Harvey, Maj Gen Ron Hassett, Brian Hewitt, Brig Harry Honnor, David Hughes, Harold Jones, Kerry Lee, Vic Meyle, Brian Millynn, Ralph Porter, Les Pye, Rupert Robinson, Tom Roche, Al Ross, Jim Ross, John Rout, Iris Rowntree, Angus Rivers, Catherine Rivers, Wally Ruffell, Gordon Weaver, Rick Williams, Brig. Les Wright, Yogi Young.

LAST POST 11 Members including 1 Associate Lady Member and 1 Associate Member have passed away since the last Reunion. Their names have been published in previous Newsletters and added to the Book of Remembrance. The President asked for a minute silence in tribute to those Members.

Treasurers Report The Secretary read out notes from the Treasurer

1. Increase in Subs collected was due to arrears being received, some 3 years old.
2. Socials and Reunions reflect increased costs, but as in past years the Reunion was self funding.
3. Printing and Stationery shows an increase due to the use of a commercial printer for the Newsletters, this was partially offset by the savings in cost with our photocopier.
4. General Expenses. Donation of \$100 towards the Artillery Bar Leaner in the Papakura RSA and a wreath for the Gilberd family.

The accounts have been audited by the Assn. Hon Auditor. The Income and Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet were approved by the meeting. Copies of the Annual Accounts are available from the Secretary on request

Annual Subscription It was approved to leave the Subs at \$10, and \$5 for Lady Associates.

Bank Accounts. Cheque Account \$3004.35 and Accelerator Savings Account \$1218.22

The Cheque Account was inflated with approx \$1800 collected for the Taupo Dinner.

ANNUAL REPORTS

President and District Reps.

The President's Report was read by Bob Kerslake and is attached. Verbal District Reps Reports were presented by Jeff Waters – Auckland, Graeme Black – Waikato, Matt Crawley – Bay of Plenty, Jack Kearney – Hawkes Bay, Roger Newth – Wellington, John Masters – South Island and the Chairman read out a Brief report from Harry Honnor - Northland

Patron/Colonel Commandant Report

Brig Ray Andrews briefed the meeting on Gunner matters.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2002

In opening this report, I must first offer an apology for my non attendance at the AGM and Reunion Dinner, I will also be absent from New Zealand for much of 2003. However, I will be at next year's gathering.

MEMBERSHIP.

The current membership is made up as follows:

Members 184, Life Members 70, Associate Members 12, Associate Life Members 16, Associate Lady Members 15, Honorary Members 6, Total Membership 303.

During the year the following strength changes occurred:

Last Post 11, Resignations 4, Struck off for non payment of subs 11, New Members 5.

As can be seen from these figures, 30% of our strength are now Life or Honorary Members, the need to attract more younger members is now even greater. The Secretary will continue to push this in the news letters, but I believe the one on one approach may be the best.

REUNION VENUE

The Spa Hotel, as the main base for the accommodation is now under new ownership and is about to offer more services than have been available in the past. Any fears about the future of the facility are now gone.

NEXT REUNION

When deciding the dates for next year's reunion, we must consider the impact that the Rugby World Cup may have on attendance. The final match of the Cup will be played on Saturday 22 November 2003, a suggested date for our Reunion is Friday 28 November to Sunday 30 November.

Since there is nothing further to report let me wish you well for the remainder of the weekend.

RG Blankley MBE President

WEBMASTERS REPORT 2002

The Old Comrades' website continues to flourish. In the past 12 months, it has included articles on mortars, muzzle brakes, gun rules, breech mechanisms, coastal artillery, a chronology from 1840, a field funeral at Gallipoli in WW1, life as a POW of the Japanese in WW2, photographs from the Vietnam War, and tales of mess life. We have continued the very popular series of: The Gun (by Wally Ruffell), the development of the mortar, and the 5th and 6th Field Regiment histories. Both 163 Battery and 164 Battery have featured.

In a first for this website, we were graced with articles from father and son, with Staff Sergeant RJ Wait in WW1 and Major Robin Wait in WW2. In another first, we received a lawyer's letter warning us against the use of the trademarked word, 'Sellotape®'.

Poems, personal pages, obituaries, book reports and news items continue to be popular. Highlights from the newsletters are included, and articles that appear in those newsletters find their way into the History or Tales sections of the website.

Email to the webmaster and the secretary confirm that we are providing a welcome service to the world's artillery community, and we have been honoured recently with an award of excellence from the 28 ANZUK organisation. But the greatest accolade must be that since the last AGM, there have been 205,000 hits on our website.

We have been blessed with the histories of several formations, but I would be grateful for assistance in securing information on 5 Light Regiment, 10 Coast Regiment, and 2 Field Regiment, as well as ammunition. All information on New Zealand's artillery is worth collecting including diaries, photographs and general impressions. The website will continue, and I'd like to thank all those who have helped to make it such a success.

Catherine Rivers. PhD, Webmaster, NZPFOCA.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS The following appointments were approved.Committee

Patron	Brigadier Ray Andrews,	President	Bob Blankley
Secretary	John Rout,	Treasurer	John Barrett
Committee	Shay Bassett, Graeme Black, Denis Dwane, Ted Lile, Bob Kerslake, Jeff Waters.		

District Reps

The District Reps are to remain the same except that Matt Crawley will approach Mike Dakin to take over the Bay of Plenty.

Honorary Auditor

The Honorary Auditor to remain as Mr Neil Forbes ACA ACIS.

GENERAL BUSINESS

After some discussion it was accepted that the next Reunion be held during the first weekend of November 2003 (i.e. Fri 31 Oct to Sun 2 Nov). However, a check should be made with 'Taupo Information' that it does not clash with anything in Taupo that weekend.

Brian Meyer moved that the Church Parade be more of a dedication service, e.g. Last Post, Reveille be played, Binyon's 'Ode To The Fallen' be recited and the names of members passed on during the year be read out. This suggestion was accepted

Jeff Waters advise that prints of the 'Moor Gun Position' were available from RSM McLean during the weekend and Ray Andrews spoke highly of the painter's work.

A message was received from John Rout as to whether or not the NZPFOCA should approach the Lotteries Commission for a grant so that we can either assist Southern people north or northern people south for a reunion. John Masters pointed out that the double airfare Christchurch/Taupo was approx \$835.

The suggestion was accepted unanimously

M Subritzky briefed the members on a book he is considering in the future and requested that if anyone had any Gunner stories they could provide to contact him.

Comments from our Patron and Colonel Commandant

Brigadier Ray Andrews addressed the meeting covering many matters. The memorial from Wellington that was originally erected at the old School of Artillery by Graeme Black was subsequently shifted to the new School of Artillery under the instructions of Major Paul Jones RAA. It has now been shifted safely to Linton Camp outside 16 Fd Regt RHQ. Our 'History' is coming along very well and it is hoped to be at the publisher by Nov 2003, however, please appreciate that there is a tremendous amount of research being done for the draft framework. Cabinets are being produced for the large collection of RNZA books and Blackie Burns has bequeathed his books to us. Blackie's own book is due out soon. There is a new attitude towards the 'Guns' in Army General Staff and pleasant changes are in the wind, this includes a positive attitude towards TF Gunners.

In finishing a brief report on the AGM, it was an interesting and at times light hearted meeting conducted in a very positive manner, except that the acting secretary (WHO VOLUNTEERED) was disappearing under sheets of paper from time to time. The meeting closed at 1145 hrs and members moved outside for a group photograph taken by Tony Tustin.

THE DINNER

Before the dinner started the Dining President, Major Dennis Dwane, congratulated John Masters and Padre Derm Buchanan on their recent awards. He then read out a message received from Major General Ron Hassett, included in the letter was the following:

My wife and I would like to say how very sorry we are that we cannot be with you to share in this weekend's functions. This will be only the second occasion in almost 17 years that we have not been present. The Old Comrades Association is an organisation that we both greatly cherish as it brings together so many of our old friends.

As long as the Old Comrades Association is strong and vibrant this great Regiment of ours can only benefit from the wisdom and knowledge of all the old Gunners around this table. It is an organisation that is unique and unparalleled in its structure and its dedication to the great Regiment in which we all had the privilege of serving. Thanks to the efforts of some of our younger members the Association is stronger and more active now than it has ever been.

Once again the dinner was held at the Taupo Bowling Club and with a different table arrangement the night ended as a notable success. 52 members and guests attended the dinner which was; sadly, well down from last year's count of 72.

Members and guests present were Ray and Laurie Andrews, Shay Bassett, Graeme Black, John Blaker, Iris Boyter, Padre Derm Buchanan, Matt Crawley and Rita Moore, Barry and Maureen Cook, Denis and Margaret Dwane, Bill and Emma Giles, Jack Kearney, Don and Noeline Kenning, Bob and Betty Kerslake, Ted and Nes Lile, RSM Robert and Esther McLean, our organist Helen McMahon, from Christchurch John and Alisoun Masters, from Australia Brian Meyer and Linda Novotny, Dick Mitchel, George, Patti and Clive Miln, Bill and Estelle Morland, Roger and Lois Newth, Des and Bunty O'Connor, Mike and Sandy Pearce, Don and Lorraine Potter, Dave and Marie Roberts, Tony Tustin, Ron Turner, Jeff Waters, Roger and Jean Wylde, and our Guest Speaker Chief Inspector Sherwood and Marie Young.

Prior to the toasts the Denis Dwane assembled the Caterer and staff to thank them most sincerely for a job well done this was carried with acclamation.

(Dan Foley was to come to the dinner, with his wife from Australia, but had to pull out. He kindly donated his dinner fees towards the purchase of Port for the toasts. Thank you Dan.)

The Loyal Toast Mr Vice, Barry Cook, proposed the toast to The Queen our Captain General.

The Regiment Shay Bassett proposed the toast to the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery

The Reply Our Patron and Colonel Commandant, Brigadier Ray Andrews, replied to the toast.

Absent Friends Matt Crawley proposed the Toast to absent friends and referred to many of our great Gunners who have received their terminal posting to the great gun park in the sky.

The New Zealand Police since we have an association with the NZ Police from the Armed Constabulary it was decided to invite a representative from the Police as our Guest Speaker.

In accordance with that Graeme Black proposed a toast the New Zealand Police.

The Reply Chief Inspector Sherwood Young addressed the assembled members and guests with a very interesting history of the Armed Constabulary in the 1800 and 1900s and some interesting characters from that period. His address will appear on the website in the not to distant future.

Church Parade and Dispersal

The Taupo RSA Padre, Derm Buchanan, conducted the Service in the old Meeting House with music provided by Helen McMahon. The organ had been arranged with Theresa who was the previous manager of the Spa.

Des O'Connor read the lesson and then Derm provided the address. Although the church parade was conducted with normal due reverence, it was in a light hearted manner which made it an extremely well accepted service enjoyed by all.

After the service everyone adjourned to the Spa Bar for 'one for the road' and as normal this was paid for out of proceeds from the raffle of Wally's gun and some other donated items. This year the gun was won by Ted Lile. The Spa Bar was a very good venue for the drinks and the Spa management very kindly provided tea and coffee. Many more stories were swapped before the last members left at around 12 noon.

NEXT AGM REUNION: TAUPO WEEKEND 31 OCT TO 2 NOV 2003. PLEASE KEEP THIS WEEKEND FREE AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND. IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE MANY WHO KEEP SAYING "I MUST GO TO ONE OF THOSE SOMETIME" NOTE DOWN THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY AND MAKE IT THIS ONE.

THANK YOU.

Once again the weekend was a great success due to the efforts of many however, three deserve a separate mention. Many thanks to Dennis Dwane and Bob Kerslake for stepping and helping out in the absence of Bob Blankley and from John Rout to Graeme Black "thanks for running the show mate from all accounts you did a splendid job".

CAN YOU HELP? (If you can help, use the attached email addresses or inform the secretary.) In most cases these enquiries from our website are directed onto NZ Defence Records. Here the enquirers are looking for the personal touch.

Kevin Robinson is looking for information about his grandfather Jack Robinson, sometimes called John. Kevin understands he was an RSM or Warrant Officer in Fort Dorset during WWII. (No relation to our Rupert Robinson) email milcar@student.ecu.edu.au

Can anyone supply all the words and origin to a song or poem about "Bombardiers on Parade". A portion follows:

"I love to see the sepoy, and to hear his martial tread

And the sound of cavalry galloping goes through and through my head

But sweeter than the sweetest music [?] band has ever played

Is the ringing tramp of the bombardier when he's going on parade. **Please reply to the Secretary**

Michael Oakes is looking for information about his Father, Edward Bryden Oakes (known as "Beau"). Edward was an AA Gunner during WWII in 14th Light AA. Email moakes@austranet.com.au

Robert Neeson wants information about his Great Uncle James Robertson Neeson. James was a gunner and was involved in the battle at Sidi Aziez on the 27th of Nov 1941. email neeson@slingshot.co.nz

FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS

Brigadier Lyn Smith. There was a large gathering of family members and service personnel, past and present, at Lyn's full military funeral in Tauranga on 16 September. Although all funerals are sad occasions Lyn's family, very bravely, ensured that the funeral was a joyous celebration of his life. During the service family members spoke about his love of his family and his love of the environment in particular the New Zealand bush and bird life. The military eulogy was presented by Lt Gen Don McIver. The military duties at the funeral were carried out by Gunners from 16 Field Regiment RNZA, their turnout and drills were of the highest standard. We can be very proud of those who are now serving the guns.

Lyn was strong member of The Old Comrades and true gunner. Until he passed away he was the Chairman of the committee involved with the production of the book on the History of the RNZA.

Brigadier Blackie Burns has written a book in which he includes his adventures on the run after his capture at the first battle of El Alamein. The book, which was recently published in the Vatican City, is called "*Life is a Twisted Path*". It includes an account of the help Blackie was given by Bishop Alios Hudal. The bishop, an Austrian, was vilified after WWII and forced out of the Church after being accused of helping Nazi war criminals. Blackie tells how the Bishop was really just a kind hearted man who assisted Allied soldiers, Jews, and German deserters at his monastery near Rome. The book should be available in NZ shortly.

Henry Salt has sent a Xmas Card, from Queensland, with Seasons Greetings to all members.

Matt Crawley reports that he thoroughly enjoyed this year's reunion but was saddened by the numbers of regular attendees who were absent this year. He sends his regards to Ron & Mike Hassett, Angus and Catherine Rivers, Wally Ruffell, Gordon Weaver, Bill Powrie, R.O. Robinson, Dan Foley, Alan Boyd, Eric Bickerton, Blackie Burns and Jim Ross. Missed you guys. God bless you all.

Roger Newth had a few problems getting the Gunners Day celebrations under way in the Wellington region this year. The RSA was closed and the 18 members gathered at the Rover Bar in Lower Hutt. Next year they have decided to gather at the Carrillon at 1100hrs followed by a get together in a local watering hole of their choice. To assist with contacting members if you live in the Wellington Kapiti area and you have email facilities please contact Roger at loisandrogernewth@paradise.net.nz or Ron Turner at rjturner@lhug.co.nz.

THE GUN

By Wally Ruffell

Continued From NL 115

WIRE-WOUND GUNS:

In the 'built-up' system of construction of ordnance employed first in Armstrong RBL and later in RML guns one or more tubes or 'hoops' were shrunk over a rifled inner or 'A' tube.

In such a piece the inner tubes are thus left in a state of compression while the outer remain in a state of tension. Thus the outer tubes of the gun are made to bear a share of the firing stresses produced by the explosion of the propellant charge. Such a piece is said to be 'pre-stressed' and results in a significant saving in weight of material.

Theoretically the ideal built-up gun would be one constructed of an infinite number of thin tubes shrunk one over another. As manufacture of such a gun is not practicable, the substitution of steel wire was proposed between 1855 and 1859 to produce a similar effect.

Advantages claimed were:

- Soundness of material: tubes sometimes contained unseen flaws.
- Tension in successive layers of wire could be regulated.
- Ease of manufacture compared with built-up system.
- Steel in the form of wire or riband possesses greater tensile strength than steel in the form of tubes.

Disadvantages were:

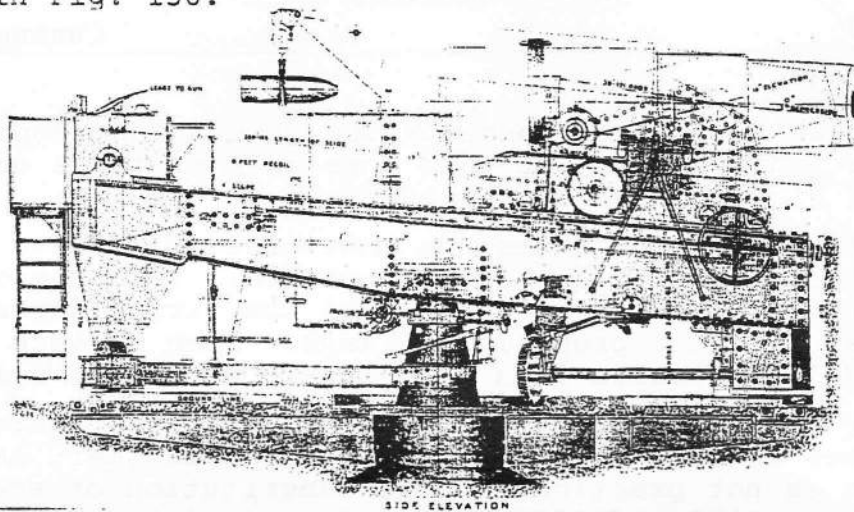
- Difficulty in providing longitudinal strength: this is overcome by providing a jacket on the external part of the gun.
- The want of girder strength, especially in heavy guns which are wired to the muzzle. There is a distinct tendency to droop in these guns.

Although in early experiments material used did in fact resemble wire, that eventually adopted was riband of steel 0.25-inch x 0.06-inch (6.35 mm x 1.5875 mm). In some smaller guns riband of 0.04-inch (1.016 mm) width was used.

[illegible]

In 1902 British guns were fitted with liners having an improved form of rifling (Mark 3).

Early BL equipments were installed in a manner similar to those of the ML era, as illustrated in Fig. 135, while some employed the Vavasseur system as in Fig. 136.



BL 10-inch
Mk 3 gun on
carriage
barbette
BL 10-inch
Mk 3.

TO BE CONTINUED