

ESTABLISHED 1934

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION (INC)

Secretary. (John Rout)

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NEWSLETTER No. 119

JULY 2003**ROUTINE ORDERS****LAST POST:**

- ✓ WOI Eddie Taylor in North Shore Hospital on the 3rd of July 2003
- ✓ George Joseph in Auckland on 11 July 2003. George was 90 and a life member.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

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| ✓ Maj Mal Nowill | to: HQ Joint Forces NZ, P.O. Box 900, UPPER HUTT |
| ✓ Maj R.O. Meyer | to: 11A Saddleback Rise, Murrays Bay, NORTH SHORE CITY |
| ✓ Brian Edmonds | to: 1/451 Severin Street, Cairns, Queensland 4870, AUSTRALIA |
| ✓ Maj John Barrett | to: 62 Coatesville Highway, RD 3, ALBANY |
| ✓ Paul O'Connor | to: 4/104 Picton Avenue, CHRISTCHURCH. |
| ✓ WOI Kemp Solomon | to: HQ Joint Forces NZ, P.O. Box 900, UPPER HUTT. |
| ✓ Barry Calder | to: 6 Anna Place, TAUPO. |

NEW MEMBERS:

- ✓ Geoff Morris. (Associate Member.) 55 Youngs Road, PAKAKURA.

FROM THE EDITOR**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Quite a good response to date however there are still over 50 members with outstanding subs. Unfortunately we have also lost several members for non payment over a period greater than 3 years.

REUNION 2003

Our annual get together is to be held in Taupo over the weekend 31 Oct 2 Nov. The programme of events is to be as follows:

Friday 31 Oct:

1600hrs. Gather at the Taupo RSA – Horomatangi Street.

Saturday 1 Nov:

1000hrs. Annual General Meeting in the Meeting House at the Spa Hotel, Spa Road.

After the AGM a small party will depart Taupo for Waiouru where a brief service will be conducted during which Wally Ruffell's Ashes will be scattered over the Waiouru Training area. For those not going to Waiouru Saturday afternoon will be free time.

1800hrs. Pre dinner drinks at the Taupo Bowling Club.

1900hrs. **REUNION DINNER** at the Taupo Bowling Club.

Dress: Gentlemen Informal, Jacket and Tie, Lounge Suit or appropriate uniform.
Medals and decorations to be worn.

Ladies Semi-formal.

Wine and Drinks.

You will be able to purchase these at the Bowling Club but **please be aware that the club does not have Eftpos or Credit card facilities.** You will need to bring along enough cash to satisfy your needs. Port for the Toasts will be supplied by the association.

The guest speaker at this year's dinner is Matron Pam Terry (nee Miley). Pam was a Nursing Sister with the New Zealand Forces in Viet Nam and has had a long association with the RNZA. I am sure we are going to be well entertained.

Sunday 2 Nov:

1000hrs. Church Parade in the Spa Hotel Meeting House. The service is to be conducted by the Rev Derm Buchanan.

Medals etc to be worn.

After the Parade one for the road will be available in the Spa Hotel Main Bar.

Afternoon. Disperse

Notes:

1. A Bistro Meal will be available at the Spa Hotel in the Main Bar on Friday evening.
2. For those who elect to stay at the Spa Breakfasts will also be available. You will need to state if you want breakfasts when you check in.
3. Accommodation Costs at the Spa hotel have been increased as follows:

Studio Units \$79 per night Double.

Chalets \$110 per night Double. Plus \$12 per night per person extra.

We have tentatively booked 10 Chalet Units and all 10 Studio units. If you require accommodation at the Spa please indicate this on the Reunion Registration Form on the last page of this News Letter. We normally fill all the Studio units so these will be allocated on a first in first served basis.

Registration.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO ATTEND THIS YEARS REUNION PLEASE FILL IN THE REGISTRATION FORM ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWS LETTER AND RETURN IT TO THE SECRETARY, P.O. BOX 72 140 PAKAPURA, BY SAT THE 27TH SEPTEMBER.

The 27th of September is the cut off date for accommodation at the Spa Hotel. Late bookings for attendance at the dinner etc will be accepted however, to give our Caterer a fair go the sooner we know the better.

The following is a request, which I endorse, from Graeme Black.

With this year's reunion looming please make every effort to attend. Last year 52 sat down to dinner and the year before 72, but the same amount of work still has to be carried out in the background by people like John Rout and others. Let us hope for an increase this year, if you have not attended in the past here is a chance to come along and reminisce. Bring along old photos they are great for unlocking past memories. Don Potter brought a wonderful group photo last year of the Papakura Arty Wing during CMT days, wow some of us looked quite young and handsome then!!!!!!

There has been a suggestion that the word Old be taken out of our name as it may tend to put the younger folk off joining or even coming along to the reunion. I think that is just an excuse, at 18 ½ I joined my School's Old Boys association without even thinking about the word Old. Believe it or not the Assn is for Gunners not old folk.

There is a special request for those who do attend and that is to bring along something for the raffle, that is, if you have a suitable prize that you can part with. Tony Tustin has taken over from Wally Ruffell and made a model cannon and I will bring along a selection of preservatives (Not preserves!!!!) and an RA key ring. The raffle has always been well accepted and a way of defraying the costs of the weekend also providing the 'One for the road' on Sunday after Church Parade.

Although there was a period where I was not a member of the NZPFOCA, I am now mystified why so many Gunners who were once proud to be Gunners, or still are, do not either join the Assn or attend the Reunion. For the period that I was not a member there was only one loser – ME. I thank the Lord that a few years back I made the decision to attend my first Reunion, and believe me, a decision never ever regretted.

See you in Taupo. Graeme Black.

BOOK REVIEW

Defending New Zealand. Ramparts on the Sea 1840-1950, by Peter Cooke, Defence of New Zealand Study Group.

Pictorial Issue. This issue includes hundreds of photographs and text covering the period. It includes items on Fixed Defences and Forces in the 19th Century, WWI, WWII Fixed Defences, Air Defence, The Home Guard, Anti Invasion Measures to mention just a few. The majority of this issue includes many photographs of the large number of Coastal Defence Guns and Gun Positions that were sited around the New Zealand Coast Line. Did you know that during WWII the Guns installed at Westport and Greymouth were MkVIII US Navy 51 cal 5 inch guns. They were the secondary armament on Battleships of the type sunk at Pearl Harbour. This gave rise to the rumour that the guns had been salvaged from the seafloor there (which was not the case). This small passage from the issue includes photographs of the guns. If you are interested in the history of our defence forces this issue is a must. It can be obtained from:

Defence of New Zealand Study Group, P.O. Box 9724, WELLINGTON or you can contact Peter Cooke by email at petercooke@paradise.net.nz the cost of the Pictorial Issue is \$25.

There are other issues which include maps and plans each costing \$25.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

The following has been copied from The GUNNER (The Official Organ of the Royal Artillery Assn) Vol. XVIII. No. 8. November, 1936. Price 4d (Thanks to Teach Macown who supplied the copy.)

On the Sunday the 11th of October 1936 in the presence of a great congregation, the Senior Chaplin of the Forces, Woolwich, dedicated the Banners of the London and Southall branches of the Assn. This took place in St. George's Garrison Church, the shrine of the Regiment.

The Senior Chaplin addressed the congregation on Banners; their origin, lost in the mists of antiquity; their object as rallying points; their presence in battle in the earliest records of the Chinese, centuries before Christ; the allusions to them in the Bible story of the Israelites' desert march to Palestine; the veneration displayed for them by soldiers of all ages; the Roman standard bearers rallying the legions at critical moments by hurling their standards into the ranks of the enemy; the VC's which had been won in saving Regimental Colours.

The Chaplin continued 'but you of the Royal Regiment of Artillery with your guns and the Battle Honour "Ubique" have no need of colours for war-like purposes. These standards which we have dedicated today are to be the rallying points of members of the R.A. Assn' in their brotherhood for the promotion of good fellowship and the relief of distressed comrades.' The Chaplin concluded with an appropriate quotation from the Book of Solomon: "His Banner over me was love."

Note the similarity to the objectives of the NZPFOCA in the last paragraph. More from this copy of The GUNNER will be published in future News Letters.

FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS

Lost Soul, can anyone help with whereabouts of Mrs E Joplin last known to be at 49 Eversleigh Road, Takapuna.

Eric Bickerton. Eric is now recovering in the Takanini Lodge, 9-11 Taka Street, Takanini. His next door neighbour is another Gunner, Vern Duley MC who will be well known to many members.

Bob Forbes, now 85, states that he would like to attend this years gathering in Taupo but is not what he used to be and won't be able to make it. He sends his best regards to you Eric Bickerton.

Enid Standen was very saddened to hear about the passing away of Wally Ruffell. She had known Wally since 1938/9 when he was in Fort Dorset with her late husband George. Enid is now almost blind and finds it hard to write. She hasn't lost her sense of humour, in her letter to the secretary she stated that it was her first Dear John letter.

This Photograph of Thelma and Henry Salt was taken as they were cutting their 60th wedding anniversary cake during their recent celebrations in Queensland.

The photo was kindly donated by George Miln who will be attending this years reunion in Taupo and hopes we have a good muster. Thank you George.



Brian Meyer has supplied an article written by Ben Furby the President of the NZ Sub Branch of the RSL in NSW. The Article titled 'Our First Hi-Tech General' is about Air Chief Marshal Dowding and his use of Electronic Warfare during WWII. Unfortunately the article is much too large to print in this News Letter however; copies by surface mail or email are available from the secretary.

ZEN FOR THE COMMON FOLK

- The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tyre.
- Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
- If you think nobody cares if you are alive, try missing a couple of hire purchase payments.
- Give a man a fish and he will eat all day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
- If you lend someone \$20, and you never see that person again, it was worth it.
- Don't squat with your spurs on.
- Timing has an awful lot to do with a rain dance.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- Some days you are the bug, some days you are the wind shield.
- It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.
- If you drink, don't park. Accidents cause people.

THE GUN

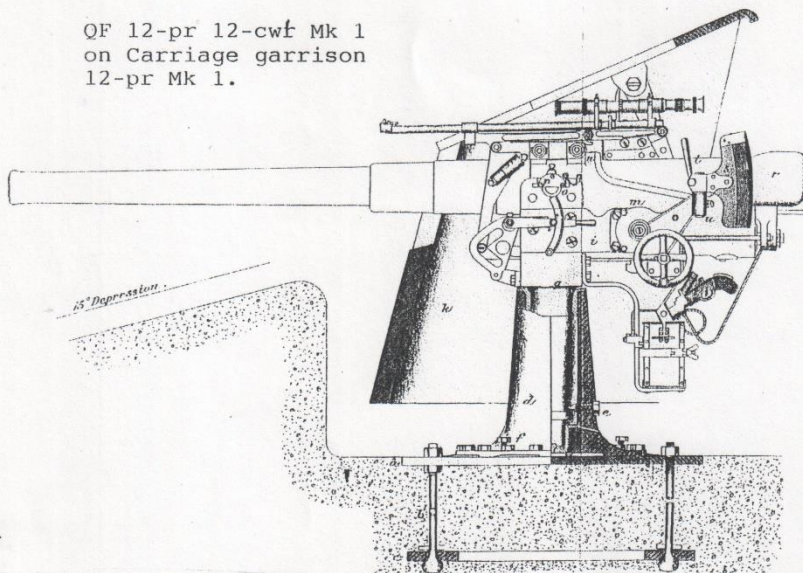
By Wally Ruffell

Continued From NL 118

Eventually demands for a more powerful gun to replace the 6-prs resulted in the 12-pr 12-cwt which entered service in both Navy and coast defence in 1894. See Fig. 146.

QF 12-pr 12-cwt Mk 1
on Carriage garrison
12-pr Mk 1.

Fig. 146.



Calibre: 3 inch (76.2 mm)

Range: 8,000 yds (7315 m).

M.V. 2258 fs (688 ms)

Elevation: 20°

Ammunition: Separate loading

Firing: Electric and percussion.

Rifling: Polygroove EOC section

Grooves: 16 - increasing twist.

Detachment: ϕ

Recoil: 12 inches (30.5 cm).

Note that the gun has no traversing gear; it is 'shoulder-controlled,' i.e. the layer traversed by means of the 'shoulder-piece' to the left of the breech.

About the time the 12-pr 12-cwt was introduced a 12-pr 8-cwt was proposed for the Navy to support landing parties. However this gun was mounted on a carriage typical of current field carriages. The recoil system fitted was inefficient, and drag shoes had to be used, as well. It was not popular with the Navy who complained it was 'too powerful' for their purposes.

The introduction of 'torpedo-boat destroyers' (later simply known as 'destroyers'), led in 1903 to the production of a number of 12-prs 18-cwt. These were similar to the 12-cwt guns but 10 calibres longer See Fig. 146B.

The 12-pr on a high-angle mounting was adapted to the anti-aircraft role during World War 1, after which it reverted to the coast role. Some were 'resurrected' during World War 2 for use on Defensively Armed Merchant Ships (DEMS) See Fig. 146A.

The 12-pr 12-cwt remained in service until the abolition of coast artillery in 1956 (1959 in New Zealand).

NB: 'cwt' is 'hundredweight' abbreviated. It is 112 lbs (51 kg).

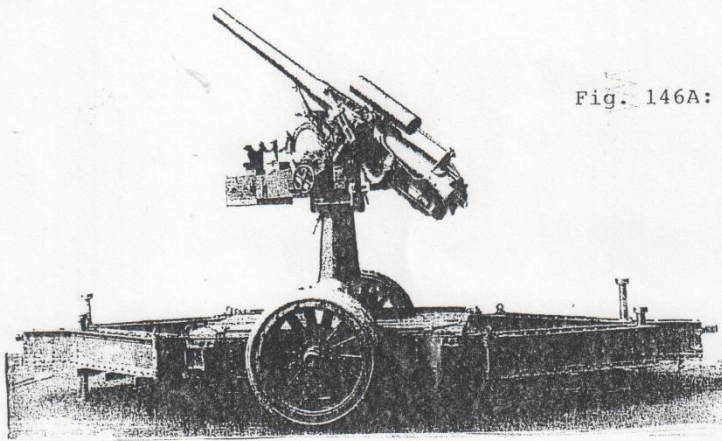


Fig. 146A: QF 12-pr 12-cwt on Carriage Garrison modified for high angle fire during World War 1.

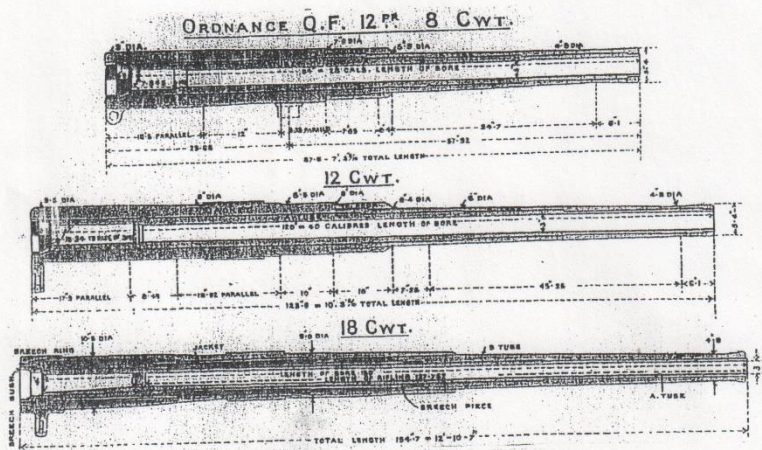


Fig. 146B.

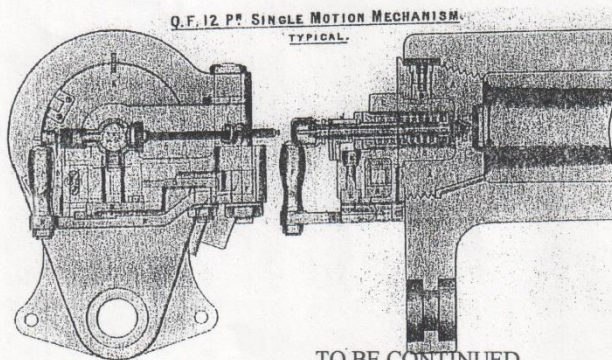


Fig. 146C.

TO BE CONTINUED

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return to the Secretary by 27 September 2003

Name: _____ will/will not be attending.
(Negative replies will be taken as an apology for absence at the AGM).

I will be accompanied by: _____
(Please include first names for use on a name card).

I require/do not require accommodation for _____ nights at the Spa Hotel.

(Please state Single/Double etc and Chalet or Studio Unit)

I enclose \$ _____ for _____ persons at \$30 per head for the Dinner.
(DO NOT enclose payment for accommodation – settle directly with the hotel).

If you do not hear back from the Secretary your request for accommodation at the Spa Hotel has been successful.

Taxi Transport, on Friday at 1600hrs, will depart the Spa Hotel for the RSA and return to the Spa Hotel at 1800hrs. On Saturday evening Taxi Transport will depart the Spa Hotel at 1755hrs and return to the Hotel after the Dinner at approx' 2300hrs. Please indicate below if you wish to make use of this transport.

Transport to and from the Spa hotel for _____ persons is required.

