

GUNNER NEWS



Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Newsletter

Issue # 169

March 2016

Kia Ora & Welcome

Unbelievably we are into March already. The older I get, the quicker the years seem to fly by. Why is that I wonder. As a young Gunner I recall some experiences that seem to last for ages and take forever. For example, my basic seemed to go on forever, it seemed an eternity when the BSM was bawling me out, 20km combat runs never ended. Now I dream about those days and sometimes wish for them again, but having the knowledge I now have. If I could do it all again, I wouldn't change a thing, but I would do it all with more intensity. Life is just too short.

Another busy year ahead for all of us. 16 Fd Regt is fully committed for the year and currently has 161 Bty in Korea and 163 Bty is headed off overseas soon.

The RNZA Association has ANZAC Day and Gunners Day commemorations in the next few months and the Auckland members are organising the Annual Reunion later this year.

Next issue I am going to start a series on Gunners then and now — looking at the changes in the life of Gunners between their service and their civilian life, so don't be too alarmed if I tap you on the shoulder.

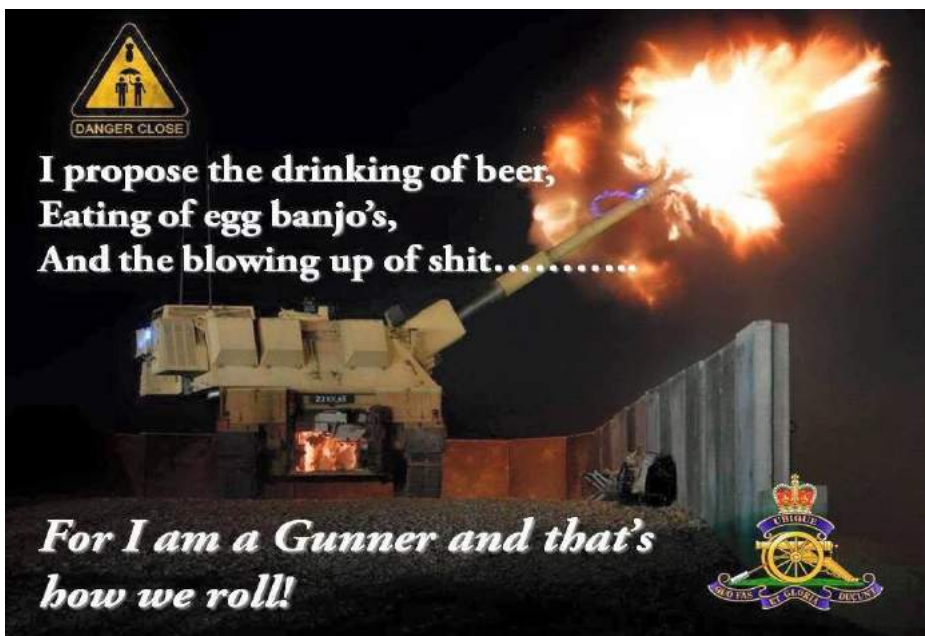
Enjoy this issue.

David Bähler

If I could do it all again, I wouldn't change a thing, but I would do it all with more intensity

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A Serviceman's face

2

Have you ever looked, really looked, at a serviceman's face?

Sometimes it's young — barely an adult — the hopes of youth still painted on its features.

Sometimes it's old — older than faith, older than wisdom, older than time. And sometimes — sometimes it's a bit of both, all at once.

Sometimes it's gritty and pained, remembering the face of another who has fallen.

Sometimes it's laughing, pleased to have a moment of peace.

Most of the time it's proud — because it knows, oh yes it knows, the world is a different place — a better place, because of it.

Next time you look at a serviceman's face, see if you can find that glint of pride.

Sometimes it's hidden, and you have to search it out.

You'll find it in the eyes — always in the eyes. For the eyes are indeed the windows to the soul — even a serviceman's soul.

And when you've carefully examined every feature of that face, stand up straight and tall and smile your best smile. Thank that soldier, or sailor or airman, because they do what some cannot or will not.

They defend what they believe to be right — with their very life. But more important, they defend a perfect stranger — you.

And when you see a flag covered casket, stand in memory of all the servicemen's faces you've examined. For when one of them falls, they all fall. And when one of them stands, they all stand.

Shouldn't we stand with them?

Editors note: The above was written for the Civil Ceremony on ANZAC Day last year in Paraparaumu. You are welcome to use it at your ANZAC Day service this year, but as a courtesy, could you please let the Editor know you are using it. Thank you.

Last Post

Blankley, Bob, 7 Dec 2015. WO1, SMA, 16 Fd Regt RNZA. Korea, SVN.

Stuck, Herbert Leslie Albert. 18 Dec 2015. Gunner, 27 Bty, 5 Fd Regt, 2nd Div. Arty, WW2.

Elliott, Edward Alan. 20 Dec 2015. Gnr, CMT

Rixon, Derek Edwin, DCM. Gnr, 16 Fd Regt RNZA, Korea.

Fraser, Brian Henry (Tam). 6 Jan 2016. 16 Fd Regt RNZA, Korea.

Foote, Jack. 2 Feb 16. Gnr, 5th Fd Artillery, 2nd NZEF, WW2.

Hare, John Robert (Jack). 12 Feb 2016. L/Sgt, 58th Light AA Bty, 2 NZEF.

Reihana, Cyril (Sid). 6 Jun 2015. 161 Bty RNZA

Mackesy, Richard (Dick) Charles Harry. 19 Feb 2016. 4 Field Regiment 2 NZEF

*They shall grow not old as we
that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning*

*We will remember them
We will remember them*



Ubique 300 Celebrations UK

If anyone wishes to attend the celebrations being held in the UK to commemorate the Tercentenary of the Royal Artillery please liaise directly with the RA Association using the following links;

1) Service of Thanksgiving, Salisbury Cathedral, 19 May 2016, email to RARHQ-Cathedral@mod.uk providing Name, Contact address/ ph #, Number of tickets, serving or retired.

2) RA Review and Tournament, Larkhill 26 May 2016, go to www.theraa.co.uk and download registration forms from the Events Calendar.

Also note that there will not be any 'tour' organised by the RNZA Assn, but if there are enough kiwis planning on attending, then we may well organise an RV point at a suitable time/location (pub) in the Salisbury area (please let me know if you do intend attending, or will be in the area).

Tony McLeod



RA Poppy Pins available from
www.poppypins.co.uk

16 Fd Regt has already had it's hands on the Ubique 300 Baton! Whilst deployed overseas last year the Ubique 300 Baton was left behind in a Middle East country by the RA. In usual Gunner fashion the Coalition Gunners stole it away for an afternoon of photo's and signatures in the accompanying log. Picture shows CO 16 Fd Regt holding the Baton with other Coalition Gunners.



ANZAC Day 2016

The 16 Fd Regt RSM, WO1 Richard Theodore advises that members of the Regiment will be parading at, or have representatives at, the following ANZAC Services:

Raglan	161 Bty
Hunternville	RHQ
Paraparaumu	163 Bty
Papakura	11/4 Bty
Papatoetoe	11/4 Bty
West Auckland	11/4 Bty
Hamilton	11/4 Bty

If you are at any of these services make yourselves known to the serving Gunners and buy them a beer or two. I'm sure they would appreciate that.

RNZAA Presidents Report

The reunion in Christchurch in November 2015 seems a distant memory, so the aim now must be to keep that same level of enthusiasm alive until the next reunion in Auckland. At this stage we are planning on either Labour Weekend, 21-23 October 16, or 28-30 October, as this is before 16 Field Regiment get into their November exercise cycle and hopefully this will allow more serving gunners to attend. We'll notify details as soon as the best alternative has been identified.

It has been tremendous to have the Royal Artillery Rugby Team touring the country. They got away to a great start with a 47-7 victory over a Navy Selection at Devonport on 27 Feb 16 showing a high level of match fitness despite very hot conditions. The Chairman of the RA Rugby Football Club Lt Col Graham Taylor arranged for a group of eight of the players to 'escort' the Captain General's baton for a viewing at my home, a great honour which will take its place in my family's 'lore' for generations to come (I hope!). My thanks to the Association members who supported the team at the match, and who enjoyed the 'intimate' viewing of the Baton. The team are a great bunch of guys and have been outstanding ambassadors for not only the Royal Artillery, but also the UK as a whole. After

circumnavigating the globe, the Baton will be presented to the Queen at the Royal Artillery Review at Larkhill on 26 May 16.

Planning is now in the early stages for commemoration of the Tercentenary of the Royal Artillery on 26 May 16. 16 Field Regt will be holding a suitable 'social event' in Linton which Association members will be invited to attend. Details are yet to be determined (Thursday 26 May or Sat 28 May?) so for those groups planning their regional Gunners Day activities around the country, please proceed with your plans and hopefully there may be the opportunity for 'double the fun' for those in the Manawatu area.

As our membership is now inclusive of ALL NZ Gunners, we have been investigating the best way of maintaining a nominal roll which will not only provide an effective data-base for recording purposes, but will also provide an easy tool for contacting our members. Our current system of having lists on Excel Spreadsheets separate from our Gmail contact list, is not robust or efficient. I would like to thank Chris Morris for agreeing to take on the task of rationalising our processes. As an IT expert Chris is well qualified for the job, and he will effectively become the Membership Secretary.

I am excited by the very positive vibe coming from the younger gunners with regard to the Association; as I said last year the 161 Battery (SVN) era of gunners has carried the Association Baton for the past 40 years and it is now time for the next generation to step up. It is happening, let's keep it going.

Ubique—Tony McLeod

*On the Battlefield, the Military pledges to leave
no soldier behind.*

*As a nation let it be our pledge that when they
return home, we leave no Veteran behind*

ROYAL ARTILLERY OTHER RANKS - Form & Function

No Mark of Rank			
Gunner - Does 90% of all known work, drinking & shagging, eats raw Cordite and Graphite Grease	L/Bdr - Paranoid gets shit from both above and below, hardest to gain, easiest to lose	Bdr - Needs to be shouty, sweary and drunk most of the time to cope with most Gunners, normally OK when in this state.	Sgt - Normally has all of the worlds woes on his shoulders or none, most mercurial of ranks, it can either go really well for him and his blokes but can quickly turn into FUBAR at a moment's notice
S/Sgt - Pension worries abound for this rank, always too much paperwork to look into Annuities & Beachside properties, Drinks to remember	WO2 - Spends most of his time "Gripping", Gunners, Pints, Steering Wheels, Officer's Throats, you name it, it gets "Gripped"	QM - All the kit is HIS, including Partially Frozen Mother's Pride, IPK that no one uses and Sandbags, usually smells of tea, cigarettes and mothballs - Happy Harry unless you want something	WO1 - Not to be questioned, approached or called unless totally and utterly in the kak, he knows everything right down to each man's shoe size and how far that shoe can be rammed

1RAR's Veterans attempting to Obtain a Citation for Units Involved at Coral:

The following was received just prior to Christmas and is of interest for those who served with 1 RAR in SVN:

It's been a very busy year for us scribes who have toiled long and hard to produce the UCG Citation submission for Defence. We are ticking & flicking the Final now so I will have it with Defence Honours by 29 Jan when we expect those in charge will be back from Xmas leave or newly posted in.

It has been a labour of 'love' with many, many hours of research, starting documents, drafts revised & revised again & added & deleted all through this year. A heck of lot of good work was done. It has taken much longer than we first thought as we identified & incorporated many new aspects of that battle that are either not covered or minimally covered in the formal and official books.

Many of you have contributed in some small or large way & we appreciate your input. We have tried very hard to incorporate enough information to highlight the contributions of the many smaller units. If we missed something you thought was important then it is because you didn't tell us. We can only ask. We have tried very hard to ensure all units & attachments were included. In any case, getting the full bigger picture" story right is the key to getting this through to approval.

We firmly believe that taking the bigger picture approach covering the full 26 days, the 4 major battles etc. and involving ALL units was the way to go.

So there you have it.... finally done & dusted as they say. Thank you for your patience & help when asked.
Pepe Prendergast

Source: 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association

New Year Honours 2016 - Citations for Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit

To be a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit:

TURVER, Mr Christopher (Chris), JP

For services to journalism, local government and the community

Mr Chris Turver has given more than 50 years to journalism, broadcasting, local government and community activities, mainly in the Kapiti region.

Mr Turver was the first New Zealand Press Association war correspondent with New Zealand combat troops in Vietnam, was wounded in action, and saw further operational service in Borneo and as a correspondent on board a New Zealand frigate to draw international attention to French nuclear testing at Mururoa.

He spent 17 years with Radio New Zealand, including Political Editor at Parliament, was involved in the development of Morning Report, and became head of News, Current Affairs and Sport. For nine years he was Greater Wellington Regional Councillor for Kapiti, championing road and rail improvements including Transmission Gully and electric rail extension to Waikanae. As Chief Executive of the Royal New Zealand Coastguard Federation he increased the number of marine search and rescue units around New Zealand and raised funds for new rescue equipment. He is President of the Paraparaumu RSA and Chair of the Electra Trust. Mr Turver earned a reputation as a tireless fighter for local and regional issues including health, transport, environmental protection, boating safety, fire safety, crime prevention, and marine conservation.



Editors Note: Chris Turver is an Honorary Gunner, having worked with 161 Bty RNZA when they first deployed to SVN and was in the ambush that result in the death of a couple of Gunners. He continues his service to the Guns as a member of the RNZAA and he is currently the President of the Paraparaumu RSA.

Jim... "Are you visiting us tomorrow? Do you need directions."

Andy... "I'm all set. I have the address, a GPS, and a GPS override."

Jim... "What' a GPS Override?"

Andy... "My wife."

Sandi v
www.wackywits.com

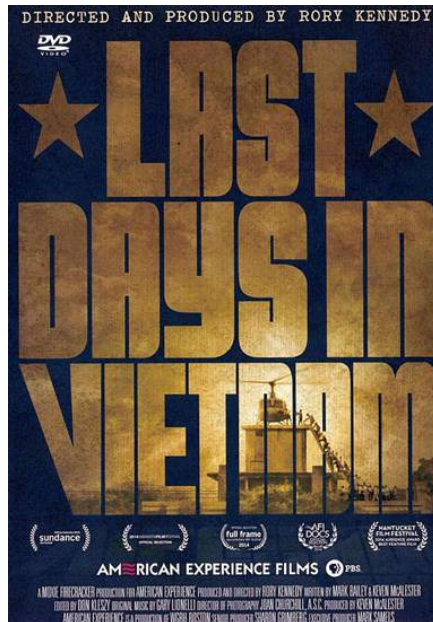


Have you ever wondered what happened after we left SVN?

This documentary film, released earlier this year and tells the story very well.

The synopsis of the film reads :

During the chaotic final weeks of the Vietnam War, the North Vietnamese Army closes in on Saigon as the panicked South Vietnamese people desperately attempt to escape. On the ground, American soldiers and diplomats confront the same moral quandary: whether to obey White House orders to evacuate US citizens only - or to risk treason and save the lives of as many South Vietnamese citizens as they can.



Do you want to watch this? If so send a 4 MB flash drive (memory stick) and a stamped addressed envelope to :

English Tie & Medal Co.
6 Central Park Drive
Te Atatu South 0610
Auckland

I will copy within 10 days and return.

Did you know that the Brits have a Bty named after NZ?

During the New Zealand Wars with only 4000 troops and 2 batteries of Artillery Lt Gen Cameron launched an assault into Waikato in 1863. This engagement cost both sides more men than any other engagement of the wars.

The honour title 'New Zealand' was granted to the battery — 94 (New Zealand) Battery, 4 Regt RA

The battery is the HQ Battery. On operations, the battery runs the Fire Support Coordination Cell (FSCC). Their role is to support the current battle by coordinating and allocating joint fires assets to ground call-signs in contact.



Australian Artillery Veterans Affected by the WA Bushfires:

We often read of the massive bushfires in Australia and our country sends bush fire fighting teams to help out. Perhaps what is not so well known is that often people lose all their possessions and often this affects veterans. The following is taken from the 12th Fd Regt RAA newsletter:

“You would all have read and seen the devastation the WA fires caused at Yarloop. Les (Squizzy) Taylor SVN 1Fd Regt 66-67 and 4Fd Regt 70-71 lost his life in these fires.

Also Tony Ferraro, 104 Bty 71, had the fire go through his dairy farm. Tony and his two sons stayed and fought the fire as the wives were evacuated. They saved the two homes on the property and their dairy herd, but lost all their fodder and feed plus 30k of fencing.”

Spare a thought for our West Country cousins as they battle these bushfires.

A PERSONAL VIEW: THE PROFESSION AND BUREAUCRACY

Special Forces – in contrast to Gunners, Infantry, Armour and the other essential parts of a modern military - seem to be of increasing importance both in NZ and world-wide as Counter Terrorist Operations loom large in both military and political thought.

An influential US Special Forces Officer created food for thought recently when he revised his longstanding view that **“to be professional”** meant looking good in uniform and being technically and tactically competent. That too was largely my own view - to the extent that I thought about it at all - when serving.

But he’s now changed that view. It’s much more than that, writes Admiral Gardner Howe,* a USN career Special Forces Officer who has served world-wide in Special Operations including recently in US Pacific Command based in Hawaii.

Defence Forces such as his own have, he suggests, a dual character. Each has a bureaucratic dimension as well as support for a military profession. The “bureaucratic” part is unavoidable he says because of size and complexity. But the point that really caught my eye was his emphasis on the “dual nature” of work in the uniformed military – as a bureaucracy AND as a profession.

Bureaucracies, he argues, originate out of a clear need for efficient routine work. Characteristics are centralised planning and control, little delegation of discretionary authority, and compliance based behaviour. Gunners understand that point. It was drummed into us when we served. I doubt much has changed in 2016.

But this highly experienced Special Forces officer with obvious real knowledge of those in uniform in combat and life threatening operations argues that professions originated out of a need for the expert application of specialized knowledge. The Law and Medicine are obvious and longstanding examples.

And for effectiveness, professions need autonomy he suggests.

Such autonomy is based on trust: trust between (1) society and the profession itself, and (2) trust among the members of the profession. That trust is based on shared values [such as is now described in the NZ Army as C3I (Courage Commitment Comradeship Integrity)].

TRUST is the key within the Profession of Arms. Then follows the clincher observation:-

“My colleagues that study organisations have taught me that TRUST is largely absent from bureaucracies. In fact such organisations are specifically designed to function in LOW-TRUST environments. By contrast, TRUST is the central characteristic of a professional organisation.....each member’s actions being guided by an ethic shared across the profession.” There is a need to ensure, he urges, that the “overarching characteristic “of military service is, and remains, that of a military profession. A bureaucracy is different.

That, it seems to me, is or should be the position in NZ too. **Trust.** Working with and then relying on the guy or girl on your right or left. On the guns, within an OP or tech party and the chain of command, or as the Admiral did, working as part of small Special Forces teams. The girls and guys in Afghanistan today know it well.

Without such trust we falter in combat.

A bureaucracy is a different beast. Why is it different asks the Admiral? His answer : “Because a bureaucratic organisation will never succeed in combat; only a professional organisation can and will.”

It’s not difficult to relate to that reality when lives are at stake. Servicemen and women have a contract of unlimited liability which can be enforced by law – for the NZDF under the NZ Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971. But that formal NZ position is merely the backstop in a profession. Trust is the oil that essentially makes things hum. Trust is the key. Trust between individuals as well as up and down the command chain. That’s the hallmark of a profession as opposed to the bureaucratic component. Countless civilian organisations copy the successful parts of our style.

The bureaucratic aspect of a measure of control from Wellington is inescapable. What needs regular emphasis is that military command differs from the bureaucratic application of centralised financial and other controls.

The Special Forces Admiral has presented a reminder. It’s timely in the advance of the profession of arms in NZ.

Rob Munro
20 Jan 2016

** Rear Admiral P Gardner Howe USN is a long serving US Special Forces officer with wide command and staff experience. He currently serves as President of the US Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island, USA. His views appear in the USN Naval War College Review Autumn 2015 Vol 68 No 4.*

VANZ Issues

In October last year a meeting of experienced RNZAA veterans was convened in Wellington to consider how the 'Veteran Support Act 2014' was being implemented by Veterans Affairs.

As a result of the meeting a report was produced which made several recommendations. Now, whilst I know most of you will delve into the 19 page report with gusto, I also know that many of you will be too busy to do that and so to summarise the summary;

- there is no provision for a veteran to be able to meet case managers face to face, and this can be a serious disadvantage for some older veterans with speech/hearing/communication difficulties,

- the 'Assessment' process is approached from an ailment by ailment viewpoint, rather than from an 'holistic' viewpoint. As veterans get older, this 'ACC style approach' can lead to a diminishment of veterans' treatments, rather than cater to a need for more treatment.

- the implementation of 'Your Plan/Our Agreement' is farcical in the way it is implemented at the moment and needs significant change in its wording and approach.

- the Code of Veterans Rights had not been issued at the time the paper was written, but has subsequently (Dec 2015) been published. We will examine this document with interest.

The Review Paper was submitted to the RNZA Assn AGM in Christchurch in November 15, and the Colonel Commandant Barry Dreyer submitted the Paper to the Chief of Army 'Honorary Colonels' Conference' in late November 2015. We are now awaiting feedback from this, and expect that the Paper will be processed up to the Chief of Defence (the 'owner' of Veterans Affairs) in the New Year.

I must stress that this Review Paper is not just another

'whinge' about beneficiaries rights. General feedback from veterans has been that Veterans Affairs are doing a pretty good job, but we believe it could be better, and we need to be vigilant to ensure the treatment of veterans under the Veteran Support Act 2014 does not diminish.

I would welcome any feedback on this matter.

Tony McLeod, President RNZA Assn

You can't tell a Vet just by looking

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armoured personnel carrier didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth whose behaviour is outweighed in the cosmic scales by four hours of unparalleled bravery near the 38th Parallel in Korea.

She is the nurse who fought against futility in Da Nang and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years.

He is the POW who left as one person and came back another.

He is the drill instructor who has never been in combat, but has saved countless lives by turning no-accounts into soldiers.

He is the parade-riding legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the white-haired guy bagging groceries at the supermarket, aggravatingly slow, who helped liberate a Nazi death camp.

A vet is an ordinary and extraordinary human being — someone who offered his life's vital years in the service of his country.

He is a soldier and a saviour and a sword against the darkness, and nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

We will never be able to repay the debt of gratitude we owe.

Author Unknown

History of Artillery

The introduction of artillery into the English army came as early as the Battle of Crécy in 1346. Henry VIII made the army's artillery semi-permanent in the sixteenth century but the recognition of the need for a permanent body of artillery did not happen until 1716.

Before the 18th century, artillery 'traynes' were raised by royal warrant for specific campaigns and disbanded again when they were over. On 26 May 1716, however, by royal warrant of George I two regular companies of field artillery, each 100 men strong, were raised at Woolwich.

The title "Royal Artillery" (RA) was first used in 1720. On 1 April 1722 the two companies were increased to four and grouped with independent artillery companies at Gibraltar and Minorca to form the Royal Regiment of Artillery, commanded by Colonel Albert Borgard.

In 1741 the Royal Military Academy was formed in the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich (RWA) to provide training for RA and Royal Engineers (RE) officers.

The regiment expanded rapidly and, by 1757, had 24 companies divided into two battalions, as well as a cadet company formed in 1741. During 1748, the presidential artilleries of Bengal, Madras and Bombay were formed. 1756 saw the creation of the Royal Irish Regiment of Artillery. In 1762 the Royal Artillery Band was formed at Minden.

By 1771 there were 32 companies in four battalions, as well as two "invalid companies" comprising older and unfit men employed in garrison duties. During 1782, the regiment moved to the Royal Artillery Barracks (front parade) on Woolwich Common. In January 1793, two troops of Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) were raised to provide fire support for the cavalry, augmented by two more in November 1793. All RHA personnel were mounted.

The Royal Irish Artillery was absorbed into the RA in 1801.

During 1805, the Royal Artillery moved to Woolwich Common. In 1819, the Rotunda was given to the regiment by the Prince Regent to celebrate the end of the Napoleonic Wars. (It was originally built in St. James's Park as the outer casing of the tent in which the Prince Regent entertained the Allied sovereigns in 1814.)

In 1832, the regimental mottoes were granted.

The regiment was under the control of the Board of Ordnance until the board was abolished in 1855. Thereafter the regiment came under the War Office along with the rest of the army.

The School of Gunnery was established at Shoeburyness, Essex in 1859.

In 1862 the regiment absorbed the artillery of the British East India Company—21 horse batteries and 48 field batteries—which brought its strength up to 29 horse batteries, 73 field batteries and 88 heavy batteries.

On 1 July 1899, the Royal Artillery was divided into three groups: the Royal Horse Artillery of 21 batteries and the Royal Field Artillery of 95 batteries comprised one group, while the coastal defence, mountain, siege and heavy batteries were split off into another group named the Royal Garrison Artillery of 91 companies. The third group continued to be titled simply *Royal Artillery*, and was responsible for ammunition storage and supply.

Which branch a gunner belonged to was indicated by metal shoulder titles (R.A., R.F.A., R.H.A., or R.G.A.). The RFA and RHA also dressed as mounted men, whereas the RGA dressed like foot soldiers.

In 1920 the rank of Bombardier was instituted in the Royal Artillery. The three sections effectively functioned as separate corps. This arrangement lasted until 1924, when the three amalgamated once more to become one regiment.

In 1938, RA Brigades were renamed Regiments.

During the Second World War there were over 1 million men serving in 960 gunner regiments.

In 1947 the Riding House Troop RHA was renamed The King's Troop RHA and, in 1951, the title of the regiment's colonel-in-chief became Captain General. When the Queen first visited the Troop after her accession, it was expected that it would become "The Queen's Troop", but Her Majesty announced that in honour of her father's decision it would remain "The King's Troop".

The Royal Horse Artillery, which has always had separate traditions, uniforms and insignia, still retains a separate identity within the regiment.

Before the Second World War, Royal Artillery recruits were required to be at least 5 feet 4 inches (1.63 m) tall. Men in mechanised units had to be at least 5 feet 8 inches (1.73 m) tall. They initially enlisted for six years with the colours and a further six years with the reserve or four years and eight years. They trained at the Royal Artillery Depot in Woolwich.

From its beginnings, the Royal Artillery has been based at Woolwich, in south-east London. In 2003 it was decided to move the headquarters to Larkhill on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire (the RA's training ground, where the Royal School of Artillery has been based since 1915). The last Royal Artillery troops left Woolwich Barracks in 2007; in 2012, however, the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery was relocated to Woolwich from their former headquarters in St John's Wood.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Artillery

Unless You've Been a Soldier

by Clive Sanders

Unless you've been a soldier,
You just won't understand.
The things that we have seen and done,
In the service of our land.
We have trained to live in combat,
To cope with awful sights,
That shouldn't be seen by anyone
And keep you awake at nights.

We don't discuss the wounds we have,
To the body or the mind.
We just put our hurts behind us,
And turn our memories to blind.
We are proud we served our country,
And remember those we lost.
For the freedom that you have today,
They paid the awful cost.

The Final Inspection

The Soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass..

'Step forward now, Soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
'No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear..
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears

If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the Soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

Step forward now, you Soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell.'

Author Unknown but credited to the 183rd Airborne Assn



The Australian Artillery Assn has issued an invitation to NZ Gunners to attend their National Gunner Dinner, to be held at the Event Centre in Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, on Saturday 27 May 2017 at 4pm.

In true Gunner fashion, the Happy Hour starts the day before on Friday 26 May 2017, at the same place, at 4pm.

For more information visit: www.australianartilleryassociation.com

Note this event is in 2017, so there is plenty of time to organise, but, it is expected that there will be huge numbers attending. Tony McLeod and Skin Frances, amongst others, went last year and had a ball.



The P38

By: LT Rex Hon



Many Soldiers and Marines regard the P-38 can opener as one of the major symbols of their service life.

It was invented in just 30 days in the summer of 1942 by US Army Maj. Thomas Dennehy at the Subsistence Research Laboratory in Chicago.

And never in its more than 73 year history has it ever been known to "break, rust very little, need sharpening or polishing," which is why many Soldiers past and present have come to regard the P-38 C-Ration can opener as the best tool ever issued by Uncle Sam.

Next to beer and cigarettes, the C-rats (tin cans filled with a variety of meats and vegetables) were one of the few pleasures for the GI's marching through the stinking rice patties and rotting jungles of Vietnam. Enter the P38 to open the cans of the C-Rations. It is said the P38 got its name from the fact it took "The Duke" AKA John Wayne 38 cuts to open a can of C-rats. The P-38 is the tool you put on the chain of your dog tags. The P38 was like your M-16. My First Sargent, Roy Laudette of HQ, 1Bn 83rd Artillery, always said to the troops about their M-16's "It is better to have a gun and not need one rather than not have a gun and need one". The same logic also applies to the P-38.

Other things below the P38 in importance was the steel helmet which had many other uses beside maybe protecting your head in a combat situation. It was ideal for washing, shaving, boiling water, carrying water, sitting on and carrying cigarettes and pictures. And of course there was the old Jeep guaranteed to go anywhere in any kind of weather and was reliable most of the time.

In the new Army the C-Rations have been replaced with Meals Ready To Eat (MREs). However the P-38 remains popular and is still issued by the Army. In addition to opening cans there are countless other uses that soldiers of the new Army have found for it.

"I've had my P-38 since Vietnam, still on my dog tags. When us solders re-entered civilian life there was still a need for the P-38. In our minds this tool helped us get through our war and the P38 will help us get through situations that come up in civilian life.

The size of the P38 and design by Army Major Dennehy was ingenious. The size, one inch by one half inch folding to about one eighth inch, made the P38 one of the greatest inventions for the military. Before men in the field used bayonets to open cans. The hole at the top made carrying the P38 easy on dog tags or key rings. Makes a screwdriver and can also be used to pry open containers. The soldier's imagination has taken this perfectly designed tool and found countless other uses for the P38 other than just opening cans.

As us old Veterans travel through life certain sounds, sights and smells trigger will an emotional response and bring back vivid memories of a time long ago. The P38 usually triggers the memory in most WW2 Veterans, Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of a wonderful dining experience during operations in the field.



To purchase contact :
rnza.association@gmail.com

THE BRONZE GUNNER

COLONEL COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, fellow Gunners and families.

We have been working with the RNZA Heritage Trust and the NZ Defence Official Artist, Captain Matt Gauldie RNZA, to develop a distinctly Kiwi Gunner trophy of some impact and value. The result is this wonderful bronze of a gunner in action on his gun.

This is being produced by Captain Gauldie in a limited edition of fifty, each individually finished, signed and numbered.

As well as being a superb trophy, the statue represents generations of New Zealand Gunners, fighting their guns with skill, courage and determination.

Available with or without a brass cartridge case mount, I would encourage you to consider purchasing the trophy.

Matt Gauldie is recognised as one of the country's leading artists and has many of his works in galleries and private collections. More recently he has been commissioned in both Australia and New Zealand to complete monumental bronzes for public place display.

This bronze combines his love of both guns and bronze sculpture into a superb collectors' piece.

Ubique

Barry Dreyer

Colonel Commandant Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery

Interesting World War I Artillery Facts

- Over 14,000 different types of artillery were used during WW1; that is more than in WW2, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War combined.
- Many battles during World War One saw incredible artillery barrages involving thousands of cannons each firing numerous shells every minute. These barrages would often last for hours and some went on for many days or even weeks. Often they were preludes to infantry attacks or support for infantry attacks.
- One of the most intense artillery bombardments of WW1 began on July 18th 1917 as a prelude to the battle of Passchendaele (Third Ypres). The bombardment of German positions by the British lasted for about two weeks. In all approximately 4.5 million shells were launched from around 3,000 cannons prior to and along with the infantry attack which began on July 31st (1917).
- The use of Calvary charges in battle was common place prior to and at the start of World War One; however advances in artillery design along with the invention of machine guns put an end to this as charging horsemen would be easily cut down by these weapons.

- Artillery was used to shoot shells containing another deadly WW1 weapon; poison gas.
- During WW1 heavy artillery mounted on railroad cars were utilized. This enabled the weapons to be transported quickly to where needed.
- During World War 1 many advances in the development of artillery were made enabling bombardment from a further distance with more explosive power.
- One important improvement during World War 1, made by the British, was the invention of the No. 106 fuse. This fuse was designed to detonate a shell instantaneously upon it's touching any object. This would prevent shells from getting lodged in mud and then detonating which decreased their effectiveness. The No. 106 fuse would explode the shell immediately upon contact with the ground or other objects on the battlefield.

Howitzers and mortars were used extensively during the Great War. Unlike other cannons that were fired directly at targets these cannons fire a shell with a high curving trajectory. The shells would be fired towards enemy positions with the hope that they would hit a target or land in a trench.

Source: <http://www.world-war-1-facts.com/World-War-One-Weapon-Facts/World-War-One-Artillery-Facts.html>

Did You Know: Big Bertha and the Paris Gun.

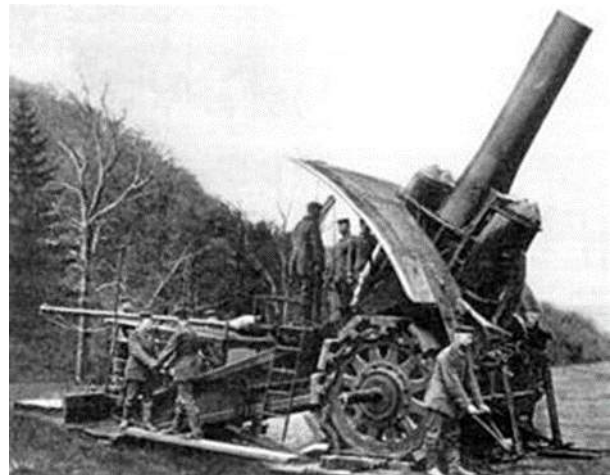
The German artillery pieces that bombarded Paris in 1918, during The Great War, are commonly and incorrectly referred to as 'Big Bertha'. However, the Big Berthas were, in fact, the two German howitzers that bombarded the fortress at Liège, in August 1914, and they were named after Baroness Bertha Krupp, the daughter of the gun manufacturer Alfried Krupp.

The Big Bertha howitzers weighed, in action, just over 42.6 tonnes and fired a 816 kilogram - 420 millimetre-calibre projectile, with a maximum range of just over 10 kilometres. The Germans withdrew the pieces from service in late 1917 because the Allied forces had, by then, developed counter-battery guns with greater ranges.

The long-barrelled guns that bombarded Paris in 1918 were commonly referred to as either the 'Paris Gun' or the 'Kaiser Wilhelm Geschütz' (King William's Gun); there were three guns and, like the Big Berthas, they were Krupp manufactured. The guns weighed, in action, 750 tonnes, fired a 119.7 kilogram - 210 millimetre-calibre projectile, and had a maximum range of 122 kilometres. The guns were located in the Forest of Crépy, approximately 108 (map) kilometres from Paris and, when fired, the projectiles took nearly three minutes before hitting their targets, after reaching a vertex height (maximum altitude) of 38 kilometres.

The Guns' individual projectiles were progressively numbered, with the calibre size of each shell being larger than the previous; this was because of the extensive internal wear caused to the barrel when each round was fired. After firing a laid-down number of rounds the gun's barrel was removed and the equipment was fitted with a new one; the Guns' worn barrels were returned to the Krupp works for refitting.

The Germans withdrew the Paris Guns in August 1918, because of the Allied advance, but the Allies were never able to locate either the guns or their mountings. However, the Guns' concrete emplacements, be they overgrown, are still in place today in the Forest of Crépy.



Source: Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company
ENewsletter

Gunners Day 2016 Activities

Papakura:

When: 26 May 2016

Where: Papakura RSA

Details: To be confirmed—advice will be sent out via the usual channels.

Organiser: Joe Subritzky

Linton:

Details for Gunners Day at Linton are still being worked on, however it is our intent to have a couple of activities during the day with details TBC (it may actually be the following weekend) followed by a function that night. RNZAA members will be welcome to join us. More details to follow.

Wellington:

When: 11 am Memorial Service at the National War Memorial, Buckle St.

Plans are being made to hold a dinner that evening. Please contact David Weston on david.elizabeth@xtra.co.nz to advise interest and for further details.

Please advise any Gunner contacts you may have and invite them along.

Christchurch:

When: Thu 26 May, 1900 for 1930

Where: Christchurch Memorial RSA,
74 Armagh St

Details: A “traditional southern” Gunners Day Dinner (semi-formal). Partners are invited. ALSO, we could like you to invite other couple/s or friends who would appreciate the opportunity to experience our military style Gunners Day Dinner. The menu will be three courses & some drinks. Dress is collar & tie / ladies equivalent and medals. Cost ABOUT \$45 – TBA.

More details by email & Facebook SOON, but set aside the date. Invite another couple/s or friends.

Organiser: Skin Francis

WHAT MY MEDALS MEAN

I’d never worn my medals, they were left there in the draw, so when I finally took them out, it had been twenty years or more.

My daughter saw me take them out, and asked me what they’re for. I looked at her and calmly said, “They’re a reminder of a war”.

They remind me of the Mates I had, who never made it back; Who died in a stinking paddy field, or on a jungle track.

They remind me of the troubles, and the hardships we went through.

They remind me why we went there, it was for people just like you.

They remind me of the hellhole, while we were over there. They remind me of our countrymen, who really didn’t care. They remind me of the mateship, forged in a foreign land. They remind me of a certain mate, who lost a bloody hand.

They remind me when we went away; we thought the reason was just.

They remind me of when we came back; they turned their backs on us.

They remind me of the time we spent, left there on our own.

They remind me that it took twenty years, to welcome us back home.

They remind me of the suffering, the heartache and the pain.

They remind me if we’re called upon, we’d do it all again. They remind me when I wear them next; the thoughts will come through then, at the going down of the sun, and in the morning; “WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”.

Then I looked down at her smiling face, and I knew it had not got through.

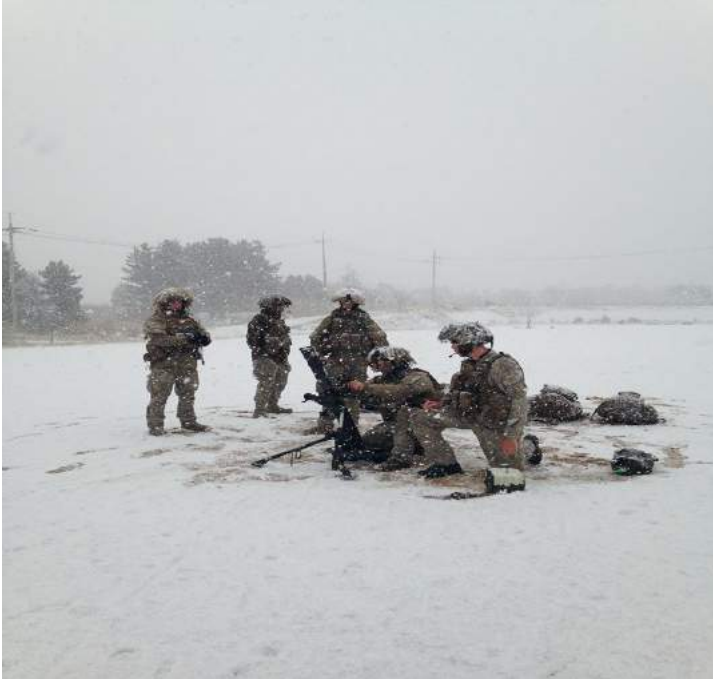
I said “Listen love, they’re to remind me, I did it all for you.

Jim Egan Ex Delta 4 RAR 1971-72 Vietnam.



NZ Gunners return to Korea

For the first time since the early 50s, 161 Bty, 16 Fd Regt RNZA has returned to Korea. We will have more details of their deployment in the next issue. The following pictures will whet your appetite.



The Captain General's Baton in New Zealand

Whilst escorting the Captain General's Baton on the NZ leg of the round the world tour, prior to the presentation to the Queen at Larkhill on 26 May 2016, in NZ, a RA rugby team played a Navy team at Devonport on 27 February. They will then play a Linton Camp selection on 4 March and finally a Defence selection at Trentham on 8 March.

Unfortunately most of 16 Fd Regt was on overseas deployments whilst the Baton was in NZ, however, there are always old Gunners around, and Gunners being Gunners, every opportunity was taken to get their hands on the Baton. (Ed's note: I surprised that the rules of the Hydraulic Bty were not applied!)



L-R Colin Jansen, Lt Demi Exley, Ant McLeod, Tony McLeod, Chris Morris, Greg Thwaite



Tony McLeod trying to wrestle the Baton off a Brit officer

Gallipoli - The Evacuation

On October 16th Sir Ian Hamilton was recalled to London, in order, as he was informed on his arrival, that the Government might have the opportunity of obtaining a "fresh, unbiased opinion, from a responsible commander, upon the question of early evacuation." This was the first of the series of events which led to the evacuation of the Peninsula; but at the time its significance was not understood by the soldiers, to whom nothing was made known of the reason which lay behind the Commander-in-Chief's recall. His successor, General Sir Charles Munro, did not arrive at Gallipoli until the end of the month, and during the interval command of the Forces was temporarily held by General Birdwood. The visit to Anzac on November 13th of Lord Kitchener created a sensation in the trenches through which the famous soldier passed, and raised a perfect welter of picturesque conjecture, and set many rumours afloat, regarding his visit and its probable consequences. Lord Kitchener proceeded to the observing station of the 2nd Battery, from where he was afforded a comprehensive view of the Anzac country. Within a few hours he had left Anzac, and was proceeding up the coast to Suvla.

Before the decision to evacuate had been actually taken, preparations towards that end were quietly begun, and so successfully was the real aim hidden that for a long while it was completely unknown to the soldiers themselves. In order to accustom the enemy to such a thing, and so lessen the risk of raising his suspicions, a period of silence of forty-eight hours was ordered at the end of November. Not a shot was fired during this period, and all work that would be apparent to the enemy ceased. Whatever he may have thought the Turk made no move, but his trenches were seen to be strongly manned on the first morning that normal activity was resumed, and they were accordingly treated to a brisk bombardment from six batteries, shooting being good and effective in its results. That evening the 54th Division, whose front had been covered by the New Zealand Artillery since the close of the August fighting, was withdrawn. Before leaving the Peninsula, the Divisional Commander, General Inglefield, sent the following message to Colonel Johnston:—"On leaving Anzac I wish to thank you very heartily for your cordial cooperation and assistance, and for the effective help your guns have always afforded us." On December 8th, General Birdwood, now commanding the Dardanelles army, was directed to proceed with the evacuation of Anzac and Suvla at once. Detailed plans for such a step had

already been perfected, and immediately the whole prepared machinery was set in motion. The decision to evacuate could not long be withheld from the soldiers. The rapid embarkation, night after night, of surplus stores and animals, and the gradual reduction of the force to the bare limits of safety could suggest only one conclusion. Consequently the order issued on December 16th announcing the impending event did not create any sudden surprise in the minds of the majority, but came rather as a confirmation of strong suspicion. The decision was received with mingled feelings in which it would be difficult to say whether regret or relief was uppermost. Everyone felt bitterly the relinquishment of the hallowed ground on which so many of their comrades had sacrificed their lives, and lay, many of them, still unburied; but they viewed with relief the close of a struggle whose continuance under existing conditions could only result in useless sacrifice.

On the day on which the first detachments left the Peninsula, there arrived a large quantity of canteen stores, which had been purchased for the artillery by an officer who had been sent to Imbros sometime previously. It was a bitter reflection that these stores of provisions, which the batteries had had no opportunity of buying for eight months, should arrive on the eve of their departure. The stores could not be taken away by units, so a certain amount of them were sold by auction, and the remainder were destroyed so that they might be of no use to the enemy.

The evacuation of the New Zealand Field Artillery, and the other batteries attached to the Division, extended over little more than a week. Orders to evacuate the guns were issued on December 10th, and the evacuation began the following night, when one section of guns from each New Zealand Battery was sent away. In many cases the guns had to be manhandled for a considerable distance, across trenches and broken ground, before they could be got on to ground where they could be limbered up and taken to the beach by the teams, but these difficulties were made light of in the determination that the New Zealand Brigades should leave none of their guns behind when Anzac was evacuated. By the 12th seven 18prs. had been embarked, as well as six 5in. howitzers, three 6in. howitzers, and two 4in. guns. On the nights of December 13th and 14th three more 18prs. were evacuated, as well as all the guns of the 6th (howitzer) Battery. On the 15th three 4.5in. howitzers and two 18prs. were evacuated, three more howitzers on the 16th, and one 18pr. on the night of the 17th. By December 18th only two of the New Zealand guns remained—one gun of the 1st Battery and one of the 3rd Battery. These were finally evacuated shortly before midnight on the last night, December 19th. The 1st Battery had only two guns to embark, the others having been knocked out prior to the evacuation.

The number of guns withdrawn from the Peninsula during the evacuation totaled fifty-three, of which number twelve were evacuated during the last two nights. Two guns attached to the Division were destroyed. These were a 5in. howitzer in Australia Valley, and one 3pr. Hotchkiss gun in the Aghyl Dere. Both were blown up an hour or two before the evacuation was completed. Eight ammunition wagons were also left behind, and four horses, which had been ordered to be destroyed, but were turned loose at the last moment. Any ammunition that remained was buried or thrown into the sea.

The final stages of the evacuation were carried out with methodical quietness, and exactly according to the time-table which had been laid down. It was a trying and anxious time for the whole Army Corps, but for none so much as the small garrison which held Anzac during the last twenty-four hours, and whose lives may be literally said to have hung by a thread. Everything possible was done in order to create the appearance of normal activity, and even to encourage the enemy in the belief that fresh troops were being landed by night. The three thousand men who held the Division's sector during the 19th of December were divided into three parties—A., B., and C., which were to embark in that order. The embarkation of A. and B. parties proceeded without a hitch once night had fallen on the 19th, and by 11.25 p.m. had been completed. There was a considerable interval before the men of C. party began to withdraw, as it was necessary that their movement should synchronise with the withdrawal of the troops of No. 4 Section and of the 9th Corps at Suvla. In the meantime men moved rapidly but quietly up and down the trenches, and fired shots from the various points from which fire was usually delivered. Various devices were also employed by which fixed rifles were discharged after the last men had begun to make their way down to the beach. Exactly at the appointed time the remainder of the rearguard left the trenches and made their way in the darkness down the silent, deserted deres to the pier, where the lighters waited to take them out to the ships in the Bay. By 3.40 a.m. the evacuation had been completed, and the Turk was left in sole possession of Anzac and Suvla. At dawn the enemy commenced shelling the trenches at Anzac, but the men who had lately occupied them were at that time disembarking at Mudros, ninety miles away.

Thus ended the ill-starred Gallipoli campaign, in which the soldiers of New Zealand had tasted at once the thrill of victory and the bitterness of disappointment. They had faced all the changing fortunes of the campaign with determination and unflinching courage, and if final victory had not been theirs they at least had done all that was humanly possible to achieve it. The task of the Artillery had been one of peculiar difficulty; enough has already been said of the terrible nature of the country in which the guns were fought, and of the incessant anxieties caused by the meagre and uncertain ammunition supply. That the New Zealand batteries achieved so much in face of this combination of adverse circumstances, and that they indubitably earned the confidence and gratitude of the soldiers whom they supported must for all time stand to the credit of the men who fought the guns on Gallipoli, and to the honour of the Field Artillery of New Zealand.

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

Secretary Bernie McCort, 07 345 3643, 18 Walford Drive, ROTORUA 3010. **Email:**
rnza.association@gmail.com

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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 Secretary 18 Walford Drive, 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, please forward your address. Have you changed ISPs? Have you updated your Internet address? Some mail is being returned.

Input into Gunner News: Short stories, especially with accompanying photographs, are always welcome for inclusion. The Editor's email address is: **davidbähler@paradise.net.nz**. Please send as an attachment in MS Word format.

Member Registration: New members are most welcome. **ALL** Gunners are eligible for Full Membership, it is **FREE**, and automatic once a gunner has served in the Regiment for more than 3 months. Associate Membership is available to anyone who has been attached to an RNZA Unit or has had a close affiliation therewith, and to close family of RNZA Gunners and to Gunners of any nation around the world. Membership application forms are on-line at the new website: rnzaa.org.nz.

Death of a Member: If you know of the passing of someone who was a Gunner or a member please tell the Secretary. Where possible a representative of the Association will attend the funeral.

Muzzle Flashes items to Skin at: **muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com**

Secretarial/Treasurer matters to: **rnza.association@gmail.com**

Items for Gunner News to David at: **davidbähler@paradise.net.nz**

RNZA Assn Bank: **Ac # 38 9007 0694501 00**

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