

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION ::

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Wellington as a  
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P.O.Box 33-710  
TAKAPUNA,  
AUCKLAND. 9.

III. NEW MEMBERS ::

E.(Eddie) TAYLOR, 25 Riverside Rd., OREWA.  
A.(Bert) HARVEY, c/- Forest Products Lt.,d AUCKLAND,  
G.J.(Tommy) THOMAS, 34 Herbert Ave, PALMERSTON NTH,  
N.(Noel) EDE, 24 Swansea St, PALMERSTON NTH,  
Sgt B.(Skin) FRANCES, 31 Bty, Box 817, INVERCARGILL,  
J.(Naquila) NAGLE, 1/44 Fox St, INVERCARGILL,  
2Lt E.L.(Locks) KELLAS, c/- Police Station, INVERCARGILL,

2. CHANGES OF ADDRESS ::

W.F.(Bill) GILES now c/- Haupouri Station Private Bag, HASTINGS  
R.J.(Goldie) GOLDSWORTHY, 27 Fraser Rd, DEVONPORT, AUCK. 9,  
G.A.(Hookie) STUART, 39A Factory Rd, Mosgiel, DUNEDIN,  
R.A.(Bob) RUDGE, 711 Queen St., THAMES.

3. A.G.M. AND RE-UNION '78 -- TAUPO ::

T.H.C. WAIRAKEI - who are geared for much bigger organisations than ours certainly turned it on for us, which met with enthusiastic remarks from all those present. The facilities of the Conference Room for the A.G.M. (more of this later - Minutes of which will be held by all District Reps for perusal by Members) and later, the Dining Room set-up, put on by a superbly trained staff made for a smooth running and thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

Those attending :- Renee & Ian McLean, Jack Baigent, Betty & 'Pud' Kerslake Betty & Pat Duggan, Brig. Burns, Noel Ede, Shelley & Kevin Burnell, Bunty & Des O'Connor, Vicky & Alf Smith, Barbara & Bill Winter, Patti & Eric Autridge Ruth & Terry Arnot, Babs & Cliff Bragg, Averill & Dave Jones, Joyce & Bill Powrie, Helen & Tony Parkes, Joyce & RO Robinson, Lee & John Meikle, Dick Healey, June & Charlie Anmiss, Win & Bill Langevad, Thelma & Henry Salt, Gwen & Hobby Hobson, Nora & Gordon Weaver, Cora & Len Woods, Flo & Dave Sweeney, Noanie & Shufti James, Lynette & Bevin Culhane, Maj-Gen & Mrs McKinnon, Marie & David Roberts, Dorothy & Jim Gilberd, Elsie & Alan Boyd, Valda & Bill Baker, George Sutherland, Joan & Terry Transom, Ailsa & Wally Ruffell.

And for those who wrote and expressed regret at not being able to be with us -- Fred Schroder, Tom Hedley, Pat Dumbleton, Bill McAlpine, Vic Loader, Bob Rudge, Harry Bigg-Wither, Doug Warden, Hookie Stuart, Trevor Pilcher, Jerry Lundon, Army Philpot, Cyril Hayden, John Rout, Ian Rowntree, Dave Crichton, Father Scott, Emil Jennings, Jack Mercer, Tawhiwhi Brown, Henry Keen, Pat Hall, Jack Callagher, Pun Page, Bob Calder, Slim Cumming, Harry Anderson, Col. G. Hitchings, Reg Nutsford, Alan Birchall, Herb Milne, John Mabbett, Eric Bickerton, Bill Giles, Jim O'Meara, Nifty Coe, Rex Lovett, Dick Hassed, Swede Svendsen,

We include these lists to help us to remember old friends - old faces, some a little longer in the tooth these days, who were with us in fact and in spirit, a fact always remarked upon as long as I can remember - "why do these Gunners stick together so well?"

Guest speakers at Dinner were :-

Brig. J. (Blackie) Burns - Col-Commandant R.N.Z.A. who spoke feelingly and well, of The Regiment as it is today. (See "Message from The President - Appx 'B').

Toast Lists included :- "The Queen, - our Captain General" by Dining Vice President - Ssgt Bevin Culhane, School of Artillery.



"The Regiment" - Maj-Gen W.S. McKimmon, who spoke of experiences pre- and post War, (1939-45). amusing, factual, and serious, of his many postings in most places in the world where N.Z. Army, and in particular Gunners are represented.

Lt. David Roberts aptly replied to "The Regiment" - David is from School of Artillery - the heart of things for Gunners of today, and was able to tell us a little more of their doings today.

"Absent Friends" was proposed by one of our Vice-Presidents, and Auckland District Rep. Lt. (Ret'd) Eric Autridge.

Unluckily the weather played nasty tricks, and was wet for most of the week-end, - only heard of two pairs of golfers who got soaked by the ninth then headed hotfoot for the nineteenth to ward off any ills which may have resulted.

One couple swimming in the drizzling rain in the hot pool on the Sunday morning, were filmed by a diminutive Japanese gentleman, who possibly would show it to his friends back home, remarking that all these Kiwis are mad.

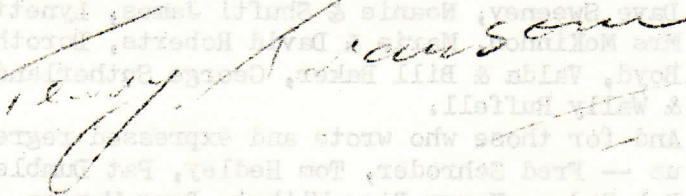
Nobody was keen to face the dripping slippery track through the bush to Opepe for the Church Service on the Sunday morning, so it was agreed to cancel it.

One remark overheard from an older Member to another, "How is it that these younger Gunners seem to choose such remarkably attractive wives?" The reply, "Oh, didn't you know Gunners were always very good at this kind of choice".

To close - from your Committee - and in fact from all the Family of Gunners, we wish you all, and your families, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 1979.

Will keep in touch - please do so with us

Yours,





A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At our reunion on 11 Nov we were privileged to have as our guest of honour Brig J. (Blackie) Burns DSO MBE B Sc, Colonel Commandant RNZA, who in an after-dinner address spoke of the recent Defence Review about which most of us at that time knew little. I shall try to recall the main points he made, and add a few observations of my own.

First, there are no plans to replace the 5.5 medium guns once they reach the end of their useful life. After having had a medium capability for over 50 years the Government now says it can be "adequately maintained" with the field artillery equipments now in service - obsolete American 105mm pieces. We may have been better off retaining the 25-prs.

You may or may not know that in 1975 the British commenced the issue to Royal Artillery units a new 105mm field gun (known as the "light" gun). It has a range of 17 000 metres, i.e. about the same as the 5.5, but it does not have to "maintain a medium capability" for the British have a new medium gun also. The new 105 weighs only marginally more than the 25-pr, is just as mobile, is simpler to maintain and operate, and is twice as versatile in its primary role. Furthermore it has a formidable anti-tank capability.

NZ Army has no A Tk unit, nor any equipment powerful enough to take on a modern tank, nor has the Government any plans to rectify the situation.

There are no plans to replace the existing M41 tanks, the last of which are no longer suitable for operations.

Apparently tank and anti-tank skills are both to be allowed to die.

Neither are there any plans for anti-aircraft defence - the latter died years ago with the disbandment of the AA Regiments. Surely there should be some form of defence against low-flying aircraft at least - Vietnam amply justified it - or are troops on the ground to think of themselves as sitting ducks?

Our colleagues in the infantry have not been forgotten. The Govt has plans to bring the Battalion back from Singapore, but doesn't know where to put them. Places such as Twizel and Turangi have been considered - disused MOW camps? What happened to the housing scheme in Linton?

Commenting on the Review (Dominion 10 Nov 78) our Patron, Lt Gen Sir Leonard Thornton says that to some extent the dedication of the armed forces is being imposed upon. With respect to the soldier I suggest this is an understatement. For how many years has he had to put up with sub-standard accommodation, obsolete equipment, meagre ammunition training scales etc, and seen himself in an unfavourable light compared not only to his opposite number in other Commonwealth forces, but also the other services in his own country? For even the dedicated soldier there sometimes comes "the last straw".

When he sees the Govt paying out millions every year to several



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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Appendix 'A' to  
Newsletter No.28

Gentlemen,

Welcome to Wairakei.

On behalf of your exutive I have pleasure in presenting this the 43rd report on the activities of the Association.

Office Bearers:

Patron: Lt Gen Sir Leonard Thornton KCB CBE.

President. W.L. Ruffell

Vice-Presidents and District Representatives:

Auckland: L.E. Autridge  
Hawkes Bay: J.G. Gilberd  
Taranaki: G.E. Sutherland  
Waiouru. B.W. Culhane  
Wellington: A.J. Baigent  
Otago/S/Land: S. Morrison  
Canterbury/

Westland: W.E. Jennings  
Secretary: J.T. Transom  
Treasurer: D.P. O'Connor  
Auditor: W.A. Wordsworth, ACA.

Executive Committee:

A. Boyd  
B.G. Nicholson  
E.T. O'Neill  
H.G.C. Salt  
A.J. Smith

Finance:

The Association is in a sound position financially, as will be seen from the Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet.

Welfare:

No requests for welfare assistance have been received during the year. The Executive should be notified without delay details of any Old Comrade who may be in ne ed of assistance, or who may be sick at home or in hospital.

Roll of Honour:

Since our last meeting I report with much regret the passing of the following Old Comrades:

1273 E. (Ernie) Fenton  
1361 A.S. (Arthur) Richardson  
1433 J.H. (Bozzie) Boswell

(Members stood for a few moments in silent tribute)



Badges:

Since the last Annual General Meeting two lots each of 100 have been procured. Despite warnings by sundry manufacturers that the dies were nearly "done" they stood up well, and will probably survive another run.

Membership:

Present effective membership is as follows:

Life Members	14
Associate Members	12
Subscription Members	288
Total	<u>314</u>

This is an overall increase of 23 over the last twelve months. These figures do not include "Gone No Addresses" of which unfortunately there are still several unresolved.

Now all members at present on our roll are males, but it should be noted that in our modern Army there are 16 females (4 Offrs 12 ORs) who are fully fledged members of the RNZA, and provided they have the necessary service qualification are entitled to join the NZPFOCA. District Reps please note!

Gunners Day 1978:

The Waiouru Gunners Club (members of which form a new NZPFOCA District) held a Ball at The Chateau Tongariro on 25 May to which they graciously invited Terry Transom, Allan Boyd, and myself to-gether with our respective wives. Needless to say the evening was a credit to the organisers, greatly appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

RNZA WOs and S Sgts Annual Refresher Course Waiouru:

I had the pleasure of representing your Association at a formal dinner held at the conclusion of the course, this time at the invitation of the RNZA Directorate. The Mess President, WO2 Paul O'Connor, whose father and grandfather were also long-serving members of the RNZA, spoke of the Old Comrades Assn in his address. Brig J. Burns, Col Comdt, in his reply paid tribute to the part senior NCOs have played over the years in maintaining the traditions and efficiency of the Regiment.

Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum:

My wife and I were privileged to receive an official invitation to the opening of the Museum on 15 Oct, and were much impressed by everything we saw. Unfortunately Waiouru did not turn on one of its better days, but the superb organisation of all aspects of the event more than made up for the dampness. The establishment is much more than just another museum - it is a unique presentation of the part played by the soldier in the development of New Zealand. A visit is well worth a special trip - I promise you will not be disappointed.



Rule Books:

The Rule Book has been completely revised, and a tender for the printing accepted. Unfortunately the books will probably not be available for distribution before the New Year.

Communication:

District Reps have received copies of proceedings of all Executive Committee meetings as well as the Annual General Meeting. However, salient points are covered in Newsletters issued to all Members.

Three Newsletters have been published during the year, one less than the target number of four to which we are committed by our agreement with the Post Office.

Members are again urged to contribute articles to assist in maintaining a quarterly issue.

Anzac Day:

Some thirty members of the Association turned out for the parade and ceremony at Takapuna. A wreath was laid at the Cenotaph by your Secretary, Terry Transom and myself. Attached to the wreath was a replica of the Association badge carved in wood and suitably coloured and engraved by Henry Salt, to whom thanks are due for a very commendable effort. (A photograph of the wreath was passed around members).

Conclusion:

Once again may I express my appreciation of the support and assistance so readily given by your Executive Committee and Vice Presidents representing districts over the past year.

Our gratitude is again due in no small measure to Takapuna RSA who gave us rooms for committee meetings, and did our duplicating for us free of charge.

Wairakei 11 Nov 78.

W.L. Ruffell.

NZ Military Historical Society Inc:

The chief objects of the Society are to encourage the study of NZ Military History, to promote compilation of authentic military records, and to preserve all relics, artifacts etc in connection therewith.

Members' activities include collection of badges, medals, uniforms, small arms etc. The Society issues a bi-monthly Journal to which members are invited to contribute articles

For further information contact The Secretary, Box 5123, Wellesley St, Auckland 1, or President NZPFOCA.