

Registered at G.P.O.
Wellington as a
Magazine.

P.O.Box 33-710,
TAKAPUNA,
AUCKLAND. 6.

1. LAST POST ::

1626 W.T.(Shiner) SHIELDS, on 28 May 79. The funeral was attended by reps from ChCh RSA, as our Members, Joff Adams, Len Barnes, Bill Dillon, Fred Mitchell, Rex Hudson, Emil Jennings and Did Hancock, who were there to see that he was farewelled with due respect.

2. CHANGES OF ADDRESS :: In this respect, please let us know if you've moved. Some of these turned up by : sheer luck, word of mouth, or others telling us. Serving Members, hard to keep track of Postings. we try hard to keep in touch, so that we can keep intouch with one another.

Cyril Jarden : now P.O.Box 39, Whangaparaoa. (Retired - Gone fishin')
H.Gibson : " 15 Redhill Rd., Papakura
Capt R.Newth : " HQ.Fort Dorset, Seatoun, Wgton.3.
S.A.Paul : " 6 Pallant St., Manurewa,
L.Gordon : " 4 McEntee St., Papakura,
Major T.G.Roche : " 28 Weir Tce., Waiouru,
N.C.Coe : " Flat 3, Victoria Flats, Queen St, Mt Victoria, Wgton.
Capt J.B.Rout : " HQ, 3 Fd Regt., Burnham Camp.
Bdr G. Timu : " 13 Hector St., Seatoun, Wgton.3.
B.K.Gilmer : " 4/168 Shirley Rd., Papatoetoe,
J.G.Murray : " c/- Central Police Stn., Auck.1.
A.S.Simeon : " c/- Waiheke Taxis, Waiheke Island.
A.D. Warden : " 22 Moana Rd., Paraparaumu.
D.T.Barkle : " c/- Johnsonville RSA, Johnsonville, Wgton.

M.A.(Mal) Tyson " 99 Retreat Rd., ChCh.6.

Amdt. to para 3 of Newsletter No. 29. ::

ARMY MOTELS : Booking Clerk for Paihia and Rotorua, (Ssgt Bourgeois), now located at : Welfare Section, Papakura Camp. Phone 299-9370.

V.C. (vic) LENNON, No.1. Karu St., Oneroa, Waiheke Island.

3. GONE, NO ADDRESS ::

J.R.BASHAM ?- R.J.DOWN -- W.N.(Rookie) STEPHENSON. anyone knowing present address, tell him - or us, and we'll get back to them.

4. NEW MEMBERS ::

A.H.(Taffy) Williams, 2A Coles Cresc, Papakura,
Capt J.E.Hancox, HQ Papakura Camp.
Capt J. Wasson, 16 Fd Regt., Papakura Camp,
M.Moates, Puckey Ave., Kaitaia,
Capt T. O'Reilly, HQ.NZ Landforces, Private Bag, Takapuna,
A.R.(Rusty) Vail, P.O.Box 8874, Symonds St. Auck.1.
Ssgt F.M. Lupo, HQ Bty, 16 Fd Regt, Papakura Camp.
R.H.(Dick) Mitchell, 96 Dyers Pass Rd., ChCh. 2.
R.R.(Rex) Hudson, 94A MacKenzie Ave., ChCh.2.
C.C.(Colin) Young, 47 Cowlishaw St., ChCh. 6.
G.C. (Darkie) Forrester, 45 Northcote Rd., ChCh. 5.
B.(Brian) Prosser, 7 Vivian St., ChCh.9.
WO2.K.R.Turner, 32(E) Bty, 3 Fd Regt RNZA, P.O.Box 1470, ChCh.

5. COMMITTEE DOINGS ::

We'd thought of including this para in the N/Letter - it may produce small things which do not necessarily appear in other places, but most deliberations, correspondence, Newsbits, etc. are covered elsewhere.

5. COMMITTEE DOINGS : (Cont'd)

Some points are :- A donation of \$25.00 to Takapuna RSA "in recognition of their services to us" - our liaison, and custom, remains very good. We have moved in the direction of enquiries ref Group Air Travel or Charter to Taupo in November. A separate Minute is to go out to your District Rep. giving further details of this project; and we hope successful arrangements for travel from your particular area may ensue.

6. NEWSBITS FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS ::

A recent telecon, Président/Brig Park we found that Mrs Park had been quite ill. We sent a spray of flowers on your behalf hoping for her complete recovery. Brig. Park wrote at once in appreciation.

Our congratulations to Jack Baigent on his award of the 'M' Badge for services to the Wellington RSA.

We also hear Jim Gilberd is now a Life Member of Napier RSA, and re-elected to Executive for this twelfth year.

Jim (Warby) Gibb writes from Raumati Beach, often sees Wally Colton, and walks on the beach when the weather is right.

Lionel Hankey, now "picked right up again", and looking for retirement in December.

Rex Lovett, our furthest North Member, on the North side of Doubtless Bay, still fit and well, plenty of fishing, what a great life.

Ron Cochrane, writes of a trip to Greece and Crete, where he was caught "in the bag" in 1941. Kiwi stocks are still pretty high there it seems.

Jack (Shackle) Hickson, still fit and well, with Air NZ at Mangere, with Vic Meyle, Jack Osmers, but Slim Gilmer has now retired from there.

Jack Colclough, now moved to settle in as a permanent Aussie at North Shore, Sydney.

Sel Bryant, endorses Emil Jennings' news of ChCh doings, will be knocking off in July.

Two letters from Jim Gilberd; one telling us of Brig. (Rusty) Page's illness and subsequent operation. (We wrote as well Jim, but have not yet had any progress report)

Jim also recalls :- "Being a member of the "Rear Party" at the conclusion of the TF Annual Camp, at Waipukurau race course, Mar/Apr 1935.

The QM, one Bdr Wainwright had run down the rations so low that the ten members of the Rear Party for our final meal had one loaf of bread, one tin of plum jam, some butter, plus one tin of sardines, (over from the Officers Mess), and a cup of tea. Such were the lengths that QMs were encouraged to go to ensure that the supply a/c balanced.

On the other hand, there were three railway trucks of chaff oats and hay left over from the forage a/c. Horses much better fed than Gunners.

At the camp were 100 RNZA horses to be returned to the Wgton. and Palm. Nth stations. Gunners Gilberd and Chapman were detailed to travel with them. The journey by goods train normally took about 22 hours, with a four to six hour break at Palmerston, wher all horses were unloaded, watered and fed.

The two Gunners had no rations provided, and between us we had ninepence. It was decided that Gnr Gilberd would approach the Adjt, (Lt. Rusty Page) for a loan to buy some grub.

The Adjt himself was onlt able to muster up 1/3d, which he did loan to us with which we bought two cooked rabbits, and some sandwiches, - such was soldiering in the Royal Regiment in the 1930's.

N.B. Horses had to travel with full nosebags on all journeys over six hours.

Incidentally Jim, did you see the Musical Drive by King's Troop R.H.A. at Olympia Stadium, London, on TV on 6 Jun this year. I rember well that you and Dick Healey practised us often at it in 1937, yes, 10 Wing, the last mob who trained with horses. We tried hard but we never did as well as those RHA boys. The horse used to get as excited as hell, and so did we.

6. NEWS FROM AND ABOUT - (Cont'd)

George Standen, writes from Wgton, knocking off early June, then off to trip UK/Europe. You've worked hard for that, and we hope you enjoy every moment of it.

G.L.(Action) Williams, of Invercargill, writes of Southland Gunners Assn doings and their Gunners Day Parade.

Jack Gillooly, our keen Wgton Asst. and Hutt Valley Rep. writes of --- contact with :-

Lawry Adam, yes Lawry, Bill Dalton was a Member, but as you know died in 1960. We all affectionately remember him as a first class, hard working Ordnance "Tiffy", (18 Pdr, 4.5 & 6" Howr), long before the advent of EME, in fact I think he was a "Tiffy" in 1914-18.

Gerald Cassidy, fit and well, can be found - often in Hutt RSA.

Pat Dumbleton, now fit, and we hope that hip joint wears in well without too much trouble.

Ernie Forbes, still with Def.Dept; hope not too many snags still with cataloguing that EDP stuff, (I remember well Navy's early troubles with it - all behind me now though).

Ray Maher, still fit and well, No Ray no record of Bob Brown ever having been a Member, we remember him well from those pre-War Dorset days - does anyone else know where we can track him down ?.

Jack Mercer, getting longer in the tooth and not really 100%, but taking it quietly, wishes to be remembered to all those of 1925-26 vintage, and from then on.

Harley Penrose, among the fit, wishes to be remembered to all his old contemporaries.

Carl Lee - Wally and I recently visited him when we discovered that he is permanently in a wheel chair with arthritis, and has been for some time; we regretted that we had not known this before. He and his wife are very cheerful, and coping reasonably, they live at 63B High Road, Glenfield, phone No. 448,300. He told us he would love to see any of his old mates for a yarn.

Emil Jennings, writes on behalf of our keen ChCh group :-

Maj-Gen ("Uncle Ike") Parkinson, affectionately ; and I know I speak for all of us), now 83 yrs, was very ill a few months ago, but rallied well, although "slowed down a bit". We are glad to hear that a fighting old Gunner still soldiers on.

Pete Delaney, in hospital again with those legs - hope that wheel chair spectre stays away out of it - keep 'em moving Pete, we wish you well.

Two highlights from ChCh - and enjoyable get-together Meeting in the RSA in mid-March, discussed ways and means of some getting to this year's Re-Union, hope you are successful, and we expect to help all we can from this end.

A most enjoyable day was spent in mid-April at Burnham Camp as guests, together with ChCh Officers Club, of HQ 3 Inf Bde, (3 Bde Commander, Col. Ian Burrows, and his father Brig. Burrows, now retired), looked after their guests very well.

Emil later, in May had a small walkabout in Australia, hope the weather was right and that you had a good time.

From Brian O'Connor, also had been across the Tasman to see a son married off in Toowoomba. An interesting letter, and I think we should note that this is one for the Guinness, I mean Gunners Book, Brian, not many have achieved it - three generations of O'Connor Gunners.

Terry Hynes, writes, now well "coronary wise", also been to Aust. - what about this emigration thing ! still like all good Gunners, they all came back.

7. ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES ::

The main one being the Takapuna Municipal Ceremony, in conjunction with RSA, where our wreath was laid on your behalf, attended by twenty-plus Members. Later in the RSA Hall the atmosphere was slightly more convivial - also well attended. Two stalwarts, Des O'Connor and Tony Parkes, as is their custom, had also attended the Dawn Parade at Auck. Cenotaph.

8. GUNNERS DAY CELEBRATIONS ::

Some highlights from Auck :- firstly a most enjoyable 'get-together' for thirty-plus Members and their wives in Takapuna RSA on 23 May. Ably organised by Eric Autridge and his sub-Committee.

Sixteen Members attended and took part in 16 Fd Regt's Memorial Service and Parade at Auckland Cenotaph on 26 May. A most impressive and efficiently organised occasion. Gordon Weaver came especially up from Hamilton, and Jack Gillooly happened to be up on business from Wgton. We were not represented at Waiouru Gunners Club Ball this year. By that I mean by Retired Members, as you know, all Gunners Club are Serving Members. We are told that it went off with the usual swing.

9. NEWS FOR US FROM RNZA DIRECTORATE ::

Director has written, enclosing a copy of a letter from U.K. Korean Veterans Assn. to High Commissioners Office. They wished to get in touch, particularly with ex-16 Fd Regt 'K' Force Members.

We replied directly to the initiator, also to President, NZ 'K' Force Assn, and to 16 Fd Regt, advising them of this information.

If any Member - ex-'K' Force 16 Fd Regt wishes to get in touch, the UK Sec's address is :-

Mr A.J. MOODY,
6 Windsor Rd.,
Wanstead, LONDON. E11 3QU.

Also from Directorate, GS02. Major Bowler writes in answer to the para in Mr President's short History of the Assn. with ref to the NZ Permanent Force Reward Fund :-

"With reference to your History of the Association attached to Newsletter No. 29, and in particular to your reference with regard to the Permanent Force Reward Fund, knowing you would be interested in what has become of this money. As you quite rightly state it was a considerable sum, in fact £4239-9-3d.

The Army Act 1950, Section 157(2) states :- "The Permanent Force Reward Fund, established under Section sixty-six of the Defence Act 1909 shall, as from the commencement of this Act, be known as the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery Fund, and shall be applied for the benefit of the Regular Officers and Soldiers of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery in such manner and at such times as the Governor General directs. The money \$8478.93 is currently held by the Public Trust, and the interest each year is paid into the RNZA RF Regimental Funds Account. So, although the Association did not obtain the funds, at least they are being used for the benefit of Gunners".

Brig. Burns also mentions the subject in his letter, and reminds us that one function of the interest from the Fund is the purchase of the Silver Grenade presented to Gunners after twenty-five years Service. If my memory serves me correctly, Brig. Burns was intimately connected with this project during his term as Director.

10. THIS YEAR'S RE-UNION AND A.G.M. -- TAUPO :

It has been decided that this year's Re-Union will be held during the week-end, 17-18 November at Spa Hotel.

All available accommodation at Spa has been "pencilled in" i.e. 2 double rooms, 12 twin rooms, and 2 single rooms.

Tarrif is at \$8.50 p/night for one person, and \$14 p/night for two.

Menu has been perused by Committee, and it looks a very reasonable one at \$14.00 per head. Wild pork is on, and possibly trout, if available; though not judging by my luck the last couple of times.

Five Units at Acacia Bay Army Motel have been allocated to us, (ea. sleep 6 people), If you require this facility, please get in touch direct with Booking Clerk, Welfare Section at Waiouru. We are unable to handle this one from here - naturally - as we can't know who is 'first in'.

Application Forms are available from your nearest Army Office.

That's about all the advance info at the moment on this one; but further details incl "I am coming - I am not" forms, should be out in next N/Letter planned for first week in September.

Don't contact Spa Hotel direct though - the usual drill is for us to do that - when we've got the consolidated 'first in' List in Sept.

11. OUR FUNDS ::

Very necessary to keep matters rolling. The response this quarter has been magnificent, and Mr. Treasurer is delighted; so come on you sluggards -- there are a few -- divvy up !

An old friend of mine tells the story of when he was attached to a Bofors Regt. in Indian Army during the War. The Unit was being visited by the local Area Commander, who happened to be a Maj-Gen. RA. During his tour he complimented the Unit on its turnout, maintenance efficiency etc., Approaching one of the Guns he pointed and said, "you tell me the name of this part?". The layer looked up with a proud grin, and said, "Traversing Gear - stupid Bastard". The General's reaction, and possibly later comments on type of drill remain unrecorded.

Keep those Newsbits and stories coming in - we try to keep in touch with one another.

*Yours,
Terry Evans*