

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION ::

NEWSLETTER NO. 36 :: APR. 1981. ::

Recd

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P.O.Box 33-710
TAKAPUNA,
AUCKLAND. 9.

1. LAST POST -- ROLL OF HONOUR ::

No. 1402, G.H.(Geoff) ROCHE at Manurewa on 3 Feb 1981.
APPRECIATION :: Geoffrey Hamilton ROCHE - Life Member.
Geoff Roche was a quiet unassuming Gunner who came from an old and respected pioneering Waikato family. He was born in Hamilton on 3 Feb 1896, and joined the RNZA on 9 Jul 1915. He fought on Gallipoli as a Gun No. with 4 Bty NZFA, (4.5" Howitzer), and subsequently in France as a Line Signaller - a particularly hazardous occupation in those days. Geoff was severely wounded late in the War and was discharged from the RNZA medically unfit on 29 Sep 1919. He elected to take Govt. Superannuation payable once yearly just before Christmas - and once said it was just enough to buy him a new suit! Geoff then took up school teaching. When we last heard from him late in 1980 he was in reasonable health except for his legs which were troubling him. He 'went West' suddenly on 3 Feb 1981, his 85th Birthday. Our deep sympathy goes out to the surviving members of his family.

2. CHANGES OF ADDRESS ::

A.R.(Alec) Johnson
42 Waitaki St,
Henderson. AUCK.8.
E.W.(Ernie) Hargreaves,
P.O.Box.1.Plimmerton

Col.R.K.G.(Ralph) Porter,
37 Oban St.,
Wadestown. WGTON.
B.R.(Brian) Edmonds,
c/- P. & O. Island Resort Division,
P.O. Box 72. Hamilton, QLD. 4007.
Sgt.G.B.Timu,
72B Arimu Rd.,
Papakura.

Major M.R. (Mike) Wicksteed,
Army Public Relations Office
Ministry of Defence, Pwte Bag,
WGTON.1.

B.(Basil)Parsons,
9 Barrington.St., CHCH.2.
Bruce Tolson - moved from CHCH to
"North of Napier" - anyone know where he is?
Brig. H.B. Honnor,
Ministry of Defence.
HQNZDEF, Pwte Bag WGTON.1.
Col. R.J.Pearce, Army GS.
HQNZDEF. Pwte. Bag. WGTON. 1.
Col.R.J.Andrews,
2. T.F.R. Linton Camp,
PALM. NTH.

D.C.(Don) Allison,
16A Broadfell Ave., CHCH.4.
C.C.(Colin) Young,
47 Cowlshaw St., CHCH.6.
Raid D.F.(Darcy) Pollard,
S.of A.Artilletry,
Artilletry H.Q. IZKI CAMP.
Box 897. MUSCAT.
Sultinate of Oman.
Brig. J.R.(Rusty) Page,
115 Lytten Rd.,
Howick. AUCK.

3. NEW MEMBERS ::

R.(Bob) Harris,
123 Barrenjoey Rd.,
Ettalong. N.S.W. Aust. 2257.

P.G.(Phil) Monk,
Frederick St.,
Paraparaumu Beach.

and the following : c/- Waiouru Gunners Club,
School of Artillery.,
A.T.G. WAIOURU.

Major E.W.Anker
Bdr.C.W.Dermis

WOII.J.H.Barrett Capt(W) S.P. Boon
Major.J.S.Heard Capt G.C.Lough.

With particular pleasure we welcome our first Lady Member -
Capt (W). S.Boon. We're glad you're with us.

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4. NEWS FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS ::

Since last N/Letter, snippets of news have come in :-

A letter from Darcy Pollard from Scott Base, we had sent him N/Letter 35, saying that the climate, always hovering well below zero, was from him a 'oncer'. Interesting descriptions of their training, acclimatisation, survival techniques, etc. A description of the views of the vast emptiness from a helicopter of the dry valleys and glaciers as being 'out of this world'.

A 'first' for a RNZA Member to have been there I think.

Now Darcy has gone to the hottest part of the world, at the entrance to the Persian Gulf; a three year stint with the Sultan of Oman's Artillery, (see change of address para, with the Rank of Raiid, (Major). also a 'first' for the RNZA. We wish him well and no doubt will hear more from him.

From Bob Blankley, thanking us for our message of congratulation on his award of the MBE.

The Jan. issue of "Gunfire", RNZA Directorate Newsletter, mentions the Annual Camp of 22 (D) Bty, Wgton; ending with a 4-day FMX during which 20 Gun Positions were occupied, firing 400 rds from the 4 Guns deployed, an exhausting and testing time for all ranks. It is heart warming to see that the old RNZA tradition, (unofficial), which we knew - "work hard, play hard" is being carried on.

4 Med Bty started their Camp at Papamoa Beach, Bay of Plenty, then off to Waiouru for the 4-day FMX, also a long and hard move.

1 Loc Tp Radar Sec. also held their Annual Camp. Other activities of the Tp included Survey and the provision of met. for 22 and 4 Med Btys.

It was interesting to note in last Aug's issue of "Gunfire" that there were no less than 24 Gunners serving on postings in all parts of the world. Many of those must still be there, but the following, many of whom will be known by some of the 'oldies', are still away : Maj-Gen Ron Hassett, still a civil job in Kuala Lumpur, Capt John Wasson, Israel, Capt John Bellamy, Singapore, Raiid Darcy Pollard, Oman, Major Brian Hewitt, Pulada Malaysia, Capt G.R. Williams, Israel, Major C.R. Flinkenberg, Queenscliffe, Aust. Major R.J. Turner, Canberra, Major Bart Hendl, Singapore, Capt Brian Millyn, UNTSO, Pakistan. I'm sorry I've no up-to-date knowledge of NCO and OR postings, but hope to correct that by next N/Letter.

It's good to see that the "New Zealand" flash and the Gunner Badge is worn with pride in so many places.

Emil Jennings, with news from our CHCH folk; an enjoyable pre-Christmas get-together was held in CHCH RSA.

Len Barnes had a severe operation in December, but is now out and about. Jim Gilberd called in early in Jan. and a small session at CHCH RSA by old contemporaries, Bill Dillon, Ollie MacDonald, Bryan O'Connor, Bryan Prosser, Sel Bryant, and Emil, was enjoyed by all.

5. COMMITTEE NEWS ::

Sir Leonard Thornton wrote early in Nov. last, saying that a proposal had been accepted by The Army Museum Trust Board for a Coast Arty Exhibit at the Army Museum. It was suggested that a scale Model of a typical Coast Installation, supplemented by photographs and other small mementos should be attempted.

The Mk XXI layout was thought to be the most suitably typical for its time.

The letter was read at the A.G.M., and some discussion followed; an appeal was made to all to think about it and come up with some ideas which we could look at. This appeal still stands. Has anyone any ideas or material of any kind -- let us know !

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The project was more closely discussed at Committee Meeting of 14 Feb. It was determined that we should assist in every way possible. Copies of Plans/Drawings etc. should be obtained from which a Scale can be calculated; and close liaison with all other bodies who may have knowledge or will be able to help should be initiated.

6. THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF N.Z. ARTILLERY ::

From President's Report, (with this N/Letter under RNZA Regt'l Affairs Committee), the full title of which has been decided as shown by this para heading.

President O.C.A. is a Committee Member. Wally's summary of their aims and intentions is concisely accurate - once again, if you have any idea whatever how we can contribute, please let us know, and he will carry it forward to the next Meeting.

The draft for his booklet, "Facts for new Members of the Regiment" will be presented at their April Meeting. Incidentally this has involved him in a great deal of careful and painstaking research.

7. THE NEW ZEALAND MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ::

The Society's aims are : "to foster the study of New Zealand Military History of warfare in New Zealand, New Zealanders at War, encourage research into Traditions, Uniforms, Insignia and Arms. We embrace collectors of all Militaria, maintain a library, and Display of Military Items". Wally is its Treasurer and has written a series of infinitely researched articles in its quarterly magazine, "The Volunteers" on the subject of "The Armstrong Gun", particularly the 9 and 12 pdrs and their use during the New Zealand Wars.

His bibliography shows a search of no less than 18 volumes, published between 1860 and now, has produced the six-part story.

We only hope that it can eventually be printed in full form.

From this research and other over the years, he is well on the way to becoming an authority on "The Gun".

8. FURTHER OBITUARIES ::

We feel we must include and extend our deepest sympathy to George Salt and Bill McAlpine on the recent loss of their wives. Letters of condolence were sent on your behalf.

6 Apr '81 : Also Brig. Rusty Page upon the loss of his wife sincerest sympathy.

9. ANZAC DAY ::

We know that a goodly number of Members turn out to Parades all over the country on the Day.

Main events around Auckland are Dawn 0530 at Browns Bay, Dawn 0530 at Auckland Cenotaph ; our HQ, Takapuna, 0930 fall in in Sanders Ave.

We hope for a good turnout. New Lynn, Manurewa, and Papakura also see many of our Members; unfortunately not aware of the timings.

10. GUNNERS' DAY : TUE 26 MAY ::

16 Fd Regt RNZA, will Parade at Auckland Cenotaph at 1230 hrs; the same format as last year - it is as well to be there 15 mins beforehand.

We have been asked to join them as a Troop, together with Auckland Officers Club.

Again we hope for a good turnout, and that as many Members as possible can be with us.

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10.(Cont'd) On the evening of WED. 27 May, Jack Keinzley has arranged a "Get Together" at Takapuna RSA, at 1930 hrs. It takes the form of 'ladies bring a plate' - we are therefore assured of a bumper supper - meet old friends and faces, and natter about old times ; again let's have a good turnout.

People are in the world to communicate with one another - particularly old Gunners -- to feel the unique rapport that exists between us. Keep in touch, and in the "News from and About" column, we're able to pass it on.

All the Best,

Yours Terry Manson

A young Officer newly appointed to the Ragiment was being entertained in the Sgt's Mess. Standing at the bar he announced to all and sundry , "Nobody's going to wee in my pocket". Shortly afterward, putting his hand in the jacket pocket of his alegantly tailored uniform - he found that someone had !. To this day noone knows whether it was half a glass of beer, or the real thing.

N.Z. PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

NOVEMBER 1980.

Gentlemen,

Welcome to Taupo.

On behalf of your Executive I have pleasure in presenting this the 45th Report on the activities of the Association for the past year.

OFFICE BEARERS :

Patron : Lt-Gen Sir Leonard Thornton, KCB.CBE.

President : W.L.Ruffell.

Vive -Presidents and District Representatives :

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Auckland and North Shore : | J.Keinzley |
| South Auckland : | E.T.O'Neill |
| 16 Fd Regt RNZA : | WOII L.G.Jackson |
| Waiouru : | Secretary, Waiouru Gunners Club, |
| Taranaki : | G.E.Sutherland |
| Wanganui : | D.Jones |
| Hawkes Bay/Taupo | J.G.Gilberd |
| Wellington | A.J.Baigent |
| Hutt Valley : | J.L.Gillooly |
| Otago : | G.A.Stuart |
| Southland : | S.E.Morrison |
| Canterbury/W.Land/Nelson : | W.E.Jennings |
| Secretary : | J.T.Transom |
| Treasurer : | D.P.O'Connor |
| Auditor : | W.A.Wordsworth. ACA. |

Executive Committee :

A.Boyd
E.T.O'Neill
A.F.W.Powrie
H.G.C.Salt
A.J.Smith
J.Keinzley.

FINANCE ::

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

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT ::

Our 'Gastetner' machine which must have been fifty years old, finally 'gave up the ghost' just over a year ago. Despite valiant efforts by Harold Nicholson who machined new gears for it, another part fell to pieces on assembly and could not be reproduced or replaced. We were therefore obliged to invest in a new machine. Luckily we were able to acquire a Heyer, a single roller type of modern design which had been in use as a demonstration model, for \$65 below list price.

ANZAC DAY PARADE - 25 APR '80 ::

The Association was well represented at the Parade and Ceremony organised by Takapuna RSA, our Headquarters, by some thirty Members. Our special wreath was laid on this occasion by Jack Kainzley, our Auckland and North Shore Rep., and Ian Rowntree.

GUNNERS DAY - 26 May '80 ::

As in 1979 we combined with the Auckland Officers Club to form a Troop under 16 Pz Regt RNZA who had invited us to take part in the Parade and Memorial Service, which unfortunately had to be conducted in the Hall of Memories at Auckland War Memorial Museum owing to inclement weather. Your Secretary Terry Transom laid the usual wreath. However, in the afternoon the sun shone; and I had the pleasure of conducting about 80 members of the Regiment on a tour of the old Coast Fortifications at North Head; for which the C.O., Lt-Col P.J. Calvert RNZA expressed appreciation. For my own part I was impressed by the interest shown, particularly by the younger Gunners and NCOs, most of whom had never before visited The Head. After the tour the party repaired to the Takapuna RSA for refreshment, it was an enjoyable hour.

WELFARE ::

No cases of need have been brought to the notice of the Executive this year. A number of Members have suffered illnesses, but as far as we know they are now well or on the mend.

ROLL OF HONOUR ::

E.R. (Cash) Cashmore on 3 Jan '80 at Pukenui, Northland,
Lt-Col J.H. (Johmie) Mabbett MBE, on 15 Feb at Wellington,
M.C. (Mick) Moates on 18 Mar at Kaiaia,
O.A. (Ossie) Wahrlick on 11 Apr at Dunedin,
S.J. (Stan) Cage on 22 Jun at Wellington,
Brig. R.S. (Ron) Park, CBE, on 15 Aug at Auckland,
Major C.A. (Cyril) Baigent on 26 Sep at Tauranga.

Members stood for a few moments in silent tribute.

MEMBERSHIP ::

Present effective Membership is as follows :-

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Life Members : | 16 (12) | Figures in brackets are for |
| Associate " :: | 13 (12) | 1979. |
| Ordinary " : | 385 (345) | |
| Total :: | 414 (369) | |

Once again there has been a substantial overall increase over the last twelve months, largely due to the continuing efforts of our District Reps, who are to be highly commended.

It is gratifying to see the younger age groups well represented in the increase and to know we are not in danger of becoming an "old fogies only" group.

These figures do not include the "gone no addresses" of which unfortunately we still have too many. If you happen to 'shift camp' be sure you do not forget to let us know of your new address.

DISTRICT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ::

As far as practicable District Reps have continued to keep in touch with their Members. Jim Gilbert organised a successful Re-Union in Napier on 21 Jun '80, and Emil Jennings a Re-Union Dinner in Christchurch on 11 Oct '80. The latter being attended by Members from all over the South Island.

District Social Activities : (Cont'd) :

In Auckland a local Re-Union will be held at Takapuna RSA Clubrooms on 10 Dec '80 at 1930 hrs. If you happen to be in Auckland on that day don't forget to look us up.

RNZA REGIMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ::

The Committee which is convened by the Colonel Commandant RNZA is to meet twice a year and is to include the President NZ Permanent Force Old Comrades Association among its Members. As such I was privileged to attend the inaugural Meeting on 20 Oct '80.

Briefly the objects are to preserve the heritage and well-being of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery. Functions will cover : Regimental Traditions, historical affairs and Battle Honours, domestic affairs of the Regiment, customs, funds and property; advice to the Chief of the General Staff through the Colonel Commandant; liaison with kindred Artillery organisations.

Our Association has been asked to :-

Produce a booklet of 'Does and Don'ts' for newcomers to the Regt.

Make suggestions regarding obituaries and Gunner Funerals.

Examine the possibility of compiling a Roll of Gunners to include a limited 'Whos Who'.

Assist in preparing a list of geographical places of Gunner interest.

I am prepared to do the 'donkey work' provided I get some help. I am sure everyone has ideas on the subjects quoted - so let's have them !.

RNZA HERITAGE ::

Sometime in 1981 visitors to the Army Memorial Museum, Waikuru, should see one of the Guns our 'ancestors', the New Zealand Armed Constabulary trained on during the 1860s. It is a 6-pdr Armstrong Field Gun, one of the four which lay neglected in the Monmouth Redoubt, Tauranga, from 1885 when the NZAC station there closed. Negotiations for the piece have taken nearly a year, but at last it is back where it belongs. The RNZE, Linton, are to begin construction of a new carriage for it early in the New Year, Service commitments permitting.

CONCLUSION ::

Once again I would like to express my appreciation for the support and assistance so readily given by your Executive Committee and Vice-Presidents representing Districts over the past year.

We have also continued to receive valuable help from the Takapuna RSA who give us the use of rooms for Committee Meetings and local Re-Unions free of charge, and do our duplicating also free. Of course your Executive reciprocates with suitable donations from time to time.

TAUPO : 15 NOV 1980.

W.L.RUFFELL.