

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION ::

Registered at GPO,  
Wellington as a  
Magazine.

NEWSLETTER NO. 41 :: APR. 1983 ::

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

1. CHANGES OF ADDRESS :

R.M.(Bob) Calder now :  
288 Ocean Beach Rd.,  
Mt. Maunganui

J.(Jack) Cook now :  
112 Clouston Park Rd.,  
Upper Hutt.

W.B.F.(Bill) McAllum now :  
17 Clifton Tce.,  
CHCH. 8.

J.D. (Jeff) Waters now :  
57.B. Park Estate Rd.,  
Papakura.

A.R.(Rusty) Vail, now :  
c/- N.S.A.D.,  
P.O.Box 188,  
Tokoroa

E.G.(Ted) Willbond, Now :  
19 Vernon Ave.,  
Palmerston Nth.

J.F. (Jack) Callagher, now :  
Carmel Private Hospital,  
103 St. Andrews Rd.,  
Epsom, AUCK. 3.

Jack, now aged 93, and his wife are permanent patients there. He is now totally blind; many of his old Auck. mates go to see him, he dearly loves a yarn about old times - see if some more of you can make a visit.

2. NEWS FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS ::

From Bob Harris, Sydney, regrets cannot attend Taupo R/U, but plans to next year. (We have three resident Aust. Members, Jack Colclough, Sydney, Brian Edmonds, Heron Island, Qld.)  
from Vin Skilton, during a holiday in Cairns had met Col. Bob Smith, nearing the end of a two year tour of Aust.  
from George "Hookie" Stuart, with news of the Dunedin folk, all well, also news of the restoration by Dunedin Antique Arms Society of a 6 " Mk 1. at Taiaroa Heads - the are looking for the breech mech. to almost get it into working order. The breech mech. was sent up to the School of Arty Museum some years ago. During the move of the School some time ago to its present site, the Museum for some strange reason was scrapped. It had been a priceless venue for teaching Principles of Gun Construction and Ammunition. This has always been a sad point for Wally Ruffell personally, as he, Pat Shepherd and others had spent years setting it up. It is thought that the 6" Breech Mech. must still be in Waiouru somewhere. Bryan O'Connor writes of the staunch ChCh group, - all well, some dates for their regular meetings at ChCh RSA - 9 Apr and 28 May, (nearest Gunners Day).

3. COMMITTEE NEWS ::

Please remember that Dist. Reps have a copy of all Minutes if you care to read about what we've been talking about.

Snippets of recent discussions are :- Committee Members, expressed a degree of unhappiness wht Spa's org. on the evening of the Dinner, some aspects of which need improvement. Discussion followed from which it was agreed that Wally and I should personally consult Spa before the date of next R/U which is "pencilled in" for w/e 12/13 Nov '83.

It was also Carried at this Meeting, "That we hold a referendum on the subject of Affiliation with The Army Association including their aims and objects, and quoting the Terms of Affiliation, urging all Members to vote, as we feel that this is of considerable importance".



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All Members are urged to give this matter some thought ; see N/Letter 40 - also 38 and 39, where Army Assn's "aims and objects" were previously promulgated.

It is felt that our thinking must be governed by a careful weighing up pro or con, with our own "aims and objects" as stated in our Rule Book, these having been laid down by our founders in the exigencies of those days ; but the emergence of the Welfare State has alleviated most of this.

It is planned that a voting paper will be sent with the next N/Letter so that the result can be tabled at next A.G.M.

Also at the Meeting, George Salt, an active Committee Member, was elected Life Member, having achieved his four score years.

Addenda to "News from" - from Dick Healey, fit and fairly mobile, a "never miss" attender at Taupo, says he will continue to turn up while still on two feet, rising 83 yrs ; forgot to put this in earlier Dick.

4. COMING EVENTS ::

Anzac Day Parades ::

We certainly hope for a good muster, especially of North Shore Members at the Takapuna Parade, although some may wish to be at the Main Parade at Auckland Cenotaph, where H.R.H. The Prince of Wales will be the Senior Guest of Auckland RSA.

Other Centres will no doubt see a representative turn-out of Members.

Gunnery Days Parades ::

In Wellington :: all Members are invited to form up at The Carillon, National War Memorial at 1150 hrs. (contact Jack Baigent for details), After the Parade an adjournment to the famous watering hole of generations of Gunnery, in fact for nearly a hundred years - the Royal Tiger Hotel.

In Auckland :: A good muster is hoped for to Parade with 16 Fd Regt at the Cenotaph in the Domain at 1100 hrs on the Day, 26 May. It will follow the same format as previous years, with a letter gathering at Auck. RSA.

A previous C.O. Lt-Col P.H.C. Hanson has again taken the reins at 16 Fd., Lt-Col P.J. Calvert being posted to D.R.C. 1 T.F.R. still in Papakura.

The Waiouru Gunnery Club are hosting a formal Gunnery Ball in Waiouru Community Centre on Friday 27 May. Accommodation will be booked by the Club for any Member wishing to attend at Oasis Hotel/Motel, caravan parking can also be arranged.

(ring Sec. at Auck. 486-137 for any further details).

Eric Autridge has booked Takapuna RSA for 1930 hrs on the evening of Wed. 25 May. It takes the usual form of "ladies bring a plate".

It's always a pleasant and convivial evening, so, please turn up in force, - there's plenty of room.



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"APPRECIATIONS"

We deeply regret the passing of the following Old Comrades who gave distinguished Service to their Country and the Regiment, in peace and in War in a great many places :-

1810 A.D.(Doug) Warden : at Wellington on 21 Oct '82. :  
Doug enlisted in RNZA in Jul 1938, where he Served at Fort Dorset. Posted to the Middle East in Apr 1941, he joined the 7 A.Tk Regt, where he served until the end of the Campaigns in North Africa in May 1943. Thence to Italy where he was severely wounded at Cassino in Apr 1944, being evacuated to NZ in Aug 1944. Reposted to RNZA Fort Dorset in Jul 1945, he was ultimately discharged Medically Unfit in Oct 1945.

32615 D.W.(Bill) McAlpine, Assoc. Member, RNZSigs., at Auckland on 24 Dec '82.  
Bill enlisted in NZEF in Oct 1940, being posted to Fiji, returning to NZ in Jun 1941, he was posted to the Middle East in Jul 1941. He was wounded in the Desert in Jun 1942 and again in Jul 1942. He Served throughout all the Desert Campaigns and later in Italy with NZ Divisional Sigs, and for a time in both 4 and 5 Fd Regts. Returning to NZ from Northern Italy with a Furlough Draft in Apr 1945, he was discharged from 2NZEF in Jul 1945. Enlisting in Regular Force RNZSigs in Apr 1948, he Served in numerous Area Appointments in CMD, being closely associated with CMT training. Commissioned in Jul 1957, he later moved North to NMD, again in Areas, Papakura Camp, and Staff Appointments. He finally retired in Apr 1968.

30064. E.H.L.(Harden) Maxwell, OBE.MC. : suddenly at his home, Karori, Wellington, on 5 Jan 1983.

Hardy graduated from Duntroon in Dec 1939. Following several Appointments in NZ, he spent 9 mths of 1942 in Fiji.

He then embarked for the Middle East in Dec 1942. here the record is very sketchy, but we can assume, because of the shortage of Gunner Officers at the time, that he saw the "end in Africa" in Tunisia in May 1943.

History of NZ Div. Arty. on p.627 records that as BC.48 Bty in aggressive OP positions he was very actively engaged in the protracted and bitter fighting before Florence, where he won the Military Cross. Following the end of the War in Italy, where he was Brigade Major et Arty HQ, he was concerned with the disbandment of the Regiments, and the formation of "J" Force. He returned home in Jul 1946.

Nov. 1947 saw him posted to UK on a Long Gunnery Staff Course at School of Artillery, Larkhill, until Jun 1949.

He was then engaged in various Regimental and Staff Appointments at home until Apr 1955, when he again went overseas to "K" Force until Jul 1956, again involved in a disbandment exercise.

At home, again assuming Staff Duties, one of which was as ADC to the Governor General for one year.

Nov. 1958 again saw him posted overseas as Assistant Liaison Officer in London for three years, returning home in Jan 1962.

His final posting was to Army HQ. in the Appointment of Military Secretary which he held until retirement in Apr 1966.

Unfortunately his record does not show when he was awarded the OBE., but his story does show a very busy twenty-seven years in very many places.



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30068. J.A.(John) Pountney. MBE., at his home, Waikanae, Wellington, on 8 Jan 1983.

Jack graduated from Duntroon in Dec 1939. After several Regimental Appointments in NZ, he embarked for the Middle East in Sep 1941. During the confused and bitter fighting in the dreadful summer of 1942, about the time of Rommel's attempted breakthrough on the South (Qattara Depression) flank, as a 6 Fd Regt OP Officer he was badly wounded, necessitating his return home. (See Gunner Book p.346.). For the remainder of the War he was engaged in various Staff Appointments at Army HQ.

In Feb 1946 he was posted to Japan, returning in Feb 1947.

In Dec 1948 he was posted to UK for a Long Gunnery Staff Course (AA), at Manorbier, South Wales. Following the Course he did short Tours of Duty with HQ. AA Comd.(UK), and in Germany, returning home in Jan 1951. Then followed various Regimental and Staff Appointments until Mar 1954. Posted to Korea as CO. 16 Fd Regt, Apr - Nov '54, Commander "K" Force Nov '54 to May '55, returning home in Jun 1955.

In Oct. 1956 he was posted as "Deputy Head of NZ Joint Staff Mission, Washington. USA, for a period of three years".

Returning home in May '60, his next Appointment was to AHQ as DRNZA - 1960-61. During this period, two TOD's in Australia.

Then followed various Staff Appointments, until his retirement in Jul. 1965.

Again a busy and full career spanning twenty-six years.

34246. R.W.(Rex) Lovett, at Kaitia on 31 Jan 1983 :

Rex sailed for the Middle East with 4 Fd Regt in the First Echelon, 2 NZEF in Jan 1940.

Two interesting entries, "Reported safe in Egypt" 18.5.41, then "Safe" 12.12.41, indicate that he may have been "on the loose" in Greece for some time.

Back with the Regt. he was appointed BSM of 25 Bty in Sep. '42.

Following the remaining Desert Campaigns until "the end in Africa", he returned home with the first Furlough Draft in Jul. 1943, taking his discharge from 2.NZEF in Nov '43.

Rex enlisted in RNZA (RF) in Dec 1949. His career then followed many Appointments in Coast, Field, and Loc Bty, mainly in NMD, also closely associated with CMT training; eventually taking his discharge as a WO2, in Feb 1956.

• We know it's not much trouble to keep alive the Spirit of the Family of Gunners, that always came naturally; but keep in touch with your Dist.Rep. and/or us, he will have other info that we haven't space for here,

That's about all for now - All the Best,

Cheers,

*Yours  
Jerry Harrison*



## NZPFOCA

### PRESIDENTS REPORT 1981-82

Gentlemen,

Once again welcome to Taupo, the 1869 Headquarters of our Armed Constabulary forbears.

On behalf of your executive I have much pleasure in presenting this the 47th Report on the activities of the Association for the year 1981-82.

#### Office Bearers:

Patron: Lt Gen Sir Leonard Thornton KCB CBE

President: W.L. Ruffell

Vice-Presidents and District Representatives:

Auckland and North Shore:	L.E. Aufridge
South Auckland:	E.T. O'Neill
Thames/Coromandel:	J.L. Gillooly
Hawkes Bay/Taupo:	J.G. Gilberd
16 Fd Regt RNZA Papakura:	Wol (SMIG) R. Wirihana
2 Fd Regt RNZA Wellington:	Wol P.J. Duggan
3 Fd Regt RNZA Christchurch:	
Waiouru:	Secretary. Waiouru Gunners Club
Wanganui:	D. Jones
Taranaki:	G.E. Sutherland
Wellington/Hutt Valley:	A.J. Baigent
Otago:	G.A. Stuart
Southland:	S.E. Morrison
Canterbury/Westland/Nelson:	J.B. O'Connor
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	R.J. Keinzley
A.J. Smith	H.G.C. Salt
L.E. Aufridge	

Finance: The Association is in a sound position financially, as you will see from the Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet.

I deem it appropriate at this stage to record the following remarks made by our Auditor, Allan Wordsworth, when again refusing to accept a fee for his services: 'Des O'Connor's books are no trouble; to audit them is a pleasure as they are always so neat, well laid out, and correct,' he said.

Assets: You will recall that last year's Report recorded that Jim Gilberd and Dick Healey had presented an Armed Constabulary cap badge and an RNZA helmet plate respectively. Since then Dick has presented two Police badges and an RNZA Officer's gilt cap badge. Henry Salt has mounted all six on a piece of kauri once part of old Fort Cautley, North Head. The result is a handsome ornament symbolising the line of descent of both Police and RNZA from the NZAC. Our thanks are due to the donors of the various pieces as well as to the maker of the ornament, the intrinsic value of which is over 500 dollars.

Anzac Day, 25 April 1982: Once again the parade at Takapuna RSA was well-attended by our members, about thirty turning out. Our special



wreath was laid by Jack Osmers and Terry Transom.

On this occasion I myself attended the Dawn Parade at Browns Bay organised by the combined North Shore RSAs, in company with members of Land Forces HQ WOs and Sergeants Mess. Several other members of NZPFOCA also attended.

Roll of Honour: I very much regret to have to record the passing of the following Old Comrades:

1760 S.G. (Bill) Isherwood  
1320 B. (Basil) Parsons  
1810 A.D. (Doug) Warden on 21 Oct 82 at Paraparaumu  
(Members stood for a few moments in silent tribute).

Membership: Present effective membership is as follows:

Life Members	13 (13)
Associate Members	13 (13)
Ordinary Members	420 (413)
Total	446 (439).

Non-effectives are no less than 26 'Gone no addresses' which Terry will later read out and publish. Hopefully we may round some of them up and improve our effective strength. The modest increase of 7 new members has been made through the efforts of serving reps. Now what have you old retired reps been doing with all the spare time you have on your hands? How about thumbing through your telephone directories and casting your eyes around for names which 'ring a bell', then rope them in!

Gunners Day Parade: Our Association was represented at the usual parade held at the Auckland Cenotaph under the auspices of 16 Fd Regt by a small group of members who joined with members of the Officers Club to form a troop. Our Bob (Pud) Kerslake laid our wreath. Those who did not have to drive a vehicle home adjourned to the Auckland RSA for lunch and a pleasant afternoon session.

Visit to Auckland by the Honourable Artillery Company, Boston, Massachusetts: The Company held a Church Parade on the morning of 6 Oct followed by a parade at the Auckland Cenotaph in conjunction with 16 Fd Regt and the RNZA Band, during which the Regt fired a salute. In the afternoon they marched down Queen St, again accompanied by 16 Fd. In the evening the Company held a banquet at which your Secretary, Terry Transom, ably represented our Association. In presenting the Captain of the Company with a badge and a history of the NZPFOCA, both of which were deeply appreciated, he expressed the hope that our two organisations would keep in touch. He received an assurance that such would be the case.

Welfare: Although no cases requiring material assistance have come to our attention over the past year, the health of some of our older members has given cause for concern. Almost without exception they are proud individuals who will not ask for aid - it must be offered in a way that will not offend, and by someone they know and respect. Therefore I would like to take this opportunity of reminding all District Reps to keep in touch with these members, even if it is just to let them know they are not forgotten. Often the only 'assistance' they need is the chance to talk to a kindred spirit.