

#45

NZPFOCA

PRESIDENTS REPORT 1983-84

Gentlemen, Welcome to Taupo and our 49th reunion cum Annual General Meeting. To those of you who have not visited Taupo before, the place is steeped in history - our history. Our predecessors in the NZ Armed Constabulary first made their Headquarters in the Spa Hotel area, where the original barrack and orderly rooms still stand. Later they moved into Taupo into an area near the present Police Station where they constructed a redoubt, the remains of which together with the original pumice-block magazine may still be seen.

At the Spa the Maori meeting house in which we shall be holding our Church Parade to-morrow is unique in New Zealand - the last existing masterpiece of the famous carver Whero. It is called 'Tiki te Tamamutu', and as far as can be ascertained, was carved in memory of the wife of Tamamutu, a prominent chief of the Tuwharetoa tribe of over a century ago. It is protected by Act of Parliament.

Office Bearers:

Patron: Major General W.S. McKinnon CB CBE BSc

President: W.L. Ruffell

Vice-Presidents and District Representatives:

Auckland and North Shore:	A.J. Smith
Northland:	W.N. Stephenson
South Auckland:	E.T. O'Neill
Thames/Coromandel:	J.L. Gillooly
Hawke Bay/Taupo:	J.G. Gilberd
16 Fd Regt RNZA, Papakura:	WO2 N.P. Moros RNZA
2 Fd Regt RNZA, Wellington:	WO1 P.J. Duggan RNZA
3 Fd Regt RNZA, Christchurch:	Bdr I.S. Trott RNZA
Waiouru:	WO2 L.G. Jackson RNZA
Wanganui:	D. Jones
Taranaki:	G.E. Sutherland
Wellington:	A.J. Baigent
Hutt Valley:	A.F. James
Otago:	G.A. Stuart
Southland:	G.L. Williams
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	H.G.C. Salt
W.B. Morland	A.F.W. Powrie	A.J. Smith
N.P. Moros	I.A. Rowntree	A.F. Taylor

Finance: From the Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet, of which all present have a copy, you will see the Association is in a sound position financially. In order to conserve funds copies have not been sent to Members not attending this AGM, but District Reps will make copies available to any Members interested.

Assets: Dick Healey presented to the Association a photograph of himself which Henry Salt has kindly framed. We propose to hang it with another of his father, No 76 Tpr F.J. Healey NZAC at the Spa Hotel. Tpr Healey served in the Taupo area before joining the NZPM in 1886.

ANZAC DAY 25 April 1984: As usual the parade at Takapuna RSA was attended by about 30 of the old stalwarts. The Association's special wreath was laid by Bill Powrie and myself.

GUNNERS DAY 1984: No parade by 16 Fd Regt was held this year, so our Members missed the opportunity of fraternising with younger generation Gunners as they have in the past. However, WO1 Dave Maxwell, PMC of Land Force Comd WOs and Sgts Mess, and one of our Members, kindly invited us to the Mess in the afternoon.

ROLL OF HONOUR: We very much regret having to record the passing of the following Old Comrades:

A457585 Major M.C. (Mac) Nabbs MBE, on 23 May 84 at Auckland.
1496 Major H.G. Salt MBE, on 19 Jul 84 at Auckland. (George).
1601 Major D.M. (Dave) Sweeney on 3 Nov 84 at Wanganui.

(Members stood for a few moments in silent tribute).

JUBILEE PAMPHLET: 1984 being the Association's Jubilee year, the Executive hoped to publish for issue to Members a small commemorative pamphlet, to which they were invited to contribute. However, not only was the response poor, but quotes from printers were even more discouraging. Instead the history of the Association plus supporting articles will appear in serial form in future Newsletters.

MEMBERSHIP: Present effective membership is:

Life Members	13	(14)	Figures in brackets are for
Associate Members	13	(13)	1982-83
Ordinary Members	435	(413)	
	461	(440)	- indicating a healthy increase.

The above state does not include 'Gone no Addresses', a list of whom is appended to this report. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of any Member named thereon please contact the Secretary with details.

WELFARE: No new cases have been brought to our notice this year. Further to my 1982-83 report, we were able to arrange a grant of an additional \$100 from National Patriotic Funds for the Member who suffered a landslide on his section. Grants may still be made from Nat Pat Funds to any WW2 veteran suffering financial hardship. Application should be made through the nearest RSA; District Reps please note.

DISTRICT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: District Reps' reports will refer.

RNZA COUNCIL: This year the Council meeting was held in conjunction with the RNZA Triennial Conference at Papakura 17-19 Aug 84. By courtesy of DRNZA, Lt Col M.A. Harvey, I was invited to take part not only in the Council proceedings but also in those of the whole Conference, an experience I found most interesting and instructive.

Principal subjects covered were the restructuring of the RNZA, planned purchase of new equipment, regimental matters, but most important of all, Air Defence, of which as no doubt you are well aware the New Zealand Army has had none since the disbanding of the AA units over 20 years ago. Various air defence weapons are being evaluated, in particular 'Rapier', which performed so well in the Falklands. It is a low level weapon with a ceiling of 3000 metres (10,000 feet).

The Australians have commenced manufacture of the British 105-mm 'light gun', the true successor to the 25-pr, and we are to purchase our equipments from them. However, the first guns produced, which will go to the RAA, will not be completed until 1985; we in New Zealand will probably not see any before 1988.

Our 5.5-in medium guns at present with 4 Med Bty are to be replaced by the US M198 155-mm howitzer. This equipment, besides firing conventional ammunition, can act as launcher for 'Copperhead', the guided missile designed to engage individual tanks beyond the effective range of conventional A Tk weapons up to 10,000 metres. Whether or not we get the missile has not yet been decided.

On regimental matters, the CGS has approved the wearing of a khaki beret by the RNZA; Officers and WOs will continue to wear the bronzed cap badge, NCOs, Men and Women to wear the small brass badge. Certificates for 20 years' service are to be issued to both RF and TF.

Highlight of the Conference was the Regimental Dinner attended by Officers and Warrant Officers; one of those 'dined out' was WO1(MG) Bob Wirihana, a Member of NZPFOCA.

Tribute to Retiring Secretary: You will recall Terry wished to stand down after the 1982 AGM, but agreed to carry on during 1983. Not only did he fulfil that promise, but he has continued as Secretary until now, November 1984. Allan Taylor agreed to take over the job some months ago, but having recently been promoted finds he is now unable to do so. Terry is not prepared to serve another term, and in all fairness we should not expect him to. Once again I must pay tribute to him for the service he has rendered, and feel I cannot adequately describe what a tower of strength he has been to the Association during the eight years he has been our Secretary.

Takapuna RSA: Lastly I wish once again to express on behalf of the Association our appreciation of the help the RSA have extended to us in providing rent-free space for our committee meetings and social gatherings.

Taupo 10 Nov 1984

W.L. Ruffell.

GONE NO ADDRESS

R.T. Wirihana
J.F. Donnelly
R.A. Colquhoun
R.A. Fairburn
D.C. Gunn
D.E. Harrison
D.J. Harborne
D.D. Hunter

D.T. Barkle
G.S. Blackett
W.J. Brown
E. Carrington
S. Catchpole (Sel)
A.W.T. Costello
H.K.C. Crawford
C.J.C. Crookes
I.J. Doak
R.J. Down
R.A. Fairburn
J.T. Gallagher
J. Galloway (Jigs)
H.J. Williams

S.V. Haines
R. Harman
D.J. Harborne
J.L. Levins
A.W. Munro
E.L. McClintoch
A.M. Petrie
A.W. Pegler
A.L. Portman
C.W. Reid
D.H. Rollo
J.J. Ryan
W. Simpson
L.J. Webster

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of any of the above members please obtain address and forward to Secretary. If, unfortunately, any of those named have 'gone west', we require details for the Association's 'In Memoriam' Book.

SUBSCRIPTION

At the 1984 Annual General Meeting the Subscription was raised to \$2-50. To be financial to 31 Dec 85 you owe us 4-50 Please remit to Box 33-710, Takapuna as soon as possible.

NZPFOCA - NEWSLETTER No 45

LAST POST: 743 Capt. OP McGuigan, 24 Jul 71 at Hokitika, previously 1074 AL Phillips, 6 Feb 66 at Onehunga, reported GNA.
34669 ME (Blue) Carney, 29 Aug 84 at Wellington.
1291 SG (Sid) Batten, 13 Dec 84 at Horowhenua (Life Member)
1585 RL (Hongi) Castaing, 12 Jan 85 at Auckland.
1156 GG (Greg) Kelly, 13 Feb 85 at Taupo. (Life Member)
1842 RA (Ron) Cochrane, 13 Feb 85 at Auckland.
1840 RM (Bob) Calder, 24 Feb 85 at Tauranga.

Capt McGuigan was also a Life Member, and was 95 when he died.
Arthur Phillips had qualified as a Life Member, and was 84.

NEW MEMBERS: JB (Jim) Kirk, 81 Mansels Rd, Greerton, Tauranga.
1857 PNH (Pat) Shepherd, 2/75 Marine Pde, Howick (revived).
1915 FC (Pat) Fox, 3/51 Meadway, Pakuranga.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Ian Rountree to c/- N. Roberts, 609 Harbour View Rd Whangamata, until his new house is built when address will be 105 Hilton Dve, Whangamata. Further information later.

FR (Ron) Jones to 2/7 Hanlon Cres, Devonport, Auckland 9.

W01 PJ (Pat) Duggan to HQ 3 Fd Regt RNZA, Burnham Camp, where he has assumed the appointment of RSM.

W01 PB (Paul) O'Connor to Waiour Camp, where he has assumed the appointment of Camp RSM. Chalk this one up!

THE 1984 REUNION: Was the best yet. Largely owing to the efforts of our Patron, Major General Walter McKinnon, who lives in Taupo, we were able to secure the Senior Citizens Assn premises for both the AGM and the dinner on the Saturday night. As our membership as well as attendances at reunions have been steadily increasing, adequate and reasonably priced dining facilities have not been easy to find. However, the Senior Citizens' dining room which can seat 200 made a very comfortable venue for our 100 plus, while the caterer's wares and the efficiency with which he dispensed them left nothing to be desired. We have booked the same combination for this year (1985). Members and their ladies present at the dinner included: Maj Gen and Mrs McKinnon, Jim and Dot GILBERD, Dick HEALEY, Allan and Elsie BOYD, Gordon and Nora WEAVER, Bill & Joyce POWRIE, Dave and Marie ROBERTS, Eric & Pattie AUTRIDGE, Ron & Phyllis BENNETT, Hongi CASTAING, Alec JOHNSON, Dave & Averill JONES, Ian & Rene McLEAN, Johnny and Lee MEIKLE, Tony and Phyllis PILCHER, Bill & Barbara WINTER, Terry & Joan TRANSOM, Alf & Vicky SMITH, Arthur & Noanie JAMES, Dan & Amy FOLEY, Cliff & Babs BRAGG, Marie PEARSON, Tom & Margaret CHAPMAN, Emil JENNINGS, Bill & Elaine STEPHENSON, Eric & Joyce BICKERTON, Wally & Joan SHERSON, Charlie & June ANNISS, Ron & Dorothy COCHRANE, Gordon & Margaret MORLEY, Henry & Thelma SALT, George & Lilian STUART, Len & Cora WOODS, Des & Buntie O'CONNOR, Tony & Helen PARKES, Jock & Joan GUNN, Ian & Iris ROUNTREE, Col. Howard & Mrs JONES, Dutch HOLLAND, Frank & Denise LUPU, Bill MORLAND, Ron & Estelle SPENCE, Robby & Joyce ROBINSON, Dave & Mattie CRICHTON, AE & Patti MILN, Les & Betty JACKSON, Joe & Iris HANVEY, Harold NICHOLSON, Jack & Thea BAIGENT, Pat HALL, Wally & Ailsa RUFFELL.

Those who sent apologies were: Laurie ADAM, Tom ATKINS, Bill BAKER, Bernie BANKS, Harry BIGG-WITHER, Bill BIRCHALL, Bob BLANKLEY, Peter BROOKE-ANDERSON, Brig Blackie BURNS, Bob CALDER, Nifty COE, Bevin CULHANE, Pat DUMBLETON, Bert DYSON, Roley FLUTEY, Phil GEORGE, Jim 'Warby' GIBB, Bill GILES, Keith GILMER, Bob HARRIS, Jim HEARD, Jack HICKSON, Brig Harry HONNOR, Henry KEEN, Les KITNEY, Vic LOADER, Phil MONK, Bruce McIVER, Darkie McWHINNIE, George NORRIS, Maj Tom O'REILLY,

Jack OSMERS, Pun PAGE, Maj Gen Les PEARCE, Jim McL ROSS, Jack SPRING, Andy STRANG, Ted TAVERNER, TAN VINE, Sir Richard WEBB, 'Action' WILLIAMS, Ivan WILSON, Brig Les WRIGHT, George SUTHERLAND, Stan PERRETT, Harry ANDERSON, Pat FOX, Maj Kerry LEE, Colin STANBRIDGE, WO1 Pat DUGGAN, Maj McLEOD, Norm COE, Des WALLACE, Slim CUMMING, Scotty FRAME, Guy BLACKWELL, Arny PHILPOT, Alec McDONALD, Harley PENROSE, Eric HALL, Ted QUINN, Lt Cols MUNRO and MARTIN, Maj Gary LOUGH, Capt Roger NEWTH, MG MITCHELL, WO1 MAIOHA, WO2 SOPER, H LEGGETT, Ollie MacDONALD, Fred MITCHELL, Ernie HANCOCK, Bryan O'CONNOR, Dave HUGHY, Jack GILLOOLY, Sandy BISSETT, and 24 members of the Waiouru Gunners' Club.

at home

AROUND AND ABOUT: Ron JONES is at present recuperating, having had a leg amputated below the knee as the result of an accident.

George ('Nifty') COE is now living alone at a beautiful spot near Te Kaha overlooking the Bay. He would appreciate callers.

Saw Bob ('PUD') KERSLAKE recently in Whakatane on holiday, playing lots of golf, and looking very prosperous; accompanied by wife Betty.

George BLANDFORD has been in North Shore Hospital with a bad bout of pneumonia but is now recovering at home. He would appreciate a short visit from anyone passing.

Ted O'NEILL can no longer attend Saturday morning Committee Meetings owing to his work, and wishes to resign as South Auckland Rep. Any volunteers for the job?

VISIT TO TAUPO BY PRESIDENT & SECRETARY WEEK-END 2-3 FEB 85: For a few brief hours during the week-end the citizens of Taupo ably assisted by the NZ Armed Constabulary Re-enactment Society of Napier, 'brought to life' the NZAC Field Force, a number of whom were stationed in the area from 1869 to 1885.

Chief feature was a parade through the city which included a horse-drawn battery of RBL 6-pr Armstrong guns, full-sized replicas of the originals employed by the Force. These guns with their limbers, harness, and stores were made by members of the Re-enactment Society, while the horses were obtained locally, mainly through the efforts of our Patron, Major General Walter McKinnon.

Members of the battery were dressed in Armed Constabulary uniforms, while their personal weapons included Snider carbines, and swords and revolvers of the period, many of which had actually seen service with the Force. Both uniforms and arms are the personal property of individual members.

Not to be outdone the ladies of the Society, dressed in period costumes and conveyed in a vintage horse-drawn waggon, formed a charming and colourful contingent.

After the parade the battery came into action in an area at the yacht club end of Lake Terrace where they fired a salute in honour of the occasion, after which they were inspected by His Worship the Mayor. Later all those taking part, as well as those who had assisted in making the show a success, were invited to a Mayoral reception. The latter included your Patron, President, Secretary, and their ladies.

On the Sunday morning the OCA party were invited to a private showing of a special display in the Taupo Museum of Armed Constabulary arms and other artifacts which is to be open to the public until the end of April.

The Armed Constabulary has been sadly neglected by New Zealand's historians. It was therefore gratifying to see such a colourful tribute paid to the memory of the men who formed the foundation of our Regiment a century ago. Perhaps someone will yet do them justice.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Major JF (Jack) Kearney, 7 Kelvin Rd, Maraenui, Napier, has been elected an Associate Member; Rule 4b.

LIFE MEMBERS: The following have been elected Life Members; Rule 4e:

1512 Capt ER (Did) Hancock	1515 P (Phil) George MM
1528 Capt FJ (Fred) Mitchell	1517 OF (Oliver) MacDonald
1520 JI (Jack) Mercer.	

AN APPRECIATION

1156 Gregory Gerald KELLY

Born in Melbourne in 1887, Greg Kelly spent his early years after leaving school on a sheep station where, besides being taught the benefits of hard work, he learned to love the outdoors, especially the hunting and fishing they offered. But above all he there began to absorb the lore of the gun, a pursuit destined to dominate the greater part of his life.

At seventeen he left Australia, intending to find work with one of the great American arms manufacturers, but fate decreed the ship should call at a South Island port. Our evergreen New Zealand bush so impressed him he decided to stay.

In 1906 Greg joined the Royal New Zealand Artillery, where the instruction he received in service small arms and ordnance added new dimensions to his knowledge and experience. Not content with the mere mechanics of weaponry and armament, he endeavoured to learn something of ballistics, to which end he contrived to listen in to lectures on the subject given to Officers by one 'Dicky' Richardson, Master Gunner, later Major General Sir George Richardson, our first President. To ensure he missed none of them Greg once paid another Gunner ten shillings (a large sum in those days), for his place as Richardson's runner/orderly!

But the Royal Regiment did little to encourage private study; Gunners were allowed only a 25 watt bulb to light their rooms! Greg once told me that when once exchanging a burnt-out bulb for a new one the QM gave him a 60 watt bulb by mistake, and that night he really enjoyed his reading, but not for long. At a subsequent barrack inspection the forbidden bulb was discovered, and he was on the mat. When Greg stated the QM had issued the bulb, the OC called him a liar, and 'awarded' him three extra picquets.

Not long after the bulb episode Greg questioned the Master Gunner about the prospects of advancement in the RNZA. Said Dicky, "A bright young fellow like you would make a good Officer. Can you afford to take up an Officer Cadetship?"

"No", said Greg.

"Then", said Dicky, "I advise you to go back to civilian life. The Army is a poor sort of job in peacetime, even for an Officer."

So in 1907, after just fifteen months in the Regiment, Greg bought his discharge.

Wishing to see more of the bush - and indulge his favourite sports - he sought work in the King Country, where he spent the next seven years. Always seeking to improve his knowledge, he often amused his companions (or made them sick), by carrying out post mortem examinations upon the bodies of beasts they had shot, in order to ascertain the behaviour of different bullets after impact. His findings, carefully recorded, were later to be of considerable

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Major JF (Jack) Kearney, 7 Kelvin Rd, Maraenui, Napier, has been elected an Associate Member; Rule 4b.

LIFE MEMBERS: The following have been elected Life Members; Rule 4e:

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interest to doctors - and sometimes to coroners.

After seven years in the bush family responsibilities led Greg to purchase a bicycle and motor-cycle business in Levin, which he soon expanded to include sporting arms.

In 1922 he sold the business and moved to Auckland where he joined the Colonial Ammunition Company (CAC), as a departmental manager. He was permitted unlimited use of the Company's research and experimental facilities, gaining further invaluable experience in the language and behaviour of guns.

The year 1929 saw him again in business in a gun and sports goods store in Victoria Arcade, Auckland. By now Greg's expertise was becoming well-known, and the Police, having no arms experts themselves, began consulting him for advice and assistance in solving the more difficult accident and criminal cases involving firearms. Their visits did not exactly please him, for he received no fees for his trouble.

Then in the early 1930s the number of firearms accidents began to cause concern. Some of these accidents were caused by ignorance or carelessness, but many were caused by the cheap and nasty .22 rifles lacking adequate (or any) safety arrangements, which the trade were permitted to import. As a responsible shooter and purveyor of arms Greg began a campaign to have their importation curtailed, or the manufacturers to make them safe. It was to be an uphill struggle.

Eventually the Minister of Police came to realise the need for an arms bureau which could recommend steps to control the type and quality of arms imported, and at the same time provide staff skilled in forensic ballistics (more correctly firearms and projectile identification), to give expert evidence in cases involving injury or the criminal use of firearms. Commissioner of Police W.G. Wohlmann (a past Vice President of our Association), asked Greg if he would take charge of such a bureau, and he agreed. On 1 Jun 1935 he opened his first small office at Police Headquarters in Wellington.

During the next 18 years Senior Sergeant Kelly's evidence invariably decided the issue in court proceedings following fatal accident by shooting or murder. He became noted for his thorough and painstaking examination of every aspect of a case, the accuracy of his evidence, and the precise and honest way in which he gave it. On more than one occasion his efforts elicited praise for the Police from the Bench.

Continuing his fight against the importation of inferior weapons, now with official support, Greg was instrumental in having a number of overseas manufacturers of .22 rifles modify them to incorporate essential safety arrangements. However, it took seventeen years to persuade the Government to ban imports of double-barreled hammer shotguns, another prolific source of fatal accidents.

In 1952, having reached the age for retirement, Greg ended his Police service, for which in 1953 he was awarded a well-deserved Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal. He now had ample time in which to indulge in the sports he loved, hunting and fishing, in pursuit of which he moved to Kakahi in the King Country, and later to Taupo.

During his retirement he wrote a number of books on hunting and fishing, and on his experiences in the RNZA and Police. One of them, 'The Gun in the Case', should be read by everyone ever likely to have anything to do with firearms.

Throughout a full and active life as sportsman, businessman, and policeman, Greg yet found time to serve the public in other ways. For a number of years he was a member of the Acclimatisation Society, while he frequently lectured schools, sporting clubs, and other organisations on firearms handling and safety, often in his own time. He was never too busy to discuss a problem or relate an experience to anyone, young or old, who cared to listen. He was a Member of the Old Comrades Association for over forty years, and was a Past Vice President; he always took a keen interest in its activities, and since the reunions have been held in Taupo he has never missed one.

On 13 Feb 1985, at 97 our oldest Comrade, Greg Kelly slipped quietly and peacefully away from us.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Truda and daughter Cassie.

W.L.R.

THE NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

A SHORT HISTORY

By W.L. Ruffell

INTRODUCTION

The year 1984 marked the Association's Jubilee. To commemorate our first fifty years the Executive at first planned for issue to Members a booklet to include a history and other matters of interest. You will recall you were invited to contribute articles in a past Newsletter.

However, the poor response to the invitation, plus the prohibitive cost of producing such a booklet resulted in a decision to publish, for a start, a history of the Association in serial form in this and subsequent Newsletters. The history will later be supported by material already available, and any which may come to hand in the meantime.

PATRONS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- | | | |
|---------|---|------------------------|
| 1933- | Captain T. Heikle JP, Mayor of Devonport. | Record are incomplete. |
| 1949-52 | His Excellency the Governor General Lord Freyberg GCMG KCB KBE DSO and three bars, Order of Valour and MC (Greek), m.i.d. | |
| 1953-69 | Major General Sir Stephen Weir KBE CB DSO and bar, mid. | |
| 1970-83 | Lieutenant General Sir Leonard Thornton KCB CBE mid. | |
| 1984- | Major General W.S. McKinnon CB CBE BSc. | |

PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1934-38 | Major General Sir George Richardson KBE CB CMG (Auckland Section; after Sir George died on 11 Jun 38 the Section apparently went into suspended animation. |
| 1936 | Lieutenant Colonel S.G. Sandle, Sergeant-at-Arms, House of Representatives (Wellington Section). |
| 1937-41 | Mr J. Spence JP. Wellington Section assumed national responsibilities during World War II. |

1942-46 Mr W.B. McIlveney MVO JP
 1947-58 Major C.H. Gallagher MBE
 1959-70 Captain A.J. Baigent MBE
 1971 Mr L.W. Woods
 1972-74 Mr D.P. O'Connor
 1975-76 Captain A.J. Baigent MBE
 1977-84 Mr W.L. Ruffell
 1985- Captain James G. Gilberd

CHAPTER I

THE NEW ZEALAND ARMED CONSTABULARY 1846-85

Since most members of the New Zealand Permanent Force Old Comrades Association Inc. are serving or retired Gunners, and wear a Gunner badge, the unitiated sometimes ask why we don't call ourselves an Artillery association of some kind. In reply let me recapitulate the history of the Force from which we derive our title.

The regular component of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery traces its history back to New Zealand's first regular force - the armed constabulary formed under an Ordinance promoted by Captain George Grey, late of Her Majesty's 83rd Regiment of Foot, during his first term as Governor General. Although the Ordinance described the force variously as an 'armed constabulary' or as an 'armed police', Grey intended it to be much more. He wanted a body of fighting men capable of taking the field at short notice anywhere and at any time he might direct, without question or argument, for he could depend on neither the Militia nor the Imperial troops then stationed here to meet such a requirement. The first 40 recruits, including a number of Maoris, signed on in Wellington in April 1846, and in Auckland a like number was engaged the following month. Those recruited in Wellington took part in operations against Te Rangihaeata later that year, and in 1847.

Unfortunately few records of this early force survive. Since the decade 1850-60 was comparatively peaceful, development of the Armed Constabulary along the lines originally intended does not seem to have been pursued, the men being occupied chiefly on police work. However, they remained armed, for we find in 1861 the Government purchasing new Callisher and Terry breech-loading carbines for them.

In 1862, faced with a heavy capitation fee for every British soldier on New Zealand soil, and realising that the Militia and Volunteers were good for little more than garrison duty, the Government raised a new body of regular troops for the same purpose Grey had established the original AC Force in 1846. It was called the Colonial Defence Force, was organised along constabulary lines, and not a few of its first recruits transferred from the existing Armed Constabulary.

Being a purely mounted force the CDF was not found entirely suitable, and was disbanded in 1866 to be succeeded in 1867 by a re-constituted Armed Constabulary Force. Again, most of the CDF troopers transferred to the new force, thus preserving continuity of 'descent'.

In the AC there were now both mounted and dismounted men. Dismounted Constables were trained primarily as light infantry, while the mounted were trained as cavalry - although they invariably fought as mounted rifles. Royal Artillery instructors hired by the Government gave both branches further training on the Armstrong RBL 6-pr field gun, as well as on Mann and Coehorn mortars. Thus in action the Force was completely self-supporting.

Throughout its existence members of the New Zealand Armed Constabulary Force rarely failed to give a good account of themselves. The Force was one of the most versatile organisations ever to serve this country; their duties and responsibilities, including the public works they carried out in their 'spare' time, are far too numerous to detail here, but without their assistance and protection our pioneers, about whom so much has been written, could have done little pioneering.

Successive Government have done the Force a disservice in never having published its history. Perhaps the history of the New Zealand Police soon to be published will fill the gap.

In 1877 the Provincial Police were amalgamated with the Armed Constabulary, the whole Force being re-named the New Zealand Constabulary, of which the Police and the AC became separate branches. In the process the AC was reduced to a Depot Staff in Wellington, plus four reserve divisions trained and equipped for field service. NB: Strength of a division was approximately 80 all ranks.

Later the Reserve was expanded to provide reinforcements for both branches. Prospective recruits had first to join the Reserve where they were sworn in under the Armed Constabulary Act of 1867, after which they underwent training, including weapon training, before being posted either to the Police or Armed Constabulary. In 1883 the four divisions mentioned above became known as the 'AC Field Force'.

During the late 1870s the need for the type of internal security provided by the AC receded, while fear of attack by a foreign power grew. In 1880 provision in the establishment was therefore made for 25 AC men to be detached to each of the four main ports in the event of an emergency to man the coastal batteries. In fact no batteries existed, because the guns which had arrived from England in 1879 after the first Russian 'scare' were still in store - nor had any preparations been made to mount them! No training programme had been produced, but no one seemed to worry - until the second 'scare' in 1885, when the guns were mounted '... in all haste' to quote one of the old fort record books.

During the early 1880s the country suffered a depression. In keeping with the usual British practice of making the Armed Forces a prime target for economies in 'hard times' the Government in 1880-81 cut AC pay by 10%, and made several reductions in strength. In 1884 Defence began closing Field Force stations, the men so released being put to work on the roads, Officers and NCOs included.

After 31 March 1885 all AC Field Force men were posted either to Wellington to undergo training on coast artillery equipments under Royal Artillery NCOs, or to the four main ports to prepare emplacements for the mounting of the guns which had been in store plus new ones ordered the same year.

Meanwhile, to quote the 1885 report by the Commander, Colonial Forces, to Parliament 'The permanent force is being created chiefly from the ranks of the Armed Constabulary Reserve - a corps which needs no comment of mine to increase its reputation.'

To be continued.