

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSN INC

PO BOX 33 710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 9

NEWSLETTER No 60

December 1988

A registered publication

SEASONS GREETINGS

The President and Executive trust that all members have enjoyed their Christmas cheer, and wish them a happy and successful 1989.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Escalating costs have made an increase to \$5 per annum necessary. Those members who acted on our suggestion to pay in advance now reap the benefit. To be financial to 31 December 89 you owe us \$..... Please send this amount to Secretary at above address as soon as possible.

LAST POST: 1650 I.A. (Andy) Strang, 22 Sep 88, at Gore.

30162 Lt Col V.G. (Vince) Skilton MC, 15 Oct 88, at Mangakino.

1428 W.A. (Bill) Simpson, Life Member, 8 Nov 88, at Wellington.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: J.J. Adams to Unit 9-30, Ward St, Christchurch 2.

Capt J.H. Barrett to 71 David Ave, Hillpark, Manurewa.

Major R.A. Colquhoun to 39 Discovery Dr, Whitby.

W. Giles to RD, Ormondville.

A.J. Hall to Unit 21, Puriri Pk Village, 15 Puriri St, Takapuna.

Lt D.D. Hunter to Flat 3, 6Crammer Square, Christchurch 1.

Bdr B.W. Joule to c/o 1 Base Workshops, Trentham Camp.

Capt G.H. Martin to 3 Teese Tg, Motueka.

N. Moros to 45 Elliot St, Papakura.

WO2 A.J. Pawlowski to HQ Land Force Comd, Private Bag, Takapuna.

H.C.J. Penrose to 127 Richmond St, Petone.

Lt Col A.J. Rivers to 108 Hendersons Line, RD3 Marton.

Lt Gen Sir Leonard Thornton to 20 Beauchamp St, Karori, Wellington 5.

Capt T.A.N. Vine to Unit 162, Hillsborough Hts Village,  
1381 Dominion Rd, Mt Roskill, Auckland 4.

D.J. Wallace to 17 Mantell St, Seatoun, Wellington.

Lt Col H.A. Weatherhead to 55 Peterborough St, Christchurch.

S.D. Wright to Kaimoe Road, Patutahi, RD2, Gisborne.

Major R.G. Stephens to 25 Selwyn St, Blenheim.

BADGES: After a chapter of delays and mishaps the maker has at last produced our latest batch of badges. They are rather smaller than the older types, are of excellent quality, and are secured to the jacket by a special pin and clamp designed to avoid accidental loss. Cost to members: \$4 each.

NEW MEMBERS: 36122 D. (Barney) Harrop, 4A Marama St, Castor Bay, Ak 9.

E42669 J.D. (Jeffrey) Waters, 18A Holt Ave, Torbay, Auckland 10

(revived membership).

37027 L.J. (Leo) Brady, 12 Empire Rd, Devonport, Auckland 9

(associate membership).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1988: Copies of the agenda, minutes of previous meeting, and Treasurer's report and balance sheet were supplied to members attending, and to District Reps unable to attend; others who were unable to attend and who are interested in the proceedings should contact their District Reps. The most important discussion concerned rising costs; not only have the prices of paper and envelopes significantly increased, but our monopolistic revenue-grabbing Post have decided to deprive small organisations of the current discount on bulk mailings. From September 1989 only those organisations with a membership of 3000 or more will be given



discounts. This means that our newsletters will cost 40c each to post instead of the present 20c. To cope with the additional expenses the meeting decided to raise the annual subscription to \$5, payable in advance.

Arrangements for the 1989 reunion will be the same as for 1988; it will be held over the week-end 10-12 November 1989.

A motion that the Association introduce a single fee to cover Life Membership was lost.

Secretary's honorarium remains unchanged.

PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR 1988 (As read to AGM): A most hearty welcome to all present for your attendance this weekend, and may all, by the end of the weekend, once again be able to say "thanks for the opportunity to meet up and talk over the great times we had while serving or are still serving."

My thanks once again to members of the Committee who so ardently attended the Committee Meetings. Must say we have at present a very dedicated Committee who, whatever the weather, endeavoured to attend the bi-monthly meeting. Not quite so bad for those living on the Shore, but like myself the other members find it a most hazardous trip across the Bridge and always thankful to find ourselves still whole after the return trip. At the same time, it is a most satisfying job to be able to keep in touch with the members of a select band.

No report would be complete without a "thank you" to our Patron, Major General McKinnon. This man although having his ups and downs through the year has always had the welfare of the Association at heart and has been able to put in the good word in the right places. Long may he be able to take the interest in our Association that he has shown in the past.

Then we have our Secretary, Wally Ruffell. Without the interest that Wally has created with his excellent newsletters, I'm sure we would not be as strong as we are. Many of you will remember when the central committee was in Wellington and the Association was such that not even the Committee itself knew what was going on, Wally, along with Terry Transom and Des O'Connor took it upon themselves to have the National Committee moved to Auckland and indeed it is only the untiring efforts of the likes of the above that we the Old Comrades are as strong as we are. A very strong "thank you" to Wally.

At our last A.G.M. and reunion in Taupo, it was most pleasing to see three of our Members present who had reached the top of the tree as far as the Army is concerned. I am talking of Generals McKinnon, Pearce, and Hassett. Also present was Brigadier Graham Birch and the Artillery Director Colonel McLeod. Brigadier Birch being the senior serving in the Army with an Artillery background. Unfortunately Colonel Don Kenning owing to an unexpected illness of his wife, was unable to attend. Having these top men attend, show there is still an interest in the affairs of the Artillery which we only get to hear about at these gatherings.

In this we are most ably informed by the Director, Lt Colonel McLeod. In fact all the speakers were excellent. Jimmy Gilberd and Joe Cook adding many humorous tales of the early days. So along with Wally's most interesting history, we are kept in touch with has been and the present.

Those who were present last year will remember the Association being invited to Papakura by the 16th Field Regt for the Passing Out of the old 105 mm How. and the marching in of the new. What a pity so few



attended. This was a first class display and all credit to the Regt. for the afternoon. Our thanks to the C.O. Lt Col Dreyer for the invitation and the reception accorded us who did attend.

Then it came to the Artillery Conference held at Papakura Camp; 15 Officers and W.O.'s were invited to the Dinner on the Saturday night. As we have a good many more than 15 of the said Officers and W.O.'s it was drawn by ballot to see who would attend. All 15 said they would attend but on the night only 8 turned up. What a pity the other 7 did not say they would not be there, as there were several I know personally who would have been very pleased with the opportunity. Once again our most profuse thanks to Barry Dreyer for the opportunity to meet present Officers and many we were associated with in the past. A most enjoyable evening and although the Artillery may not be the force it was in the past, I can assure all members that the Esprit de Corps among the present and past members of the Artillery is still very much in evidence.

Our present Treasurer, Des O'Connor, had a holiday overseas for a few months. While he was away Terry Transom held the chair. Our many thanks Terry for keeping things up to scratch. Also many thanks to our District Reps who keep us up to date with the goings on in their areas. A very dedicated band indeed.

In Auckland, should any member be passing through on a Friday, you will find a gathering of Old Comrades in the Takapuna RSA. So a very pleasant hour or two can be filled in. I believe Alf Smith has a scheme to get the Auckland Branch together once again a couple of times a year. This I will leave to Alf himself to explain.

Our Membership at present is as follows:

Ordinary Members	362 (373)	Figures in brackets are for 1987.
Associate "	11 (12)	
Life "	17 (19)	
Honorary "	2 (2)	
<hr/> Total		392 (406)

The above figures represent effective membership, i.e. they do not include members posted 'Gone no Address' and not yet located.

Now it is time to get on with the meeting. Please if you have something to say, get on with it. Make it short and to the point, because there is nothing more boring than having to sit and listen to someone droning on, which has no relevance whatsoever with what we are here for.

By the attendance, one can see the Esprit de Corps of the Artillery as we knew it, is still evident and long may it be so. My many thanks for the support given me over the year from one and all and God willing, I hope to see you all again next year.

Allan Boyd,

TAUPO, 12 November 88.

PRESIDENT.

APOLOGIES for non-attendance at the AGM were received from the following: Ron AGNEW, Terry ARNOTT, Tommy ATKINS, Doc Bennett, Bernie BANKS, Bill BAKER, Eric BICKERTON, Lofty BIGG-WITHER, Mick BIRCHALL, Malcolm CHARTERIS, Colin COCHRANE, Spenser COCKS, Jack COOK, Nifty COE, WG DIXON, Ivan DOAK, Bert DYSON, Harry FANTHAM, Pat FOX, Jim GIBB, Frank GIBBISON, Bill GILES, Slim GILMER, Jock GUNN, Jack GRAHAM, Lionel HANKEY, Bob HARRIS,



Bert HARVEY, Ernie HIGHT, Spike HUGHES, Ginna HUNTER, Laurie HUMPHRIES, Emil JENNINGS, Alec JOHNSON, Karl KARLSSON, Don KENNING, Les KITNEY, Brian MILLYN, John MONK, Phil MONK, Neil MOROS, Gordon MORLEY, Aussie MOORE, Bruce McIVER, Bill McCALLUM, Nelson McLEOD, Ollie MacDONALD, Mac McWHINNIE, EN McEWEN, Reg NUTSFORD, Paul O'CONNOR, Pun PAGE, Allan PETRIE, Les PEARCE, Ernie PECK, Tony PILCHER, Ralph PORTER, Les PYE, Robby ROBINSON, John ROUT, Eric ROLLE, Pat SHIRLEY, Roy SPENCE, Bill STEPHENSON, Pat SHEPHERD, Lindsay SKINNER, John SPRING, Bob SMITH, George STUART, Vic SVENDSEN, Sir Leonard THORNTON, Ron TURNER, Gordon WILLIAMS, LW WRIGHT, Des WRIGHT, Roger WYLDE, Sir Richard WEBB, Tony McLEOD, DRNZA, was unable to attend the AGM but attended the reunion dinner; Pat HALL, Tan VINE.

REUNION: Our reunion this year was as usual a happy and successful event, but we missed several of our regular attenders who were unable to be with us through sickness, pending hospitalisation etc. However, we are pleased to report that most are back to normal, and we look forward to seeing them next year. Especial thanks are due to the Reverend Bill McLeay who officiated at our Church Parade, and to those members who, while unable to come to the reunion in some cases, made donations which contributed greatly towards its success. Our Guests of Honour were Colonel Jim Brown CVO, President N.Z. Army Association, and his good lady Pat. The following attended the dinner: Charlie and June ANNISS, Harry ANDERSON, Allan and Elsie BOYD, Des BARKLE, Jack BAIGENT and Theo WILSON, Cliff and Babs BRAGG, Jim and Pat BROWN, Tom and Margaret CHAPMAN, Dave and Mollie CRICHTON, Matt and Rosalie CRAWLEY, Dan and Dorothy FOLEY, Jim and Dot GILBERD, Les JACKSON (dining Vice-President), Jack KEARNEY, George and Thelma MANSFIELD, Joe HANVEY and Iris, Slim and Mollie CUMMING, Bill and Estelle MORLAND, Ian McLEAN, Walter and Anna McKINNON, Rev Bill and Mrs McLEAY, Johnny and Lee MEIKLE, Tony and Mary McLEOD, Jerry and Tilly MEYER, George and Patti MILNE, Harold NICHOLSON, Len PARTNER, Tony and Helen PARKES, Vic and Audrey MEYLE, Des and Bunty O'CONNOR, Bill and Joyce POWRIE, Ian and Iris ROWNTREE, Wally RUFFELL, George and Ella SUTHERLAND, Wally and Joan SHERSON, Henry and Thelma SALT, Enid STANDEN, Gordon THOMAS, Terry and Joan TRANSOM, Tan and Joyce VINE, Gordon and Nora WEAVER, Bill and Barbara WINTER, Cora WOODS and brother (driver) Doug ADAMS, Alf and Vicky SMITH, Colin YOUNG, Frank and Denise LUPO, and last but not least Wally and Joan Sherson's daughter (driver) Jenifer WILLIAMS, and Wally Ruffell's daughter Lorraine Pratt.

Apologies were received from Dorothy Cochrane, Noonie James and Flo Sweeney.

AUCKLAND/NORTH SHORE FUNCTION: As advertised in Newsletter No 59, Alf Smith, our Auckland/NorthShore Rep., organised a local get-together and luncheon at the Birkenhead RSA on Wednesday 14 Dec 88. The response was most gratifying, and we were pleased to see one or two members who were unable to attend the national reunion at Taupo in November for reasons already given. Those attending voted the function a most enjoyable one; they were: Harry ANDERSON, Eric and Patti AUTRIDGE, Bill and Val BAKER, Allan and Elsie BOYD, Leo BRADY, Cliff and Babs BRAGG, Phil BARCLAY, Jack and Zita COOK, Bert DYSON, Dan and Dorothy FOLEY, Pat and Muriel FOX, Bill and Estelle MORLAND, Mike and Mavis McMAHON, Harold NICHOLSON, Reg and Florence NUTSFORD, Des and Bunty O'CONNOR, Bill and Joyce POWRIE, Wally RUFFELL, Henry and Thelma SALT, Alf SMITH, Terry and Joan TRANSOM, Les and Joyce WILSON, Dick MITCHELL. An apology was received from Major General Ron HASSETT.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting will be held at 0930 hrs, Saturday 18 Feb 89, in the Takapuna RSA. Please note that on Wednesday 1 Feb 89 Takapuna RSA moves to new premises in Mary Poynton Crescent, just off the Lake Pupuke end of Northcote Road. If travelling north from Auckland City take the Northcote Road exit from the motorway and head north-east. To further assist you you will observe the North Shore Hospital complex on the northern flank of the RSA and the local undertaker's on the southern - but don't let that deter you. Any non-committee member who is interested or who may be in Auckland on the 18th is welcome to attend. Business usually concludes by 1100 hrs - when the bar opens.

THE NEW ZEALAND MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY seeks new members. The Society was formed to foster the study of New Zealand military history defined as the history of warfare in New Zealand, and of New Zealanders at war. It encourages research into the history, traditions, uniforms, insignia and arms of the New Zealand Forces. For further info write to the Secretary, Box 5123, Wellesley St, Auckland 1, or contact Secretary NZPFOCA.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: On Sunday 13 November 88 a service to commemorate those who gave their lives in the course of duty during the wars in which New Zealand has participated was held in Wellington Cathedral, to which service the Chief of the General Staff invited any members of our Association able to attend.

As Jack Baigent, our Wellington Rep., had planned to attend our reunion in Taupo the same weekend, he arranged for Major Ray Colquhoun to represent the Association at the service. Accompanied by his good lady Thelma, Ray did so, afterwards reporting on the impressive nature of the service, the high standard of ceremonial by Army, especially the Bands of 5 Bn WWCT and 7 Bn WHB, as well as representatives of those Regiments and the N.Z. Cadet Corps. With his report Ray enclosed a copy of the Service Booklet together with an information sheet by Army concerning a wooden cross which originally marked the grave of a young New Zealand soldier killed in France in 1918, and which is shortly to be displayed at the Army Museum, Waiouru.

W01 Paul O'Connor MSM, our 3 Fd Regt/Burnham Rep, attended the service on duty, which prevented his being present at our reunion.

RADIATION EFFECTS SURVEY: If you served in Japan or on Christmas Island have you filled in one of the Radiation Survey Forms issued by the Pensions Dept, NZRSA to ascertain whether or not radiation effects are a factor in the state of your health?

Many have already done so, but RSA have not yet sufficient replies to give a positive indication for pension purposes.

Remember the rail trip from Kure to Yamaguchi and Shimonoseki? The train passed through Hiroshima, then highly radioactive. Also, many visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki before we realised the dangers of radiation - and before any official warnings were issued.

If you have not already completed a form, write to NZRSA, Box 27248, Wellington, who will supply one, even if you have enjoyed good health since service in Japan. Don't let the passage of 40 years make you apathetic - cancer often takes its time, as the writer well knows.

THE RNZA NAVY: Neil Moros, who retired last year as a W01, RNZA, has directed our attention to a letter in the October 1983 RSA 'REVIEW' by a Mr George Hemsley who asks '... when did the Army have a 'naval' section?' Saying he understood the Bombardier was crewed by Gunners



Neil suggests an answer might be printed in a future newsletter.

The short answer is that the HDML (Harbour Defence Motor Launch) Bombardier was indeed manned by Gunners - when coast artillery was still in vogue. She was the last of a long line of defence vessels manned in turn by regular soldiers of the NZ Permanent Militia/Permanent Force (which included the NZ Torpedo Corps, NZ Submarine Miners, and NZ Permanent Artillery), followed by the General Duties Section of the Permanent Force (most of whom were ex-RNZA), and finally the RNZA. The first, a steam launch called the Ellen Ballance, was purchased in 1885; the Bombardier was obtained on loan from the RNZN in 1947 and handed back to that service in 1960 by which time the last of the coast installations had closed down.

I shall undertake to answer Mr Hemsley's query in the Review, and shall publish an article in a future newsletter after I have fully researched the subject. Sec.

NEWS FROM AROUND AND ABOUT: Phil Calvert reports that the treatment for cancer he has undergone has not progressed as well as expected, and he is now undergoing a revised form of chemotherapy. If successful he can anticipate a period of remission of months or even years; if not he may have only a few months. We sincerely hope the new treatment is effective. Under the circumstances Phil says he thinks it is time he bowed gracefully out of the Association. In doing so he expresses the enjoyment he has experienced as a member, and extends to all his friends in the Association every good wish for happiness and good health in the future. His contact address is: 3/152 Raglan St, Mosman, NSW 2088.

Jon Hacon (Raaid J.C. Hacon, Sultan of Oman's Artillery), relinquished the appointment of Training Officer 1st Regiment in June 1987, then took over as 2IC until September 88. He is now SO2 Operations/Training. He reports the artillery in Oman has recently been reorganised; there are two regiments equipped with the Light Gun plus a medium regiment of two 130-mm batteries, a locating battery, and an air defence battery. In addition there is a school of artillery. Although more Omanis are taking over key appointments as they become qualified and experienced, Jon says the life for the few remaining 'expats' is exciting, challenging, and well-paid. He enjoys our newsletters and sends regards to all members.

George Stuart, our Otago Rep, recently sent us a glossy, expensive-looking brochure printed by the Otago Peninsular Trust describing the restored Taiaroa Head disappearing gun and albatross colony, and evidently produced to lure tourists to the area. At the same time he makes acid comment on whoever took the cover photograph which depicts a leering Gunner NCO leaning against the gun with legs crossed and arms folded. So much for the tradition that as guns in the artillery take the place of colours in other branches of the service they should be treated with the same respect. It is a pity the otherwise excellent description of a very creditable work of restoration should be so spoilt.

Gordon (Action) Williams, our Southland Rep has been having health troubles with polyps on the bowel and hardening of the arteries but philosophically takes comfort from the fact that thousands in his age group are worse off. At time of receipt of his letter (October 88) he was hoping to arrange a get-together of Southland members at the local (Invercargill) RSA.



THE MASTER GUNNER St JAMES PARK (continued from Newsletter No 59).

Now since 1678 there had existed simultaneously with the Master Gunner of England or Great Britain a Master Gunner of Whitehall and St James' Park. On appointment this Officer automatically became Firemaster to the Grenadiers as well, i.e. he supplied grenades to the Grenadier Guards, and assumed certain other responsibilities not normally expected of a Master Gunner. Probably for these reasons he was not paid by Ordnance but from funds allotted for guards and garrisons. Thus he escaped the Ordnance economist's axe, and survived to supplant the premier Master Gunner.

In 1796 his title was changed to 'Master Gunner, St James' Park.'

The need for the Master Gunner gradually waned; his pay (issued in addition to his ordinary pay for rank), eventually became a token amount only, and in 1914 was stopped. Now purely honorary, the Office is granted to distinguished Gunner General Officers. Duties, which are mainly of a ceremonial nature, include the selection of Colonels Commandant.

The Master Gunner, St James' Park, is selected by the Sovereign, our Captain-General, and acts as her deputy in Gunner matters.

RIGHT OF THE LINE: The right of the line on parade has always been considered a post of honour allotted to the regiment or corps taking precedence over all others present.

Throughout the 18th century the guns came into action on the right of the infantry battalions they were to support. Probably for this reason - and also because the prestige of the artillery had grown enormously from the beginning of the century - the Gunners claimed the right of the line on parades.

Their claim went unchallenged until on a parade in 1756 a dispute arose between the Officer Commanding the artillery and the Commanding Officer The Queen's Dragoon Guards over who should take the right. As neither Officer would yield the matter was referred to the Commander-in-Chief, the Duke of Cumberland, who confirmed that the artillery '... take the right of all foot on all parades, and likewise of dragoons when dismounted.' The Royal Artillery still take the same position.

The Royal Horse Artillery was regarded as an extension of the cavalry, and given precedence accordingly. In the first edition of King's Regulations following its formation in 1793, the RHA was placed between the Household Cavalry and the cavalry of the line, with a note that '... on parades the Horse Artillery whether mounted or dismounted take the right of all other cavalry.'

However, in 1857 the Commander-in-Chief submitted that '... as in the year 1756 precedence was given to the Royal Artillery before all infantry, including the regiments of foot guards and dismounted cavalry, it would be consistent that the RHA should take precedence over all cavalry, including the Household Cavalry ...' Her Majesty Queen Victoria approved, and in Queen's Regulations for that year the RHA was moved to the top of the precedence table.

But ten years later another dispute occurred, this time between the RHA and the Household Cavalry, over their relative positions on a church parade at Windsor. As a result the Commander-in-Chief recommended that, as was formerly the case, the Household Cavalry, as part of the Bodyguard of the Sovereign, take precedence over all



other corps, '... but that the Royal Horse Artillery when on parade with their guns take the right and march past at the head of the Household Cavalry ...' The Queen approved, and ever since the RHA have taken post in their original position between the Household Cavalry and the cavalry of the line, but take the right of the Household Cavalry when on parade with their guns.

In the New Zealand Regular Forces the artillery took precedence until superseded by the NZ Staff Corps and the NZ Permanent Staff upon their formation in 1911. When the NZSC and NZPS were disbanded in the post-World War 2 reorganisation, the RNZA regained its rightful place at the right of the line.

In the Territorial Force cavalry regiments took precedence until the reorganisation, with the artillery in second place.

At the integration of the Regular and Territorial Forces in 1947 the RNZA again took precedence over all others.

Recently the writer saw circulated in Land Force Command WOs and Sergeants' Mess a precedence table showing the Waiouru Officer Cadet Training Unit at the top (!). \*Incl mounted rifle regiments.

RED, BLUE, AND GOLD: As these colours figure prominently in artillery uniform, badges of rank, and other appurtenances it might be of interest to know how they originated.

In bygone times whenever a 'train of artillery' was formed for active service it came directly under the Board of Ordnance, headed by the Master (Master-General from 1603), of the Office of Ordnance.

The train was manned by a mixture of soldiers and civilians; Gunners made up the military component, professional engineers, miners, pioneers, other tradesmen and drivers the civilian. Gunners manned the guns, engineers designed and laid out field works, miners and pioneers did the digging, tradesmen the repairs, while the drivers looked after the horses. In the field they all lived and worked together.

Now the Board of Ordnance ran this organisation as a kind of private army independent of the War Department, or what passed for the latter in those days. Being a law unto itself as it were, the Board designed and issued its own uniforms which differed markedly from those worn by the other branches of the service, i.e. the infantry and cavalry.

Blue predominated in the early artillery uniform jackets, which featured scarlet facings, lapels and cuffs, and from about 1850 trousers were blue with a scarlet stripe down the outside. Officers and NCOs wore gold lace or braid in varying patterns, quantity, and quality to denote their ranks. Present-day badges of rank did not come into use until the 19th century.

Uniform design has changed dramatically in the intervening years, but the colours remain. Thus modern No 1 dress (blues) is a direct descendant of the old Board of Ordnance uniform.

#### STOP PRESS! MORE CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Major D.P. Dumbleton to 140 Valley Rd, Mount Maunganui.

Major L.J. Pye to 16 Leefield St, Blenheim.

ERRATUM: In para 1 of RADIATION EFFECTS SURVEY delete 'health' substitute 'health.' All the best. *Wally Ruffell* Hon. Sec.