



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSN INC

PO BOX 33 710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 9

NEWSLETTER No 67

September 1990

A Registered Publication

LAST POST: Major R.A. (Ray) Colquhoun, 6 Sep 90, at Wellington.

1722 Captain B.K. (Slim) Gilmer MBE, 14 Sep 90, at Auckland.

1796 C.T. (Cyril or 'Gelignite') Jarden, 26 Sep 90 at Goldcoast Hospital, Queensland.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are payable in advance and are now due for 1990. To be financial to 31 Dec 90 you owe us S..... Please send this amount to Secretary at above address as soon as possible. If no amount is shown here you are financial.

The Executive may waive payment of subscriptions in extenuating circumstances, e.g. if a member becomes an invalid. In such a case the member or his/her next-of-kin should report the fact to the Secretary or District Rep without delay.

Failing such report any member who is over three years in arrears, i.e. who owes more than \$13, may be struck off strength. See Rule 4F Constitution and Rules 1986, copies of which are free to members.

According to our records the following members, all of whom are at least four years in arrears, will be struck off unless their respective dues (shown in Newsletters 65, 66, and 67), are paid by 31 Dec 90 or an acceptable explanation given:

WO2 B.D. Bethel	Bdr B.W. Joule	Lt P.E. Schweder
Major D.K. Bowler	S Sgt R. Kimi	Sgt M.R.G. Subritzky
W.A. Cooper	J. Millar	G.B.M. Timu
Lt P.J. Duggan	Capt. A.A. Mitchell	I.S. Trott
Sgt J. Farmer	H.C.J. Penrose	Sgt J. Te Morenga
R. Flutey	Lt M.J. Proctor	A.H. Whyte
Sgt T.J. Hemi	A.B. Sadler	WO2 L.J. Hubbard

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Capt. T.K. Hedley to 516 Sandes St, Thames.
Capt. J.P. Bellamy to 32 Oswald Cresc., Newlands, Wellington.
Lt Col D.G. Box to Dale Road South, RD 3, Drury.
P.L. McInerny to 8 Camp Rd, Waiouru.
Lt Col A.R. McLeod to 81 Paremata Rd, Paremata, Wellington.
S.D. Wright to 2/15 Clifford St, Gisborne.

GONE NO ADDRESS:

Capt. J.C. Hacon

LAST KNOWN LOCATION

Sultanate of Oman

NEW MEMBERS:

V40729 G.W. (Gordon) Forrester, 22 Arimu Rd, Papakura.
1744 A.C. (Arthur) Kilmore, 25 Allison Rd, Surfdale, Waiheke Is.

REUNIONS: 14 LAA: April 1991 will be the 50th anniversary of the departure from New Zealand of 14 Light Anti-aircraft Regiment NZA. A special reunion is being organised to be held in Wellington over the week-end 12-14 April 91. For further information contact the Secretary: Peter Turner, Box 528, Levin. Phone 069/81 046.

NZPFOCA: Alf Smith, our Auckland/North Shore Rep, has organised our end-of-year social for Wednesday 12 Dec 90 to held at the Birkenhead RSA commencing 1100 hrs. A comprehensive luncheon menu is available for \$6-70 a head. Please let Alf know if you intend coming. His phone number: 09/410 4564, or ring Secretary on 09/453 567.

NZPFOCA: Week-end 9-11 November 1990. See details on Reunion programme enclosed.

NEWS FROM AROUND AND ABOUT: Condolences are due to Pat Fox who lost his good lady Muriel on 29 Aug. Pat's address is: 3/51 Meadway, Pakuranga.

Kevin Burnell who retired from the Army in 1987 is now in Whangarei where he is Branch Manager for Eagle Technology Group Ltd, a computer bureau processing data for a wide range of clients. He keeps in with the local Gunner contingent, and wishes to be remembered to all Old Comrades. He has a yacht and will be happy to take any visiting members sightseeing, fishing etc. His home phone (until November) is 089/434 3542, but can be contacted at work on 089/489 725.

Gordon (Tree) Forrester claims to have secured the cartridge case of the last 25-pr round fired in New Zealand during a shoot at Tekapo on the day the 25-pr officially ceased to be included in the equipment scale. He has since met other Gunners who claim to have the last cartridge. Any comments?

Ian (Slim) Cunningham is enjoying his second retirement in Dunedin.

James Horn and his good lady Aileen who run the Montecillo Travel Lodge at 240 Spey St, Invercargill, would love to see any Old Comrades down in the Deep South. They offer a discount to any members staying at the Lodge.

Arthur Kilmore (see new member list) spends six months of each year in Fiji where he owns property. He is a good friend of Brig. Rambuka.

Pat McInerny has re-enlisted in the Army and is now stationed in Waiouru. See changes of address.

Jack Baigent, our Wellington/Hutt Rep, has just completed a trip to Brisbane, Port McQuarrie, Sydney, and Canberra, with the Horowhenua Artillery Association lasting a fortnight.

We understand George Stuart, our Dunedin Rep, is away on a trip to Europe and the UK. How do they do it?

Colin Young, our Canterbury Rep, has recently visited Australia on two occasions, and has been asked to go again in November, this time to Manly, in connection with the restoration of forts and their armament.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Do you recall Phil George's epic poem "New Zealand's True Pioneers" published in Newsletter No 52? Here is another verse:

'Beware the united Hun
And resurgent Nipponese,
Whose dreams of conquest still prevail;
Dreams which will never cease.'

NEW-LOOK NEWSLETTER: Have you noticed the print of this newsletter is of somewhat better quality than in past issues?

Repeated breakdowns by our old Model 46 Gestetner - and the resulting astronomical repair charges - which almost destroyed your Secretary's sense of humour (what is left of it after 40 years with Ministry of Defence), finally prompted our Executive to invest in a MITA copier.

As well as producing newsletters we are now able to undertake copying for members at 10c per A4 copy. We can do up to A3 by separate arrangement.

The Gestetner is still functioning - and having been replaced will probably not break down again for years! Anyone who makes us a reasonable offer can have it.

2NZEF ARTILLERY REGIMENTS - 'NZA' or 'RNZA'? The question arose at our 1989 AGM, and has risen subsequently. Enquiries by WO1 Paul O'Connor RNZA, Sergeant Major of the Army, at Army Headquarters confirm it is incorrect to designate any 2NZEF Regiments Royal N.Z. Artillery, a custom adopted by certain ex-members when organising reunions etc.

Regular Force only carried the title 'Royal' prior to 12 July 1947, by which time all 2NZEF units had been disbanded. The latter should therefore be referred to as 'NZA', not 'RNZA.'

BOOT AND SADDLE

Continued from Newsletter 66

By Jim Gilberd.

Then in 1937 came No 10 Wing - the last RNZA recruits to do a full equitation course. Recruits joining after that date were given a shortened riding course where horses were on stations.

Some long 'treks' were carried out by the horse soldiers at this time. In the South Island I understand the RNZA moved from Christchurch to Blenheim and return - quite a journey. In the Central Command I can recall an Army Service Corps unit 'trekking' from Trentham to Greytown - also the same year, the Signals under command of Captain 'Sammy' Allen NZSC (killed in action in the Desert War), laid field cable from Trentham to Martinborough in the Wairarapa. Six-horse teams drew the cable waggons with their drums of cable. Just imagine the many types of crossing the 'Sigs' had to contend with - across road, streams and other hazards - then the return journey uplifting the cable! !

In 1935 the 2nd Mounted Rifle Brigade (three regiments) were in camp near Napier. This being one of the larger camps held that year - 1,900 horses in camp.

Major General J. Duigan was G.O.C. and he presented guidons to the regiments and later took the salute at a march-past. I was his mounted orderly complete with Cavalry Lance and the General's pennant on my lance. Horses were again used during the 1939-45 war. They were formed into Independent Mounted Squadrons and operated in various parts of New Zealand. Some mounted units of the Home Guard also flourished for a short time.

NZ VETERINARY CORPS.

Here we record briefly the contribution made by this Corps in caring for the Army's horses. During the Great War this number reached in excess of 15,000 at home and overseas.

The Corps was formed in 1907 - previously civilian 'Vets' were called upon as required. The Corps being part of the Territorial Force organisation. On the outbreak of war in 1914 the Corps set up a camp near Palmerston North. Here horses purchased from dealers or those recalled under the terms of the Remount Encouragement Act, were assembled. Sections of the Corps were posted to all units who had animals 'on strength.' The Corps also established veterinary hospitals at home and overseas. In France the Corps was under command of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. The NZVC was disbanded on 9 January 1947.

MILITARY HORSEMEN:

The Army over the years had in its ranks horsemen of high calibre. They were a band of dedicated characters bent on ensuring the Army's mounted men of their day were trained to take a pride in the care and turn-out of their charges.

Stable discipline was a long and arduous business including grooming, watering, feeding and tending to sick animals. Then of course there were stable piquet duties. For some of the not-so-keen mounted soldiers the advent of mechanisation was cause for rejoicing.

In my research, and from personal knowledge, names of horsemen from the past come to mind. Here are a few - there were many more:-

Lt 'Blazer' Wilson (formerly Riding Master RA).

'Scorcher' Jones RNZA

Johnny Nolan RNZA

'Stump' Perrett NZPS)

Ken Bishop NZPS)

RSMs Mounted Rifle Regiments

SSM Milne NZPS (formerly Scots Greys))

Capt. Ken Walker NZSC - Adjutant C.Y.C.

Capt Bill Pollard RNZA

Col. Pat Joyce RNZA

'Haggis' McLean RNZA

Andy Christensen RNZA

Oliver McDonald RNZA

Dick Healey RNZA

Glen Ensor RNZA

'Ginger' Bambridge RNZA

Geo Martin RNZA

Fred Eastgate RNZA

Bdr Alex Tierney RNZA

Geo Salt RNZA

Tommy Mahoney RNZA

Phil George RNZA

From about 1930-39 the Army maintained a Riding School at Trentham as part of the G.H.Q. Training Depot (later Army Schools) where Regulars and Territorials were taught the principles of equitation and horsemastership.

Instructors at the Depot were:

Sgt R.J. Healey

Bdr A.P. Tierney

L Bdr J.G. Gilberd

Earlier equitation was taught at the Alexandra Barracks, Buckle St, Wellington.

There were also mule stables for the Pack Battery. Colonel F.B. Symon was involved with the 'screw guns' having served on the N.W. Frontier of India after the Great War. 'Bats' Symon was a famous Gunner and father of Lt Blair Symon RNZA, killed in action while serving with 6 Field Regiment NZA in the desert war.

FAMOUS HORSES:

In a story such as this some animals achieved a special place. Here are five such horses, three from the Regiment's stables:

MAJOR:

Major was a Boer War veteran, being the only one of over 8,000 horses to return to New Zealand from South Africa. Bred in the Wairarapa he was given by his owner, Lt Col Collins to his son, Lt Collins of the Fourth Mounted Contingent, then in camp at Forbury Park, Dunedin. On Major's arrival at Beira he was ridden 370 miles to Bulawayo and later to Mafeking. He was with Collins at the engagement of Ottershoop where Collins was severely wounded but Major came through the engagement unhurt. While with Collins, Lord Kitchener, Commander-in-Chief of British Forces, inspected the unit and admired his mount as a good specimen of horse-breeding. Major passed through many hands during the war, finally becoming Colonel Porter's mount.

When the Colonel was appointed to command the NZ Mounted Contingent at Edward VII Coronation, permission was granted to take Major to England. On the Contingent's return to New Zealand, Major travelled home on the SS Papanui in the care of the ship's butcher !! After spending three months in quarantine on Somes Island, Wellington, he went to Christchurch where he spent his days on a farm.

His picture used to hang in the Sergeants' Mess at Addington Barracks.

To be continued.