



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 33 710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 9

NEWSLETTER No 76

December 1992

A Registered Publication

SEASONS GREETINGS: Our Patron, President, and Executive extend to all Members the compliments of the season, and best wishes for 1993.

LAST POST:

Colonel F.B. (Fred) Bath LVO MBE, 14 Sep 92, at Wellington.
1759 W. (Bill) Winter, 29 Sep 92, at Hamilton.
1641 Major S. (Selwyn) Catchpole, 3 Oct 92, at Howick.
30189 Major J.G.R. (Gordon) Morley ED JP, 10 Oct 92, at Havelock North
30053 Major R. (Russell) de la Cour, 23 Oct 92, at Christchurch.
1701 Colonel F. (Frank) Rennie CBE MC, 17 Nov 92, at Bay of Islands.
1684 Major N.B. (Norman) Mitchell MBE, 19 Nov 92, at Blenheim.
1515 P. (Phil) George MM MSM, 28 Nov 92, at Dunedin (Life Member).

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

M.G. Bell to c/o Police Flight, RNZAF Ohakea, Private Bag 11033,
Palmerston North.
Captain M.F. Dakin to c/o 103 John Downs Drive, Browns Bay, N.S. City.
W02 L.A. Forrester to W01 L.A. Forrester RNZA, School of Artillery,
North Head, Manly 2095, Australia. (from 11 Jan 93).
D. Harrop to 2B Wolsley Ave, Milford, Auckland 9.
Lt Col A.R. McLeod to 18A Sailmakers Close, Whitby, Wellington.
J.C. Moore to Illawarra Diggers Rest Home, 8 Blundell Parade,
Corrimal, NSW 2518, Australia.
Mrs E. Sewell to 10A Exmouth St, Northcote, Auckland 9.

NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs P.R. (Phyllis) George, Flat 1, 36 Bay View Rd, Dunedin. (Associate)
Mrs B. (Beryl) Hynes, 29 Bader St, Hamilton (Associate).
G39267 L.J.A. (Spud) Murphy, 11 Cottonwood Place, RD5, Papakura.
M52635 SSgt S.M. (Sally) Patterson, 43 Kennington Pl, Waiouru (Associate)
Mrs B. (Barbara) Rennie, 228 Northbridge, Northcote, Auckland 9. (Assoc)
Major F.F. (Frank) Whiting, 12 Eban Avenue, Northcote, Auckland 9

RESIGNATION: R.G. Blankley MBE.

STRUCK OFF STRENGTH FOR FAILURE TO PAY DUES: J.W. Niwa, R. Oakes,
K.D. White.

COMMITTEE MEETING:

The next NZPFOCA committee meeting will be held on Saturday 13 Feb 93 in the main lounge, Birkenhead RSA, commencing 1000 hrs. Non-committee members are welcome to attend.

REUNIONS: 'J' Force: 5-8 March 93 at Christchurch. Contact Eric Dewar, 162 West Belt, Rangiora.

14 LAA Regt Association: 25-26 Sep 93, Wellington College. Contact Secretary, P. Turner, Box 528, Levin.

3 NZ Div: Labour week-end 23-24 Oct 93, Nelson. Contact Mrs M.E. Moreton, 6 Rosevale Place, Richmond, Nelson. PPhone 03/544 7788.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21 Nov 92: Following is the President's report on the Association as read to the meeting:

Once again a very big welcome to all those present for what has become something quite a number of our members regard as a most enjoyable weekend, when once again we meet, and over maybe a drink or two can relive some of the days we were able to spend as soldiers together. There may be some who would say it was a waste of time. But for those present, and most of those who are here make it an annual pilgrimage, our time in the Service was a great experience, and besides making life-time friendships, we endeavoured to give value for money to the taxpayer.

Over the past year as usual we have had a couple of most successful get togethers at the Birkenhead RSA. These are arranged by Alf Smith, your Auckland Representative, and have become very popular over the years. Usually in May and December, if you have not attended one of these days look up the dates for next year and come along. You will be surprised at whom you will meet up with, and the camaraderie which prevails.

Your Secretary, Wally Ruffell, along with Des O'Connor and Terry Transom have spent a few days in Waiouru tabulating photos and what have you for the Museum. This has been greatly appreciated by the Museum Staff, and also been an eye-opener to Wally and Coy as to the conditions the present-day soldier has compared to what it was like when they served in Waiouru.

Our many thanks go to 16 Field Regiment for the invitation to attend the official opening of the Foyer at their new premises in the Fisher and Paykel Building, Mt Wellington Highway. This was well attended by members of the original 16 Field who served in Korea, as well as a good muster of our Association most of whom had had experience at some time with the 16 Field. The C.O., Col. Southwell and the RSM, WO1 I. Foster certainly did their best to make it a very enjoyable afternoon.

As usual our Patron, Gen. Hassett, has been a tower of strength during the year. Unfortunately he was unable to attend the opening of the foyer in his official capacity of Colonel Commandant, nor attend the following day at Birkenhead as somehow he had a fall and broke his arm. This in no way hindered his interest in the goings on of the Association and our thanks must go to him for all he has been able to assist with.

Our Secretary, Wally, as in the past has done a sterling job keeping all informed with the comings and goings of members. Long may he remain in good health and continue as Secretary.

Des O'Connor as Treasurer has also been able to keep the books in good order, and as shown by the Balance Sheet, has been able to show the Association in a good healthy financial state.

Terry Transom has as usual been a very loyal member of the Committee and is always there to stand in should Wally or Des be absent. So to all the District Reps who keep us informed as to members in their areas, and to members of the Executive Committee, my sincere thanks for your attendance at the Committee Meetings, and for the help I have received

as your President over the past year.

In closing I would like to mention the fact that when Joe Cook passed on, in the spirit in which the Old Comrades was formed, which is to help our fellow-members, Yogi Young and Nev Fisher have both been around to visit Zita, JOE's widow, and have been able to assist by cutting firewood for her. This is, I must say, what your Association exists for. Helping one another and long may it remain so.

Trusting that at this time next year we may all be together once again. And if not, thanks for the memories.

Allan Boyd,
President.

<u>MEMBERSHIP:</u>	Ordinary Members	297
	Associate Members	35
	Honorary Members	4
	Life Members	<u>30</u>
	Total	<u>366</u>

APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE were received from the following:
 JJ ADAMS, RE ATKINS, TJ ARNOTT, LE AUTRIDGE, F BIGG-WITHER, MG BELL,
 J BURNS, AG BLACKWELL, SE BASSETT, Zita COOK, GJC CROOKES, Mollie
 CUMMING, DP DUMBLETON, EA FORBES, H FANTHAM, LA FORRESTER, FD FOLEY,
 RJ GOLDSWORTHY, FH GIBBISON, Jacqueline HARVEY, Joyce HANKEY, RR HUDSON,
 RG HICKSON, EG HIGHT, RA HARRIS, PWF JOPLIN, R JAQUES, RP KINZETT,
 AN KING, VO LOADER, KF LEE, WBF McALLUM, RB McIVER, AS McWHINNIE,
 JGR MORLEY, JW MONK, RJS MUNRO, GC MANSFIELD, TSG MORGAN, G NORRIS,
 RM NUTSFORD, R NEWTH, J O'MEARA, PB O'CONNOR, T TeA PILCHER, RKG PORTER,
 AW PACKER, LA PEARCE, LJ PYE, AM PETRIE; L PARTNER, EG ROLLE, J McL ROSS,
 RO ROBINSON, RA RUDGE, JF SPRING, T SWIFT, June SKILTON, TP SHIRLEY,
 AJ SMITH, Ella SUTHERLAND, WN STEPHENSON, LJ SKINNER; Enid STANDEN,
 AB TUSTIN, JT TRANSOM, TAN VINE, Cora WOODS, SD WRIGHT, LW WRIGHT,
 Lady Barbara WEBB, GR YOUNG, TJ CHAPMAN, EC LILE, RG BLANKLEY, HGC SALT.
 If I have omitted anyone please let me know - including the member who
 sent an apology but did not append his name! - Sec.

Here is a brief summary of the AGM proceedings:

FINANCE: A copy of the Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet was supplied to each member present. Once again our Treasurer reported the Association's finances to be in a healthy state, due in no small measure to the generosity of certain members who make donations in addition to their normal commitments. He also took pleasure in introducing Neil Forbes, our new auditor, at the same time remarking that it was the first time an auditor had been present at an AGM for over 20 years.

SUBSCRIPTION 1992-93: to remain at \$5 per annum.

SECRETARY'S HONORARIUM: to remain at \$250 per annum.

ANNUAL REPORTS: were received as follows: Northland - Harry Honnor on behalf of Bill Stephenson; Thames/Coromandel - Ian Rowntree; Hawkes Bay/Taupo - Jim Gilberd; Wellington - Jack Baigent. Secretary gave reports on behalf of Alf Smith (Auckland), Darkie McWhinnie (Taranaki), and Rex Hudson (Canterbury/Nelson) who were unable to attend. For Preident's report see above.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: All Officers were re-elected with the exception of Terry Hughes (South Auckland Rep.) whose work prevents his attending committee meetings. Eric Bickerton has volunteered to take his place.

GENERAL: a. Reunion 1993: The tentative dates 5-6-7 Nov 93 have had to be changed owing to accommodation at the Spa having been booked out for that and the following week-end. The reunion will now be held over the week-end 19-20-21 Nov 93 at the Taupo Yacht Club. Enter in your diary NO

B. Our Patron, General Ron Hassett, in referring to the attendance at our 1991 reunion of the Master Gunner, General Sir Martin Farndale KCB, stated the latter was most impressed with the hospitality extended to him. The Master Gunner said our Old Comrades Association was one of the best he had ever encountered.

c. Colonel Howard Jones paid a tribute to the Executive Committee for its efforts.

REUNION DINNER: This year we had invited the Commissioner of Police, Commissioner John Jamieson, to be our Guest of Honour, but unfortunately he had to go overseas and could not attend. The following members and partners were present: Helen AGAR, Harry ANDERSON, Doug ADAMS, Jack BAIGENT, Eric and Joyce BICKERTON, Iris Boytor, Leo BRADY, Cliff and Babs BRAGG, Barry and Anne CALDER, Spencer and Joan COCKS, Matt and Rosalie CRAWLEY, Bert DYSON, Joe FALLON, Ian FOSTER, Neil FORBES, Wally and Alison FRASER, Jim and Dot GILBERD and daughter Glenys, Bill and Emma GILES, Jack GILLOOLY and Beryl HYNES, Terry HUGHES, Joe HANVEY, Ron and Mike HASSETT, Curly and Heather HELLYER, Dutch and Joyce HOL AND Harry and Pat HONNOR, David and Irene HUGHES, Howard and Joan JONES, Jack KEARNEY, Don and Noeline KENNING, Bob and Betty KERSLAKE, Frank and Denise LUPO, Ian and Rene McLEAN, Walter and Anna McKINNON, Rev Bill and Tui McLEAY, Jerry and Patricia MEYER, Bill and Estelle MORLAND, Vic and Audrey MEYLE, George and Patti MILN, Brian MILLYNN, Sally PATTERSON and fiancée John, Bill and Joyce POWRIE, Ian and Iris ROWNTREE, Bill and Muriel ROUND, Wally RUFFELL and daughter Lorraine, Vic SVENDSEN, Sham and Joyce SHAW, Sir Leonard and Lady Ruth THORNTON, Jock TAYLOR, Gordon and Nora WEAVER, Charles and Dorothy WOTHERSPOON, Roger and Jean WYLDE. Our sympathy goes to Tom and Margaret Chapman who were unable to attend at the last moment owing to illness. An apology was received from Bob Blankley who owing to unforeseen circumstances had to return home early thus missing the dinner. All enjoyed a very convivial evening and an excellent meal. We shall be returning to the same venue for our 1993 reunion. Add to above: Allan and Elsie BOYD, Des and Bunty O'CONNOR

CHURCH PARADE: Once again Rev. Bill McLeay officiated, the service being held in the historic Maori meeting house, Tiki o te Tamamutu, situated in the grounds of the Spa Hotel. Jack Baigent read the first lesson, your Secretary the second. Hymn sheets issued to everyone present greatly assisted the singing, ably led by Tui McLeay. We were unfortunately without a pianist but next year hope to have one.

ONE FOR THE ROAD: Some of those who do not brave the roads on the Sunday afternoon reckon this to be the best part of the reunion! Held in Suite 'A' the cost of this 'session' was more than covered by proceeds of the raffle of the model gun held at the Yacht Club.

St BARBARAS DAY SOCIAL: Held on the nearest Wednesday to St Barbara's Day (16 Dec 92) at the Birkenhead RSA, this was quite a successful function thanks to our Auckland/North Shore Rep., Alf Smith, who much to his disappointment was unable to attend owing to ill health. Alf has had a particularly bad 'spin' over the last few months. We hope 1993 see him back to normal. It was gratifying to see present members who were unable for various reasons to attend the Taupo reunion. The following were present: Harry ANDERSON, Eric and Patti AUTRIDGE, Guy BLACKWELL, Iris BOYTOR, Eric and Joyce BICKERTON, Allan and Elsie BOYD, Win BLACK, Bert DYSON, Nev FISHER, Dan and Dorothy FOLEY, Joe and Grace HANVEY, Barney HARROP, Jack and Joan KEINZLEY, Bill and Estelle MORLAND, John MASTERS, Vic and Audrey MEYLE, Reg NUTSFORD, Des and Bunty O'CONNOR,

Bill and Joyce POWRIE, Red POTTS, Jim and Ruby ROSS, Ian and Iris ROWNTREE, Wally RUFFELL, Henry and Thelma SALT, Ethel SEWELL, Margaret STITT, Terry and Joan TRANSOM, Allan TAYLOR, Les and Joyce WILSON, Gordon and Nora WEAVER, Frank WHITING Yogi YOUNG.

LOST AND FOUND: An NZPFOCA lapel badge was picked up outside the Taupo Yacht Club, handed in to the local RSA who passed it on to General McKinnon who will post it to the owner if the latter writes. The General's address is: Major General W.S. McKinnon CB CBE BSc, 43 Birch S Taupo.

NEWS FROM AROUND AND ABOUT: We extend condolences to Joff Adams who recently lost his good lady, Jean.

Congratulations are due to Allan Boyd, Dave Jones, and George Stuart, who drew marbles for the trip to El Alamein.

Congratulations also to Eddie Ryan who turned 80 during the year thus qualifying for Life Membership.

Brian Millynn who recently returned from Nepal reports: 'The Himalayas are not for the faint-hearted, sufferers from vertigo, or for people who suffer from altitude sickness. However, if you enjoy rapid changes in temperature and enjoy a diet of lentils, Dahl and coriander-spiced meals, and sumptuous YAK products such as YAK butter, YAK cheese, YAK milk and YAK steaks, then this is the "in" place for you. I would recommend those considering climbing in the Himalayas arrange an immediate appointment with a psychiatrist!'

Our thanks go to Wally Fraser for copies of photographs of the Permanent Force (RNZA), Wellington, 1909, and of the 1937 annual dinner at the RNZA Barracks, Fort Dorset, 1937.

To John Monk for photos of 60-pr detachments and Leyland Terriers.

To Ashley King for photo of RNZA Officers taken at Fort Dorset in 1938.

To Reg Nutsford for photo of RNZA at Narrow Neck c. 1936.

To General McKinnon for a photo similar to Reg. Nutsford's. These photos will make a useful addition to our collection. Duplicates will be donated to the Army Memorial Museum.

George Stuart, our Dunedin Rep., has been on the sick list with blood poisoning. We hope you are now 100%, George.

Rex Hudson, our Canterbury/Nelson Rep. sends regards to all Old Comrades especially Jack Keinzley.

Ralph Porter was unable to attend the reunion owing to his having to undergo a hip-replacement operation, which we hope was successful. He sends regards to all members.

Phil Calvert in his usual newsy Christmas letter reports all generally well with himself and family in Australia.

Roger Wylde was in the wars just before the reunion but made it OK. As he put it he had to have 'his obturator and mushroom head repaired and his vent axial rimed' - a rather apt Gunner's description for a prostate resection!

Darkie McWhinnie reports all under control in Taranaki, and getting organised after recently moving into a new house.

Our IN MEMORIAM BOOK scribe, Charles Cranmer, recently suffered a slight stroke but is coming right.

As the oldest veteran of Korea and Vietnam living locally, Tony Tustin was invited by the organising committee of the combined Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam Veterans to present a Roll of Honour to the Mayor of Blenheim at a function held there on 8 Nov 92.

Blackie Burns has been assisting his daughter Janine, a long-time student of Chinese culture and language at Sydney University, by researching Chinese/Mongol tactics and strategy of the 12/13th century in order to put a literal translation of a contemporary work on the subject into modern military language.

In the course of his research he has concluded there can be no doubt that the preparation and use of gunpowder was well-understood in China long before its introduction into Europe, a fact long disputed by British and other European military historians.

An appropriate amendment to the article 'The Gun' is therefore printed below.

AMENDMENT TO NEWSLETTER 75; Page 5, Chapter 1, 'Gunpowder': Delete paragraphs 4 and 5 and substitute:

Among the many claiming to have discovered it are the Chinese, Hindus, Greeks, Arabs, Germans and English. Works of British and European origin up to 1970, upon which this paper is based, invariably dismiss claims by the first four peoples as lacking authenticity or supportive evidence, or even as errors in translation. Indeed, Europeans viewed the suggestion that gunpowder may have been discovered by an Eastern people as heresy.

However, recent research of early Chinese works leaves no doubt that the preparation and use of gunpowder was well-understood in China by the 13th century, long before its introduction to the west.

In those days Arab traders operating from Southern China brought Chinese ideas and technology to Europe. We know also that the earliest known reference to the refining of saltpetre appears in an Arabian text (in which it is called 'Chinese snow'), dated 1240. These facts reinforce the belief stated below that Bacon obtained his recipe for gunpowder from the Arabs - who first got it from the Chinese.

NEW ZEALAND GUNNER TRUST: Details were read out at the AGM. For the benefit of members not present at the meeting details are shown at Page 8

THE GUN

Continued from Newsletter No 75.

This was a typical example of mediaeval thinking. Because the clergy generally enjoyed a higher standard of living than other folk, therefore their urine was thought to be of higher quality. Eventually pure water was found to be the best moistener.

Corning thus formed a much more intimate mixture with the following advantages:

1. Vibration had little effect on it; the ingredients no longer separated out during transport.
2. The grains were less susceptible to the effects of moisture.

3. The gaps between the grains enabled flame to pass more freely, making the rate of burning more consistent.
4. Variations in loading conditions did not affect the rate of burning to the same extent.
5. Corned powder was found to be at least 30% more powerful than serpentine.

Apparently not at first realising its added strength 15th century Gunners loaded charges of corned powder of the same weight as used with serpentine, so bursting a number of the old bombards. For this reason serpentine continued to be used in these guns until heavier and stronger types superseded them.

Polishing the powder grains by 'tumbling' them in a wooden barrel improved their moisture-resisting properties, while the addition of a small amount of graphite made the process even more effective.

Corned powder came into use in England in 1520.

Minor improvements to powder continued to be made chiefly by increasing the purity of its constituents and by experimenting with their proportions. In 1781 Richard Watson DD FRS, Bishop of Llandaff, who was also a professor of chemistry, ordained that for general purposes the proportions be saltpetre 75%, charcoal 15%, sulphur 10% - and for British gunpowder they have remained the same ever since. Later, in 1786 when asked by the Government for advice on improving the strength of powder he recommended the charcoal be made by 'distilling' the wood in closed vessels, and his recommendation was adopted.

CHAPTER 2:

THE FIRST GUN:

The genius who realised gunpowder could be used as a propellant and so invented the gun remains unknown. All we do know is that the first illustration of a piece of ordnance occurs in a treatise by one Walter de Millemete entitled 'De Officiis Regum' (On the Duties of Kings). Dated 1326, it is preserved in the library of Christ Church, Oxford. See Fig. 1.

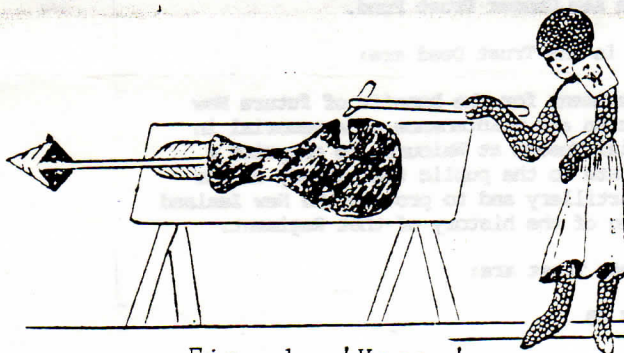


Fig. 1. 'Vaso.'

The gun pictured was called a 'vaso' (plural 'vasi'), from the Italian for a vase which it closely resembled. The Gunner is pictured in the act of firing the piece by inserting a red-hot iron into the vent. The projectile leaving the muzzle was a species of arrow known as a 'dart,' 'carreau,' or 'quarrel.' The gun has no carriage; it simply lies on a trestle table.

England lagged behind the rest of Europe in gun-making during the 14th century. Judging from the name 'vaso' Walter's gun was probably made in Italy which led Europe in metal-working at that time. Also, the earliest known reliable reference to guns occurs in a decree of 11 Feb 1326 by the Council of Florence ordering the casting of a quantity of brass pieces - and iron shot. Guns were probably in use before 1326 but claims to that effect as yet lack supporting evidence.

Unfortunately the text of Walter's work makes no reference to the illustration. As he was Chaplain to King Edward I, possibly he inserted it out of deference to the King who is said to have been a keen artilleryman.

We know that the earliest guns were cast from non-ferrous alloys, and the colour (gilt) of the piece in the original of Fig. 1 indicates it was made of a metal resembling brass, possibly bell metal. Extensive building of churches in Europe during the Middle Ages led to a steady demand for bells - and for bell-founders to switch to gun-founding would not have proved a difficult exercise.

During the 14th and 15th centuries England bought most if not all her cast brass or bronze guns from makers in Europe. When Henry VIII ascended the throne in 1509 the country had only one expert gun founder, a state of affairs he soon rectified by importing German, Italian and French gun founders not only to cast his ordnance but also to teach Englishmen how to do it.

To be continued.

From our Patron, General Ron Hassett:



Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery

New Zealand Gunner Trust Gunner Memorial - Waiouru Museum

Readers may recall an article which appeared in the February 1992 issue of Review seeking information on the Second New Zealand Artillery Unit Historic Fund Trust which was resting moribund in the Wellington Branch of the Bank of New Zealand. The Fund had been opened in 1949 to sponsor the writing of individual histories of the Divisional Artillery but had not been operated for many years and all the Trustees had died. Unfortunately the purpose for which the Trust Fund was established, namely the writing of Unit Histories, was never fulfilled although in 1966 a Divisional Artillery History was published.

In order to ensure that the money available in the Historic Fund Trust was put to a purpose not dissimilar to that for which it was originally intended a New Zealand Gunner Trust has been formed and the money from the Historic Fund has now been transferred to the new Gunner Trust Fund.

The objects of the Trust, as stated in the Trust Deed are:

- To record the history of the Regiment for the benefit of future New Zealanders, including the erection and maintenance of a memorial in the Queen Elizabeth Army Memorial Museum at Waiouru, to comprise a display of militaria to illustrate to the public the history of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery and to provide the New Zealand Army with an aid to the teaching of the history of that Regiment.

The Trustees of the New Zealand Gunner Trust are:

- Lt Gen Sir Leonard Thornton KBE CB
- Maj Gen R D P Hassett CB CBE
- The Colonel Commandant for the time being of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery

The Commissioner of Inland Revenue has granted charitable status to the Trust so that rebates of income tax are available in the normal manner to all those who contribute. A bank account has been opened in the name of the Trust at the Bank of New Zealand Petone (Account No 05440212327) All contributions should be made to the New Zealand Gunner Trust, and sent to 22 (D) Battery RNZA, Pattie Street, Petone. The Trust will be administered on behalf of the Trustees by 22 (D) Battery who will issue appropriate receipts for tax purposes.

A separate individual approach will be made to the many Gunner Associations scattered throughout New Zealand for contributions to the Trust Fund. Those Associations who are in the process of winding down and holding their "last" reunions may consider the New Zealand Gunner Trust an appropriate repository for any spare funds which they have available.