



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 33 710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 1309

NEWSLETTER No 83

September 1994

A Registered Publication

LAST POST:

1751 J de J (Hank) Oswald JP, 10 Jul 94, at Auckland.
1677 AGS (Jim) Hill JP, 8 Aug 94, at Auckland.
35598 VG (Swede) Svendsen, 24 Aug 94, at Auckland.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

MG Bell to 12 Aitken St, Bulls.
Major DP Dumbleton to 51 Sunrise Avenue, Mt Maunganui.
Major JL Gillooly to Tihoi Rd, Whakamaru, RD1, Mangakino.
Brigadier HB Honnor CBE MVO to 7A Puketiro Place, Te Haumi, Paihia 0252.
RA Harris to 3/3 Telopea St, Booker Bay, NSW 2257.
Lt Col AR McLeod to 34 Tennyson Ave, Takapuna, Auckland 1309.
Major RG Stephens to Brookly Rd, RD2, Blenheim.

GONE NO ADDRESS

S Sgt R Kimi

LAST KNOWN LOC

School of Artillery, Waiouru.

NEW MEMBERS:

H761399 W02 (SMIG) LT (Larry) Riwaka, School of Artillery, Waiouru.
328238 NW (Noel) Brough, 21 Hobson St, Levin.
Mrs J (Joyce) Shaw, 24 Sylvania Cres, Lynfield, Auckland (Associate).

RESIGNATION:

1933 G (George) Norris, 40 Isola St, Whangarei.

COMMITTEE MEETING:

The next meeting will be held in the main lounge, Birkenhead RSA at 1000 hrs, 15 October 94. Non-committee members welcome to attend.

REUNIONS:

7 NZ Anti-tank Regiment; 7-8-9 March 1995. For details contact Secretary PO Box 8070, Cherrywood, Tauranga. This could be the Regiment's last.

CLOSURE OF ARMY SCHOOLS:

On 30 Jun 94 the Army Schools were replaced by two new units, the Army Logistics Centre (Trentham), and the Army Combat Centre (Waiouru). The ACC will include present schools, locations of which will remain unchanged.

AMENDMENTS TO NL 82:

P5 para 6: Delete 'ephermerides,' substitute 'ephemerides.'
P7 para 3: After 'when' insert 'some of.'
P7 para 6 Line 2: Delete 'carries' substitute 'carried.'
Delete 'adaptter' substitute 'adapter.'

AMENDMENTS (Cont.): After para 4 page 6 insert: "The FA Tractor was fast on the road - some reckoned it was too fast! To improve its cross-country performance it was supplied with two 'tracks overall,' one of which fitted around each pair of rear wheels, thus making the vehicle vaguely resemble a half-track."

CONGRATULATIONS: TO George and Patti Miln who celebrated 50 years of married bliss on 8 July 94.

NEWS FROM AROUND AND ABOUT:

Bob Harris (see changes of address) extends a welcome to any Old Comrade who may be visiting Australia.

John Monk, 5 Opotoro Rd, Raglan, keeps busy. He is still Secretary of the local RSA, and has been Secretary of the local bowling club for the last two years. He and his good lady enjoyed a three-week trip round the South Island last April.

Both Morry (Dad) Phillips and his good lady Sybil, 71A Kent St, Picton, are virtually confined to their house, although Morry can drive for short distances.

In Newsletter 82 Tony Tustin reported that a group from the Vietnam Vets Assn were to visit Norfolk Island. In fact by the time the NL was published the visit, which included Anzac Day 1994, had ended. Ron Agnew, 301 Fergusson Drive, Thames, has since provided a comprehensive report of a most enjoyable week spent by members and their wives as guests of the Island RSL. He heartily recommends Norfolk as a holiday destination for retired people, and supplies the photograph below:



Vietnam Veterans Assn members' visit to Norfolk Island for week including Anzac Day 1994.

Brian Meyer, John Campbell, Graeme Woods, Ron Agnew, Tony Tustin, Ken Kristiansen, Dan Wilson, Alan Nixey.

Our President, Jim Gilberd, reports everyone in the Taupo/Hawkes Bay district in reasonably good fettle. Our Past Patron, General Walter McKinnon and his good lady Anna were recently invited to attend a luncheon put on by the Taupo District Council for the expressed purpose of thanking them for their past services to the District.

11 (A) Battery RNZA are anxious to obtain details of their past history. In particular they would like photographs of the BL 15-pr (issued in the early 1900s), and of the QF 18-pr (horse-drawn version, issued prior to World War 1. Send to Secretary who will deliver to Battery.

DEFENCE OF THE REALM
OR
THE "MOAT" MYTH AND THE
"NO THREAT" ILLUSION

By Jim Ross.

Messages that New Zealand's defences are inadequate are multiplying. From Australia, our only effective ally, her Prime Minister and Defence Minister have expressed concern at our low level of effort. Lately, Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore voiced his "bewilderment" at our attitude to regional security, saying "New Zealand's perceptions of future threats in the world are much more sanguine than mine."

John Robertson MP, former chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Defence, perceptively remarks "...over the past ten years or so, Defence policy has been determined more by Cabinet drives to save spending than by rational analysis of security." The Chief of Defence Force recently warned that the armed services cannot absorb much more in the way of financial cuts, and notes the reduction in defence expenditure from 2.2% of GDP in 1988-89 to 1.6% now.

A previous defence chief last Anzac Day pointed out that it was no coincidence that Australia traditionally spent between 180 and 200% more per head of population than New Zealand on defence, and New Zealand's casualty rate in World War 2 was between 180 and 200% greater per head: WE PAY FOR PEACETIME MILITARY PARSIMONY IN DEATH AND MUTILATION. In many ways, New Zealand resembles another small isolated island group, the Galapagos, where weird unwieldy life forms, fearless of predators, roll in the grass.

This state of affairs is a result of public apathy, stirred only when a senior officer overspends on house renovations, or when pacifists indulge in anti-frigate frenzy. Indifference is fostered by official policy, exemplified by Defence Reviews of 1987 and 1991, which conjure up the 'no threat' illusion, and in the New Zealand Defence Quarterly, in the first issue of which the Secretary of Defence reiterates the "moat" myth. He writes "We have the world's largest moat which makes invasion the least of our worries." The word "moat" engenders a comforting, protected feeling, but is misapplied: dictionaries define it as a ditch or trench around a castle or fortified place. As we have no defensive works, not even a single foxhole, no width of water can be described as a moat. The guest expert in this Quarterly, Mr David Lange agrees with the Secretary, stating "In practical terms, we rely for our safety on distance..."

Distance alone is no safeguard: the Falklands affair is an example of how a by-no-means-major power used largely improvised sea transport to mount a successful military operation halfway round the globe, in an extremely short time, against a strong entrenched enemy.

The "no-threat" illusion was formed in the 1987 White Paper by a "Threat Assessment" chapter which, in masterly fashion, avoided assessing any threats, filling the gap with a farrago of optimistic fibs. In fact, a threat has two components: the capability to inflict damage plus an intention to do so. The offensive potential of several South East Asian nations is incontestable, as can be confirmed by reference to the Statesman's Year Book, the International Institute of Strategic Studies' "Military Balance" or "Janes Fighting Ships." A Newsweek article reprinted in the NZ Herald highlighted developments which "have turned the Far East into an arms market rivalling the Middle East." Jane's Defence Weekly noted the shifting emphasis from land to maritime forces with the acquisition of long-range re-supply vessels and amphibious assault ships by several countries. It added: Much of the arms buildup has an air of extravagance, but an unnecessary weapon is still a lethal one, and the impulse which led to its purchase

could lead, one day, to its use.

This process has continued in 1993 with purchases of East German warships including tank landing craft, many coming into the South Pacific. At the Second Asian Pacific Conference on Defence early this year, the shift of the main focus of conflict in South East Asia from the land to the sea, the increasingly unpredictable and unstable strategic outlook, and the greater availability of affordable sophisticated weapon systems were analysed. One speaker pointed out "Once capabilities are in place, intentions may change."

There is no apparent aim at present on the part of any country to invade New Zealand. Intentions however are seldom advertised and can change with great rapidity. Among recent examples, there was no warning of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Discussing the Republic of China's declared aim of "building the world's most powerful navy" the Asian Defence Journal said in May "One cannot invest heavily to build a military machine without incurring a temptation to recoup the investment." As the Prime Minister wrote in the preface to the 1991 Policy Paper, "We cannot assume that the international situation will always be benign." Sadly, the Paper authors concentrated on the "no threat to New Zealand" illusion.

Not only do we grudge the two cents worth of tar necessary to keep the ship of state neat and taut, but we apply it in the wrong place: because of these two fallacies, our armed forces are directed to follow several goals and tasks, among which the actual protection of New Zealand is dismissed as unjustified. Consequently the services lack the basic capabilities required to defend the country. The anorexic Army, in particular, lacks any coast, anti-aircraft or anti-tank artillery: the Navy and Air Force are similarly deficient in home defence resources.

The Ten Commandments of defence are the Principles of War (well, eight actually), the distilled lessons of military history. First of these is Selection and Maintenance of the Aim, closely followed by Concentration of Efforts and Security. These are all violated by the plethora of goals and tasks laid down for the services. As Monty says, "Dispersion of effort and of resources is fatal to success."

A new review, giving priority to the actual defence of this country is urgently needed. Existing alliances must be maintained, potential ones developed, and, in addition, it is bound to identify requirements such as anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile batteries, and a basic Home Guard organisation, so that we are ready to repel any invasion, but would probably deter any such attempt by our very preparedness. Although dismissed on specious grounds in the 1991 Policy Paper, the nation-in-arms doctrine is historically sound, being implemented by nations, e.g. Sweden and Switzerland, which have been conspicuously successful in avoiding wars.

The necessary funds can be found, given the will. At present we spend more on ACC payouts than we do on defence, and nearly as much on the Domestic Purposes Benefit, which is ludicrous.

Who is responsible for repelling an invading force? No-one actually. The ministry of Defence is an advisor and procurer, the role of the courtier through the ages. On the other hand, the New Zealand Defence Force is limited in its protective role to "maintaining a level of... forces sufficient to deal with small contingencies affecting New Zealand." This level is not specified, but if you live in Auckland Province, which does not possess a single formed unit of troops on the ground, it obviously reaches great depths.

Every Anzac Day we sing "God Defend New Zealand," but He is known to help those who help themselves. It is up to us to put some "fence" back into Defence.

MORE NEWS FROM MEMBERS:

CONGRATULATIONS to Fred and Beryl Prior seen with their anniversary cake reflecting upon 50 years of marriage at 316 Sylvia Road, Whangamata.

THANKS to Ernie Peck who sent us photos of Jack Baigent's funeral. Ernie sends regards to Ashley King, Henry Salt, and Bill Weatherhead. Ernie has had his ups and downs; with the exception of high blood pressure and vertigo, he says he is OK!

Colin and Lillian Cochran, 2/247 Courtenay St, New Plymouth, are both well and recently spent 14 days on the Gold Coast with a 48-strong party of KEV from the New Plymouth RSA.

Jim McMorran, 319 Selwyn St, Spreydon, Christchurch 8002, recalling that 14 Wing RNZA did not undergo an equitation course (Newsletter 82), was posted to ChCh in 1938 where horses were still very much in evidence. He was not even asked whether or not he had done an equitation course - just ordered to ride!

Tony McLeod, 34 Tennyson Ave, Takapuna, is now involved in the building industry.

Karl Karlsson, 84 Bourke St, Palmerston North, indulges in stamp collecting as a main hobby, especially during the cold weather. He recalls the dispersal of the Wellington Field Cadre in 1940. Do you remember when a BL 6-in howitzer towed by a Holt tractor went out of control on a frosty street and wrecked a telephone booth - and the fast talking which resulted?

Fred and Daphne Schroder, 2/21 Clipper Court, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450, are both well and extend a welcome to any Old Comrade visiting the land of Oz. Fred has just joined a bowling club, and neither find the time to do all the things to want to do!

MECHANISATION (Cont.):RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

Some modern towed field and medium artillery equipments are now fitted with Auxiliary Power Units (APU), a typical example being the 155-mm FH 70 (Field howitzer 1970), a joint UK-German-Italian project taken into service in 1979, and shown in Figs. 43A and B. The APU, consisting principally of a 1800cc Volkswagen i/c engine, enables the gun to be moved short distances without the assistance of the tractor, e.g. to an alternative position, or into or out of the gun pit. In addition it provides hydraulic power for the service of the gun, e.g. opening or closing the trail legs when moving into or out of action.

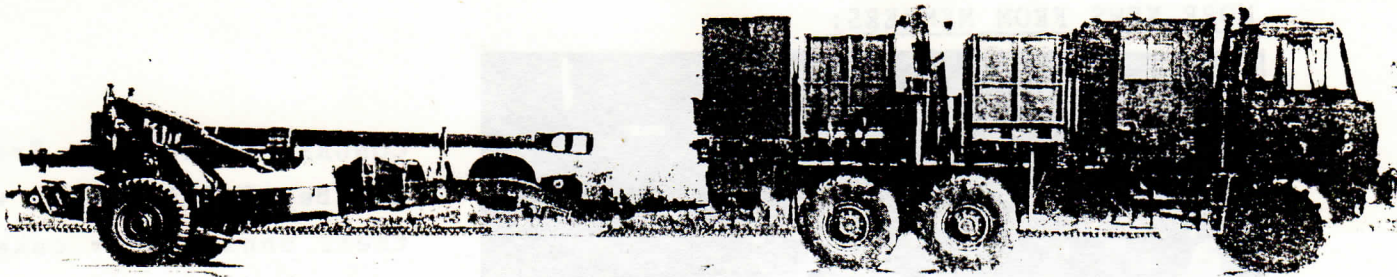


Fig. 43A: FH70 with piece in travelling position towed by a 6 x 6 Foden tractor. Another vehicle, identical except for no detachment cabin accompanies each gun. Designed solely for the carriage of ammunition and stores, it is called a 'limber.'



Fig. 43B: FH70 being moved to an alternative position by means of the APU which is mounted on the carriage extension below the breech

Note the use of the 'dolly' wheels also used when opening and closing the trail legs.

A more recent innovation is the French 155-mm 52-calibre gun mounted on a 6 x 6 Unimog chassis as shown in Figs. 44A and 44B. Called the CAESAR (CAMion Equipe d'un Systeme d'Artillerie, i.e. truck fitted with an artillery system), it is an effort to make the 155-mm gun as mobile as its conventional SP counterpart but without the considerable expense of a tracked chassis.

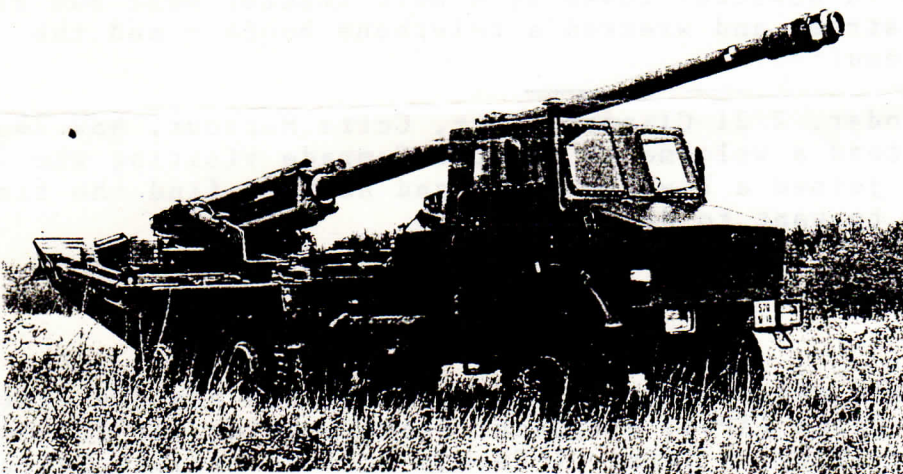


Fig. 44A: CAESAR - side view. The 'trail' legs, seen at the rear of the tray, are let down in action.

To be continued.



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 33 710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 1309

PROGRAMME ANNUAL REUNION 18-20 NOV 94 AT TAUPO

FRIDAY 18 Nov 94; March in; 1600 hrs drinks at Taupo RSA, Horomatangi St.

SATURDAY 19 Nov 94: 1000 hrs Annual General Meeting at TAUPO YACHT CLUB.

Afternoon - free.

1800 hrs - pre-dinner drinks at TAUPO YACHT CLUB.

1900 hrs - Reunion dinner in Yacht Club dining room.

Dress; Gentlemen informal - jacket and tie. Lounge suit or appropriate uniform may be worn. Medals and decorations to be worn.

Ladies: semi-formal.

Wine; The Yacht Club does not permit guests (including their own members) to bring own wine, but will have a comprehensive stock at club rates. Port is excepted and will be supplied by NZPFOCA.

SUNDAY 20 Nov 94: 1000 hrs Church Parade in Spa Hotel Lounge. i.e. the meeting house 'Tiki o te Tamamutu.' Medals etc to be worn.

After Church Parade 'one for the road.' Suite 'A' is no longer available but the public bar will open on conclusion of Church Parade.

Afternoon - free.

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete, detach, and return to Secretary by 31 Oct 94.

NAME: I will/will not be attending reunion.

(A negative answer will be taken as an apology for non-attendance at AGM).

I will be accompanied by (include first name).

I require/do not require accommodation at the Spa for nights

I enclose \$. . . for . . . persons at \$25 per head for dinner.

Please delete sections NOT applicable. To those requesting accommodation at the Spa, I will let you know whether or not you are successful.

Remember, if you are unable to drive you may bring a driver/companion who is welcome to take part in reunion activities (except the AGM).

DO NOT enclose payment for accommodation; settle direct with hotel etc.

ACCOMMODATION

SPA HOTEL: We make the Spa Hotel our HQ because the site was in 1867 occupied by the NZ Armed Constabulary from which sprang both the NZ Permanent Force and the NZ Police. It is therefore part of our historical heritage. The present hotel, which grew from the AC wet canteen, is one of the few licensed houses left which posses character. The following are available:

CHALETs: Tariff \$50 single, \$70 double, extra adults \$12 each, children \$10 (under 12 years). Each has double bed on ground floor, two singles on mezzanine floor. A shakedown for one more adult can be made up in lounge. Full kitchen, toilet and shower facilities, plus private spa pool, TV, phone, and radio. Ideal for sharing with another couple. We have booked all 12 chalets available. You book through Secretary.

STUDIO ROOMS: Tariff \$35 single, \$45 double. There are five each with a double bed, and five each with two single beds. Each room has own shower, toilet, TV, refrigerator, toast and tea-making facilities. We have booked all ten. You book through Secretary.

In addition we recommend the following:

Lake Hotel: Licensed hotel with Cobb & Co restaurant, cnr Tongariro and Tuwharetoa Sts, Phone 07/378 6165. Ideal for members who do not wish to drive after the dinner as it is only five minutes walk to the Yacht Club. Tariff: \$30 single, \$45 twin or double.

Make your own bookings direct..

Acapulco Motor Inn; 19 Rifle Range Rd (Box 347, Taupo) phone 07/378 7174 15 minutes walk to Yacht Club. Tariff: \$55 single, \$66 twin or double, \$14 each extra person. 10% discount to RSA members. Make your own bookings direct.

Army Motel Units, Acacia Bay: Make your own bookings through your local Army Office or as indicated in Newsletter No 81.

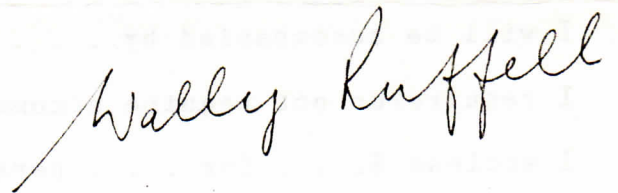
All tariffs include GST.

See RSA Review for other motels which offer discounts to RSA members.

We shall be booking a minibus for the convenience of members who may not wish to drive home after imbibing. If sufficient members are interested we may lay on a trip to the Army Museum, Waiouru, on the Sunday.

Any questions?

We look forward to seeing you.



Hon. Secretary.

Phone 09/445 3567.