



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 33 710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 1309

NEWSLETTER No 84

December 1994

A Registered Publica

SEASONS GREETINGS: Our Patron, President, and Executive extend to all members the compliments of the season and best wishes for 1995.

LAST POST:

1819 GC (George) Mansfield, 15 Sep 94, at Wellington.  
449542 Reverend Father (Chaplain Class T) FR (FRank) Scott MBE,  
24 Sep 94, at Hamilton.  
20257 AL (Tony) Parkes, 24 Dec 94, at Auckland.

We offer our sincere condolences to the relatives of the deceased.  
May we also offer our condolences to our Immediate Past President,  
Jim Gilberd, who recently lost his good lady Dot, and to Eileen Osmers  
who lost her daughter.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Capt SL Bassett to HQ Sector South West, BFPO 548, Gornji Vakuf,  
BFPO London, United Kingdom, c/o Auckland International Mail Centre.  
Brig GD Birch OBE to Defence and Military Adviser, NZ High Commission,  
Commonwealth Avenue, ACT 2600, Australia.  
P Christian to 152 Studholme St, Morrinsville.  
IA McLean to 6/37 Meeanee Rd, Taradale, Hawkes Bay.  
JH Smith to 18 Marie St, Murarrie 4172, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.  
GA Stuart to Montecillo War Veterans Home, 79 Eglinton Rd, Mornington,  
Dunedin.  
Lt Col GR Williams - as for Capt Bassett above.

NEW MEMBER:

F44809 VW (Val) Kingi, c/o Fordell PDC, Fordell, Wanganui.

STRUCK OFF STRENGTH FOR FAILURE TO PAY DUES:

D31076 MJ Chittock

COMMITTEE MEETING:

The next meeting will be held at 1000 hrs, 11 Feb 95, in the main  
lounge of Birkenhead RSA. Non-committee members welcome to attend.

SPECIAL ANNUAL DINNER:

Wellington members of NZPFOCA are invited to attend the special annual  
dinner marking 150 years of service by the New Zealand soldier, at the  
James Cook Centra, Wellington, Sunday 26 March 1995. After dinner  
speaker: Lt Gen Sir Leonard Thornton. For further details write to:  
Wellington Army Assn, PO Box 47 082, Trentham.

GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUITANTS ASSN:

Spouses of deceased members are advised to join the Association in  
order to keep up-to-date with possible changes in the status of  
spousal pensions by Government. The address is: PO Box 1315, Wellington,  
and the subscription is \$5-50 per annum.

ACTION ON DEATH OF MEMBER:

On the death of a member who is drawing Government Superannuation the  
spouse is advised to contact the Government Superannuation Fund



immediately so the necessary adjustments can be made without delay, e.g. to avoid embarrassing over-payments etc, at PO Box 3614, Wellington

As you all know the GSF has spousal clauses providing for the payment of a half pension to the surviving spouse in the event of the death of the holder. Court proceedings arising from the Human Rights legislation have challenged payment of half pensions without equivalent benefits to unmarried women. The status of payments by the GSF is protected until 31 Dec 1999. However, legislation has been introduced to tidy this matter up, hence our advice to keep yourselves informed.

#### REUNIONS:

161 Battery 16 Fd Regt RNZA: The 30 year anniversary of reporting "READY" in Vietnam will be celebrated in Linton over the week-end 15-16 July 1995. Program starts 0900 hrs Saturday. Make own arrangements for accommodation in Palmerston North. More details later.

7 A Tk Regt: Tauranga 7-9 March 95. Could be the last. Contact Secretary Box 8070, Cherrywood, Tauranga.

J Force and BCOF: 11-13 March 95, Pascal St, Palmerston North. For registration write Reunion Secretary, Box 473, Feilding.

14 LAA Regt: 23-24 September 95, Wellington. Contact Acting Secretary Doug Alexander, 49 Tui Rd, Raumati Beach, Phone 04/298 4342.

3 NZ Div Assn: 18-19 October 95 at Palmerston North RSA. For further info contact Mrs Bet Allen, 117 Denbigh St, Feilding, Phone 06/232 6487.

#### NEWS FROM MEMBERS:

Peter Christian (see changes of address) is now Editor of the PIAKO POST. He says he never realised "...there were so many bloody cows in in one place" - presumably of the human as well as of the bovine variety

Brian Hewitt who at time of writing (17 Oct 94) was attached to the Australian Army, reported New Zealand Gunners there to be in good heart. They included Lt Col Theo Kuper attending JSSC, and Lt Col Ian Marshall who is seconded to the ADF.

Dave Jones and eldest daughter recently returned from a 10-day walk-about in Australia called on Bob Harris and had a most enjoyable time yacking and partaking at the local RSL.

Bob Harris, 3/3 Telopea St, Booker Bays, NSW 2257, would appreciate a visit by any Old Comrade visiting Australia.

#### MORE REUNIONS:

Ex-Vietnam Assn: South Island reunion and dedication of Vietnam Cenotaph in Hokitika, Labour Week-end 1995. Contact Graeme Ryalls, c/o Club Hotel, Hokitika.

NZ Korea Vets Assn: 14th National reunion, Blenheim, 3-6 May 1996. Reunion Secretary: Les Pye, Box 21, Blenheim, Phone 03/578 2996.

NZPFOCA: As some believe our last few reunions have been too close to Christmas the next will be held over the week-end 3-4-5 November 1995. Mark these dates on your calendar/diary NOW!



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS:

Tirohia had the honour last week of being the first on Police Education Officer Ron Agnew's round of Thames Valley-Coromandel Peninsula schools.

Mr Agnew took over the job from former officer Bob Williams on July 31. Since then he has been undergoing orientation training-learning how to teach the subject of traffic safety to children.

There are 82 schools on Mr Agnew's round which includes Matamata and Huntly.

He and fellow police officer Dean Kaio work in tandem, with Dean teaching aspects of the law and police subjects and Ron concentrating on school traffic and crossing patrols.

Last Wednesday, Tirohia's cycling pupils donned their helmets and underwent a series of challenges and lessons in the confines of the school.

Mr Agnew enjoys going to small, rural schools, saying there is always a pleasant, homely atmosphere.

NB: Ron is currently stationed at Thames.

REUNION 1994:PRESIDENTS REPORT

This report covers activities of our Association during the past twelve months.

This year is significant in that it marks the 60th anniversary of our organisation since its inception at Auckland in 1934. Our aims and objects are the same as they were then.

Our membership stands at 350, an increase of two over the year. The breakdown is as follows:

	1994	1993
Ordinary members	266	271
Associate "	46*	42
Life "	34	31
Honorary "	4	4
Total	350	348

\*Mostly widows of former members who have passed on.

As we all realise to sustain membership we need new members. This has been a problem for some years now and is of concern to the Association. Soldiers today are not long service <sup>men</sup> as in the past. Your committee continues to explore this matter.

I wish to express my appreciation of the work put in by the executive committee which transacts the affairs of our organisation. As you are aware with our HQ in Auckland and the President in Napier it has not been possible for me to officiate at committee meetings. My sincere thanks to Terry Transom for chairing the meetings in my absence.

My thanks to our Patron who continues to support us. It is good to have a member of the "Generals' Club" on our side, particularly when dealing with the Dept of Defence and other organisations.

To our District Reps, keep up the good work in the provinces. You are in contact with the troops on the ground.

Thank you to our Padre, Bill McLeay and his good wife Tui who attend to our spiritual needs at our church parades.

Lastly to Wally Ruffell and Des O'Connor, two key officers on the Committee.

It was a wise move of Geoff Stagg, our Secretary in 1968, who kicked off Newsletter No 1, and Wally has expanded on earlier letters to cover items of Gunner News.

(sgd) James G. Gilberd.



APOLOGIES from members not attending the AGM were received from: TJ ARNOTT, RE ATKINS, CW ANNISS, MG BELL, NE BENNETTS, LJ BRADY, GD BIRCH, A BOYD, AG BLACKWELL, J BURNS, Iris BOYTER, CJC CROOKES, Mollie CRICHTON, Zita COOK, Mollie CUMMING, HS Cocks, IJ DOAK, EA FORBES, NV FORBES, F GIBBISON, JL GILLOOLY, CJ HAYDEN, Beryl HYNES, HB HONNOR, Jacqueline HARVEY, WG HOPKINS, EG HIGHT, RG HICKSON, BJJ HEWITT, Joyce HANKEY R JAQUES, Kathleen KITNEY, RP KINZETT, DR KENNING, VW KINGI, EC LILE, J MONK, EC MORGAN, RJ MARTIN, BD MILLYN, LA PEARCE, RKG PORTER, AM PETRIE, E PECK, LJ PYE, Sylvia RUDGE, L ROBERTS, RO ROBINSON, Ella SUTHERLAND, JF SPRING, CWN STANBRIDGE, T SWIFT, Enid STANDEN, HGC SALT, WN STEPHENSON, Sir L THORNTON, LW WRIGHT, SD WRIGHT, D WESTON, Cora WOODS, FB WOOD, FF WHITING, JD WATERS, HG BIGG-WITHER, DP DUMBLETON, D JONES. RA HARRIS, RM NUTSFORD, TJ CHAPMAN, IA McLEAN.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

WO1 IS (Ian) Foster RNZA, RSM 16 Fd Regt, was elected President for the coming year (1995). All remaining Officers were re-elected en bloc.

SUBSCRIPTION: To remain at \$5 (lady Associate members \$2-50).

APPLICATION TO LOTTERY GRANTS BOARD:

We have made an application for \$4275 to buy a new copier. Secretary made the point that if the MONGREL Mob and the Prostitutes Collective could succeed we should have a good chance!

COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL - 150th ANNIVERSARY OF NZ ARMY: The Wellington Branch, NZ Army Association, proposes to strike such a medal and is supported by Army General Staff. NZPFOCA also pledges support. See leaflet accompanying this newsletter.

EXPANSION OF ARMY MEMORIAL MUSEUM: Our Patron, General Ron Hassett, who is the Executive Trustee for the Museum, gave a progress report on the extensions being made. We understand the formal opening of the Kippenberger Pavilion and the Greenstone Wall of Remembrance will take place on 24 March 1995, the day upon which the Army will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of its foundation.

REUNION DINNER: Our Guests of Honour were the Colonel Commandant, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery, Brigadier Geoff Hitchings and his good lady Barbara. In attendance were Doug ADAMS and daughter Helen, Harry ANDERSON, Bernard and Marie AYLING, Eric and Joyce BICKERTON, Bill and Jasmine BEVERIDGE, John BELLAMY, Cliff and Babs BRAGG, Barry and Anne CALDER, Matt and Rosalie CRAWLEY, Bert and Shirley DYSON, Ian FOSTER, Harry FANTHAM, Leroy FORRESTER, Joe FALLON, Dan and Dorothy FOLEY, Jim GILBERD, Bill and Emma GILES, Joe HANVEY, Barney HARROP, Dutch and Joyce HOLLAND, David HUGHES, Terry HUGHES, Ron and Mike HASSETT, Jack KEARNEY, Ashley KING, Frank and Denise LUPO, Bill and Estelle MORLAND, George and Patti MILN, Vic and Audrey MEYLE, Brian and Tilly MEYER, Bill and Tui McLEAY, Walter McKINNON, Neil and Helen McMAHON, Harold NICHOLSON, Des and Bunty O'CONNOR, Stan and Jean PERRETT, Bill and Joyce POWRIE, Ian and Iris ROWNTREE, David and Marie ROBERTS, Eric ROLLE, Jim ROSS, Jock TAYLOR, Terry and Joan TRANSOM, Tony TUSTIN and son Donald, Ivan and Bernice WILSON, Roger and Jean WYLDE, Gordon and Nora WEAVER, Wally RUFFELL and daughter Lorraine.

In proposing the toast "THE REGIMENT" Jim Ross had this to say: To

be asked to do this is an honour for which I am very grateful, so I'm going to give you a few words on the defence of the realm, because defence of the realm is really what the Regiment is all about.

The strength of the Regiment is sadly, at a low ebb: unless we can reverse it, the decline may become terminal. Before World War II, and for many years after, the Royal New Zealand Artillery was not only the senior corps, but was in most respects the predominant arm of the service. Most, if not all the senior officers were gunners, and most



importantly, artillery doctrine had a strong influence on defence policy. This was the case, not only in New Zealand, but throughout the Commonwealth and Empire, to such an extent that in 1930 General Wavell got quite bitter. He complained that the artillery tail was wagging the infantry dog. Well, the wheel has come full circle, and the infantry dog now wags the artillery tail, and its a rather stumpy tail at that.

I am not going to belittle the infantry; we all have great respect and admiration for those splendid gravel crushers.

Similarly when I speak of the artillery being a "stumpy tail" this is not a criticism of serving gunners. Faced with difficulty which we never knew, their loyalty and dedication are keeping the Regiment alive.

The present situation: Where we once saw regiments, we may now see batteries, and when we have found our batteries we find they are four-gun affairs we once called "troops." Whole branches have fallen away: we have no coast defence weapons, no anti-aircraft capability, and no medium guns; all necessary to defend the country. The only consolation is that we have two RF Batteries. Though compact, with computers in the command posts and laser rangefinders in the OPs they are well up to the mark and keeping alight the flame of the art and science of field gunnery.

How did this deterioration in our position come about? The answer lies in defence policy, as laid down in Defence 'Reviews' or 'White Papers' of the last few years. These are now produced by civilians of the Ministry of Defence. I will refer in particular to the one current at the moment - the 1991 White Paper, which was written, not by military officers, but by bureaucrats - the "Royal Corps of Shinybums" as some crude fellow called them.

The resulting policy therefore acquires a peculiar slant. Although no foreign power is at the moment actually waving a sabre at New Zealand, that is no excuse for ignoring the potential threats of East Asia. Countries in that area are subject to increasing pressure of population. They are, in the main, newly industrialised, with strong and expanding economies. More to the point, they are engaged in a determined arms race, about which you will find very few clues in your daily paper. A group of our MPs returned from East Timor recently, complaining of "culture shock" from all the militarism they found there. There are, therefore at least five Kiwis who have some idea of what I'm talking about.

(I left out a bit here, when I spoke, about the "moat" myth, or the protection the policy-makers claim we have through our distance from other lands. The Maori in the 14th century crossed this moat quite effectively in dugout canoes - and shipping has much improved since then)

The reason the authors of the White Paper avoid the obvious in such a "tunnel vision" manner is that their real aim is to cut costs. This is not just opinion, but borne out by their own statements. For example, here's a quote from Page 42. "Infantry training and equipment ... to give two examples, do not need the high cost and rapidly changing technology which characterise ... missile batteries." We can therefore see why artillery equipment requirements are down-graded: not from any real strategic or tactical considerations, but purely because the price of this essential gear is ruled to be too high. The writers show that their actual agenda is to produce a pretence of defence with minimum expense.

I'll now sum up. This country has no future without security; it cannot be secure without defence. Defence requires fire-power, and for fire-power we require - artillery. So: No artillery, no fire-power. No fire-power, no defence. No defence no security; no security, no future in the long term.

You are entitled at this point to enquire, "What can we do about all



this - We're old and we're nervous. We're cast from the Service, and all we deserve is a shilling a day." This is not mine - it's Kipling's. Well, we can spread the word as best we can.

WE really need a good strong lobby, such as the National Defence League we had in the 1930s which constantly impressed on the Government and public the need for a decent defence. If we could revive the League at the present time, it could have a beautiful stoush for a start: countering the gibbering anti-militarists who control our news media. The young generation must be persuaded that if defence costs money they have to just face the fact and pay their way. The Kiwi has a choice: HE CAN PULL HIS WEIGHT OR PULL A RICKSHAW.

To conclude: We are all proud of our service in the Regiment, which, counting from its British origin, has lasted for 278 years. We were truly told when we joined that to be a gunner was a permanent, unalterable and inalienable state. Our presence here tonight shows we are still affected by those bonds which, although invisible, are as strong as ever.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'll now ask you to stand, and honour the toast of THE REGIMENT.

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In his reply Bert Dyson said: "Jimmy Ross has discussed the threat which influences the size and shape of the NZ Army and consequently, the RNZA. Activists have had an influence on policy out of all proportion to their numbers. The present strength of the Regiment is meagre. We have long awaited the day when the younger generation can take over this Regimental Association and it is wonderful to see Ian Foster here as President elect; to have two serving Gunners with us; and to learn that we now have ten members at Waiouru. We were told today that our strength is 350. This is no great reduction from 407 in 1987. For this we are greatly indebted to past and present Patrons and to past and present Committee Members. Thank you."

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On Sunday 20 November we held our usual Church Parade at which our Padre Bill McLeay officiated, ably assisted by Tui who led the singing and Helen McMahon on the piano. The service which was very well attended, was held in the old Maori meeting house, Tiki o te Tamamutu, which acts as the Spa Hotel lounge. Our thanks are also due to Teresa Karaitiana of the Spa who for some years now has lent us her electronic piano for the Church Parade.

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After the Church Parade came "one for the road" paid for from proceeds of the raffle held the day before. As Suite 'A' is no longer available Harold Nicholson kindly allowed us the use of his Chalet for the purpose

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We were all pleased to have with us two South Island members, Harry Fantham from Christchurch, and Eric Rolle from Nelson, and we hope to see more from the 'Mainland' in the future. We are very aware of the fact that the South Islanders have a long way to come, and costs of travel are not cheap. However, those who make the trip invariably say it is well worth the effort. Why not come to the 1995 reunion and hang the expense. After all, you can't 'take it with you.'

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To members who were unable to attend the reunion through sickness or other reasons we sincerely hope your circumstances have improved. Especially we thank those who while unable to attend but had paid for the dinner allowed their payments to stand as donations to the Association.



## THE GUN

By Wally Ruffell

Continued from Newsletter No 83

### CHAPTER 4: GUNFOUNDING

#### Introduction:

After the manufacture of wrought iron guns ceased about 1520 all pieces of ordnance were cast until the middle of the 19th century when the demand for more powerful pieces saw other methods investigated.

Founding or casting consists of pouring molten metal into a mould and allowing it to cool. After solidification the mould is removed and the casting remains, showing all the required details of form and ornamentation, if any.

Although techniques to be described are those of the early 18th century founders of bronze ordnance, they differ only slightly from those employed by the mediaeval bell founders who had 'converted' to gun founding in the 14th century.

As methods of smelting iron improved it gradually superseded bronze, which by the early 1800s was being used for the lighter guns only.

#### METHOD:

To cast a gun a full-size pattern or 'model' was first made. Around the model a mould was then formed, after which the model was removed and the space it formerly occupied filled with molten metal. After the metal had solidified and cooled the mould was removed revealing the piece, which then had to be finished by machining.

Let us look at the process in more detail.

MAKING THE MODEL: Refer to Fig. 45.

The barrel model was built up on a tapered wooden spindle of a size appropriate to the gun to be cast, with an extension at the muzzle end to form a 'dead head' or 'feeding head' intended to form a reservoir of molten metal in the mould. After being greased (to make removal easy later), the spindle was tightly wound with rope made of plaited straw to approach the form of the barrel to within a margin of one inch (25.4 mm).



Fig. 45A: showing the foundation of the model

Around the straw-covered spindle the actual shape of the barrel was then sculpted using layers of a paste made from clay, horse dung (!), and water, each layer being thoroughly dried before application of the next. This resulted in a model very close to the required size and shape as shown in Fig. 45B

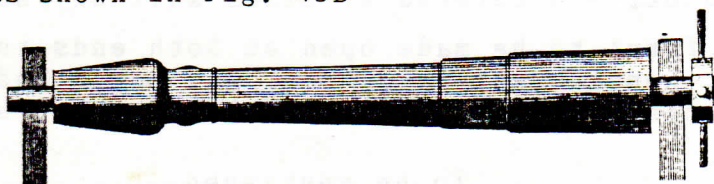


Fig. 45B: Note 'dead head' or 'feeding head' in prolongation of muzzle.

After the final layer had been applied the profile of the piece was checked with a template called a 'strickle' as shown in Fig. 45C.

Finally the model was covered with a layer of molten wax and again smoothed by the strickle. This was to give the model a smooth surface to prevent it adhering to the mould, and to assist its removal from



the latter. This last application of the strickle was used to accurately delineate decorative bands etc on the piece, as well as to locate the position of the trunnions.

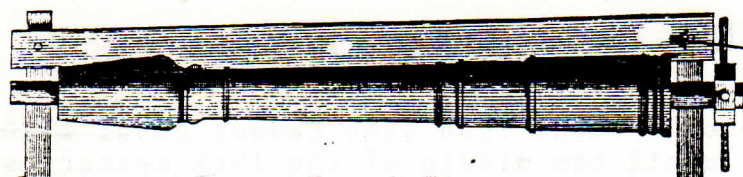


Fig. 45C: Showing use of 'strickle..

Next the trunnions in the form of turned wooden blocks shaped at the ends to suit the profile of the barrel were attached by iron skewers driven into the spindle of the model.

In order to allow for contraction of the bronze on cooling all model dimensions were made greater than those on the design drawing by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in 100 (63.5 mm in 2540 mm).

#### THE MOULD:

The mould was made by applying layers of a semi-liquid mixture of clay, potters' or refractory clay, sand and water, all of which had been finely sifted or strained so it would flow freely into the smallest details of the model. Each layer was left to dry before the next was added. Ultimate thickness depended upon the size of the gun to be cast, about three inches (76 mm), for a 24-pr. The outside of the mould was formed to a pattern (checked by a template similar to the strickle mentioned above), so that standard reinforcing staves and hoops could be fitted as shown in Fig. 46B.

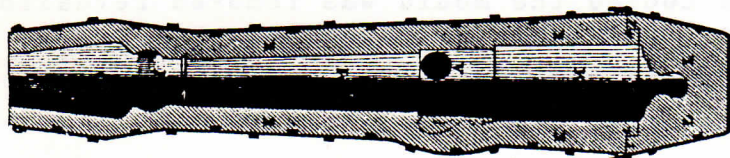


Fig. 46A: Skeletonised drawing showing mould superimposed upon model.

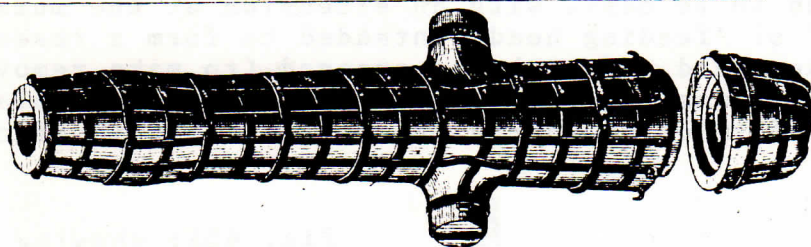


Fig. 46B: Finished mould showing staves and hoops necessary to withstand pressure of molten metal during the casting process. Also shown separate mould for the breech and cascable.

After withdrawing the skewers securing the trunnion patterns the model was removed from the mould, first by pulling out the tapered spindle, then unwinding the straw rope, after which the trunnion patterns were removed. Lastly the mould was stood on its breech end and a fire started at the bottom to melt the wax on the model thus making the clay part of it easier to remove without damaging the mould.

After removal of the trunnion patterns the ends of the trunnion holes in the mould were squared off and covered by tiles suitably secured.

Note that the mould had first to be made open at both ends to enable the model to be removed, hence a separate model and mould had to be made for the breech and cascable. The breech mould was then attached to the main mould.

To be continued.

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On Friday the 13th of January 13 members of the OCA partook of refreshment in the Birkenhead RSA. They all drove home very carefully!

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