



Incorporated

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 33 710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 1309

NEWSLETTER No 87

September 1995

A Registered Publication

LAST POST:

1685 F.J. (Fred) Prior, 11 Jul 95, at Whangamata.
1806 E.G. (Eric) Rolfe MBE, 17 Jul 95, at Nelson.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Sgt D.F. Burton to 2 Queree Drive, Waiouru.
N.M. Fisher to 124 Hilton Drive, Whangamata.
Capt. J.J. Hanvey to Unit 1, 3 Kawerau Ave, Devonport, Auckland 1309.
R. Harman to 9 Stevenson Rd, Clarkes Beach, RD4, Pukekohe.
D.J. Hughey to 43 Delaware Crescent, Christchurch 4.
H.J. Macown MBE to 45 Lisa Crescent, Rotorua.
Major R.G. Stephens to PO Box 656, Blenheim.
Lt Col R.H Williams to Greenacres Rd, RD1, Richmond, Nelson wef 30 Sep.

NEW MEMBER:

Mrs Beryl Prior, 316 Sylvia Rd, Whangamata (Associate).

REUNIONS:

NZPFOCA - See last two pages of this newsletter.

N.Z. Korea Veterans Assn - Nelson and Marlborough. Top of the South reunion, 3-6 May 1996. For further info contact Secretary, Les Pye, PO Box 21, Blenheim, Phone 03/578 0686, or Secretary NZPFOCA.

6 Field Regiment NZA. Reunion 7-9 October 95, at Palmerston North. For further info contact Secretary, 6 Field Regiment Assn, PO Box 69, Palmerston North.

163 Battery, 16 Field Regiment RNZA, 1958-64. Labour week-end 21-22 Oct 1995 at Marlborough RSA. Contact Neville Davey, Box 36, Seddon, Marlborough, 03/575 7792 or Barry Hardy, 524 Hammericks Rd, RD2, Blenheim, Phone 03/577 6322, URGENTLY.

AUCKLAND St BARBARAS DAY SOCIAL: Will be held at the Birkenhead RSA at 1100 hrs, Thursday 14 December 95. All members and partners welcome. If attending contact Secretary no later than Monday 11 Dec 95.

COMMITTEE MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Saturday 14 Oct 95 at the Birkenhead RSA commencing 1000 hrs. Non-committee members are welcome to attend.

AUCKLAND/NORTH SHORE REP: Mr A.J. (Alf) Smith, who has been our Auckland/North Shore Rep or has assisted in that capacity for over 30 years, has been obliged to relinquish that office for health reasons. Such dedication to the service of the Association is deserving of the highest tribute, as all members must agree. As Alf can no longer drive and must spend a great deal of time at home, he would appreciate contact with members. His address is 10 Eastcliffe Rd, Castor Bay, Auckland 9, Phone 09/410 4564.

AUCKLAND/NORTH SHORE REP. (Cont.): Our new Rep. and Vice President is Captain J.J. (Joe) Hanvey, Unit 1, 3 Kawerau Ave, Devonport, Auckland 9, Phone 09/445 8044.

VJ DAY: To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities during 1939-45, all who had served in the forces over that period and now living on Auckland's North Shore, were invited to a civic reception by His Worship the Mayor, Mr Paul Titchener JP and the Councillors of North Shore City Council. Held on 25 August 95 at the North Shore Sports and Leisure Centre, Silverfield, Glenfield, the function was well attended by members of our Association. Each person who attended was presented with a very attractive medallion to mark the occasion.

WEARING OF BERETS ETC: The CGS has authorised ex-New Zealand Army personnel to wear current or obsolete badges on regimental berets at appropriate military functions and commemorations, e.g. Anzac Day parade.

WEARING OF MINIATURES: No doubt members who receive the RSA REVIEW have read the letter to the Editor in the August edition Page 2 deploring the wearing of miniature medals and decorations with mufti.

Some years ago the same argument was put to the British Army magazine SOLDIER, whose expert on such matters explained the position. To cut a long story short he concluded, "The Army does not make rules for civilians; therefore ex-soldiers parading in mufti can wear what they like - full-size medals or miniatures."

THANKS: We wish to express our heart-felt thanks to the many members who gave donations towards the purchase of our new copier which was delivered to us on 25 August. IT is a vast improvement on the old machine. Although Secretary had to learn a new series of stoppage drills he has not had to use them yet!

AMENDMENT TO THIS NEWSLETTER: In the accommodation section on the last page under ARMY MOTEL UNITS HQ Support Command phone number should read: 04/5275 823.

ROYAL ARTILLERY CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE: The service, on 13 Nov 94, was attended by our Assistant Secretary, Iris Boyter, who is pictured in the march past. We regret we could not produce a better picture but the original left much to be desired.



The parade in Hyde Park.

Note the berets and badges which members of the RAA have been wearing on such occasions for decades.

Iris is sixth from the left

NEW MEMBERS NZPFOCA: Recently we received two applications for membership from persons who did not qualify, i.e. were not ex-RF. Both stated they had approached members of NZPFOCA who advised them to apply. When so approached members should endeavour to check applicants' qualifications before advising them to apply.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS:

Captain S.L.(Shay) Bassett writes, "I recently returned, with the first (Op) Radian contingent, from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH) and thought that members may be interested in the activities of Gunners with the New Zealand Force United Nations Protection Force or NZFOR UNPROFOR.

To date 19 members, or attached personnel, of the RNZA have deployed. Seven on Op Radian I, from September 1994 to March 1995, and 12 on Op Radian II, from March to September 1995. As I write the final exercise is being conducted in Waiouru for the 250 Op Radian III personnel, in less than ideal conditions, which includes another 13 Gunners.

The appointments held by RNZA personnel have varied with each deployment. The Senior National Officers (SNO) of the first two deployments have been Gunners. Firstly Lt Col Graeme Williams, CO of 16 Fd Regt at the time, and secondly Lt Col Barry Vryenhoek notably accompanied by our very own WO1 Ian Foster as the contingent RSM. The SNO works as the Staff Officer Grade One Civil Affairs at HQ Sector South West, located at Gorni Vakuf, which acts as a de facto Brigade HQ. The SNO's job is an extremely important one as the UN's primary mission in BH is the provision of humanitarian aid.

Gunners have also provided the bulk of the Forward Air Control (FAC) Party. Acting very much like a FO Party they are used as a deterrent, to the various factions, by calling in NATO aircraft to provide Close Air Support as required. The first TACP (FAC) was manned by myself, Bdr Johnny Makakea and L Bdr Jason Houia. We handed over to Capt Kevin Scott, L Bdr Myron Prendergast and L Bdr Leighton Thompson in March 1995. They will, in turn, hand over to Capt Brett Rankin, L Bdr Aaron Taylor and L Bdr Alan Mitchell in September 1995. To date the NZ TACPs have been located in the Muslim town of Maglaj approximately one and a half hours North of Santici, where the main body of K Coy is located. They work in direct support of BRITCAVEAT, a battalion sized organisation based on a British Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment with an Infantry element. It takes a while to get used to eating mushie peas but the experience is worth it.

The RNZA has also supplied a Liaison Officer (LO) Party for each contingent. The first was manned by Capt Ben Green and L Bdr Steve Matheson. They worked out of BRITCAVEAT HQ in Zepce, liaising with local authorities and organising aid to the civil population which included tens of thousands of refugees and displaced persons. Once again an extremely important task. With the handover to Capt Jeremy Smith and Gnr Hardy the Party relocated to Tomislavgrad in BRITBAT 1's area of Operations. Lieutenant Josh Wineera, L Bdr Damon Mitchell and Gnr Sean Stephens will take over from Capt Smith's party in September 1995. Op Radian II also saw the RNZA providing the Driver/Operators for the other LO Parties. These were: Gnr Mathew Akuhata, Gnr Phillip Maxwell and Gnr Jeremy Pirihi.

Probably the greatest area of concern, to UN forces, in BH is logistic support. In this area 16 Fd Regt has also contributed with Bdr David MacIntyre and Sgt Daryl Burton serving with the Q Cell on Op Radian I and III respectively. The 16 Fd Regt Wksp also supplied an Armourer, Sgt Dean Dew, and a Vehicle Mechanic, Cpl Derek Brenchley for Op Radian II.

The remaining seven members of the Royal Regiment to be deployed with NZFOR UNPROFOR are being employed as M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier crewmen. Gnr Mark Ashworth on Op Radian II as a driver and, on Op Radian III, Bdr Gregory Molloy, Bdr Brian Wells, Bdr Marcus Pompey, L Bdr Nathan Falwasser, L Bdr Lindsay Robertson and L Bdr Scott Leevey as crew commanders. They are to be employed within the K Coy organisation on such tasks as patrolling, manning check points and observation posts and assisting in the provision of civil aid.

Although only a six-month tour, Bosnia has been the highlight of my 15 and half years' service and given those of us fortunate enough to deploy the experience of working in a regular divisionsal environment and seeing the destruction a civil war can cause, at first hand.

AS always, I look forward to the next Association newsletter and wish all members the best for the future.

(Sgd) S.L. Bassett, Captain,
Adjutant.

Tom Chapman, our Wellington/Hutt Rep. sent the picture and article below, which appeared in the Evening Post of 17 July 95. The original picture in the paper was in colour which unfortunately our copier is unable to reproduce.

War art exposes McIntyre's true grit

When Gunner McIntyre went to war in 1939, he packed his sketchbook and his paints.

McIntyre, a young Dunedin art student who had arrived in London in the spring of 1930, was destined to become Major Peter McIntyre, official war artist to the New Zealand Division in the Middle East, North Africa and Italy.

He will be reunited with some of his works and with soldier colleagues when he attends the opening of the first retrospective exhibition of his war art in the City Gallery on Friday night. Sir Leonard Thornton, himself a gunner, will open the show.

"McIntyre was the only official war artist attached to British forces who had five years of uninterrupted service during the war," Sir Leonard said.

Sir Leonard, the general whose illustrious military career concluded on his retirement as Chief of Defence Staff in 1971, said there were special elements in McIntyre's work.

WAR ARTIST YEARS - P7

"He has this very good and consistent focus on New Zealand's military men and women. They are true New Zealand faces, and not your usual hero types. He captured that strong, sometimes naive simplicity of the New Zealanders working in all sorts of military areas."

Sir Leonard said the oil painting 25 pounder in Italy in the Kia Kaha show at the National Library showed how McIntyre was close to the action.

"This is a very accurate picture of the gun crew, and you can feel the effort of the men. The man loading the shell, stripped to waist, is uncannily accurate. "The other element which interests me in this work is that it's never been cleaned up. It has the grime of the battlefield in its paint. You can see airborne dust mixed with the paint in the clouds - it's beautiful."



ONE GUNNER to another - Sir Leonard Thornton with Peter McIntyre's 25 pounder in Italy.
Picture: CRAIG SIMCOCK

Lt Col R.H. Williams (see changes of address), writes: "I've 1/2 pie retired to a farmlet, wef 30 Sep, in the mainland home town at long last. Margaret says if I was any more relaxed I'd fall over! Chooks, deer and four-legged heifers - whoopee!

We had a wonderful 161 Bty (S-VN) reunion at Linton 14-15 July. 16 Fd Regt did us proud and the camaraderie was very sincere.

Regards to all who couldn't make it,

Yours sincerely,

Rick Williams, BC 1983

Les Pye has asked us to print reminders of the K Force reunion next year (see Page 1) and sends an account of a tour he made of Korea earlier this year (see page 5 and 6). He further asks that "we give Yogi a gentle nudge and steer him south of the Bombays." Yogi, please note!

AMENDMENT TO ACCOMMODATION GUIDE: Acapulco Motor Inn: Delete Tariff \$56 and detail; substitute Special rate for RSA Members \$45 incl GST.

Veteran finds big changes in Korea

A "revisit" trip to Korea is a pilgrimage that no veteran of that war should miss, according to Les Pye, of Blenheim.

by Helen Hill

Along with four other Marlborough veterans of the Korean war, Mr Pye went to Korea last month on a regular annual trip organised through the New Zealand Korea Veterans Association. The other local men were Ralph Hutcheson and Bill and Arthur Pacey. Snow-Gilmore and his wife Elizabeth made a private visit about the same time.

"I'm glad I went," says Mr Pye, a retired major from the regular army.

"It's an excursion that no veteran should miss. The sheer difference in the country from what it was when I left amazed me. For example, over the River Han in 1953 there was one road-rail bridge, but today there are 27 and they're still being built."

However, he admits it was impossible to relate to more than one or two specific places in Seoul because everything had changed so much. He was struck by the fact that the residents were "neatly dressed in western style clothes" whereas previously all he saw them wearing were "white national clothes".

"Their standard of living had increased out of sight; the cost of most items was very high and I didn't buy anything to bring home," he says.

The tour party was led by Doug Burgess and included the president of the NZKVA, Trevor Lynch. Mr Pye said he knew very few members of the group other than his friends from Marlborough but it was a different story once they met up with contingents from Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. His first question was 'are there any tankies in the British party?'

"I heard there were two or three but the chances of them having been from my squadron with which I had served were pretty remote — but there they were and we all recognised each other on sight."

The two men he knew had served with Mr Pye in the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, to which he was posted from the New Zealand Army's 16 Field Regiment. They were Barry Morris, his former radio operator, and Jim Owens, the driver of the first tank he was posted to. Both were from Wales

and both were on their first return visit to Korea.

On the evening of their first day all the former servicemen were presented with a revisit veteran's medal by the Korean War Veterans Association.

The following day the ceremonies began in earnest. The New Zealanders went to the British Commonwealth Memorial and laid a wreath, a procedure which was repeated later in the day at the Australia-New Zealand battle monument in Kapyong-gun. They also presented 11 pupils of the Kapyong Middle School with bursaries to secondary school. Arthur Pacey, the gun sergeant of the last gun to support the withdrawal from this valley in 1951, presented one of the bursaries.

These are presented by the New Zealand veterans every year. Four are funded by the NZKVA (towards which the Marlborough branch contributes \$250 annually), three by the Korea-New Zealand Association, two by the Asia 2000 Foundation and one each by the ANZ Bank and the International Development Corporation, run by Jolin Geddes, a New Zealander who lives in Korea. Mr Pye said Air New Zealand also provided return air tickets to two students, who were hosted while in New Zealand by members of the Korea-New Zealand Association.

On April 23 the group visited Solmari, the scene of a battle in April 1951 in which the Gloucestershire Battalion was over-run by the Chinese and lost 525 of its members as prisoners of war. There they were given a blow by blow account of the fighting by the battalion's former adjutant, General (retired) Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, a member of the British party.

Mr Pye said Solmari was still a buffer zone on the southern side of the demilitarised zone. On April 24 they visited Panmunjom and Freedom House. Panmunjom is the complex where United Nations and North Korean delegates met to discuss the terms of the 42-year-old ceasefire. It is still heavily garrisoned on both sides and no one is normally allowed to cross the line between north and south.

He said the trip to Manmunjom was "almost like a stage show" be-

ing so well managed and with such a smooth commentary, but the place itself was no more than a collection of conference huts and "one upmanship" actions.

"The landscape is much the same as it was 40-odd years ago. Because it's part of the military buffer zone there's no development as such, although people are allowed to crop some of the area."

"Even 10 miles from Panmunjom one begins to see various defences including floating mines in the rivers and estuaries. We didn't feel in any danger although in the previous year it had been rather tense. We saw no evidence of a military alert other than these fortifications." He added, however, that it now appeared, unbeknown to them at the time, that North Korean line crossing incidents on April 19 and 23 heightened military alertness.

On the evening of this visit to Panmunjom the New Zealand contingent presented the New Zealand ambassador in Seoul with the plaque identifying the RNZN and major New Zealand Army units which served in Korea. The plaque (The Express, April 17, 1995) was designed by Mr Pye and the insignia made by Martin Nicoll of Blenheim. It now hangs in the embassy's entrance foyer.

On Anzac Day the group attended a dawn ceremony in the grounds of the United Nations compound in Seoul. The service was led by an RAF padre, Squadron Leader I S Ward and the officiating officer was Colonel Gerry McCormick, the Australian defence attache. A visit to the Suwan folk village, together with more than 1500 school children, ended the KWVA-funded tour but not before a day trip on April 26 to the port city of Pusan.

Here the group had lunch with the Auckland-Pusan Friendship Association, followed by an honour guard reception at the United Nations War Cemetery where a wreath and poppies were laid in the New Zealand section.

Two of the group had been members of burial parties for those interred there. Mr Pye believes that the renewed and shared memories will remain life long ones and is sincerely grateful to the Korea War Veterans for their generosity and expressions of gratitude.



Les Pye (centre) met two of his former comrades from the 1st Royal Tank Regiment while on a veterans return visit to Korea in April. On the left is his former radio operator, Barry Morris and on the right, tank driver Jim Owens, both from Wales.

UNOFFICIAL HISTORY: Details of the trial described below appeared in an old history of the Woolwich Arsenal. You probably won't find them in any history of The Royal Regiment.

Believe it or not around 1887 a light mountain gun adapted to fire from a mule's back was tested! The gun was probably an RML 2.5-inch screw-gun (immortalised by Kipling), then in current use, or a modified version. As no mule was available a donkey was substituted.

Having been brought into action with the donkey tied to a post and the gun pointed in a safe direction, it was loaded, while the spectators retired to a safe distance to watch the effect of the recoil upon the unfortunate quadruped. A long piece of slow match was inserted into the vent to enable the firer similarly to retire.

Now it so happened that no one had thought to secure both ends of the donkey; it had been tied up by the head only! Thus when the slow match started to burn the animal, in trying to find the cause of the fizzing which resulted, 'traversed' its hind-quarters to sundry points of the compass, to the utter consternation of the spectators who promptly hugged mother earth with their stomachs.

When the gun fired the recoil 'bowled' the donkey head over heels (to put the matter politely). Where the shot landed no one knows.

Apparently no further tests were carried out!

A Gunner ought to be a sober, wakeful, lusty, patient, prudent and quick-spirited man, he ought also to have good eyesight, a judgment, and perfect knowledge to select a convenient place in the day of service to plant his ordnance where he may do most hurt unto the enemies, and be least annoyed by them, and where his ordnance may not be surprised by them.

Cyprian Lucar, 1588.