



**NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE
OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION (INC)**

P.O. BOX 79-371, ROYAL HEIGHTS, AUCKLAND 1230

NEWSLETTER NO. 99

SEPTEMBER 1998

ROUTINE ORDERS

LAST POST:

30139

Maj. Gen. R.H.F. Holloway, CB, CBE 7 June 98 at Waikanae

Mrs Cora Woods, 28 Apr 98 at Wellington

Leslie Wilson, 7 Aug 98 at Devonport

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Mrs M R Stitt to

238a Chatsfield Drive, Te Awamutu.

Maj. T.A. Ellen RA to

Combined Arms Schools, Combined Arms Trg.
Centre, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 ODJ, UK.

M W. Ruffell to

87B/1 Verbena Road, Birkdale, Auckland.

Lt. Col. H.S. Cocks OBE to

C/- 34 Victoria Avenue, Waiuku. (Until Nov 98)

LIFE MEMBERS:

Mrs M.R. Stitt

w.e.f.

4 May 1998

Maj. E.W. Round

w.e.f.

16 December 1997

Dan Foley

w.e.f.

13 September 1998

Maj. D.P. Dumbleton

w.e.f.

27 April 1998

Maj. Gen. L.A. Pearce CB CBE

w.e.f.

22 January 1998

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

This will be held on Saturday, 10 October 1998 at 1000hrs at the Birkenhead R.S.A.

EDITORIAL

- On his return from the Old Country the Editor confirms that Larkhill and Woolwich are flourishing. Enthusiasm from "the Serving Regiment, its old comrades, and the whole Gunner family", is supporting a new home for the RA Museum in the old Royal Arsenal on the bank of the Thames.

Through the good offices of Brig. Ray Andrews, the Editor met the Master Gunner, St. James's Park, Field Marshal The Lord Vincent GBE, KCB, DSO and was treated to a summary of the state of the Regiment in all aspects: ceremonial, organisational and particularly in respect to the equipment programme. The Master Gunner is pro-Kiwi, having commanded the field battery in direct support of 1 RNZIR ("War Party Poananga") in Malaysia in 1966-67.

He was also interested in the NZ gunners in Bosnia under command of Lt. Hayley May. Enquiring about the newly issued Strategic Defence Review, the incautious colonial was presented with the two volumes, homework which will fuel several more editorials, rich as it is in examples of clarity in defence appreciation which sets an

example to New Zealand. For example: "If we ask our forces to fight, we must be sure they will win", "Sound defence is sound foreign policy" and in particular reference to our Regiment, "Key requirements will be firepower with greater emphasis on precision and range." The Review was formed in "a process of consultation with the widest possible range of expertise in defence and related areas."

The Expert Panel included professional opinion on the application of firepower, viz the Master Gunner (plus an Air Marshal and an Admiral of the Fleet). Any soldier who can get hold of a copy should read this review.

FROM & ABOUT MEMBERS

Ian Cunningham tells us that with the closing down of 31 "B" Bty., Dunedin, no gunners or guns exist South of Christchurch, and "They are even going to sell off Central Battery, St. Kilda." One gun remains, though: the 6-inch Armstrong Disappearing Gun in Fort Taiaroa, restored to be better than new, and well worth a visit.

Spencer Morrison writes from Invercargill: "Great news: Graeme Henderson and I are coming to the Annual Reunion 14-15 Nov 98 at Taupo": what a grand example to our "torpids". He adds, "Keith Westbury sends his regards, and wonders why their corps does not have an organisation like ours – well, I told him. HA"!

Roger Newth says things have happened in Wellington. "On 25 May at the Carillon at midday a commemoration service, followed by drinks and lunch at Molly Malone's Bar. About 30 serving and retired persons attended.

At Queen's Birthday weekend the Parade 98 – Vietnam Remembered was held. This was a really moving experience with meeting old comrades, but for me the highlights were the street march on Saturday and the Memorial Service on Sunday – both were really moving and something never to be forgotten."

(Another Gunner said, "We formed up and marched off. We didn't know what to expect. Then the crowd started cheering.")

Roger is involved with the RF Cadets 50th Anniversary in Wellington on 6-8 Nov and looks forward to seeing ex RF Cadets who are OCA members.

Tom Ellen (see Changes of Address) is now Gunner DS at the British Tac School – equivalent and advocates their course for NZ Capt/Majs. He seeks info on RNZA Senior NCOs and Officers: old acquaintances please signal.

Morry Urquhart, from Lower Hutt, aims for Taupo, but as he has only one leg and is wheelchair bound, there are mobility limitations. He sends his remembrances.

Jim Gilberd, who set up the School of Guns in Waiouru, is looking forward to revisiting 50 years on. This globe-trotter extraordinaire then plans yet another trip – Canada, Denmark, Norway, UK and back through Singapore.

EVENTS & REUNIONS

ST BARBARA'S DAY

A lunch-time gathering will be held at the Birkenhead RSA at 1100hrs on Thursday 3 December 1998. Let the Secretary know if you are coming.

PROGRAMME – ANNUAL REUNION 13 – 15 NOVEMBER 98 AT TAUPO

FRIDAY

13 NOV 98: 1600 hrs Gather at **TAUPO RSA** *Horomatangi Street*

SATURDAY

14 NOV 98: 1000 hrs **Annual General Meeting at
TAUPO YACHT CLUB** *Redoubt Street*

Afternoon **FREE**

1800 hrs Pre-dinner Drinks at **TAUPO YACHT CLUB**

1900 hrs **REUNION DINNER – TAUPO YACHT CLUB**

Dress: Gentlemen informal : Jacket & tie, lounge suit or appropriate uniform. Medals and Decorations to be worn.

Ladies: Semi-formal.

Wine: The Yacht Club does not permit guests to bring their own wine, but have a good stock at club rates. Port for toasts will be supplied by the Association.

SUNDAY

15 NOV 98: 1000 hrs Church Parade in **SPA HOTEL LOUNGE** which is the historic meeting house, "Tiki O te Tamamutu". Medals etc., to be worn.

After Church Parade: "One for the Road" in suite A.

Afternoon: **FREE**

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return to Secretary by 15th October 1998.

NAMEwill/will not be attending.
Negative replies will be taken as apologies for absence from AGM.

I will be accompanied by
(include first name)

* **I require/do not require accommodation** at the SPA for nights
.....*(state Chalet or Studio Unit)*

I enclose \$forpersons at **\$25 per head for Dinner.**
DO NOT enclose payment for accommodation – settle direct with hotel.

I will notify those requiring accommodation at the Spa, whether or not they are successful.

Transport will be arranged from the Spa Hotel for evening function and return.
Please tick if applicable: **I require transport from Spa Hotel**.....*(tick)*

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

ACCOMMODATION

SPA HOTEL:

We make the Spa 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 developed from the AC wet canteen, is one of the few licensed houses left which possesses character. The following accommodation is available:

CHALETs: Tariff \$80 double, \$60 single, additional adults \$10, children \$10. Each has a double bed on ground floor, two singles on mezzanine floor, plus a convertible couch. Full kitchen, toilet and shower facilities plus private spa pool, TV, radio and phone. Ideal for sharing with another couple. We have booked all fifteen: **you book through Secretary.**

SUITE 'A': Tariff \$80 for two, \$10 each additional adult. Same facilities as Chalets except no spa pool – but public hot pool handy. Has four single and one double bed but as in the past we have reserved for unattached males. **Book through Secretary.**

STUDIO UNITS: Tariff \$60 double, \$35 single. There are ten, each with a double bed, and one single. Each room has own shower, toilet, TV, refrigerator, tea and toast-making facilities. **Book through Secretary.**

OTHER ACCOMMODATION:

Make your own bookings for the following:

LAKE HOTEL:

Although retaining its license and Cobb & Co. Restaurant, this hotel, recommended in past years, has now become "Go Global – Central Backpackers", with the change in function and standards that implies.

ACAPULCO MOTOR INN:

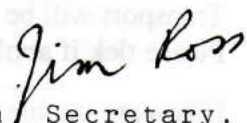
19 Rifle Range Road, phone (07) 378 7174. 15 minutes walk to Yacht Club. Tariff \$60 single, \$68 to \$88 double, \$12 each extra person. 10% discount to RSA members.

ARMY MOTEL UNITS, ACACIA BAY: We believe that these units have been booked out.

OTHER:

- (a) See RSA Review for other motels which offer discounts to RSA members.
- (b) The Visitor Information Centre, phone (07) 378 9000, is a good source.

Looking forward to seeing you.


Hon Secretary.
Phone (09) 4168662

Cast iron was confirmed unsuitable as several guns burst. Efforts to reinforce guns of this metal by shrinking wrought iron hoops over their breech ends had been made in several countries but without much success. However, Major (later Sir William) Palliser of the 18th Hussars, came up with an idea in 1863 which worked, and was adopted in Britain as well as some other countries, notably America.

His method of conversion, shown in Fig. 88, was as follows: The cast iron gun was bored out, a loose barrel of coiled wrought iron strengthened at the breech end by a coiled 'B' tube and closed by a screw cap, was fitted into the gun as a close mechanical fit. The barrel was secured by a collar screwed into the muzzle and prevented from turning by a plug screwed through the gun near the breech.

It was then rifled after which a few heavy proof rounds were fired to expand the barrel into close contact with the exterior case. A tell-tale hole provided to indicate any failure is generally found under the cascable.

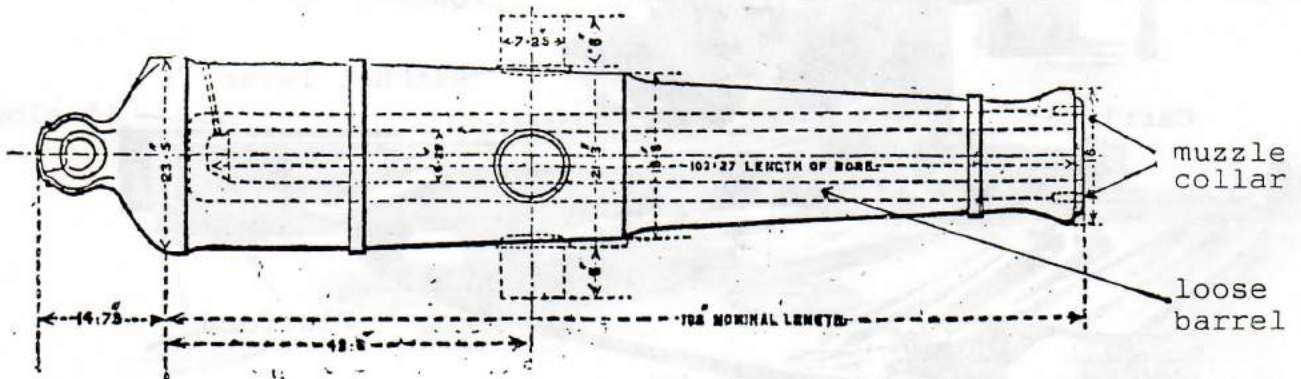
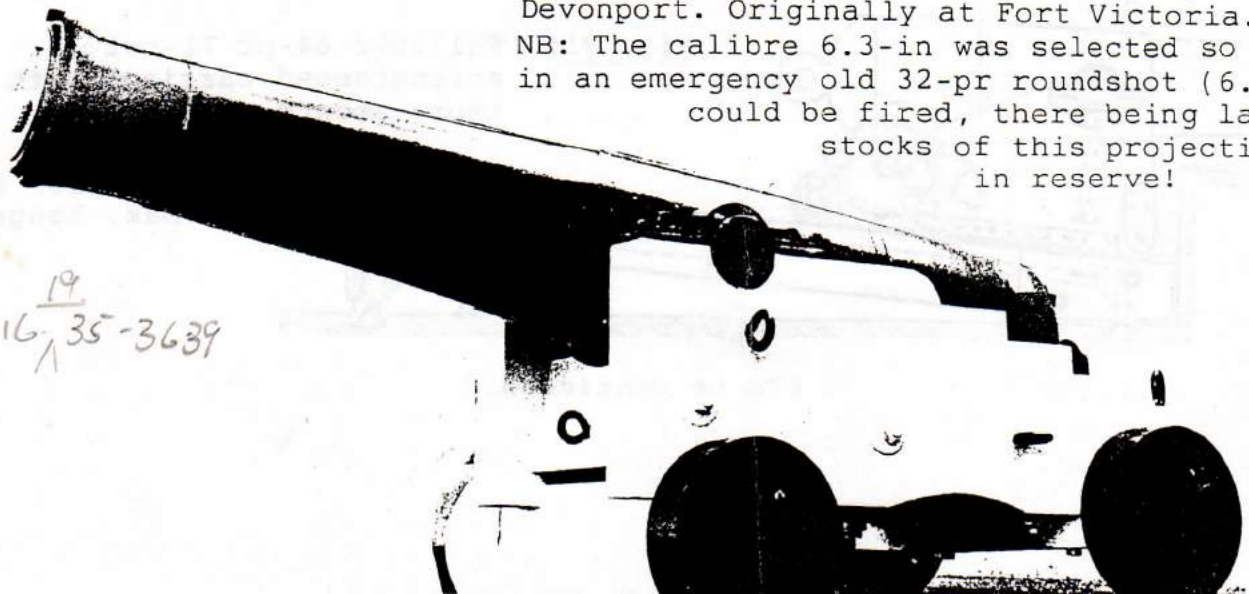


Fig. 88: SBML 8-inch 65-cwt converted to RML 64-pr 71-cwt Mk 1 (6.3-in) using Palliser's system.

Palliser's system saw limited service in coast and naval roles, as the old SBML guns converted were too short to achieve the longer ranges being demanded in the 1870s. Conversions were limited to 64-prs and heavier. An interesting example of the gun shown in Fig. 88 may be seen at the Army Memorial Museum, Waiouru. The New Zealand Government bought eight of them in 1885 after they had been declared obsolete by the Royal Navy in 1879. They probably got them cheap!

Fig. 89: 64-pr 71-cwt mounted on Naval four-truck wood carriage restored by HMNZ Dockyard, Devonport. Originally at Fort Victoria.
NB: The calibre 6.3-in was selected so that in an emergency old 32-pr roundshot (6.1-in) could be fired, there being large stocks of this projectile in reserve!



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CARRIAGES AND PLATFORMS While still in Naval service Palliser's conversions were mounted on Naval 'four-truck' (four-wheel) carriages built entirely of wood (elm for body and wheels, oak for axletrees), and employed the ancient 'quoin' or wedge as the sole means of elevating the gun. An example, one of those bought by the New Zealand Government in 1885, is shown in Fig. 89.

For service in UK coast artillery installations the conversions were returned to the emplacements they had occupied as smooth-bores, mounted on the same wooden 'garrison sliding carriages' which slid back on their sloping wooden platforms on firing, to be hauled back to the runout position by block and tackle. See Fig. 90. Elevation was by quoin assisted by an elevating screw operated by lever and ratchet.

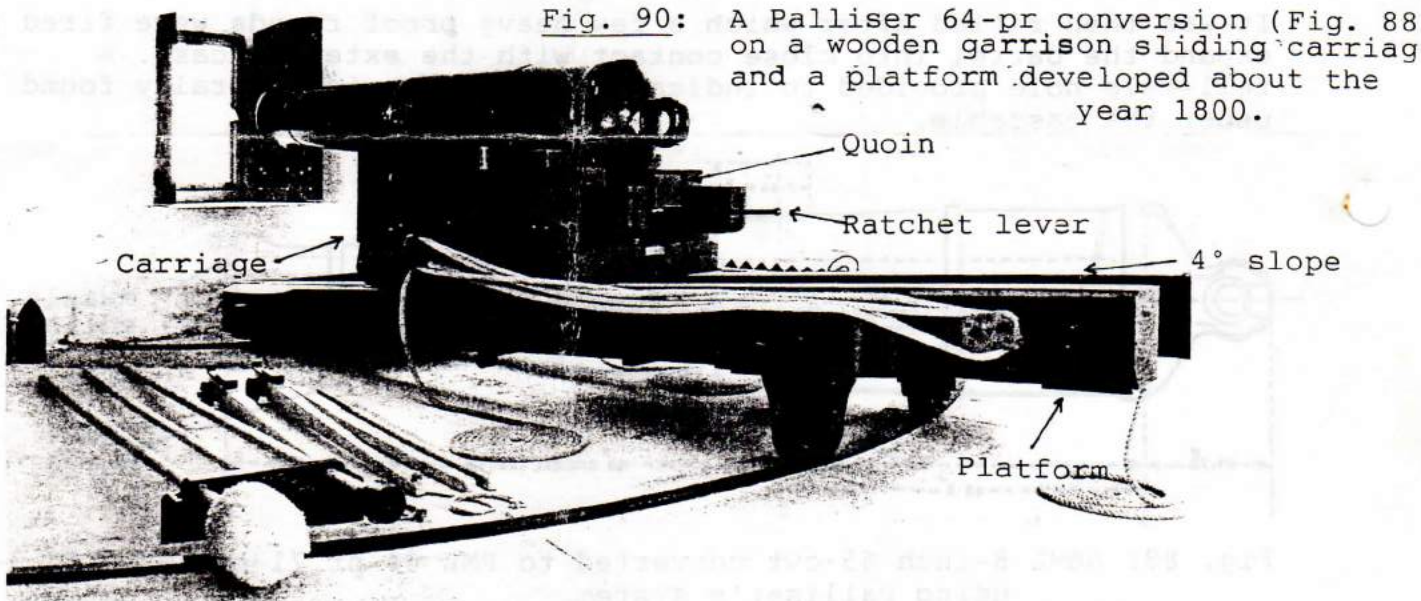


Fig. 90: A Palliser 64-pr conversion (Fig. 88 on a wooden garrison sliding carriage and a platform developed about the year 1800.

The increased power of the RML conversions soon prompted improvements in carriages etc; all wooden parts were strengthened with iron plates, as shown in Fig. 91 below. Each carriage was fitted with trucks which enabled runout by gravity; at the same time a buffer controlled recoil, the piston rod being connected to the front of the carriage while the cylinder was attached to the platform. The buffer was of the type proposed by Dr C. Siemens in 1867, and consisted of a plain piston pierced by a number of holes running in a cylinder filled with liquid.

An elevating arc operated by a handwheel through suitable gearing was provided. The carriage permitted $13\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ elevation and $8\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ depression.

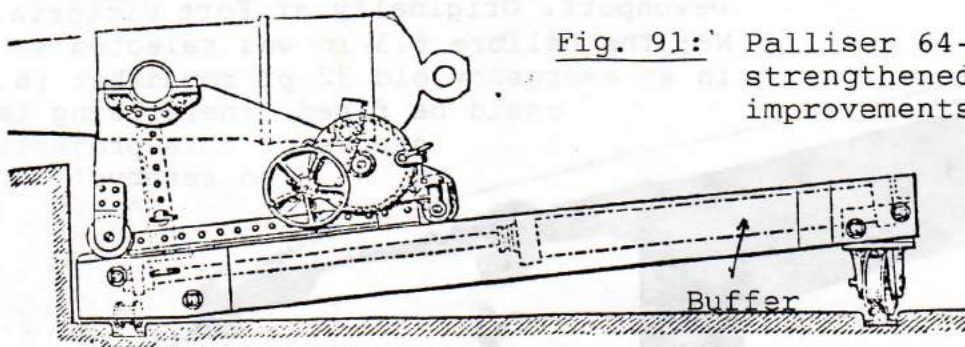


Fig. 91: Palliser 64-pr 71-cwt on strengthened carriage with improvements.

MV 1260 fs
Max. Range 4000.

(To be continued.)