



NZ GUNNER

Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY TONY MCLEOD

I hope that everyone has made it through the isolation of the COVID-19 response in good shape. I have not heard of any cases of distress so I hope that's a good sign.

Veteran Support Act 2014. While everyone has been busy getting back to normal, a small group — which I would term an RNZAA informal advisory subcommittee on Veteran Support matters — has been very busy drafting a submission to the bill to amend the Veteran Support Act 2014 (VSA14), as recommended by Prof Ron Paterson in his Review of March 2018 (to which we also submitted). The bill addresses some 46 of the 64 Paterson recommendations. The RNZAA advisory group has been comprised of Greg Thwaite, Barry Dreyer, Rob Munro, Mike Dakin, Paul Southwell, and Bernie McCort. Advice was also received from Jeff Hitchings, Rob Hitchings, David Weston, Max Carpenter, Nick Huria, and John Malgos. Our sincere thanks to all those hard-working people for their expertise and time so willingly given. A copy of the submission is included with this newsletter. When thanking Greg for his work I commented on what I believed was a logical, clear, concise yet comprehensive submission. Now, I realise that for someone sitting down to read the submission out of the blue it may not appear to be any of these things, and the quote from Abraham Lincoln may seem to be rather left field, but that's what you get for having a Harvard Law School graduate draft the submission! We are very lucky to have Greg on board and we're indebted to him for his professional expertise and all his efforts.

To try to summarise the submission in a few words, we support the bill to amend the VSA14 in all but a few areas. We welcome the increased support for families and the increased recognition of psychological illness, but we do not support the removal of a 30-day timeframe in which VANZ must either grant or accept any claim as we think this could lead to delays in addressing a veteran's concerns. We think a five-yearly review of the VSA14 should be in legislation to prevent constant delaying of any required amendments (50 years in the case of the 1951 Pensions Act). We also identified a lot of areas that we believe could be improved on, such as the establishment of a veterans' legal service to help veterans fight their claims, a duty of care in treating and communicating with veterans so that they meet the veteran's needs (face-to-face contact with case managers), the need to treat medical problems on a holistic basis (not just ailment by ailment as per the ACC template), the wish to set up a system whereby veterans' contact data may be passed onto the RSA or veterans' organisation (such as ours). If it came to a choice between supporting the bill wholeheartedly to ensure it was progressed in parliament, or insisting on our points and risking a delay in the passage of the bill, we would go for the 'total support, no delays' option. Our submission will now be considered by the Select Committee on Defence and we'll be advised

whether our request to also be heard in an oral submission is to be granted. This would probably be sometime in early July 2020. So I would urge everyone to read and digest the submission. As Rob and Greg remind me, keeping MPs informed of our concerns will create more chance of action, otherwise 'we will remember them' will become 'we have forgotten them'. **Activites.** The COVID response saw the cancellation of Anzac Day and Gunners Day celebrations, so our reunion in Trentham on 16–18 October 2020 must be a huge success. When we open up registrations, single accommodation will be available at a cheap rate in Trentham Camp. That might work particularly well for Wellington-based members (especially serving personnel) who might just like to attend the AGM and the dinner. Put it in your diaries now. PS Well as Murphy's Law would have it, the timeframe for Oral Submissions was reduced to one week, 23 June 20. So Greg, Barry, Bernie and myself prepared our brief. Come 23 June, fog closes Wellington airport so my flight is cancelled and at the last minute Greg has to stand in for me. Our sincere thanks to those presenters, who knows what effect they may have had on conditions for current and future veterans. However rumour has it that the Bill to Amend the VSA14 may not get enacted by 1 October 20. We just have to wait and see.

BIOGRAPHY OF COLONEL COMMANDANT

RNZAA

P45438 BRIGADIER (RTD) PAUL SOUTHWELL.

Brig (Rtd) Southwell was born in Auckland in 1953 and received his secondary schooling at Auckland Boys Grammar School. He enlisted into the New Zealand Army in July 1972 as an Officer Cadet attending the Officer Cadet School Portsea, Australia, graduating into the Royal New Zealand Artillery (RNZA) as a Second Lieutenant at the end of 1973. After completing his Artillery training in North Head (Sydney), Australia, he was posted to 16th Field Regiment (16 Fd Regt) based in Papakura, South Auckland.

Brig (Rtd) Southwell held a wide variety of command, operational and staff appointments over the following five years including Regimental and Brigade level experience in artillery tactical and intelligence cells, Cadre Officer of 11 (A) Battery, a Territorial Force Bty based in Auckland, and Section Commander at 161 Battery (161 Bty), 16 Fd Regt. In 1975 he was promoted to Lieutenant. In July 1978 Brig (Rtd) Southwell was promoted to Captain and posted to GSO3 Army Training New Zealand for two years. This was followed by a posting to Papua New Guinea as a tactics instructor at the Officer Cadet School.

On return to New Zealand in 1982, Brig (Rtd) Southwell was posted back to 16 Fd Regt as the Training Officer before being appointed Adjutant 16 Fd Regt in 1983. A year later he was promoted to Major and assumed the appointment of Staff Officer Grade Two Logistics at 1 Task Force Region. In 1985, on his return from Staff College in Australia, he assumed the post of instructor at the Tactical School, Waiouru. Brig (Rtd) Southwell returned back to 16 Fd Regt as Battery Commander (BC) 161 Bty in 1987 and was subsequently posted to 1 Task Force Region as the Brigade Major in 1989.

In December 1990, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and posted to 16 Field Regiment as the Commanding Officer. In December 1992, Brig (Rtd) Southwell assumed the role of Staff Officer Grade One Training at Headquarters Land Force Command. In May 1993, he was posted to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the Senior National Officer, where he served for 12 months as a Military Observer. On his return to New Zealand he



assumed the role of Staff Officer Grade One Logistics at Headquarters Land Force Command. In December 1995, Brig (Rtd) Southwell was posted to the appointment of Staff Officer Grade One Operational Requirements, Development Branch, Army General Staff, Wellington. In January 1997 Brig (Rtd) Southwell was promoted to Colonel and posted to the appointment of Chief of Staff, Headquarters Support Command, Upper Hutt. In late 1997, Brig (Rtd) Southwell was selected for the new post of Defence Attaché China. He underwent language training at Point Cook in Australia in 1998 before assuming the Defence Attaché China appointment in January 1999. In June 2002, after three and a half years as New Zealand's first Defence Attaché to China, Brig (Rtd) Southwell and family returned to New Zealand where he assumed the appointment as Land Component Commander (LCC), on promotion to Brigadier, at the newly formed Joint Force New Zealand (JFNZ) in Upper Hutt. This was followed by the Deputy Chief of Army (DCA) appointment before being posted to London as the Defence Attaché in January 2005 where he worked with NATO on New Zealand's deployment to Afghanistan and with the French and Belgians on World War One 90th commemorations. In June 2008, after 36 years of loyal and dedicated service, Brig (Rtd) Southwell retired from the New Zealand Army. He spent two years as a strategic planner in local government in Auckland before retiring full time. Brig (Rtd) Southwell was appointed Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery in February 2020.

Brig (Rtd) Southwell is married to Marguerite and has retired to a small farm block in Runciman, South Auckland. They have two adult children. Apart from the RNZA, his interests include spending time with their grandson, animal care, wetland planting, stone masonry, going to the gym, and sailing.



161 Bty mortar line at Westlawn

COLONEL COMMANDANT'S CORNER

BRIGADIER (RTD) PAUL SOUTHWELL

By way of introduction, and trusting that you have read the bio, I will not elaborate on all the exciting jobs and postings Marguerite and I had during our 36 years of service. We got to live in places you would never have imagined possible as a young gunner officer, worked with some world class war criminals, and enjoyed command as land Component Commander and Deputy Chief of Army. None of this would have been possible without a lot of help from fellow gunners. I was very honoured to be asked to be Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery. It was a pity that our good friend Matt Beattie's time as Colonel Commandant was cut short, as I know he had a great deal to offer the Corps, with his generous spirit, and joie de vie. Fortunately there was no shortage of advice on what Colonel Commandants actually do. There was; a directive from the Chief of Army, a superb brief from the CO (Kristian Dunne) and RSM (Heath Southcombe), and a box of papers from Barry Dreyer that was a treasure of artillery correspondence, history, and speeches. Barry insisted on carrying it to my car as I suspected he did not want me to be deterred by the weight of paper work I had inherited.

I could tell by the way the suspension sunk that I had a lot of reading to do. The CO and RSM arranged a visit to Linton for an update on the Regiment's organisation and equipment, as well as a visit to the school. The shaking of hands was done with some trepidation as lock down was ordered a few days after the visit. A week or so ago the Regiment arranged for me to visit them for a day in Waiouru, spending time with the joint fires teams, 161 and 163 gun lines (actually mortar lines on this occasion). I would have to say it was one of the most enjoyable days I have ever spent in Waiouru, both positions had magnificent views of the mountain and the day was crystal clear and not too cold. The Regiment was in great spirits and looking forward to a boost in numbers with this next intake of recruits. Well I hope you have all survived, maybe even enjoyed Covid 19 lock down. On our little farm it was pretty much business as normal except that the wife started taking over computers and house space, we couldn't go to the gym, and quickly ran out of library books. We met plenty of neighbours walking the country lanes and dusted off the bike to enjoy the carless roads. I plan to make a regular contribution to the association newsletter and look forward to meeting retired gunners at association gatherings. Wishing you and your families good health and happiness.

ARTILLERY PORT: TORLESSE RESERVE OLD TAWNY

The Royal NZ Artillery have arranged a special label and a price of \$26 per bottle exclusive to members.

Winemakers comments

The wine style is operated on a solera system started in 1992 where the barrels are never emptied. Each bottling is taken from the original five barrels, which are half emptied then topped with the next oldest wine. This wine has been matured in barrels for an average of 10 years, the base wine is a blend of red grapes fortified with high strength alcohol. As the wine matures the colour gradually takes on a tawny colour and develops a sweet nutty character.

Much of the wine's development has already occurred in the barrel so this wine is ready to drink but can be cellared for many more years. The wine is complex and shows the typical rancio character of a good tawny port, and is an excellent way to end any good meal, or entertainment. To be enjoyed in moderation. This wine can be stored after opening in a decanter for months with no adverse effects.

To order

Christchurch delivery to a specific address is freight free. Orders to other areas will incur a freight charge. The wine can be ordered by contacting Torlesse Wines on email winery@torlesse.co.nz or phone 03 3146929 or 021758441. Easiest method of payment is by credit card but we can do direct debit as well with an invoice.

LAST POST

BY RNZAA

- STEWART, William (Bill). 354626, Gunner, RNZA. Passed away on March 26, 2020, peacefully at home.
- REAY, Gordon Douglas: 208382, Cpl, RNZA. Passed away on Friday, January 24, 2020, peacefully at Ilam Lifecare Hospital, Christchurch in his 90th year.
- SINCLAIR, William Eric (Bill): 391296, L/Bdr, 36 Survey Battery, S Troop, 2nd NZEF WW2. Passed away on January 25, 2020 at Ashlea Grove Rest Home, Milton; in his 100th year.
- COATE, Clifford Francis (Cliff): 709390, RNZA. Passed away suddenly on March 20, 2020, aged 86 years, in Wellington.
- LINDSAY, Frank Ritchie: 429808, 84 Heavy Battery, Gnr, NZA. Passed away peacefully in his 100th year at Kew Hospital in Southland on 9th April 2020.
- SPEARS, George Fredric Stewart ED: 3 Fd Regt, RNZA. Passed away aged 87 at Dunstan Hospital, Clyde on Dec 28, 2019.
- CHESSUM Robert Stanley (Bob) MiD: 206380 Lt/Temp Captain, 16th Fd Regiment, RNZA, Korean War. 628505 New Zealand Army, WW2. 4311266 RNZAF, WW2. Passed away in Matamata on 5th June 2020, aged 96.
- SCRIMGEOUR, James Graham: 457288, Gunner, RNZA. Passed away peacefully at Ohaupo, Waikato on 25th May 2020. Aged 88 years.
- STEWART, William (Bill): RNZA Malaya -Borneo, died 20 Feb Mar 20 at Browns Bay, ex Committee member.



ON THE TRAIL OF VANGUARD

BY SKIN FRANCIS

For some it's a trip down memory lane, but for me it's a trip that continues. The Vanguard Artillery Fire Control System, manufactured by the Lower Hutt company Marine Air Systems (MAS), entered service with the RNZA around 1989 and was replaced 20-ish years later. I worked on development testing and introduction into service of the system as master gunner, and then as project officer artillery during the development of the Gun Data Link. On my last day of service in June 1991, I signed the production contract that would deliver the Gun Data Link to the RNZA. I discharged from the army and chose to have a break from the military. I started a new role as a civilian trainer (instructor) with the police. Now, almost 30 years later, I never imagined I would be still working on fire control computer system projects like Vanguard.

Digitising the complete Vanguard system

This work started in 1993 when I was approached by MAS to write the operator training manuals for the Forward Observer Data Entry Terminal (FODET) – the last component to digitise the fire mission loop between the OP, CP, and Guns. I completed this, working after hours from my police training role. Not long after finishing the manual, the complete Vanguard system was sold to the Botswana Army and the then-master gunner, Leroy Forrester, and I were to spend a month based in Gaborone delivering the training. Memories from that trip are a bit vague, but I recall (with Leroy's help after a chat on the phone a month ago):

- The hotel was in a wired compound with a lovely swimming pool. Swimming pools in that part of Africa are bloody cold in winter, hence no other plonkers (other than myself) attempted to swim.

- We travelled through places I knew the names of like Plum Tree (a border crossing I think) from the boys (Mike Subritzky, Garry Pickering, Pete McArthur, and others) who went to Rhodesia in '79-'80.
- Victoria Falls are big and impressive.
- The camp was protected by guard towers with 50 cal MGs. The camp also had its own zoo to train soldiers how to identify and deal with "wild animals". I think both Leroy and I failed the "pat the python" test.
- One night at the hotel during tea, a YO on the course saw us in the dining room. We invited him to join us for a meal – we paid. After about two hours he said, "I better go. My wife is in the car outside."
- Another night we took our two Gnr "minders" for a "thank you" drink in our hotel. On the way down stairs in the lift one of the minders said, "Do you know this is only the second time in my life I have been in a lift." Leroy asked when his first ride was and his reply was, "On the way up."
- At the end of the month we agreed the soldiers could work the Vanguard Computer and GDL reasonably competently, but data fire missions and fire plans using FODET was a bit too much.



MORFIRE

In the mid '90s, the infantry started a MORFIRE program to replace the MERE mortar calculator. It was modelled on Vanguard capabilities. I worked with Tony Hornbook – then a SSgt at the School of

Infantry – on stage one, which was to develop a Mortar Command Post Commuter (MCP). This provided capabilities that allowed mortars to emerge from straight-line positions with even spacing between barrels, to use dispersed deployment and a range of distributions of fire, rather than just parallel. I learned that the mortar had a number of very effective procedures, which were retained and included in the MCP. The project went on to develop the MDL (Mortar Data Link) – a D10 line-only version of the GDL and the MFC – and the Mortar Fire Controller (the mortar OP version of the FODET). Unfortunately, the Mortars, like the Gunners, never took that final step to provide digital capabilities to the observer, even though the capability was there in the mid 1990s. In the mid 1990s the British Army, for many years the leading light in Mortar tactics and procedures, realised they had slipped behind other nations' mortar innovations and capabilities. I took the MAS, MCP, and MDL units to the School of Infantry in Warminster as part of a three-nation (UK, NZ, and Norway – or maybe another European country) equipment demonstration. This included the use of GPS to fix and orient the mortars (PE fixation = ± 10 m and orientation ± 2 mils). I was given a Mortar Section and a week to train the soldiers to use the MAS kit. At the end of the week, trials were conducted using the concept advance to contact and fire a quick-fire plan. After each nation's equipment was evaluated, the MAS kit was selected to demonstrate the capability during live firing to the assembled brass. From memory we had one hour to deploy OP and a Mortar line of six mortars spread over 1km, bed in the mortars and record the OP (like a laser correction), then prepare and fire a six-target quick-fire plan using converge, circular, linear, and rectangular distribution, process targets, and fire the fire plan. I was slightly nervous, as I had never fired the MORFIRE system live. My command post corporal was not the flashest and had hands bigger than Joe Subritzky, but the L/Cpl was a bright boy. But, all was FANTASTIC. At the completion of the live firing, the top brass said they had never seen mortars fall so

accurately and in distributions like the "GUNS", without each target being individually adjusted. Did the Brits buy the kit? No. The Brits played around waiting for the perfect SINGARS radio to be brought into service. Two years later I demonstrated the complete MORFIRE system (MCP, MDL, and MFC) to the Irish Army at the Curragh Camp, working with Sgt Joe Nolan. It really did look like the picture – no fences and plenty of sheep wandering around. Shortly after they purchased the system, and a year later, I delivered the training at the Curragh. I found the Irish soldiers great to work with, and, like me, they enjoyed the odd pint.



The Light Artillery System (LACS)

In the late 1990s I was tasked to write the operator manuals for the LACS system, which was a digital regimental system with units for the Regt Comd and RCP, six Gun Btys, and Gun Display Units. After this a number of ex-gunners/motormen worked for MAS (Ian Garnett, Leroy Forrester, and Tony Hornbrook) and my work dried up. Gun Drill in Columbia 2018 In the mid-2000s I did a small amount of work for MAS – mainly testing software and updating manuals I had previously written. On a Tuesday in March 2018, an out-of-the-blue phone call from the UK asked if I could be on a plane tomorrow to teach L119 gun drill to the Columbian Army. They'd purchased a L119 Light Gun and their gun drill instructor was indisposed. I said, "You have the wrong guy, I haven't taught gun drill for 30 years. I was a CP wallah not a gun bunny." To make a long story short, they were in a hole and on Thursday I agreed to go and do my best. On the

Sunday, after jabs and stabs, and armed with a gun drill book, I was on the plane to Bogota where I would stay for almost a month. On the Tuesday I was instructing a course of 16 students, with one gun and no gun stores or sight at a camp of the Novena Brigada, about an hour's flight from Bogota. The soldiers' variety of ranks and skills was enormous; a major, YOs, senior and junior NCOs. Even though they were all artillerymen, some had never used a sight or fired a gun. But they were keen to learn and genuine, real gunners. All loved talking with passion — a South American thing I guess. It's funny when you meet new soldiers — someone always reminds you of gunners you've served with. We had a local Junior Ruri (the comedian). A few pictures show the tortures I endured.

The start



Best students day four, a Bdr (middle) and YO.



Live firing. In the drum on the right contained all the Ch bags, which had been removed from the cartridges. Why? It was not in my brief to explain ammunition handling in the field.



The Officers' mess area. A swimming pool but no hot water/showers, for three-plus weeks.



End-of-course photo. It's all done here in Colombia. The course is over. Certificates presented. It was really good working with a great team of Colombian hunners, Marc (a Brit Gun Fitter), and Mauricio, our Colombian translator. The ceremonies took on a NZ flavour with all receiving a small gift from NZ (kindly sought out by my wife Jill and daughter Gemma). It's now "beer o'clock".



MEMORIES OF VIETNAM; PART THREE

BY WAYNE ROBSON

Support from home

We received great support from a small group of people in New Zealand, and they went to a great deal of trouble for us. The main ones were the Raglan town committee, the Victoria League of Auckland RSA, Leopard Breweries, and DB Breweries. We also received four large Christmas parcels from 36 citizens of Lorrain, Ohio in the US. At 0700 hrs on New Year's day the battery moved out of base for another operation. This was another 'search and destroy' mission in the Plain of Reeds in the Mekong delta. After seven days the battery moved to the Ho Bo woods area west of the Iron Triangle. The aim of this operation was to seize the headquarters of the 'Committee for the Liberation of Saigon'. The area contained a massive network of tunnels and bunkers, all heavily protected. The tunnelling extended for literally miles and connected with concealed gun pits above the ground. In places, the tunnels were on three levels and included a hospital, kitchens, and a radio station. The enemy resisted vigorously and the struggle was fierce. More than 100,000 pages of documents were seized in this operation. The next was operation 'Rolling Stone' near Ben Cat. Until 23 January 1966, there was little activity. That night, the battery came under heavy small arms, mortar and recoilless rifle fire from an estimated battalion-sized VC force. The contact lasted from about 0245 to 0600 hrs. Over the next three months, the battery was involved in various operations in the area and on the Cambodian border. In May it was decided to move the battery to join the Australian task force being set up at Nui Dat in the Phouc Tuy province, and the battery prepared to move.

It was at this point that I transferred to forward observation party duties and was attached to 1RAR. In June 1RAR was replaced by 6RAR and I was attached to B Company. On 26 June 6RAR searched the village of Long Phouc for enemy food, medical supplies, arms and ammunition. The battalion found 49 tonnes of rice, 15 tunnels, 9 tonnes of salt, 11 weapons, medical supplies, documents, clothing, ammunition, and explosives. Four enemy soldiers were killed and one Australian wounded. On 24 July, operation 'Hobart' was mounted in the east of the Task Force area. The two major actions in this operation both occurred on the 25th. At about 1300 hrs C Company engaged an enemy force of company strength. The fight lasted for about 30 minutes with the result that the enemy withdrew to the south. Our company formed a blocking force on the route that we expected them to take. They didn't let us down, and another firefight developed. The VC attacked us and we drove them off. They then withdrew to the south. The enemy losses in this operation were thirteen killed and 19 wounded. Our losses were three killed and 19 wounded.

To be continued...

"The enemy
resisted
vigorously and
the struggle was
fierce."

Wayne
Robson

CALLING ALL EX-RNZA LOCATORS

CRAIG HEWETT

We are wanting to locate and track down all of those who served in 1 Locating Battery RNZA and then 1 Locating Troop RNZA until its disbandment with the view of reconnecting with past members and the view of a reunion/gathering in the future.

We have established a [Facebook group](#) called 1st Locating Troop - Royal New Zealand Artillery.

Search for it, and then answer the questions to join if you're on Facebook, or email Craig Hewett at 1loctroop@gmail.com or call 027 473 6004 to register for our database.

New logo thanks to Adam Gibson (Gibby). This will soon be available as a sew-on for a blazer or sleeve.



WESERVED IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

WESERVED.NZ

WeServed.nz is a service directory for NZ veterans and service personnel. It provides contact details of service providers around the country. WeServed is now on Facebook at facebook.com/weserved.nz.

MESSAGE FROM THE VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD

VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD

Kia ora koutou katoa

On Monday 18 May, the Minister for Veterans will announce the launch of a national conversation that aims to find out whether New Zealanders think there should be a formal agreement, or Kawenata, between service people and their whānau, the government, and the people of New Zealand. This conversation is led by the Veterans' Advisory Board. It will examine whether New Zealanders think we could, or should, do more to better recognise the contribution of service people and their whānau, and offer support. The board is keen to get the message out, so as many people as possible have their say via an online survey. Your help will be invaluable in spreading the word and encouraging people to fill in the survey. Veterans' Affairs will be in touch on Monday to share the link to the survey. The Board asks you to share this with your veterans and other community groups, family, and friends. We will also share a post you could use on your Facebook page or other social media. Please feel free to write your own posts, newsletters, or emails to promote the survey to your networks. The Board appreciates your assistance in getting this important message out to veterans and the public.

Ngā mihi

RESTORING GUNNER'S MEMORIAL

CHRIS MORRIS

The NZ Remembrance Army, a volunteer group who restore veterans' graves and memorials around NZ have found and are going to restore this memorial of a NZ field artillery gunner killed in WW1, who also served in the Boer War. The memorial is in Karori cemetery in Wellington, and the Remembrance Army would like to try and locate a living family member of the gunner, so it would be appreciated if anyone in the association could help with that. He was 9/1785 Acting Bdr Robert Brown, NZ Field Artillery, tram conductor, and husband of Agnes Brown, of Miramar, Wellington, New Zealand. Born in Lesmahagow, Scotland. Bdr Brown died of wounds in France on 7 September 1916, aged 40. He is buried in Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, France.



WORK ON L5 105MM HOWITZER

CHRIS MORRIS

The RNZA assn's "Op Ubique" gun restoration team have begun work on the L5 105mm Howitzer from the Titahi Bay RSA in Wellington. It is in poor condition as it sits outside quite near the sea, and if not dealt with now, before long may have needed to be scrapped on safety grounds as the Alloy parts were powdering causing structural integrity issues. This L5 served with 22(D) Bty, and the team are researching whether it might have been the 22 Bty gun that was reputed to have seen action at Long Tan. In the first photo Bryan Moles and the boys recover the L5 for transportation to a workshop, and the second photo shows it with restoration work well underway and with much of it primed and ready for top coats of new paint.

NOTE FOUND IN BRIG RON PARKES PAPERS FROM 1945.

SUBMITTED BY BARRY DREYER

I would like to pay a compliment to the gunners, and I would like this to be passed on to every gunner. The gunners have risen to great heights in this war; they have been well commanded and well handled. In my experience the artillery has never been so efficient as it is today; it is at the top of its form. For all this I offer you my warmest congratulations.

The contribution of the artillery to final victory in the German war has been immense. This will always be so; the harder the fighting and the longer the war, the more the infantry, and in fact all the arms, lean on the gunners. The proper use of the artillery is a great battle-winning factor.

I think all the other arms have done very well too. But the artillery has been terrific and I want to give due weight to its contribution to the victory in this campaign.

B. L. Montgomery
Field-Marshal
C-in-C
21 Army Group.

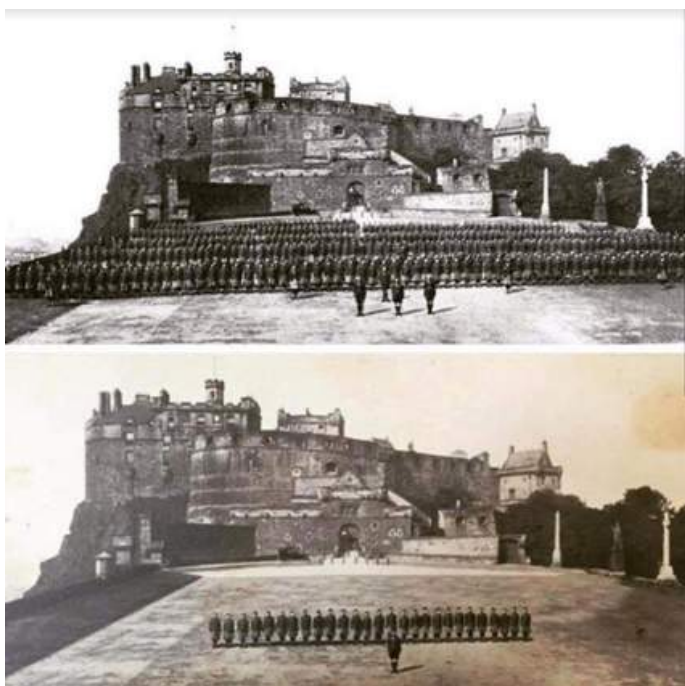
Germany
27-6-45

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

ANZAC DAY IN ENGLAND

MIKE WICKSTEED

No Cenotaph parade on Whitehall or Westminster Abbey service this year, so Liz and I stood outside for a couple of minutes' silence at 1900 last evening in partnership with those back home at that time when so many would have been out on their driveways at dawn. Liz recited Ataturk's words and we left it at that. Earlier in the day, we'd erected a wee Anzac memorial in the front patch of garden and I (safely) broke bounds to drive the four miles down to St Luke's church in Whyteleafe to put poppy crosses and flags on the graves on the five NZ and three Aussie WW2 airmen buried there. They all died flying out nearby RAF Kenley, a key sector airfield during the Battle of Britain.



THE GREAT WAR IN PERSPECTIVE

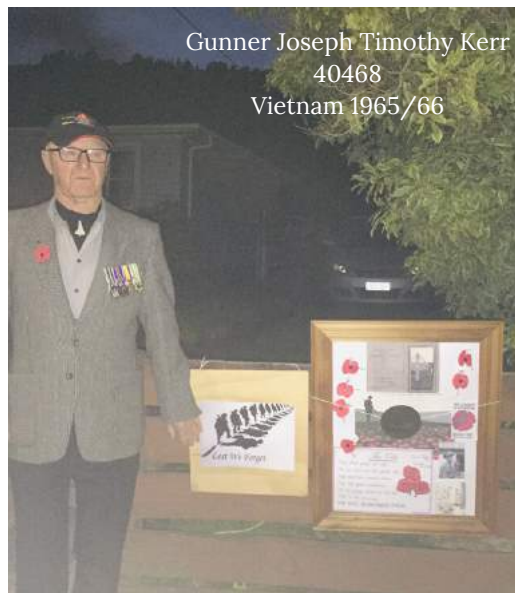
These two photos have quite a bit to say. They're both of Edinburgh Castle over 100 years ago. These have got to be two of the most powerful photographs.

The first photo is a battalion of the Cameron Highlanders in 1914, prior to being dispatched to the front line. Below that is the same battalion upon their return in 1918 after the Armistice.

GUNNERS; ANZAC DAY 2020



Findlay Jenkins 44396
161 Battery 69-71



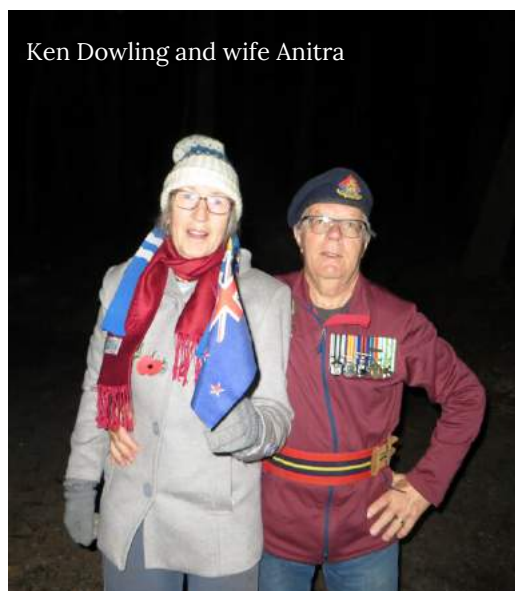
Gunner Joseph Timothy Kerr
40468
Vietnam 1965/66



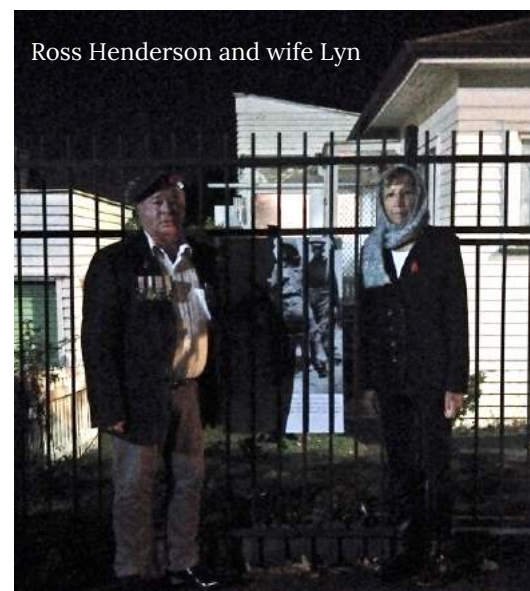
Theo Kuper



Warren MacLeod



Ken Dowling and wife Anitra



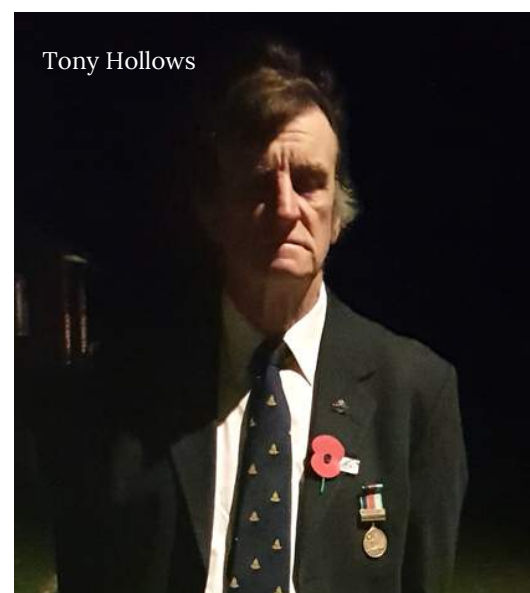
Ross Henderson and wife Lyn



Kerry Lee



Alan Strang
Gnr 161 Bty RNZA
SVN 1970-71



Tony Hollows

GUNNERS; ANZAC DAY 2020

Kevin Burnell
WO1 ret.



Bob Kinzett



Ex-WO2 Brian Bethell



Colleen M Brooker
in honour of
husband Captain
Peter Williams. KIA
in Vietnam.



Roger Pearce



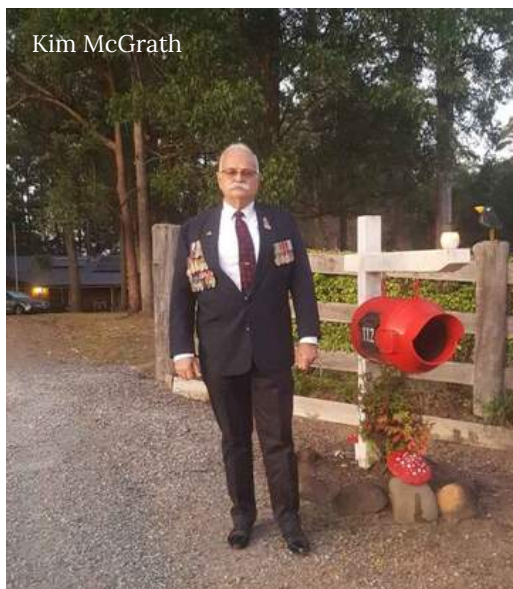
Woody Barrett



John Tulloch



Kim McGrath



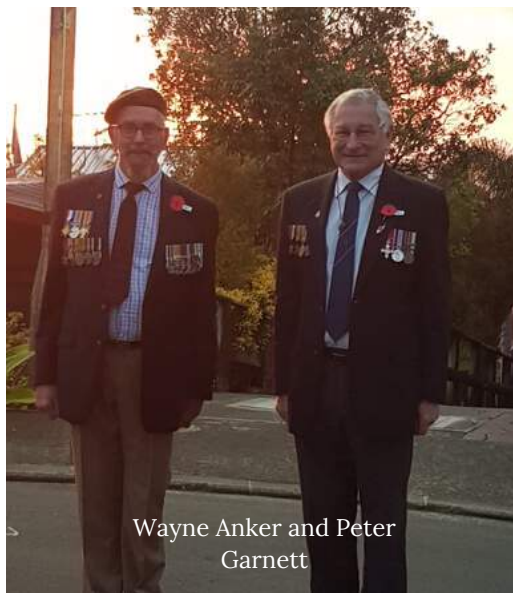
Chris Morriss



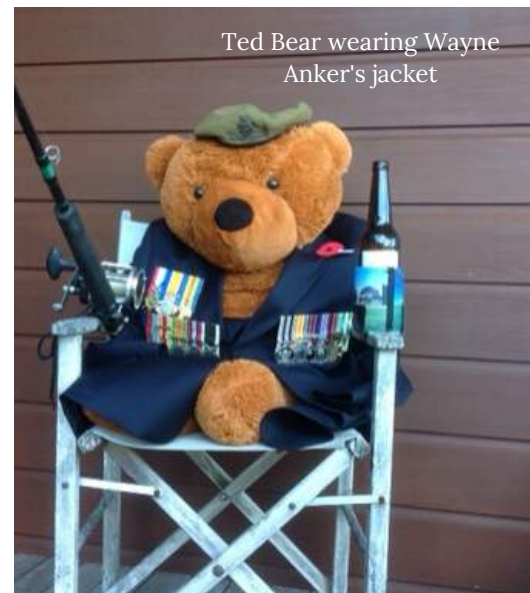
GUNNERS; ANZAC DAY 2020



Daniel Ellis' service



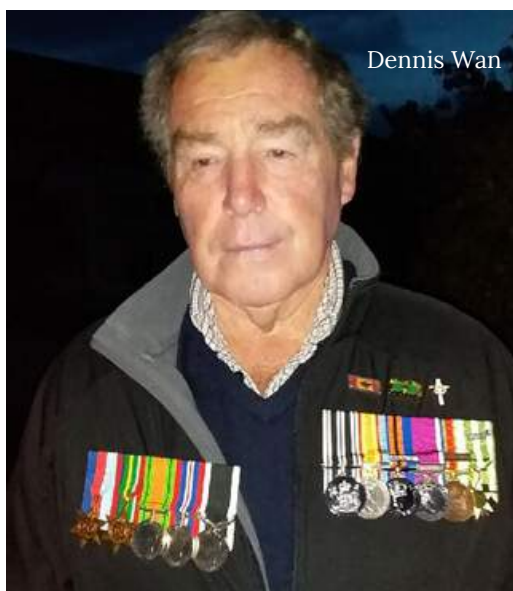
Wayne Anker and Peter Garnett



Ted Bear wearing Wayne Anker's jacket



Paul Southwell setting up for his driveway service



Dennis Wan



BACKGROUND TO GUNNERS DAY

26 May 2020 represented the 304th year since King George I issued a Royal Warrant establishing permanent artillery companies. Up until that time the Board of Ordnance had a small number of artillery experts, and in times of war simply employed Gunners who would be demobilised after the war. New Zealand Artillery were given the title, Royal New Zealand Artillery, in 1902 when we established a permanent artillery force, up until then (since 1866) our artillery were volunteers. As with other Commonwealth nations we draw our operational procedures and our Gunner traditions from the Royal Artillery (RA) and thus take 26 May 1716 as our birthdate.



Gunners Day and RNZAA committee meeting

Celebrations were difficult this year with many regions choosing to cancel. We haven't caught up with all regions, but we did share a beer in Auckland as we combined an RNZAA committee meeting with a Gunner Day celebratory drink.



Congratulations to one of our own, Brigadier Matthew Weston, former CO of 16th Fd Regt, promoted from Colonel after handing over command of 1 NZ Bde to Col Stefan Michie earlier this week. Brigadier Weston has been appointed Deputy Chief of Army.



Christchurch



Christchurch



Dunedin

UPDATE FROM A SERVING GUNNER IN AFGHANISTAN

SHAY BASSETT

I'm currently serving in Afghanistan on a NATO mission called Resolute Support. The New Zealand Defence Force has a number of positions in Headquarters roles, based in the central Kabul, and a larger group outside the city working on a large military training establishment in an area called Qargha. Basically it consists of a close training area and a collection of Afghan army schools called academies. Myself and the other Kiwis at Qargha are working in support of the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA). The mission has been going for some years now, and originally started at the grass-roots train-the-trainer level, but over time has matured to the point where we're focused on providing guidance and mentoring at unit headquarters and above. I should mention that each annual class has up to 1,000 cadets, as they're providing young officers for an army of around 250,000! It's interesting work on a scale we just don't see at home, but a little frustrating at the moment as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, which are impacting here in various ways just as they are all over the world. Politically, it's also an interesting time for Afghanistan, and I'm not sure anyone truly knows how things are going to turn out. I have enclosed a few 'happy snappies'. The first is of the Gunner officers I'm lucky enough to be working with – two RAA and one Dane (our three flags are suitably fluttering in the background).



The second is of two British naval cannons captured by the Afghans during one of forays the UK made into Afghanistan during the 1800s, which are now proudly mounted outside the ANAOA library and museum building.



The third photo is of a Kiwi, a Brit, and a Dane on a hill that overlooks the Qargha area and back towards the city of Kabul.



The last is looking out of the door of an RAF puma as we left Kabul airport to fly into our base – and yes it does rain in Afghanistan, a lot at the moment!





Lifting multiple L119 light guns, our soldiers worked together to have the guns correctly prepped and ready for transportation.

16TH FIELD REGT UPDATE

As you can expect it has been a challenging period for all in the NZDF affecting vast amounts of training and unfortunately this pertains to all our SOA courses. We had a number of pers on a variety of courses at different stage of learning that have now been released back to the Regt IOT support tasks as they arise. What does this mean for the RNZAA visit to Ex Brimstone? To be honest we are unsure on what the NZ Army's priority will be once we are approved to go back to business as normal – if SOA courses are approved to recommence the Exercise could look different. I will ensure you and the RNZAA are kept informed as to likely Exercise dates, including Brimstone. Stay safe and my regards to the wider RNZA community.

Ubique

Warrant Officer Class One, Heath Southcombe



Members of 163 Battery took part in packing and distributing care packages to families affected by COVID-19 in the central plateau and the Southend regions of North island.



161 Battery, 16 Field Regiment conducted a 21 Gun salute at Point Jerningham, Wellington on 1 June, Queen's Birthday.

A JOURNALIST'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF NZ'S OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM

CHRIS TURVER MNZM JP

We made our mark by getting to know politicians and parliamentary staff so well that they gave us the bones of information we needed, sometimes on a 'reliable sources' basis, leading us to then dig deeper on a wider canvas. Politically, it was a fine line we trod. One the one hand we had to get close to our sources – but on the other we could never been seen, or perceived, to be seen in anybody's pocket or the professional integrity and credibility of ourselves and employers was at risk! Our approach to writing news and investigative stories was old-fashioned in the sense that we were trained to always present all sides of a story impartially, fairly and dispassionately. Unlike today, incorporating our own opinions was jumped on because it took away a reader or listener's right to reach their own conclusions and make their own choices about issues of the day. Reporting New Zealand History Between the time I arrived in New Zealand in 1961 and the time I moved into senior news management in 1975 I was fortunate to have been directly involved in reporting many of the events shaping our history. These ranged from warfare in Vietnam and Borneo, the sinking of the inter-island ferry Wahine, Royal Tours, a string of international visits by world leaders, overseas tours with political leaders, and French atmospheric nuclear testing at Mururoa atoll. Vietnam This came to play a large part in my life. For New Zealand it started with the contribution in 1963 of a small civilian surgical team but a year later was inextricably

drawn into the war itself. The United States had begun arm-twisting its allies to show that its own military intervention was not in isolation from world opinion. In 1964 New Zealand committed a token company of 25 engineers to Vietnam to support civilian reconstruction projects but with instructions to avoid combat except for self-defence if attacked. By night the Viet Cong would damage villages which didn't actively support them, blow up bridges to deny access by the allies to their bases, and cut roads. By day our sappers would do what they could to put them back together again. They came across booby-traps in the on-site materials they were using but were never directly attacked, partly because the engineers won friends wherever they worked for trying to restore local infrastructure. None were injured. Ironically, New Zealand's first casualty in the Vietnam war was a woman, Second Secretary Natalie England of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who was injured in a Viet Cong bomb explosion at her hotel office in Saigon in August 1964. Sending a civilian surgical team, volunteer surgeons and nurses, to the Binh Dinh Provincial Hospital at Qui Nhon on the Vietnam coast, came as a suggested move by the United States to help prevent the spread of communism from China by improving living conditions. The surgical team was the first to go and the last of all New Zealand's contributions to come home in 1975 after 12 years of humanitarian grit. In the Press Gallery we were aware of a succession of American government and military officials holding talks behind closed doors with their New Zealand counterparts and it became clear the New Zealand government was under increasing pressure. New Zealand needed new trade markets as Britain opened its doors wider to Common Market farming countries and demand for New Zealand primary produce began to fall. The United States and Asia were target markets for picking up our export slack. In April 1965 the US Secretary for State, Henry Cabot Lodge, arrived in Wellington to be greeted by anti-war demonstrations as he reinforced a push for New Zealand to send combat troops.

Part two next time...

OP UBIQUE UPDATE

BY PAUL WELDRAND

Unfortunately the team's brakes were put on due to the obvious, however I am now getting the show back on the road. I am aware of the following tasks that are still outstanding and look forward to moving towards completing in the short term future:

- Point Jerningham, Wellington; 2 x 25 pounders needing a full overhaul. The initial two have been virtually completed albeit some 'titivation'. These are to be completed at the same time as the other 2.
- Trentham Military Camp; 9 x guns complete however stencilling work to be completed (Ian Topham?)
- Waiurou; any further tasks to be outlined by museum co-ordinator.
- Burnham Military Camp; I have been made aware of three guns that require immediate attention, POC needed to assess and instigate a plan
- RSAs; Bryan Moles and myself have now completed the Porirua RSA Naval Gun and are in the process of inspecting an L5 that is situated outside the Titahi Bay RSA and showing extreme signs of disrepair. A full sitrep and call to action for Wellington-based personnel to follow.

I urgently need to hear from any regional coordinators, or be given contact details to enable me to confirm any further activities at this stage. If the RNZA could assist in this regard, that would be very much appreciated.

Q STORE

BY RNZAA

Quartermaster: Andrew Donellan

For orders and enquiries, email

rnzaaqstore@gmail.com or visit the website:

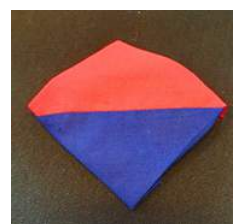
rnzaa.org.nz

To support the RNZAA, the Q store offers an array of items for you to collect and buy. We are working on additional items. Postage is included for all New Zealand deliveries. Please enquire for the cost of posting overseas.

From top left, clockwise:

- RNZAA Coffee Mugs. Cobalt blue with gold print. \$25 each.
- Polo Shirt with Gunners logo on right breast with crest on the left. \$65 each.
- Beret Patch. \$5 each.
- Once A Gunner Always A Gunner Badge. \$20 each.
- RNZAA Baseball Cap. Black with red piping. Gun crest on the front. \$35 each.
- Lapel Pin. \$10 each.

Conditions apply in terms of waiting times and payments. Check the website for further info, or email Andrew at the email above.



FROM THE PAST

Mike Wicksteed's father served at Fort Dorset. These images show Fort Dorset pre-war, showing 6" coastal gunnery, and 3.7" AA guns in action there.



Officers formerly R.N.Z.A. Still Serving at that
Date :- Col. F. SYMON, CMC, DSO, ADC
Col. I. T. STAINBISH, CMC, DSO
Col. R. HILES, DSO, MC.
R.N.Z.A. OFFICERS :- 1936 ? - 1937 ?
Lt. W. B. MCKINNON, Lt. R. O. QUERES
Major R. S. PARK, Capt G. S. J. DUFFY, Major G. B. PARKINSON,
Major A. D. WILLIAMS, Lt B. WICKSTEED
DSC.
t C. R. WEIR.
gent :- Major C. T. Gillespie, MC, Capt W. Pollard,
Capt F. A. Wetherall, Capt J. P. Joyce, DCM.
Lt. J. R. Page, (absent in U.K. with "All Blacks")



Nov 1939. Major Park is retired liaison officer, London. Farewell group to
Lieut. MacG., Captain Wicksteed, Major Park. Lieut. Thomson, Lieut. J.



Fort Dorset in 1920s



Aerial photo, taken in 1951