



# The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of the

## Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)

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### QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS AND AWARDS

Our congratulations go those listed below to on receiving the following honours/awards:

MNZM



QSM



**Lt Col Nick Gillard MNZM, RNZA**

**Ian Beker, Invercargill QSM**

**Margaret Burke, Auckland QSM**

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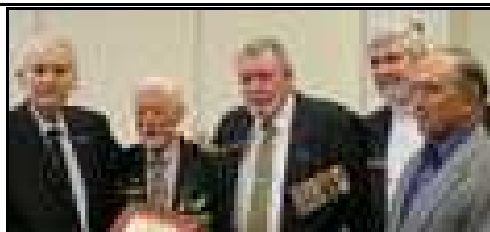
### Kiwi War Hero Awarded an Australian Citation for Gallantry

Nearly 44 years ago, in the bleak torrential rain of a Vietnam downpour, Morrie Stanley saved a lot of Australian lives.



**Morrie Stanley in 1966**

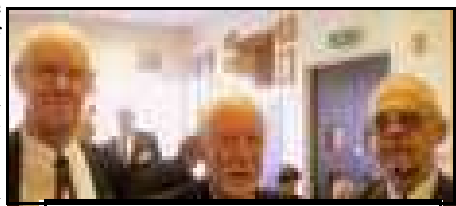
Today the Australians recognised his Vietnam War bravery and in a moving ceremony which reduced the terminally ill Mr Stanley to tears, they pinned a bravery award on his chest in a ceremony at the East Coast Bays RSA on Auckland's North Shore. The award was an Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry awarded to D Company, 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment which fought in a battle now famous in Australian military history. Three



**Morrie, Harry Smith (OC, D Coy, 6 RAR), Bob Buick D Coy, Dave Sabben D Coy and Willie Walker**

New Zealand soldiers - Captain Stanley and L/Bdrs Willie Walker and Murray Broomhall - were attached to the 104 members of the Australian company when they were attacked in the rubber plantation of Long Tan by about 2500 to 3000 North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong soldiers on August 18, 1966. In the ensuing battle 17 Australian soldiers died and 23 were wounded but had it not been for the skills of the

Kiwis, the battle of Long Tan would probably have been lost and all the Australian soldiers



**Graeme Black, Harry Smith and Frank Hopkinson**

#### Index

Last Post and New Members	Page 2
Immediate MC	Page 3
RSA ANZAC of the Year Award	Page 4
The NZ Cross	Page 5
CO 16 Fd Regt Reports	Page 6
Lt Col Nick Gillard Reports In	Page 7
The Last Regimental Shoot with the 25 pounder in NZ	Page 7
Fort Still in Sights	Page 8
Gunners Day Dinner at Papakura RSA	Page 9
Notice Board	Page 10

killed. The trio were at the front line directing the artillery fire from 21 artillery guns from New Zealand, Australia and American units which eventually drove back the attacking Vietnamese troops, leaving 245 dead. Mr Stanley was in the thick of the action, directing artillery fire in torrential rain to land the artillery on the enemy soldiers within 30m of the Australian soldiers.

Today Mr Stanley said he was stunned to get the award and although he did not consider himself to be an emotional man, he had tears in his eyes, particularly when he was reunited with Mr Walker and several of the Australian soldiers. The Australian veterans had made the journey especially for the presentation. "I am astounded, I was stunned. "I have done a lot of weeping in the last week and I don't mind admitting that," said Mr Stanley, whose terminal cancer was diagnosed only two months ago. He had expected to be going to the RSA for a small lunch



Morrie today

#### AUSTRALIAN UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY

Awarded to Delt Company 6RAR for acts of extraordinary gallantry in action at the Battle of Long Tan in Vietnam on 18 August 1966.



Presented to

**Captain Morrie Stanley MBE**

**161 Battery RNZA**

For gallantry and professional direction of the New Zealand and Australian Artillery batteries at Long Tan in circumstances of great peril.

Your professionalism and skill in directing the guns in abysmal conditions inflicted horrendous casualties on the enemy, culminating in their withdrawal at dusk and thwarting their plan to attack the Nui Dat Base. The artillery fire under your direction was instrumental in our survival and now legendary victory.



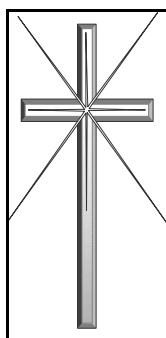
With Sincere Appreciation Delta Company 6RAR 1966

gathering and said he was "floored" when he recognised people he had fought alongside nearly 44 years ago.

Mr Stanley said there were 104 Australian heroes and three New Zealand heroes at the battle of Long Tan. "We all saved ourselves. If I had not survived, they certainly wouldn't have and if they hadn't survived, I certainly would not have," he told NZPA today.

[Read Morrie's own account of the Battle of Long Tan in issue 142 of the NZ Gunner].

#### 1. LAST POST



*Do not stand at my grave and weep*

*I am not there. I do not sleep.*

*I am thousand winds that blow.*

*I am diamond glints on snow.*

*I am sunlight on ripened grain.*

*I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's bush*

*I am the swift uplifting rush*

*Of quiet birds in circled flight.*

*I am the soft stars that shine at night.*

*Do not stand at my grave and cry;*

*I am not there, I did not die*

**BIGG-WITHER**, Frederick (Fred). B.E.M. 38417 WO1 RNZA (Rtd), 161 BTY RNZA Vietnam: 1965-66 (Bdr No 3 Gun) and 1968 (Sgt No 4 Gun), Kippenberger Class RF Cadets 1959. Sadly passed away at his home in Papakura on Friday, 28 May, 2010; aged 68 years.

**ALLAN**, Gregory Barkwith 41377 Gunner ex 161 Bty SVN. On April 2nd 2010 at Mary Potter Hospice Wellington aged 62 years as a result of a Brain Tumor. Greg was farewelled during a service held in the Mana Cruising Club on Friday 9th April, by his family and colleagues from his Kayaking and Motor Cycle Clubs, members of the Met Service and several from his military service.

**BROWN**, Chris. Lt Col. Our comrade, Chris Brown, passed away in Wellington on Saturday, 12 June 2010, after a long battle with cancer. Chris graduated from Duntroon Royal Military College in 1958 and qualified as an Air OP pilot in 1959, together with Ray Andrews, John Masters and Barrie Hardy. Chris served in Viet Nam in 1967 as 161 Bty's BK.

#### 2. NEW MEMBERS



**Burns, Bob.** Lt Col Bob Burns was CO 3 Fd Regt during the 1970's

**Cooper William (Bill).** Bill has rejoined the Association. He served twice with 161 Bty in South Vietnam, 1965 as a Dvr Op and in 1968 as the Sigs Sgt. Bill also served in Singapore in the early 80's. He and Josie live in Clark's Beach and continue with their love of golf.

### 3. IMMEDIATE MC - The John Masters Story [Part 2]

Amongst the killing group individual Gurkha NCOs, under Bullock's directions, began yelling fire orders, and at about the same time a second force of Indonesians began to engage them from the other side of the river. The small group of Gurkha's was now taking fire from two distinct groups of heavily armed enemy and both appeared vastly superior in numbers. The volume of incoming fire was devastating and it was obvious that the Indonesians were in much greater strength than the ambushers.

Chris Bullock ordered the right flank to withdraw and they came through the Check Point, leopard crawling flat on their bellies, disciplined and fast. Once through the Check Point they reformed about 30 metres to the rear and began laying down covering fire for the rest of the ambush group. Chris yelled hoarsely over the constant hammer of small arms fire "WITHDRAW"! "WITHDRAW"! and the rest of the ambush group then moved through the Check Point.

As the remainder of the Gurkha's moved rapidly past, a further Indonesian charge was launched. Suddenly two enemy soldiers rushed through the thick vegetation both firing directly at the CSM and John, one round smashing into the stock of John's SLR. Sad to say, the Medical Orderly ran for his life. John remembers blistering his hand on the unprotected rifle barrel, but has little recall of returning the fire, so close and directly into the enemy. No quarter was to be given, and action was purely reflex. Both enemy soldiers fell dead virtually right on top of them...the look in their eyes as they were killed, haunted John for years afterwards.

As the remainder of the ambush party now opened up a heavy volume of fire into the massed enemy, John and the CSM took advantage of this cover to pull back. They began running and about 15 metres from the Check Point, the CSM fell to the ground having been stitched with five rounds, two in his leg, his hip and his ankle. ON a great adrenalin high, John remembers his intense flash of anger at the CSM tripping on a root at such a moment. He screamed at Hariprasad to "Come, Come". Then he saw what had happened and turned and ran back.

There was blood everywhere and John yelled to the other Gurkhas for assistance, However in the confusion of battle they had simply melted away and into the jungle. Wasting no time, John stripped the CSM of his webbing and SMG. He slung them around his neck before pulling him to his feet and with the CSM putting his arm around John's shoulder, they ran in the direction of Chris Bullock and the others so as to make a clean break from the ambush area.

At that instant it struck John and the CSM that the others had kept moving and they had fallen behind. Sheer primeval survival kicked in as they struggled as quickly as possible, running and stumbling inyo the thick of the jungle to put as much distance between themselves and any Indonesian follow-up. They had lost all contact with Chris and the Gurkha's and were completely alone.

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Absolutely exhausted and lathered in sweat, they eventually collapsed into the mud and lay there for several minutes listening to the jungle sounds, trumpets, whistles, shouting and screams, and the thumping of their own heartbeat. The CSM was groaning and in tremendous pain and John got his first real look at the injuries. The bullets that hit the leg appeared to have gone right through, with exit wounds visible, while the round that hit the ankle was obviously still there. There was also a flesh wound at the hip that was bloody. John applied his own field dressing and the CSM's, and managed to stem the blood flow.

They lay in the mud for a very long time, listening for any sound of an Indonesian follow-up and trying to decide what to do next. The CSM was obviously in great pain and appeared to be all but done in. John was carrying morphia but decided not to use it, as he needed the CSM conscious and not a dead weight. Regaining his strength, John pulled out his map and compass and calculated that they were somewhere south of the ambush point. He selected a compass bearing that would take them back across the border to the Gurkha Company base, and safety.

Eventually the CSM struggled to his feet and they slowly and quietly moved off, John carrying the wounded CSM for about an hour and a half in short spells of five or ten minutes, until he was quite exhausted. They stopped and lay down for a planned hour's rest but after a while, the CSM reached out for a stick and pulled himself to his feet and announced that he would try and walk for himself. Considering the obvious pain he was in and the blood loss, it was an amazing show of strength and will. Mind you, the CSM was no fool as he knew that John obviously couldn't carry him all the way back to the border. John decided to take no chances and lashed the compass to his wrist so that it couldn't be lost in the mud or swamp as they stumbled along.

By now it was early afternoon and the CSM

managed to keep going until some time after 1600. John walked ahead with his weapon ready and compass permanently in his hand; he had made a conscious decision not to deviate from that bearing come what may. They rested briefly and then, as the CSM was all but out on his feet, John carried him for about another two hours. However progress was slow as the CSM was now in great pain and John's strength was starting to fail him.

Towards sunset they found a suitable tree and John put down some leaves and brush for a bed.

Between them they had twelve dry biscuits, a packets of "Spangles" (glucose sweets), and a small bag of nuts and raisins. Of course the rest of their rations were in their main packs at their company rear recee position. They also had three water bottles between them.

As they had eaten a cooked rice breakfast that morning they decided not to eat anything that night as, due to the slowness of their progress, it would probably take several days to get back to the camp. Neither man slept, both absorbed with the events of the day.

It was a long and harrowing night.

(FRIDAY) Early next morning they ate two biscuits each, and drank a small amount of the water. John was stiffened and sore from the ordeal of the previous day and the deflating after-effects of so much hyped-up action. The CSM was in enormous pain and was incapable of even standing.

John slung both weapons and struggled to fireman's carry the wounded CSM. Checking his compass bearing he stumbled off in the direction of the border and safety. He was moving as carefully as possible so as not to cause more pain to his wounded comrade and unaware, then, that he was, himself, suffering the debilitating onset effects of scrub typhus.

After nearly two hours he stopped for a long breather and to check his map against his compass bearing. Looking back through the jungle he could almost see the area of the big tree where they had spent the previous night. Realising that

the current situation was hopeless, he considered dumping the weapons and webbing to lighten the weight he was carrying and simply struggle on with the CSM, but no soldier would make such an unwise judgement. John made the cold-blooded decision to hide his wounded comrade, and strike out for help on his own with what strength he had left. He hid the CSM in the bowels of a large tree, handing him back his SMG, webbing and ammo, two full water bottles and all the food.

John looked the badly wounded Gurkha in the eyes and told him to remain exactly where he was as he was going to get back on his own, link up with the company and then return with them and get him to hospital. The Gurkha acknowledged John, but it was obvious from the look in his eyes that Hariprasad believed it was the last time he would see the "white" Captain again.

Knowing his strength was failing, John wasted no time. He checked his personal weapon, ammunition, and the bearing he had chosen to march on and struck out in the direction of the border.

After about 20 minutes he came to a large river and realised this spot would be crucial if he was to locate the tree upon his return with the company. He did a visual scan of the area, memorised the pattern of some fallen logs, made distinctive boot prints on both sides of the river and then, with another quick check of the bearing of march, he was off once more.

Being alone in the jungle, in hostile territory, causes its own stress. All of the unreasonable fears crowded in, and John just forced himself to remain calm and focused on the bearing and the need to get help for the badly wounded soldier. Sometimes moving quickly, sometimes stumbling, and sometimes crawling, at about 1500 that same afternoon he discovered a firm track that was headed in the direction he was going. About an hour later he knew he was close to the Gurkha's forward gun position.

He fired two shots, .....

**To be completed in the next issue  
of The NZ Gunner**

#### **4. Christchurch Man Inaugural ANZAC of the Year**

The Prime Minister John Key announced today that Christchurch man Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) John Milbanke Masters ONZM MC JP has been awarded the inaugural ANZAC of the Year award.

The award was instituted by the Royal New Zealand Returned Services' Association (RNZRSA) to recognise the ANZAC qualities of comradeship, compassion, courage and commitment.

Lt Col Masters was chosen from nominations received from throughout New Zealand.

RNZRSA National President Robin Klitscher said Lt Col Masters was an excellent choice as both his career in the Army and after were guided significantly by the traits the award sought to recognise.

"He is a decorated Army officer who served for 27 years. During that time he was awarded the Military Cross for rescuing a wounded Gurkha Warrant Officer under extremely difficult circumstances. He was also made a life member of the Gurkha Regimental Association's Sirmoor Club – an honour normally restricted to Gurkhas."

As well as seeing service in Borneo, Lt Col Masters served in Vietnam as the seventh battery commander of the New Zealand Artillery Battery, a position he still held when the Battery returned to New Zealand in May 1971. After retiring from the Army in April 1983 Lt Col Masters held several senior management roles in business.

"But he retained his interest in the Army and its soldiers; indeed in all veterans," Mr Klitscher said. "He was heavily involved in Rannerdale War Veterans home and was instrumental in raising substantial funds to allow the home to stay open and to be upgraded."

"His personal testimony to the Health Select Committee was crucial to breaking open the facts of exposure to chemicals during service in Viet Nam, thus enabling



follow-up investigation into the matter to take place on a firm footing. He was subsequently a Trustee of the Viet nam Veterans and their Families Trust; and has also been a panellist assisting with War Pension applications."

In 2002 Lt Col Masters was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM).

The award is a bronze statuette based on the famous Gallipoli image "Man with the donkey" and designed by official New Zealand Army artist Matt Gauldie.

A presentation of the Anzac Award to Lt Col (Rtd) John Masters was held at Papanui RSA on Saturday 10 April 2010. Prime Minister John Key presented the award to Masters' wife Alisoun and his son Allan.



Above Mr Allan Masters and Prime Minister John Key with the Bronze Medallion embedded in the Anzac of the Year Award.



Above Mrs Alisoun Masters with Prime Minister John Key and the Bronze Statuette, "Henderson and the Donkey" .

"There is much more to John Masters and I'm sure that those who know him could go on for some time longer about his achievements," Key said.

Alisoun Masters said the ward had made her "feel incredible".

"I know what's gone behind the scenes. I just treasure this moment," she said.

## 5. The New Zealand Cross

This decoration was instituted by an Order-in Council by Sir George Bowen at New Zealand Government House, Wellington, on 10 March 1869, for award to members of the Militia, Volunteers and Armed Constabulary who particularly distinguished themselves by bravery in action or devotion of duty. It is clear that Colonel George Whitmore had much to do with its instigation, as he writes in his book, that he pressed for such a decoration to "raise the tone" and to give a "higher inducement" to his colonial soldiers, and he mentions, as he paused before moving over the swamps of Te Ngaere in South Taranaki in 1869, of presenting the award to men he had recommended.

The New Zealand Government's initiative in setting up this decoration considerably embarrassed and nettled the Imperial Government, who had not been consulted, and so the Queen was unaware of it. However, faced with this colonial fait accompli, the Secretary of State for the Colonies could only content himself with acidly informing Sir George Bowen that he had overstepped his authority while going on to say that "in the very exceptional circumstances, however, the Queen had been pleased to sanction the institution of the decoration".

The New Zealand Cross consists of a silver Maltese cross with a star on each limb. In the centre, in a circle within a wreath of laurel in gold, are the words "New Zealand". The cross is surmounted by a crown in gold which is attached by a ring and a V to a silver bar ornamented with gold laurel leaves, through which the ribbon passes. The ribbon, 1/2 inches, is crimson. As the New Zealand cross was awarded only to twenty three officers and men for bravery in the Maori Wars and has not been used since, it is a unique and rare decoration.

On 17 December 1969, the New Zealand Cross of Tom Adamson, complete with his New Zealand campaign medal, was sold in London for 1700 pounds. The

sturdy Tom Adamson won his award during the ambush of 7 May 1869, when Whitmore was penetrating the Urewera mountains. Adamson was severely wounded along with other men and Taranaki Jim was killed.

Recipients of the New Zealand Cross;

**Trooper Antonio RODRIGUES**, Taranaki Mounted Volunteers, at Poutoko on 2 October 1863, and Kaitake, Taranaki, 11 March 1864.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas McDONNELL**, New Zealand Militia, particularly for his services during the Waikato campaign, 1863-1864, and later in Wanganui, the East Coast and South Taranaki.

**Captain Francis MACE**, Taranaki Militia, notably at Kaitikara river, 4 June 1863; at Kaitake, 11 March 1864 and Warea, 20 October 1865.

**Doctor Isaac FEATHERSTON**, Superintendent of Wellington Province, for meritorious and intrepid services during Major - General Chute's campaign 1865-66, and especially at Otapawa Pa, 13 January 1866.

**Sergeant Samuel AUSTIN**, Wanganui Volunteers, at Putahi Pa, South, 7 January 1866 and Keteonetea, 17 October 1866 (at Putahi, Austin carried Thomas McDonnell, wounded in the foot, from the field, and at Keteonetea he rescued the severely wounded William McDonnell just as he was about to be tomahawked).

**Ensign Henry NORTHCROFT**, Patea Rangers, at Pungarehu, south Taranaki, 2 October 1866, and Tirotiro Moana, November 1866.

**Cornet Harry WRIGG**, Bay of Plenty Cavalry Volunteer, for carrying despatches through hostile country between Opotiki and Tauranga, East Coast, 29 June 1867.

**Major Kepa Te RANGIHIWINUI**, Wanganui Native Contingent, at Moturoa, 7 November 1868.

**Inspector John ROBERTS**, Armed Constabulary, at Moturoa (his previous distinguished conduct at second Te Ngutu-Ote-Manu was also recalled).

**Constable Henare Kepa Te AHURURU**, 1 Division Armed

Constabulary, at Moturoa.

**Major Ropata WAHAWAHA**, Ngatiporou Native Contingent, for both first and second attacks on Ngapata, December 1868.

**Sub-Inspector George PREECE**, Armed Constabulary, for the first attack on Ngapata.

**Constable Solomon BLACK**, 1 Division Armed Constabulary, at Ngapata, January 1869

**Constable Benjamin BIDDLE**, 1 Division Armed Constabulary, at Ngapata.

**Trooper William LINGARD**, Kai-Iwi Cavalry Volunteers, at Tauranga-ika, 28 December 1868.

**Sergeant Christopher MALING**, Corps of Guides, for most valuable and efficient services as Sergeant of the Corps of Guides, but especially for daring reconnaissance after Titokowaru had left Tauranga-ika.

**Assistant Surgeon Samuel WALKER**, Armed Constabulary, especially at Otautu, 13 March 1869.

**Sergeant Richard SHEPHERD**, Armed Constabulary, also at Otautu.

**Constable George HILL**, 1 Division Armed Constabulary, at the siege of Mohaka Pa, Hawke's Bay, 10 April 1869.

**Private Thomas ADAMSON**, Corps of Guides, Urewera mountains ambush, 7 June 1869.

**Cornet Angus SMITH**, Bay of Plenty Cavalry Volunteers, at Opepe, 7 June 1869.

**Sergeant Arthur CARKEEK**, Armed Constabulary, for carriage of vital information through hostile country from Ohinemutu, Rotorua, to Tapapa, 8 February 1870.

**Captain Gilbert MAIR**, for his pursuit and defeat of Te Kooti in the Rotorua district, February 1870.

The NZ Cross



#### **HISTORY OF CMT AND NATIONAL**

Good progress is being made with the production of a manuscript of the history of CMT and National Service. All who served under either of these schemes are invited to obtain a questionnaire from Peter Cooke, the appointed historian, and return it to him.

This manuscript is being sponsored by the North City Branch of the CMT and NZ Association. Donations are still needed to cover the cost and these can be sent to the Treasurer.

Peter Cooke 04 934 6817 or petercooke@paradise.net.nz

Treasurer is Paul MacGregor, PO Box 50427 PORIRUA 5240.

## **6. REPORT BY CO 16 Fd Regt**

### **Lt Col Matt Boggs**

16 Field Regiment has now reestablished itself as a three-fire unit regiment, with the return of 161 Battery personnel from their tour in Timor-Leste. The regiment now has 161 and 163 Batteries based in Linton and manning L119 Light Guns. 39 Mortar Battery continues to establish itself as the regiment's new 81mm mortar battery in Burnham.

From all accounts 161 Battery personnel had a successful tour in Timor-Leste acting as the basis for an infantry company. As the security situation there continued to improve, our soldiers found their operational taskings less demanding and so therefore conducted a significant amount of training in theatre together with Australian Army soldiers to make best use of their time. The last of our soldiers returned through Ohakea at the end of May and are about to deploy on Exercise First Shot in Waiouru. This will serve as their artillery skills regeneration training and will see them supporting 2nd Engineer Regiment in assault obstacle breach training.

163 Battery has had a busy year thus far, juggling ceremonial gun salute tasks with normal training. Recently they successfully supported A Company, 1st Battalion, RNZIR, who are a LAV-mounted motorised infantry company. Their exercise with A Company saw 163 Battery firing a number of live fire plans in support of platoon attacks, a company raid and a number of company attacks. 163 Battery has now re-deployed to Waiouru in support of a School of Artillery exercise, which aims to qualify a number of officers and NCO's in their new roles.

39 Battery was caught amongst the severe weather which recently hit the South Island. They were deployed on Exercise Saladin in Tekapo, in support 2/1st Battalion, RNZIR, which is a dismounted infantry battalion based in Burnham. This exercise was the first major test for this new battery in their ability to man the 81mm mortar. From all accounts our gunners and the infanteers did well and are on track to meeting their capability goals.

Amongst all these training commitments, our soldiers and officers managed to commemorate ANZAC at Linton, Raglan and Paraparumu. The following month Linton-based gunners celebrated Gunner's Day with a buffet dinner and other activities. Much of our regiment is now looking forward to taking some leave, however work commitments continue. We expect to provide personnel for a planning exercise with the Singaporean Army in Waiouru in July. A couple of forward observer parties will also deploy to Townsville, Australia, in support of an assessment of Australia's 3rd Brigade trained-state. The main focus for 16 Field Regiment will soon be the integration of our new fire prediction system, which was tested recently in Waiouru training area. This new system has the potential to revolutionise the way our gunners operate due to the capability for digital transmission of fire orders that it will offer.

**Article supplied by Capt David Mortimer,  
Adjutant, 16 Fd Regt**

## 7. Lt Col Nick Gillard MNZM reports in from London

I never thought I would be so grateful for the appearance of sunshine. After a long and cold winter the summer has finally arrived in the UK. Long warm evenings are now the norm and even the Underground seems less grim. England (not Scotland, Ireland or Wales) are gripped in football World Cup fever. St George's Cross flags hang from every window, car and tree. There is great, although misplaced, confidence that they are going to win it. So I suppose it will unfold as per usual with defeat to Germany on penalties in the Quarter Finals! I have just seen NZ draw with Slovakia. Great celebrations in NZ House after the last minute goal. There is much opportunity to attend sporting occasions in the UK and some of the best stadiums in the world are here. So far we have had the chance to go to Twickenham, Wembley and Lords. Wonderful venues. Fortunately we get to see all of the southern hemisphere rugby tests on Sky TV. As long as NZ, Aust and SA keep winning we can maintain the moral high ground against the Brits. Look out if we ever lose. Particularly the Rugby World Cup next year.

The summer has also provided the opportunity to attend a number of ceremonial activities. Last Saturday (12 June) saw us attending Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade. This year the Grenadier Guards trooped their colour having only just returned from operations in Afghanistan. The Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery also marched past at the walk and trot. This was followed up by a 21 gun salute in Hyde Park for Her Majesty's birthday. It is a wonderful spectacle to observe first hand. The execution of complex drill movements was outstanding. This was followed by the RAF fly past which we observed from the NZ House penthouse. Typical Airforce - not all of them turned up (the Lancaster Bomber didn't get to wheels up) and they only stayed around for a couple of minutes!

Despite all the perks I do still manage to get plenty of work in representing the interests of the NZ Army and wider NZDF. The scope of our duties sees us working not only in the UK but across Europe. Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and NATO (Belgium) which are within our area of responsibility. Much of my time is spent facilitating the relationship between the NZDF and the UK MOD, defence industry and wider field army. There is a huge amount of variety and no day is ever the same. After six months I remain grateful for the opportunities presented thus far and look forward to the next two and a half years.

My best regards to all in NZ and further a field.

**Lt Col Nick Gillard, RNZA, England**

"Lt Col Gillard deployed to Afghanistan from April to October 2009 as Chief of Staff for the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) based at Bamiyan. During this tour, the contingent were faced with the highest operational tempo and largest insurgent threat experienced by a deployment to Bamiyan to date. He effectively practised mission command at all times, which allowed his staff the freedom to conduct operations to best effect. He was

responsible for planning and coordinating the security aspects of the Bamiyan Province elections in conjunction with the Afghan National Security Forces. The result saw elections being conducted efficiently, and with a high level of security. He also oversaw the successful embedding of United States Military Police to Bamiyan, to begin their mission of training the Afghan National Police within a timeline previously thought to be impossible. His understanding of the complex relationships between international forces and the Afghan people saw an immense progress being made by the NZPRT. During his deployment, the largest upgrade of the New Zealand forward operating base and district forward patrols bases seen to date occurred. His team also began to manage the largest aid budget that has ever been available and the proper implementation of mentoring and partnership relationship with Afghan National Police was implemented."

**Army News 15 June 2010 Issue 410**

## 8. THE LAST REGIMENTAL SHOOT WITH THE 25-POUNDER IN NZ

I read Mike Subritsky's account of the above in "Tales from the Trails" with interest. It is a good yarn and, without wishing to detract from that in any way, I would like to correct a few points, especially concerning personnel.

I was also there on that historic occasion which is why I would like his second paragraph to show that the CO was Lt Col RA (Bob) Burns. Lt Col CW (Chris) Brown became the CO later that year (1977).

The composition of the gun detachment also warrants comment. The CGS was not present and the detachment comprised Brg LW Wright, Comd 3 Bde, myself and Lt Col John Masters DRNZA and three selected personnel, including as Mike notes, the youngest and oldest gunners. I regret that I no longer remember their names, nor do I recall what Sgt Martin was doing but he was not the detachment commander; that honour went to Brig Wright. For the record, I fired both rounds.

The reason for two rounds was, as Mike correctly states, to make sure we had a 'round'. Just as compelling for me however, was that Brig Wright had asked for the round which he wished to present to the RNZA. As I wanted to make a similar presentation to 3 Fd Regt, two rounds meant I did not have to argue with a Brigadier. Mike's account of how, at then end, we doubled away and momentarily forgot the cartridge cases is correct, except that it was Brig Wright, not Sgt Martin, who ordered 'detachment rear'.

I 'presented my 'last round' to 3 Fd Regt at my farewell dinner in Addington Camp on 25 June 1977. I understand that Brig Wright made his presentation to the DRNZA at Army HQ in Wellington. I wonder where those two cartridge cases are now!

**Article supplied by RA (Bob) Burns, 1 May 2010**

The account Bob refers to is located on the RNZA Assn web site: <http://riv.co.nz/rnza>.

## 9. HISTORIAL ITEM FORT STILL IN SIGHTS—Fort Tapakuna

Fort Takapuna was purchased from Robert Adam Mozely Stark on behalf of Queen Victoria in February 1886, and cost £17,000. It was gazetted as permanent reserve for public defence. Until 1892 the guns of the fort were manned by the Naval Artillery volunteer companies, raised in 1858. By 1892 a garrison of permanent artillery was operating in Auckland in addition to the Auckland Navals.

The permanent artillery was formed mainly of members of the armed constabulary, who were being withdrawn from native districts in the 1880s. Both of these were part of the garrison corps, and became well-known and respected as the units responsible for the floating and fixed defences of Auckland port. By 1893 the Garrison Artillery Section had completed fort construction and concentrated its training on manning the guns.

Two Royal Artillery quarter master sergeants were obtained from England and the system for getting Imperial Army instructors was established. In 1896 the Artillery Corp was designated the number one service company of the New Zealand regular force. Its duties included servicing the various batteries of harbour defence. In the meantime, the original Naval Artillery volunteer companies, which wore naval uniform, became companies of the Auckland garrison artillery and changed to a khaki uniform.

When World War 1 broke out, Fort Takapuna was manned by the Territorial Garrison Artillery. Fort Takapuna also housed a training establishment for Maori and Cook Island reinforcements, along with accommodation for German prisoners of war who had been transferred to Motuihe Island prior to repatriation.

After the war, Fort Takapuna became known as Narrow Neck Camp, and a hospital was set up for victims of a great influenza epidemic. In 1926 the two 6 in. disappearing guns were removed and the New Zealand division of the Royal Navy used the fort as an armaments depot, until 1936.

Between the world wars, a group of the Field Artillery manned the garrison. Its task was maintenance of installations and instructing compulsory trainees, a scheme which lasted to the early depression days. In 1936 an anti-aircraft branch was added to the Royal New Zealand Artillery, and an element from this group was stationed at Narrow Neck Camp. In the same year the RNZA barracks were completed at the camp. At this time Narrow Neck also housed headquarters which administered various field batteries in the Auckland area.

An intensive training scheme to train a special reserve of the Territorial Force in coastal defence work was introduced in 1937. This scheme proved invaluable, with the rumblings of war from Europe, and many of the special reserve soldiers transferred.

In 1938 and 39, four 4in. guns were installed at Narrow Neck on the cliffs overlooking Rangitoto Channel. Two were sited on the right boundary of the camp to cover the examination anchorage and two were

placed in the centre. Early in 1940, two further 4in. guns were installed beside the two in the centre. All these guns came from the armament of HMS New Zealand, a battle cruiser which took part in all three major North Sea battles during World War I. Four of these emplacements are still in position and can be seen from the football field.

In 1941, four of the guns were removed, two from the centre going to North Head and two from the right went to the Islands. When war again broke out, the New Zealand Artillery returned to the coastal batteries.

The Narrow Neck battery was known as the 4 in. Mark VII battery, but then became the 9th coastal regiment.

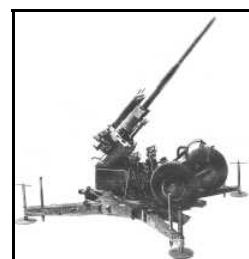
Its main role was an examination battery, as the camp also housed the Northern District School of Instructors.

After World War II, Narrow Neck was returned to the Territorial Units, and also accommodated all regular force personnel working in the Auckland area.

In 1953 the one remaining 8in. 13-ton firing armour-piercing and high explosive shells up to 6000 yds, was installed as part of a memorial to coastal artillery gunners who passed through the Auckland batteries.

There is a plaque set in concrete at the flag pole to this effect. In November 1958 Narrow Neck Camp was renamed Fort Cautley to commemorate the late Lieutenant Colonel Cautley, the Royal Engineer Officer who designed and supervised the fortification construction. HMNZS Tamaki, the Royal New Zealand Navy recruit training establishment, was moved to Fort Cautley from Motuihe Island in August 1963, and now shares the camp with Field Force Command of the New Zealand Army. For a time the building was used as a map storage, but is now used only as a general storeroom. The gun emplacements have been filled with concrete, and the tunnels leading to them blocked with steel doors

But its historic interest remains, and the Devonport Borough Council is trying to get the building, which is now more commonly known as the “dungeon and map room” designated a historic place.





10. **GUNNERS DAY, LADIES FORMAL DINNER held at the Papakura RSA, 26 May 2010**

106 diners attended another very successful dinner which is traditionally organised by Jeff Waters.

The evening began with current and past gunners, and guests mingling and catching up with each other. Mr Vice (2Lt Jasvinder Singh) soon had everyone seated and formally notified the dining president (Jeff Waters) of this. During the evening we were entertained as usual by our band, The Band of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery.

The food again was superb and consisted of seared scallops, fillet mignon or breast of chicken, a medley of vegetables, followed by toffee'd apple tart and ice cream. Aply served by a group of young gunner supporters. Our port glasses were filled and we raised them for the toasts:

Loyal Toast : 2Lt Jasvinder Singh (Mr Vice)  
 The Regiment: LtCol Chris Powell CO ANBG  
 Reply: Maj Anthony Mitchelson, BC 11/4 Bty  
 Absent Friends: Gregory Thwaite  
 The Ladies: Roly Flutey

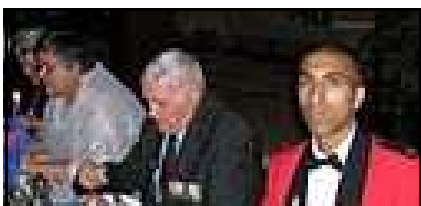
Gregory Thwaite (left) ex TF, made a most interesting speech to Absent Friends, he included the following poem "Heraclitus" by William (Johnson) Cory. 1823-1892 in it:

*They told me, Heraclitus, they told me you were dead,  
 They brought me bitter news to hear and bitter tears to shed.*

*I wept as I remember'd how often you and I  
 Had tired the sun with talking and sent him down the sky.  
 And now that thou art lying, my dear old Carian guest,  
 A handful of grey ashes, long, long ago at rest,  
 Still are thy pleasant voices, thy nightingales, awake;  
 For Death, he taketh all away, but them he cannot take.*



**'Elder Gunner' Bill Giles and Gregory Thwaite**



**Emma and Bill Giles with Mr Vice 2Lt Jasvinder Singh**

**A Selection of Photographs taken at the GUNNERS DAY, LADIES FORMAL DINNER held at the Papakura RSA, 26 May 2010**



**Sister Pam Miley-Terry and other top table guests**



**Tony McLeod, Rod Baldwin, Mike Dakin and John Deasley**



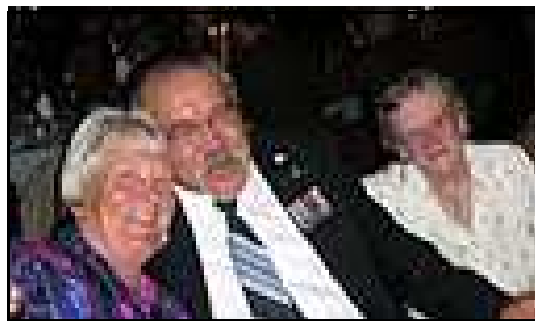
**Barry Cook and John (Woody) Barrett**



**Mike Dakin and Fred Russell**



Two of our modern day gunners



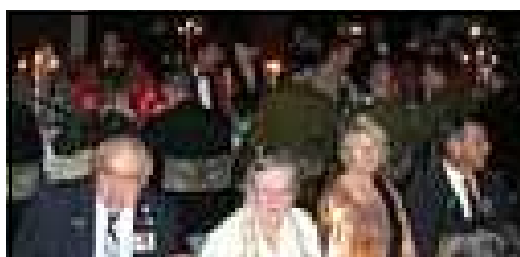
Golfers Marie Roberts, Arthur and Kitty Simeon



John Deasley and Bill Stewart



John Botica, Joseph Subritzsky and Bob Down



Dinner by Candle

## 11. NOTICE BOARD

### A. 2011: Return to Viet Nam

**161 Battery, 16 Field Regiment RNZA came home from Viet Nam in 1971, at the end of six years' uninterrupted service** under six Battery Commanders. More than 780 gunners and men attached from support corps served the guns over that period. Because of the calibre of these soldiers, the battery was held in the highest regard, continuing the tradition of the Royal New Zealand Artillery.

May 2011 marks forty years since the battery left Viet Nam to return to New Zealand. Many of our comrades have been lost, both in Viet Nam and back home, but those of us who are left now have the opportunity to revisit the places that we knew so well - Bien Hoa, Nui Dat and Vung Tau in particular. Time has changed it all but memories will come alive for you.

The trip will include the ANZAC Day service at the Long Tan memorial. There we will stand in remembrance of those who fell in Viet Nam, and those whose lives were cut short by the after-effects of their service.

If you have *not* been back to Viet Nam on an official battleground visit, your air travel cost will be met in substantial part from funds held by Veterans' Affairs for this purpose. This applies only to travel from New Zealand. If you have already visited Viet Nam with VANZ assistance, you may qualify for a smaller part-subsidy.

Everyone is responsible for the cost of their own on-ground transport and accommodation, but these (and some meals) will be included in a package price when we confirm details of the trip.

Partners or kin may accompany you, at your own expense. Or, if you are unable to travel, family may join the group.

This initiative is organised by The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc). If you think you would like to go back, **email Mike.Dakin.NZ@gmail.com (or phone 02107 85850)** to register your interest. You are under no obligation to follow through until you confirm your place.

### B. FFE Polhill 6th Fd Regt

I am recording my family history and have my fathers war record. He arrived in Egypt in April 1940 as an advance party to the 34th battery and joined the 6th Field Artillery in July 1941. About this time he was mentioned in Dispatches. In June 1942 he received the Military Cross at Minqar Qaim. The 34th and the 6th Field must have had a successful early campaign but it must have been very hard under Rommel's advance to El Alamein and then the success as they drove west again - it is this part of the 6th Field's history I am interested in.

Thank you, yours sincerely,

Tony Polhill (son of FFE Polhill)

*Note: Editor has contact details*

### C. George Stevenson being sought

I have been trying to track down a Mr G Stevenson from 163/161 Battery Waiouru for nearly 10 years now. Commonly known as "Big George" he stayed at my home when he decided to immigrate back to England and join the British army way back in the 90's. During the waiting period he was a well known fixture in my home and my daughter and I grew quite fond of him. Unfortunately over the past decade we have lost our family to illnesses and it has been quite hard on my daughter who often asks about her Father's time in Waiouru, he is unfortunately not able to see her, so I had hoped that you may point my daughter and I in the right direction.

Yours sincerely, Heather Rowe

*Note: Editor has contact details*

### D 2010 RNZA Assn Reunion

It is confirmed that this year's reunion, AGM, Dinner and Church Parade will be held on the weekend of 12 - 14 November 2010, at the RSA, Spa Hotel and the Taupo Yacht Club. Full details will be in the next issue of The NZ Gunner.

### E Muzzleflashes

Mike has handed the reins for Muzzleflashes over to Kerry Lee.

### F Reunion of 4 Med Bty, Hamilton



**CALLING ALL GUNNERS**  
**Come and Join Us!**

*On 19th March 2011*  
*Celebrating*  
*100 Years*  
*since an Artillery Unit*  
*was established in Hamilton*

All past and present gunners, RF or TF, whether you served the Waikato guns or not, you are welcome to join us.

If you are interested in receiving regular newsletters about this event simply advise your contact details (e-mail or postal address) to Hugh Vercoe:  
hugh@vercoes.co.nz  
or  
PO Box 246 Morrinsville, 3300

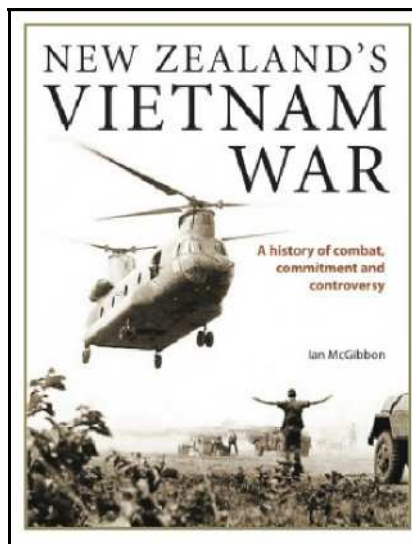
### G 1812 Overture

On 9 September 2010 to celebrate 125 years since the guns were first placed on North Head. our band The Band of the RNZA will play the 1812 overture at North Head Devonport while the gunners from 11/4 Bty will fire their guns.

### H. NEW ZEALAND'S VIETNAM WAR

by Ian McGibbon

*New Zealand's Vietnam War* provides a comprehensive



and authoritative account of New Zealand's involvement in the Vietnam War, one that will remain the standard reference work on the subject for decades.

The book addresses controversial aspects such as friendly fire incidents, atrocity allegations and veterans'

grievances, including over Agent Orange. Maori participation in V Force was substantial and its impact is assessed.

Although the book is inevitably weighted towards the military, because the troops were the largest element of New Zealand's effort in Vietnam, the efforts of civilians in South Vietnam are also covered in depth. The surgical team operated from 1963 until their evacuation from Qui Nhon just days before North Vietnamese columns entered the city. The efforts of courageous civilians like Sister Mary Laurence and of Red Cross volunteers to alleviate misery among refugees are described.

The book also covers the dramatic end of the New Zealand involvement in South Vietnam – with the surgical team and the New Zealand Embassy evacuated by RNZAF Bristol Freighters just before the communist victory.

The war's troubled aftermath is traversed, culminating in the Prime Minister's apology to veterans in 2007.

*Comprehensive, fully referenced, with detailed maps and a great range of photographs.*

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*Behind the Lines: The Editor's Page*

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**Subscriptions:** *Accounting policy* - The 2008 AGM endorsed the Committee's policy of accepting only 'full year' payment of subscriptions, that is, \$20 or multiples thereof. This action is necessary because the accounting process does not cater for fractional years. Odd sums will be credited to the Welfare Fund in the donor's name.

**Donations:** All charitable and welfare donations over \$5 are now tax deductible as the Association is a Registered Charity.

**Receipts:** Receipts are issued for all incoming monies and sent out quarterly with the next issue of *The New Zealand Gunner*.

**Email Addresses:** Are you on the Internet? The Secretary may not be aware of your address. If you are not getting messages from the RNZA Association and wish to do so, let him have your address. Have you changed ISPs? Have you updated your Internet address? Some mail is being returned.

**Input into *The New Zealand Gunner*:** Short stories, especially with accompanying photographs are always welcome for inclusion. The Editor's email address is [dgroberts@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dgroberts@xtra.co.nz)

**New Members:** New members are most welcome. ALL Gunners with a minimum of 3 years service *or* an Operational Tour are eligible for Full Membership. Associate Membership is available to anyone who has been attached to an RNZA Unit or has had a close affiliation therewith, close family members of RNZA Gunners and any other person who served for 3 years in any artillery unit worldwide.. Membership application forms are on-line at [www.riv.co.nz/rnza/folk/join.htm](http://www.riv.co.nz/rnza/folk/join.htm), or [MuzzleFlashes.blogspot.com](http://MuzzleFlashes.blogspot.com).

**Death of a Member:** If you know of the passing of someone who was a Gunner or a member please tell the Secretary. Where possible a representative of the Association will attend the funeral.

Muzzle Flashes items to Kerry at: [muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com](mailto:muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com)

Secretarial/Treasurer Matters to Tony at: [RNZA.Association@gmail.com](mailto:RNZA.Association@gmail.com)

Items for *The NZ Gunner* to Marie at: [dgroberts@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dgroberts@xtra.co.nz)