

GUNNER NEWS



Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Newsletter
Issue # 173 March 2017

GOVERNOR GENERAL TO BE OUR NEW PATRON

On 21 November 2016 Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO, Governor General of New Zealand, accepted patronage of the Royal New Zealand Artillery.

In his reply to the Governor General on the 21 November 2016, the Colonel Commandant, Col Barry Dreyer, thanked Her Excellency for this honour and mentioned specifically the RNZA Association.

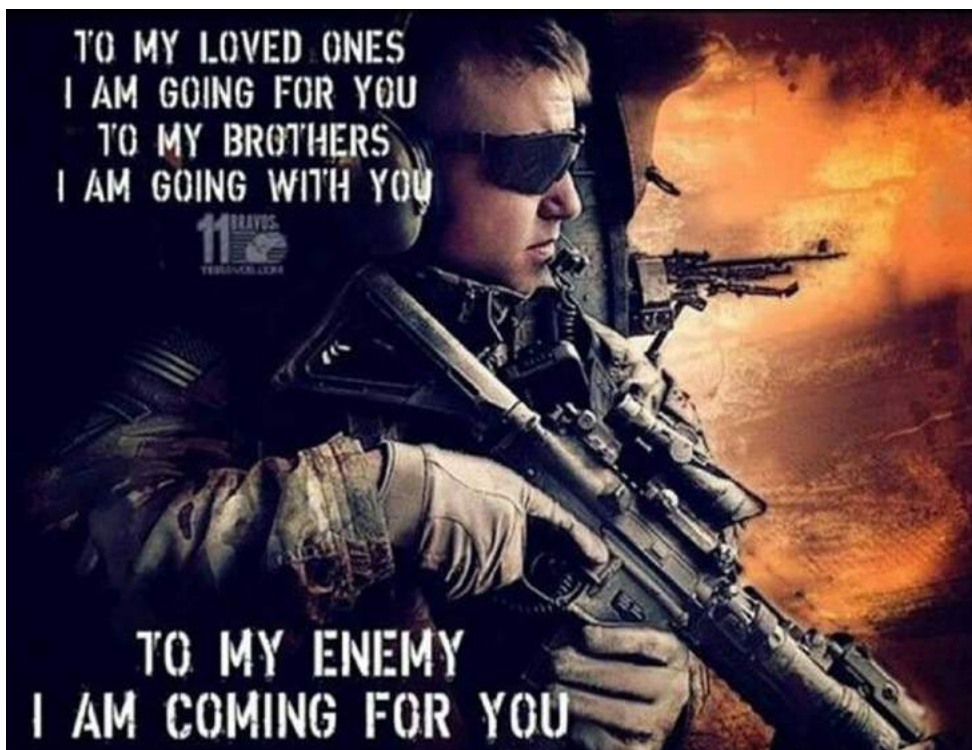
The RNZA Association welcomes the honour of having Vice-Regal patronage, and we also acknowledge the obligations which such an honour imposes; we must not only ensure that our own standards in the conduct of our business and the pursuance of our goals and objectives are beyond reproach, but we must also keep Her Excellency aware of our activities and where appropriate invite her to participate in activities.

Colonel Barry Dreyer has accepted the appointment of Vice-Patron of the RNZA Association whilst the Governor General is Patron.

Tony McLeod, President, RNZA Assn

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Kia ora friends,

Another years rolls around and I am reminded that 47 years ago I enlisted in the Army as a fairly green 18 year old and this year I again take the Queens Shilling as I will have reached the ripe old age of 65 years in a month or two. I wonder where in hell the time has gone and often those years as a teenager in the Army seem like only yesterday and if I could do them again I would, with no hesitation.

A somewhat shortened newsletter this time, but hopefully jammed full of interesting reads. I have a rant about something that has recently gotten on my wick and provided information about coming events and other useful tit bits.

A special welcome to three important appointments that are disclosed within.

There are a number of events occurring this year that are worthy of your involvement, with ANZAC Day soon, Gunners Day coming up and reunions for 22 (D) Bty and 31 (E) Bty and the Association all occurring in the later half of the year. Watch Muzzle Flashes at the RNZAA website for updates for all of these events.

Cheers—David Bähler



Last Post

Fatt, James Edward (Jim), 22.11.16. 163 Bty, 16 Fd Regt RNZA, Korea.

Broom, Allan Francis, 24.11.16. Bdr, 16 Fd Regt RNZA.

Newton, Thomas Brown, 2.12.16. Gnr, 7th Anti Tank Regt, 2nd NZEF, WW2

O'Donnell, Maureen Francis. 3.12.2016. T/Sgt, RNZA, WW2.

Belchamber, Ralph. 5.12.2016. 4 (G) Med Bty RNZA

Boyd, Robert (Bob), 4.12.2016. Gnr, RNZA 2nd & 3rd NZEF, WW2

Hay, Raymond (Rusty). 16.12.2016. Gnr 16 Fd Regt RNZA Korea

Coomber, Robert (Bob). 18.12.2016. 6 Fd Regt RNZA, 2NZEF, WW2.

Potter, Don. 19.1.2017. 2 NZ Regt, Malaya & 161 Bty RNZA SVN

Jones, Norman. 19.1.2017. Div Artillery, WW2.

Cadenhead, Ian. 20.1.2017. 32 (E) Bty, 3 Fd Regt RNZA & RNZAC

Oakes, Raymond. 24.1.2017. Gnr 161 Bty RNZA SVN

Riwai, Hopepa (Joe.) 27.1.2017. LBdr 161 Bty RNZA SVN

Bloemendal, Alan Ross. 27.1.2017. S Sgt RNZA Band

Pugh, Allan. 28.1.2017. Sgt, 32 (E) Bty, 3 Fd Regt RNZA

Gallagher, Rion. 29.1.2016. Gnr 161 Bty RNZA SVN

Revell, Gordon. 29.1.2017. WO1, RNZN, 161 Bty RNZA SVN,

Wylde, Roger 21.2.2017. WO1, RNZA

Lightfoot, Grenville. 1.3.2017. 37 Fd Bty NZ Artillery WW2.

Garwood, Gordon. 3.3.2017. Sgt 161 Bty RNZA SVN

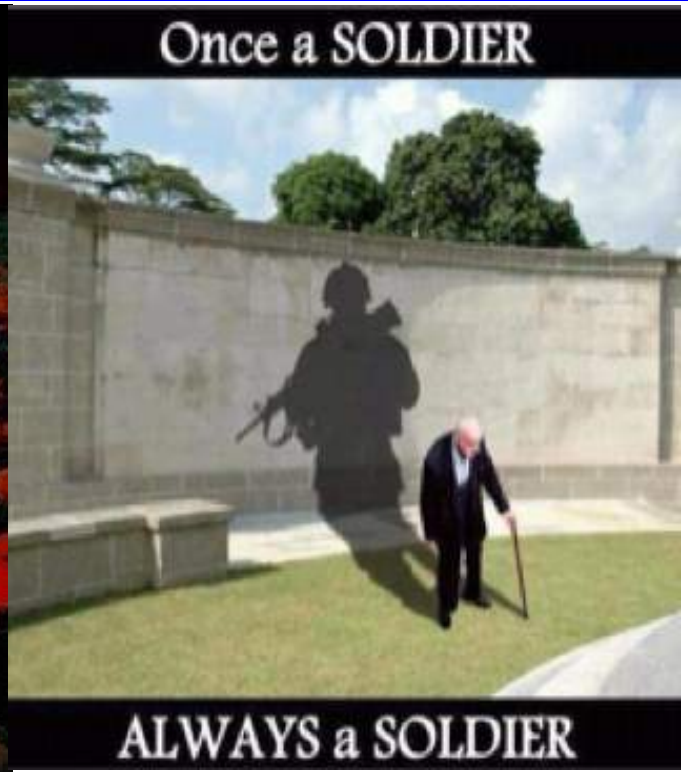
Hill, Frank. 7.3.2017. RNZA, RNZN. WW2

O'Halloran, Jim. 7.3.2017. 4 Med Regt RNZA

Moore (Matekuare), Tom. 9.3.2017. 161 Bty RNZA SVN. RNZASC & RNZAF.

Poutapu, Pou. 18.3.2017. Sgt 161 Bty RNZA SVN & RNZAOC

'E aku rangatira o Tumatauenga kua wehe atu ki tua o te arai, haere, haere, haere atu ra ki ratou ma e whanga ana mo tatou katoa



It is obviously a moment of great joy and significance for us to be able to announce that the Governor General will become our new Patron. We have identified the commemoration of the establishment of 'D' Battery as being a suitable occasion to welcome Dame Patsy, and so we have invited her to attend the semi-formal dinner to be held on Saturday 22 July 2017. We have not yet heard whether she is able to attend, but we would look for a large turnout of all gunners, not just ex 22 'D' Battery gunners, to welcome her to the 'Family of Gunners'.

The appointment of our new Regimental Colonel seems to have flown in 'under the radar'. I would like to welcome Colonel Matt Boggs to this appointment, one he is pretty familiar with having held it whilst being Commanding Officer 16th Field Regt from 2009-2010. Colonel Boggs is currently 'Head of Strategy Management', Army General Staff in Wellington.

Ubique Tony McLeod

The Colonel Commandants reports:

Greetings fellow gunners, friends and family. The year rushes by and the Regiment is as busy as ever, and they have a particularly heavy programme in front of them for the year.

As the first newsletter for the year, I would like to wish the three arms of the Royal Regiment in New Zealand – the serving Regiment, the retired Gunners, and the band of the RNZA – all the best for the forthcoming year.

As I indicated in the December newsletter last year, I am now at the end of my tenure as the Colonel Commandant.

I am very pleased to say that today, 22nd March, it was announced that Matt Beattie will be your next Colonel Commandant. The Regiment is planning a handover parade in Linton on 27th April. We will get further details out to you as the parade comes together.

Most of you will know Colonel Matt Beattie well.

He has had a distinguished Gunner career joining the Territorial Force in 1973 and being commissioned in 1974. He was then commissioned in the RF through the Officer Cadet School Portsea in 1976 and served in a number of key regimental appointments in 161 Battery and 16 Field Regiment. After serving with 2 Field Regiment RA at Larkhill, he was an IG at our School of Artillery. He was later Chief Instructor at the Officer Cadet School in Waikouru and then BC 161 Battery, before posting to the Australian Command and Staff College as the New Zealand Directing Staff. On his return he was appointed Commanding Officer 16 Field Regiment, and then Deputy Director Joint Operations in Defence Headquarters. He left the Regular Army in 1998 to start his business where he is still involved.

Matt has retained a high level of engagement with the Gunner fraternity, particularly in Wellington. He also

currently chairs the Board of the National Army Museum in Waikouru.

Colonel Matt will bring a wide range of knowledge, experience and skills to the role, and he will be a strong contributor to the development of our Corps.

On behalf of all Gunners, I wish Colonel Matt well in the role.

From my own point of view, it has been a great honour, and with a great deal of personal satisfaction, to have worked with the marvellous group of serving and retired New Zealand Gunners and their families over the last six years. I have been able to cement friendships with those I have known for a long time, and develop new friendships with the fresh group of gunners I have come into contact with in the last six years. I feel a bit sad that I am hanging up my beret and putting away my stable belt.

Most importantly, I need to thank all of you who have supported me in my task, all of those that have so willingly volunteered for the wide variety of activities we have got involved in, and particularly the Regular Force Gunners who continue to add to the professionalism, dedication, and esprit de corps of the guns. We are very well served by all ranks of our Corps.

Now a quick summary of activities.

I was privileged to attend the memorial service and luncheon for the final parade of the Korean Veterans Association. The Chief of Army, CO, Adjutant and RSM also attended on behalf of Defence and 16 Field Regiment. Although it was very wet and we did not actually parade, the memorial service at the Hall of Memories at the Auckland War Memorial Museum was particularly moving. The luncheon was a good opportunity for the veterans, who had come from all over the country, to mix and catch up in a happy and relaxed atmosphere.

I was able to propose a toast to the Veterans and my address is on the Association website for those that are interested.

We are making considerable progress with the Brigadier

Reg Miles book, with research underway by the author, Sarah Gaitanos. The Heritage Trust has raised more than a third of the money required to get the writing done, and we expect the rest to be raised by midyear, when Sarah will be doing research in Europe on Brigadier Miles' campaigns in the two World Wars.

October this year, and November, mark a century since New Zealand's involvement in the Battle of Passchendaele, and the capture of Passchendaele respectively. We have been asked to provide a gun detachment for a 100 gun salute for a ceremony marking the end of the battle on 10th November. We have a gun detachment from retired 16 Field Regiment gunners living in the United Kingdom. However, if any reader would like to join the team please let either me or the Association Secretary know.

Once again, wishing you all a very successful year, and I am very grateful for your contributions and support over the last few years.

Ubique

Barry Dreyer, Colonel Commandant, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery. March 2017

Great effort from our Regimental Skill at Arms team who received 5th place out of 8...being aware 5th, 4th and 3rd only separated by 2 points. The Section Commander, Bdr Griffin, leading from the front showing great commitment. Great support from the managers Sgt's Tolhopf and Pritchard, as well.



I remember once, when I was in a sigs lesson, SGT H asked individuals a question about the electromagnetic spectrum, and no one in the class knew the answer. On that same occasion, Big John, who easily weighed over 100 kg, walked around the room asking the same question to us young fallas, while rubbing the back of our heads. When you answered the question incorrectly he clipped the back of your head with his open palm. This was hilarious. All you could do was giggle like a retard and wait for the sting. His hand would connect and make a loud clapping sound and you literally felt your brain move.

Farewell Parade KVA—Address

Mr luncheon President, General Kelly, distinguished military guests, Madame Cha and Melissa Lee, and most importantly veterans and their families and supporters, it is a great honour that I have been asked to propose a toast to you, the K Force veterans, on the day of your last parade in Auckland.

I have known some of you since my early days in the Army more than 50 years ago, some of you since I was lucky enough to accompany you to Korea for the commemorations around the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Kap'yong, and others of you in my current role as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery.

I should add that I am in fact standing in for your patron, Jim Newman, who was unable to be here today.

In June 1950 North Korea invaded the South. At the end of that month, on 29 June, New Zealand offered its first set of forces for the newly formed United Nations Command which was established to defend South Korea. New Zealand was one of the first countries to offer support.

The frigates *Tutira* and *Pukaki* left Auckland on the 3 July, and began their war work in the Sea of Japan on 2 August, at the stage where the North had captured almost the whole of the South, except for the defensive perimeter around Busan.

Other ground forces followed, notably 16 Field Regiment, 10 Transport Platoon – later 10 Transport Company, as well as a whole range of various Corps, staff and Air and Navy personnel on attachments to Commonwealth and United States forces.



In all, every one of our eight frigates was deployed on operations, and about 4700 men served on the ground with K force. About 1300 served in the frigates. This was over a seven-year period.

Korea has been regarded publicly as the "forgotten war".

That is wrong. In fact it had an immediate effect on our international relations as the important ANZUS Treaty was signed on 1 September, 1951, at the peak of the major counter-offensive North of Seoul.

Additionally, it was really the first and probably most important holding action fought by the Western Allies in Asia after WW2. These actions were fought in Malaya, Borneo, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as in Korea.

These holding actions against what were essentially communist supported insurrections or invasions, allowed the democratic development and economic growth of a range of Asian countries that had been devastated by war – South Korea, Japan, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, all of the Malaysian states, Singapore, and we can now perhaps add Vietnam.

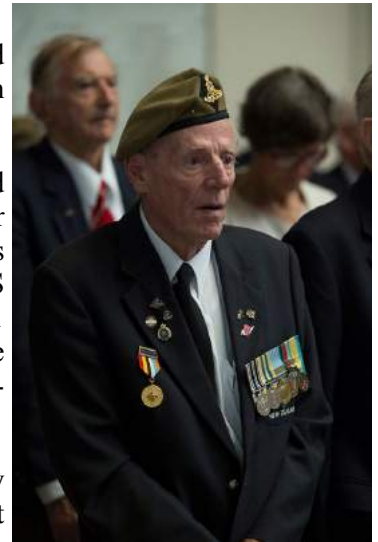
In this light, the Korean veterans were the first and probably most important in the process of bringing millions of people out of poverty and subjugation.

This is why you are held in such high regard by the people of South Korea.

Your war was not easy. The enemy were tenacious, usually in overwhelming strength, and as the war went on, increasingly sophisticated.

I have been over some of the ground in which the battles were fought, and been down the coastline that our Navy helped protect. It is a difficult landscape in which to fight any sort of battle, and in winter the weather was atrocious both on land and at sea.

As well as the enemy you fought front on, there was always the risk of attacks from the rear and by local guerillas. It was not an easy war and certainly from a gunner aspect we have always greatly admired your ability to



form a Regiment, and be in action a third of the way round the world in less than six months.

All of the New Zealand efforts in Korea earned outstanding reputations, be it individuals on secondment, through ships and raiding parties at sea, to the fighting arms and logistics support on land. You did your job well for your service and your country. I know the Korean nation is forever grateful.

War forms close bonds, far closer and more difficult to understand than any that are formed outside war. These bonds go on for a lifetime, and carry individuals and families with them. This is perhaps the greatest personal satisfaction we can have from the horrors and difficulty of active service – the support, love and camaraderie of those we fought with.

As a group, you are coming to the end of your team activities from your Korean service. However, I am sure the camaraderie, support and lifetime friendships will remain.



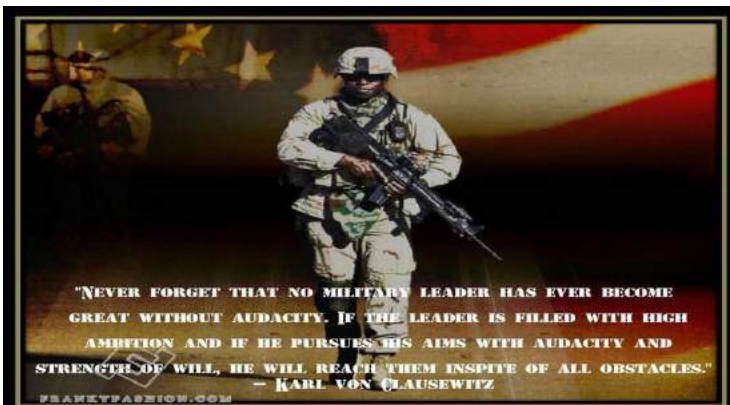
Once again, I am very honoured to have had this opportunity to speak to a group of servicemen whom I have always admired.

On behalf of all present, I thank you for your service and

sacrifices. We wish you well for the rest of your time; you earned this right many years ago.

So, a toast. Ladies and gentlemen, the Korean Veterans – to all of them, those here today, those not able to join us, and those that have already gone. Great soldiers and sailors, great representatives of your unit and your nation, and major contributors to the peace and prosperity of our country's allies. We wish you well and salute you.

Barry Dreyer, Colonel Commandant, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery. 8 March, 2017



I have been thinking:

A message to Nicky Hager:

As Winston Churchill once said “We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us.”

If it were not for those ‘rough men’ you would not be here today muck raking and stirring the sh..

In fact the descendants of those heroes’ that Churchill referred to are today putting their lives at risk so that you can do what you do.

But, can I ask, where were you when the western journalists were publicly beheaded by ISIS? Where were you when women were stoned to death because they dared to show part of their faces? Where were you when Islamist extremists destroyed the world heritage site at Palmyra? What about the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo? Did you say anything about those atrocities? Did you heck as like. There are so many questions I could start with ‘where were you?’

You won’t answer those questions because actually you don’t care about that, do you? You are safe here in New Zealand exactly because ‘rough men’ gave their lives to protect you and give you the opportunity to attack them, their reputations and their families and by implication those of us who went before them.

And as for those lawyers who have jumped on the band wagon - words fail me. Can I ask - did you actually go to Afghanistan and sign up your clients? I think not - you are in the same class as Hager - the lowest of the low.

Our Military personnel do not have the right to respond to your accusation's, but I do. And, just as our Defence Forces have the right to do the job that their Government asks of them, so our Government should have the balls to say to Hager and co, as I do, - Bollocks

David Bähler

To be clear—this is my own personal view and is not that of the RNZAA

Events coming Up

ANZAC Day:

16 Fd Regt RNZA personnel will be parading at Paraparaumu, Hunterville, Raglan, Hamilton, Papakura, Papatoetoe & Howick.

Gunners Day 26 May 2017

Christchurch Gunners Day Dinner Friday 26 May
There will be a Gunners Day Dinner in the evening on Friday 26 May, at Trenches Restaurant & Bar (the new RSA).

All Gunners, partners and Gunner associates are invited. Contact Skin Francis or the RSA for more details

Australia—with the Australian Artillery Association, hosted by our good friend Kim McGrath.

This is to be held at The Event Centre in Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast, Australia on Saturday **27 May 2017**.

It will take the form of a Dinner Dance with live entertainment starting at 5.00pm and running until 12 midnight. I have it on good authority that Kim is going to do a fan dance.

All travel arrangements for this trip are by "own arrangements".

Registrations for this event are to be directed to: www.australianartilleryassociation.com

Wellington. Petone Workingmen's Club. Contact Dave Weston for details.

Palmerston North. The Regiment will have a Gun Run in town (1000—1300 hrs) and the usual Gunners Day stuff.

Auckland. Dinner will be held at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron building, Westhaven Marina, Auckland. Pricing and timings TBA. The organising group is Joe Subritzky (161 Bty. and 11(A) Bty.), Peter Fraser (11(A) Bty.), and Greg Thwaite (11(A) Bty.). Contact peter_fraser@xtra.co.nz.

Rarotonga. Denis Dwane has organised a get together at the Rorotonga RSA. Contact Denis for details.

Colonel Commandant Changeover Parade

1330hrs 27 April 2017 at 16 Fd Regt RNZA, Linton.

The Significance of the Ode

The Ode derives from the fourth stanza of the poem 'For the Fallen' by Lawrence Binyon and is also known as 'Binyon's Lines'.

FOR THE FALLEN

*With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.*

*Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is a music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.*

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

*They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables at home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.*

*But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are
known
As the stars are known to the Night;*

*As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.*

English poet, dramatist, art scholar and Assistant Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum, Laurence

Binyon (1869–1943) wrote "For the Fallen" in response to the outbreak of the First World War while sitting on The Rumps, Polseath Polzeath, Cornwall. It was first published in *The Times* (London) on 21 September 1914 and subsequently in Binyon's *The Winnowing Fan; Poems on the Great War*. Edward Elgar set to music three of Binyon's poems, including "For the Fallen", as *The Spirit of England* (1917).

Although too old to enlist in the First World War, Binyon went to the Western Front in 1916 to work for the Red Cross as a medical orderly with an Ambulance Unit. He wrote about his experiences in *For Dauntless France* (1918). Binyon returned to British Museum after the war and retired as the Keeper of the Prints and Drawings Department. He died in 1943.

The Ode was used at the unveiling of the Cenotaph in Whitehall London on 11 November 1919 and, like so many remembrance traditions, passed into common usage across the Commonwealth.

History in Aotearoa/New Zealand

In New Zealand, and even prior to the unveiling of the Cenotaph in London, Major Fred Waite utilised the third and four stanza from "For the Fallen" as the dedication to the memory of those who died at Gallipoli in his official history of the Gallipoli Campaign, published during 1919.

In their study of war memorials *The Sorrow and the Pride*, historian Jock Phillips and Chris Maclean identified several New Zealand First World War memorials that incorporate Binyon's lines.

The Ode became a part of commemorative services during the 1920s and today is the central feature of the regular, if not daily, remembrance ceremony held at RSA clubs.

The Ode in Te Reo

*E kore ratou e koroheketia
Penei i a tatou kua mahue nei
E kore hoki ratou e ngoikore*

Ahakoia pehea i nga ahuatanga o te wa.

I te hekenga atu o te ra

Tae noa ki te aranga mai i te ata

Ka maumahara tonu tatou ki a ratou.

Ka maumahara tonu tatou ki a ratou.

The Ode has been spoken in Te Reo Maori for many years. There are various te reo transliterations of the Ode but the version above is that of the 28 (Maori) Battalion Association, as spoken by the Association's National President Tamati Parone at the interment of the Unknown Warrior at the National War Memorial on 11 November 2004 as well as by the Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae at the dedication of the New Zealand Memorial on 11 November 2006.



The 2017 Annual Reunion will be held at Palmerston North & Linton in September 2017. The dates have yet to be confirmed and will most probably be based at the Cossie Club with a Regimental Dinner on the Saturday night. Further details to follow.

The Bombardier/Corporal

For good reason, it is an accepted fact that NCOs constitute the backbone of the Army. Among their ranks are the overworked, often neglected but reliable and dedicated Bombardier's & Corporals who wear one or two stripes. Their duties and responsibilities are far from easy.

As junior leaders they too are called upon to make quick critical life and death decisions in the fog of war, particularly when the plan goes wrong or the unexpected occurs. In such circumstances they are often without support and direction. In simple terms, when in such isolation there is no time to seek guidance thus there is a need to decide, often instinctively, and act then and there. They're on the edge between life and death which includes those they command. The success or failure of that quick decision when confronting the unexpected could well determine the outcome of the overall battle at hand.

The Bombardier/Corporal, be it man or woman at the sharp end of war is far distant from those who determine strategy and direction and yet it is this junior NCO and his or hers troops who more often than not, fire the first shots.

It follows that such JNCOs and the troops they command with very few exceptions are the furthest from the Generals and at the far end of supply lines. Thus it is not surprising that there may be times when even basic every day needs are in short supply.

Given the chain of command where JNCOs are at the far end from where ever those orders filter down from, they have the least time to prepare to comply and of course even more vulnerable to sudden changes of plan. Thus the time frame between receipt of orders and execution can be dangerously short. Clearly such circumstances require a sharp mind, sound battle procedure and team work. Mind you, there are no excuses such as "we didn't have adequate warning time." or "insufficient resources."

Thus it is evident the Bombardier/Corporal is burdened with immense responsibilities and may indeed have within his grasp the outcome of an operation if not expectation from seniors for the junior NCO to achieve the impossible or create miracles.

They're expected to maintain the highest standards of discipline within their small band and yet live and sleep with them, share rations, water, gauge their physical mental stamina and demand more of them and often push them to the very limit of endurance.

To add to the list, in dangerous circumstances they may have to order soldiers in their command, face to face, to carry out immediate tasks where injury and death are

most likely to occur.

No matter where or when, they are both mother and father to those they command embracing both welfare and discipline. They welcome inexperienced young commissioned officers to the fold, obey them, offer advice and are very much an influence in how well that young officer develops.

If their seniors become casualties, they are expected to take command then and there, often in the heat of battle and get on with the task.

Like all good leaders, when confronting danger, exposed to cruel weather, hungry, tired, exhausted and fear of the unknown, there must always be that smile, never a frown and always going forward. Despite such physical and mental demands they are in the main, professional dedicated warriors who lead by example. They are indeed very much the pulse beat of the NCO Corp which in turn is the backbone of any Army.

I have been honoured to have known and served among them in peace and war. The least I can do is to put pen to paper to recognise them in a small way with some scribbles below. I do hope my words are sufficiently adequate to express in a small way the Bombardier/Corporals lot in life. God bless them

Brig (Rtd) George Mansford June 2015 Aust Army

Those Who Wear One or Two Chevrons

You can tell Corporals by the chevrons worn on military suits

They're far distant from HQ but always among the first to shoot

They're key players of the team in peace and war

As well as mastering army manuals, they must know a lot more

With new officers, they do obey, shelter them and advise

Until such SIRS grow older and become battle wise

Then the cycle begins again when new ones arrive

They're expected to do the impossible and it better not be too slow

Short warning, rushed orders and scant time to get on with the show

No matter the odds, theirs is not to reason why or even dare to ask

Just comply with the order of "hurry up and get on with your task"

Such miracles are expected of junior leaders be it day or night

No matter task and limited resources, they must get it right

Regardless of hunger, thirst, fear or exhaustion to win the fight

They're mothers to each and every soldier they command

*As well as being fathers who discipline and protect their small band
No matter why, where and when the chips are down
Such leaders always must force smiles and never frown
They lead the way and personal fear they must not bare
They're always expected to be bold and to dare
Yet if there is failure then the blame is clearly theirs
It's normal for the big brass to receive most of the praise
As can be seen by the many medals they wear on all days
It is true that now and then the odd Corporal will receive a gong too
Yet compared to reprimands and kicks in the arse, they're very few
So when you see one or two chevrons, for such leaders, say a prayer
Cos the poor bastards wearing them have heavy crosses to bear
Yet tomorrow it's odds on, these true blue will still be there*
George Mansford ©June 2015

George Mansford AO

George Mansford enlisted in the Australian Army in 1951. He served 40 years as an infantryman; most of that time in the Royal Australian Regiment. His service included Korea, the Malayan Emergency, Thai Border, Vietnam, New Guinea and Singapore. He was commissioned from the ranks in 1964. He raised and commanded the Army's Battle School (which is now used by foreign military units including USA, and UK); 11 Infantry Brigade; and the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Force in Far North Queensland. George was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1975 for outstanding services and retired in 1990 as a Brigadier. He is the author of two books; "Junior Leadership on the Battlefield" and the best-selling novel, "The Mad Galahs".

The frequency of sexual activity of senior males depends on where they were born.

Statistics just released from Statistics Australia and The United Nations B.O.H. Team, reveal that:

Australian men between 55 and 85 years of age, will on average, have sex two to three times per week, (and a small number a lot more), whereas Japanese men, in exactly the same age group, will have sex only once or twice per year if they are lucky.

This has come as very upsetting news to both me and most of my mates at the RSL Club, **as none of us had any idea we were Japanese.**

Kim McGrath sent me that (of course Kiwi men fit exactly into the 55-85 year category)



Members of 163 Bty prior to firing the 1812 Over-ture at Palmerston North last year

Lie in the dark and listen

Lie in the dark and listen

It's clear tonight so they're flying high

Hundreds of them, thousands perhaps

Riding the icy, moonlit sky

Men, machinery, bombs and maps

Altimeters and guns and charts

Coffee, sandwiches, fleece-lined boots

Bones and muscles and minds and hearts

English saplings with English roots

Deep in the earth they've left below

Lie in the dark and let them go

Lie in the dark and listen.

Lie in the dark and listen

They're going over in waves and waves

High above villages, hills and streams,

Country churches and little graves

And little citizens' worried dreams

Very soon they'll have reached the sea

And far below them will lie the bays

And cliffs and sands where they used to be

Taken for summer holidays

Lie in the dark and let them go

Theirs is a world we'll never know

Lie in the dark and listen.

Lie in the dark and listen

City magnates and steel contractors

Factory workers and politicians

Soft hysterical little actors

Ballet dancers, reserved musicians

Safe in your warm civilian beds

Count your profits and count your sheep

Life is passing over your heads

Just turn over and try to sleep

Lie in the dark and let them go

There's one debt you'll forever owe

Lie in the dark and listen.

Noel Coward

With the cynical work of those that wish to undermine NZSAS and by implication the whole of the Defence Force, I was reminded of the above. Under-miners in trouble would be the first to call for help. BD.

The First Battle of Coral – Part 3—Close-quarters fighting

'On reaching the artillery position, the North Vietnamese overran two guns and desperate fighting at close quarters occurred between the gun emplacements.' This description in the Official history is wrong; at no stage were two guns over-run; Number 6 Gun was the only gun over-run. By using the phrase *'on reaching'* the Official History gives the false impression that the fighting was over in the Mortar Platoon and had now switched to the gun position. The assaults on both the Mortar Platoon and the Gun Position were simultaneous as was the fighting. The re-taking of Number 6 Gun did not occur until almost first light and the events have been described above. First light occurred at 0510 hours not as reported in the Official History at *'5.45 am'*.

The NVA began to withdraw and by first light artillery and the gunship helicopters were engaging their withdrawal routes as they fled to the north, north east and south west. In the 102 Fd Bty position two groups had been assembled; one tasked to assault Number 6 Gun and re-take it from the enemy and then to move out to clear the area in front of the gun and mortar positions. The other group was to be prepared to move into the Mortar Position to provide aid. As first light came these patrols did just that.

The first patrol swept through Number 6 Gun around the front of the mortars and around to the rear of the Regimental CP. Greg Ayson, a member of Max Franklin's Number 6 Gun, and a member of the clearing patrol, was later surprised to realise that *'all the training at Canungra, [the Australian jungle training centre] all the rigmarole you go through came out then. Out we went, no hesitation about it and we did a fairly good job of clearing the area'*

The patrol shot and killed one NVA in their sweep meanwhile the second patrol moved out into the Mortar Line and found chaos. There were dead and wounded mortar men scattered throughout the position and the 102 Fd Bty medic, Corporal Alistair 'Doc' McKenzie, began treating them immediately. One NVA wounded was carefully searched and given first aid, he had been wounded across the chest by a burst of what appeared to be 9 mm rounds.

The Official History makes no mention of the 102 Fd Bty patrols and mistakenly reports an *'... enemy killed in the Number 6 emplacement at 6.10 a.m.'* and gives the impression that the 1 RAR Anti-Tank Platoon conducted the first clearing patrol. The 1 RAR After Action Report is the information source of the NVA killed in the Number 6 Gun position, but it is wrong since at this stage 102 Fd Bty had reclaimed the gun. The presence of the 102 Fd Bty patrols and the recapture of Number 6 Gun by the gunners is confirmed by Tony Jensen in his *Infantry* article. The 102 Fd Bty clearing patrol was withdrawn back into the gun position when HQ 1 RAR advised that they were

mounting a patrol. 102 Fd Bty personnel remained at Number 6 Gun and in the mortar position. The presence of a 3 RAR patrol which '*... carried out a sweep from the north to the south*' is not recalled by either Jensen or Ahearn. The HQ and D Company were the closest 3 RAR troops to the 102 Fd Bty position and they were to the west not the north. Any patrol from the north would have had to risk being mistaken for enemy by the helicopter gunships still operating in that direction and by the gunners in 102 Fd Bty. The Official History does not provide a reference for this information.

As the Australians began to recover and count the cost it was revealed that nine Australians had been killed and twenty eight wounded. Jensen's Mortar Line bore the brunt of the casualties with five dead and eight wounded out of eighteen men. Two Gunners were dead and four wounded. Fifty two NVA dead lay strewn around the guns and mortars and one NVA soldier was taken prisoner. Two of Jensen's mortars were damaged and one 105 mm Howitzer was damaged beyond immediate repair and had to be flown out, another had both tyres blown out and a hole in its trail but the gun stayed in action. The 102 Fd Bty O-Sized bulldozer was riddled with small arms fire and also had to be back loaded. Every piece of canvas (used for ammunition bays) was shredded and all personal sleeping tents ('*Hoochies*') were riddled with bullet and shrapnel holes.

The NVA began to withdraw shortly after first light and they were harassed by helicopter gunships and artillery. HQ 1 RAR issued orders for the scattered companies to concentrate on Coral. D Company on its way back into Coral struck a group of enemy and mounted a company attack. The company called for artillery fire '*... and so created for Gavin Andrews, the commander of 102 Battery his most vivid memory of the entire operation, the one I feel privileged to have. The answer for this battery target was, first two guns fired, then three, then five and then the badly damaged gun fired a couple of round and they were all firing.*' Andrews was partly wrong; only five guns fired since Number 6 was unable to fire but the emotion of the moment clearly stayed with him.

The mission was in support of D Company 1 RAR as it closed in on the FSPB and made contact with a group of NVA. Major Tony Hammett led his company in an assault, over open ground with fixed bayonets and 102 Fd Bty's '*walking*' artillery fire falling just 150 metres ahead. It was to prove inspirational to a company that had been badly hit during the previous night particularly as the assault succeeded in over running the enemy position without a single casualty.

Working parties from 102 Fd Bty and the 1 RAR Anti-Tank Platoon began to collect the Australian and NVA dead and wounded. This grisly task was still underway when the road conveyers containing the remaining elements of 1 ATF arrived. An engineer bulldozer was used to dig a mass grave in front of the guns and the fifty two NVA dead were interred there. The Australian dead and

wounded were evacuated by helicopter to the US hospital at Long Binh.

The gunners began to clean up their gun platforms. Number 6 Gun was severely damaged and was flown out dangling from a Chinook as was the battery bulldozer. A replacement gun, bulldozer and gun tyres for Number 2 were air delivered later in the day. Defences were improved including the deepening of personal weapon pits, addition of overhead cover, construction of machine gun bunkers within the bunds of each gun, wire defences, and sandbagging the roof of the CP.

The Gunners of 102 Fd Bty had been in a savage and bloody fight and had survived almost unscathed a result that was due largely to luck combined with a dogged will to win through. On the other hand the NVA commander had little luck; his reconnaissance elements had failed to detect the mortar position and his assault was dislocated by the resistance of the mortar men, his troops moving in on the FSPB struck D Company 1 RAR resulting in three guns being turned to point on his axis of assault, the Number 4 Gun detachment had remained awake at their gun after a fire mission and quickly responded to the assault and the three northern guns had been '*bunded*' therefore the NVA supporting fire was high.

The final layout of Coral was determined by a failure to carry out proper artillery procedures for a Regimental deployment, disruptions in the planned helicopter move, poor map reading and a poor appreciation of the area needed for the units destined to occupy the FSPB. The final layout of Coral was impossible to defend with the allocated infantry company, although better use of that company could have been made. The lack of FSPB defence coordination and orders from Murtagh, the Local Defence Commander, both before and during the attack is perplexing. The authors of the Official History shed little light on these critical aspects of the Battle of FSPB Coral.

Although the FSPB defences were incomplete and the command and control arrangements for the FSPB almost non-existent, the initiative and determination of individual soldiers augmented by massive accurate and timely fire support prevented what could have been a disaster for the Australians.

History is unable to record the precise details of any event, particularly those of battle, since individual recollections of actions, events and times differ markedly. Historians must however cross reference and not substitute personal interpretations of material for thorough research. The *Official History of Australia's Involvement in South East Asian Conflicts 1948–1975*,

On the Offensive, The Australian Army in Vietnam 1967–68 is in major error about the firing of Splintex over the 1 RAR Mortar Platoon at the culmination of the first Battle of Coral on 13th May 1968. **The Official History needs to be corrected.**

Postscript

The first attack on Coral heralded strenuous attempts by the NVA to clear the Australians from their route to and from Saigon. A second attack struck Coral on 16th May; a storm of mortars and rockets fell on 1 ATF HQ, 102 Fd Bty, 'A' Bty 2/35 and the Task Force Maintenance Area. Enemy mortar rounds blew out the tires on the hapless Number 2 Gun and scored a direct hit on the 102 Fd Bty CP which survived the blast. Sergeant 'Robbie' Robertson was wounded in the eye during the bombardment and was evacuated. A Gunner from 'A' Bty 2/35 Battalion US Artillery was killed. An estimated NVA Regiment struck A Company and D Company 1 RAR in turn. Massive US artillery and air support including strikes by fighter bombers using napalm was instrumental in defeating the NVA assault.

Although this was the last ground assault on Coral the enemy continued to mortar the FSPB on a regular basis. On 24th May the Australian Centurion tanks arrived at Coral and their presence was to prove a major advantage for the Australian struggle with the NVA.

On 24th May FSPB Balmoral was established north of Coral and occupied by 3 RAR and a troop of tanks. 161 Bty moved to Coral which was able to provide 18 guns to support Balmoral. The NVA reacted violently to the Australian move and on 26th May at 0345 hours a preliminary bombardment preceded a battalion sized assault on Balmoral. Mortars and RPGs were used against Coral in an attempt to suppress supporting fire but the attempt failed. 102 Fd Bty guns were soon hard at work providing supporting fire missions. Gunner Stan Carbines, an CP Operator in the 102 Fd Bty CP recalled:

'It wasn't long before we had a second fire mission so we had three guns firing on the original target and three on the next. Then we had a call for another fire mission, this time for illumination. My first reaction was that we could not calculate three fire missions simultaneously, however, with suggestions from Trevor and the lieutenant, and quick manipulation of our equipment and with our high level of training we accomplished it without making errors. This was not textbook stuff. It was survival for the FSB and providing support to those who were in desperate need. For every adjustment to the firing the surveyors had to recalculate and the bearing and elevation of the guns altered. The radio messages kept coming for the three fire

missions, adjust fire, add two hundred metres, fire, drop fifty metres, fire, five rounds fire for effect, fire, add two hundred metres ten rounds fire for effect, so on for hours and hours.'

Once again massive artillery and air support decimated the enemy who were also subjected to accurate tank fire. Later on the same day D Company 1 RAR and a troop of tanks became engaged for three hours in an enemy bunker system. Artillery and mortar fire provided a protective box around the infantry and armour allowing them to methodically destroy individual bunkers until deteriorating weather forced a withdrawal.

The action proved the effectiveness of tank/infantry assault on bunker systems as opposed to tackling such systems with infantry alone where the likelihood of casualties was high. Despite the scale of the bunker position and the tenacity of an enemy that refused to withdraw, the company and troop destroyed a large number of bunkers and NVA without suffering any casualties – not one scratch.

The second attack on Balmoral came early in the morning on 28th May. Once again there was a preliminary bombardment and once again Coral came under mortar and rocket attack. Once again the NVA were repulsed with heavy casualties. This attack was the last NVA attempt to overrun the Australian bases.

Tanks and infantry again combined on 30th May when C Company 1 RAR came under heavy fire some 3,000 metres east of Coral. The company had deployed with APCs and after dismounting, found themselves in a bunker system occupied by aggressive NVA units. The company called for tanks and two Centurions and a troop of APCs linked up with the Company and the tanks began to systematically destroy the bunkers. Artillery, mortars and airstrikes supported the action and continued as the Australians withdrew after nearly four hours. There were minor contacts over next few days it was decided to withdraw 1 ATF on 6th June 1968. This brought to an end what should be regarded as the first brigade sized operation involving all combat arms (infantry, artillery, tanks, cavalry and aviation) since World War 11.

For their actions in Bien Hoa the Royal Australian Regiment, 1st Armoured Regiment and 3rd Cavalry Regiment were awarded the Battle Honour 'Coral Balmoral'. 12th Field Regiment was not awarded a Battle Honour as artillery units consider the guns their colours; 102nd Field Battery was awarded an Honour Title and is now known as **102 'Coral' Battery**.



*NVA dead in front of
102 Fd Bty*

A Common Veteran?

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Razza,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbours
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,

Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."



Barry Cook

In 2016, at the Association's annual reunion, Life Membership of the Association was conferred on WO2 (Rtd) Barry Cook for services to the Guns and the Association over many, many years. He had previously been awarded Life Membership of the Hamilton RSA for service to the RSA.

Barry, Baz or Cookie as he is known to his friends, was conscripted into the Army through CMT in 1953, completing the 10th Intake and was posted to 4 Med Regt RNZA for Artillery training. On 3 December 1956 he enlisted into the Regular Force and retired after 20 years service in 1976 with the rank of WO2.



His initial RF posting was to the Artillery Wing at Papakura. Like many Artillery men of that era, he was transferred to 1 NZ Regt, Malaya with the rank of Bdr in 1958 and returned to 16 Fd Regt RNZA in 1960.

Barry served with Don Kenning's Battery in SVN from Jul 1965 to March 1966 and was then posted to the National Service Training Unit as an Instructor, followed by a stint at the School of Guns as Staff Sgt IG. 1970 saw him posted back to 4 Med Bty



Sergeant B. C. Cook (Papakura), a member of the Tower Guard, admires the Tudor bonnet of Yeoman Warder C. Taylor, one of the Tower's 45 "Beefeaters."

RNZA as the BSM, taking over from Bob Blankley. His last two years of service were at the Hamilton Recruiting Office.

Barry's principal trade as a Gunner was as a Sig and he served in both Malaya and Vietnam in that role and was the BC's Pronto in SVN.

1962 saw Barry on exchange to Australia and in 1964 saw him taking part

in Operation Powderhorn UK as Guard Sgt at the Tower of London. Details of that exercise can be found at :

<https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/pictorial-parade-161-exercise-powderhorn-1965>

Barry counts many Gunners as special friends, however two stand out for him. The first is Lt Col John Masters MC, RNZA and the second is Master Sergeant Vince Pelito, Commo Chief, 173rd Airborne, US Army, whom he met at Bien Hoa in South Vietnam. Both these men made a lasting impression on him and had the greatest influence on his Artillery career.

After completion of his service, Barry worked as the site and sales manager for the NZ National Field Days for 12 years, then did 18 months as a service station manager followed by 8 years as assistant foreman for a manufacturer of boat trailers.

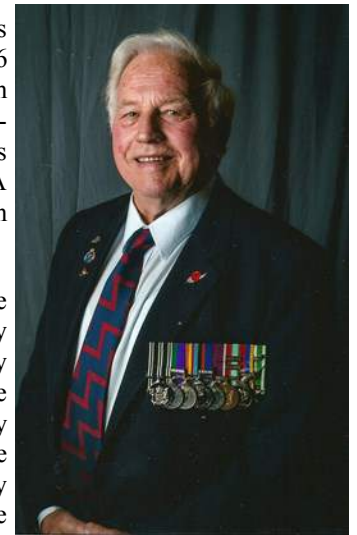
He has been heavily involved with his local RSA and is currently on the Executive of the Hamilton RSA and has been their Parade Marshall on ANZAC Day for many years.

Throughout most of his career, Barry has been ably supported by his wife Maureen (Mo) and since retirement, overseas travel has been a highlight for them. In 2005 they travelled to the States with the Vietnam Veterans Travel Club. In 2007 Barry travelled to Passchendaele and Ypres with a VANZ tour and in 2013 Barry revisited Vietnam with his son Steve, who was, at that time, a Colonel at Defence HQ.

There have been other highlights since retirement too – in 2006 Barry was part of the team involved with the memorialisation of 4 Med Regt and its successor 4 (G) Med Bty RNZA with the placement of a 5.5 Gun in Hamilton's Memorial Park.

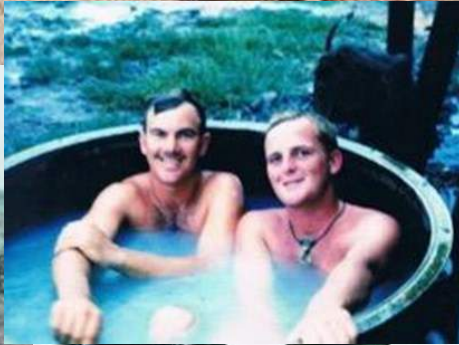
That same year he delivered the match ball to Hamilton's Rugby Park for a Chiefs game by helicopter in a joint PR exercise between the Waikato Rugby Union and the RSA to observe ANZAC Day and in 2016 Barry and Mo were involved with the WW1 Centenary Commemorations and the Last Post Ceremony at Pukeatua, the National War Memorial in Wellington where he recited the Ode and Mo recited it in Te Reo. And finally Barry went to Canberra in August 2016 for the Australian Long Tan commemoration.

Thank you Barry for your service to the Guns and the Association.



One of the units that supported 161 Bty RNZA in SVN was 131 Div Loc Bty RAA. Their job was, in the main, to use radars and other technical gear to locate the source of incoming mortars and the like and then provide the co-ordinates for counter battery fire.

The Aussies had their own set up within Nui Dat and the following photos give you an idea of life with this unit.



A dunny with a view



Apparently Kim McGrath was a member of this unit in 1970, which explains a lot.

A Grandpa Story to Be Proud Of..

Last week, I took my grandchildren to a restaurant.

Before we ate, my 8-year-old grandson asked if he could say grace.

As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, & I would thank you even more if Grandpa gets us ice cream for dessert - and liberty & justice for all. Amen!"

There was laughter from the other customers nearby, except one woman who I heard remark, "That's what's wrong with this country? Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why I never!"

Hearing this, my grandson burst into tears & asked me, "Did I do it wrong Grandpa? Is God mad at me?"

After I assured him that he had done a terrific job & that God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table.

He winked at my grandson & said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer." "Really?" my grandson asked. "Cross my heart," the man replied. Then, in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is sometimes good for the soul."

Naturally, I bought my grandchildren ice cream at the end of the meal. My grandson stared at his ice cream for a moment, & then he did something I will remember the rest of my life.

He picked up his sundae & without a word, walked over & placed it in front of the woman.

With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you, you grumpy old bitch. Shove it up your arse!"



22 (D) Bty Reunion

Friday 21 to Sunday 23 July 2017 Wellington, at a location and timing to be confirmed. This notification will be updated as details are confirmed.

‘In a lantern lit room at the Princess Hotel, Molesworth Street in Wellington, one hundred and fifty years ago, a score or so of military minded men formed an organisation which they called the Wellington Artillery Volunteers. On that evening, the 22nd July 1867, they laid the foundations of a remarkable Artillery history which evolved into Wellington’s 22(D) Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery.’

To mark this event, a small group of ex-22(D) Battery members jointly with the Royal NZ Artillery Association are in the initial planning stages of organising an event over this weekend.

A draft programme has been prepared.

Calling all ex-22(D) Battery, Wellington Coastal gunners and interested ex and servicing gunners to save this weekend to celebrate this event and to re-ignite old comradeships that have dimmed with the years.

Spread the word. Send this notice to those who you know.

Join the Royal NZ Artillery Association (Membership is Free) to all ex- & serving gunners. www.rnzaa.org.nz
More information to follow via email & website.

Ubique

Craig F Hewett (ED)

craighewett@xtra.co.nz 0274736004

An ANZAC Day Address

This morning I would like to talk about three aspects of ANZAC day.

- Why do we commemorate ANZAC day on the 25th April;
- What the name of the day represents; and
- The nature of the ANZAC legacy.

April 25 is of course the anniversary of the day troops from New Zealand, Australia and England landed at Gallipoli in 1915. However, this event in isolation doesn’t seem enough to make this date significant. Gallipoli was not the first time that New Zealanders had been in battle and it was by no means an outstanding success.

What made Gallipoli different for New Zealand was that it was the first major battle we fought as a nation. Soldiers from every part of the country volunteered and fought. What seared itself into our national soul was the sheer scale of casualties.

Gallipoli lasted eight and a half months. In that time 7,600 Australians and 2,500 New Zealanders were killed; 24,000 were wounded. Gallipoli was a battle we lost, and people still ask why we celebrate defeat. The answer is, I believe, that in commemorating ANZAC day we never set out to celebrate victory. Had we wanted to, we had plenty of other opportunities in our military heritage.

There have been many battles since those days in Gallipoli in which our troops fared much better. In fact, some of the battles our troops were involved in resulted in major victories, but ANZAC Day is not about victory. It is about how the loss of war has scarred the conscience of our nation. We were a young nation then and the loss of life was felt across the whole community and it was a tragedy that all could associate with.

My second point about ANZAC concerns the very term, ANZAC day. If you think about it, ANZAC is not a battle, and ANZAC is not a place. ANZAC is a collective noun for a group of people. Thus ANZAC day gives us, as a nation, the opportunity to think as individuals, about ordinary New Zealanders serving our nation in times when we as a democracy have seen our land or interests threatened to such a degree that it has been necessary for us to go to war.

We think of those who served. Those who joined together to make the formidable fighting and support force that New Zealand was and still is proud of. We salute their fellow-



ship and courage.

We think of the families, those who stayed behind. They battled their own problems in tough war times and supported those who fought. We salute their endurance and strength.

We think of the prisoners and wounded - those who still suffer today.

Above all, on ANZAC day, we honour those who died for us, for our nation and for peace.

But what of the ANZAC legacy?

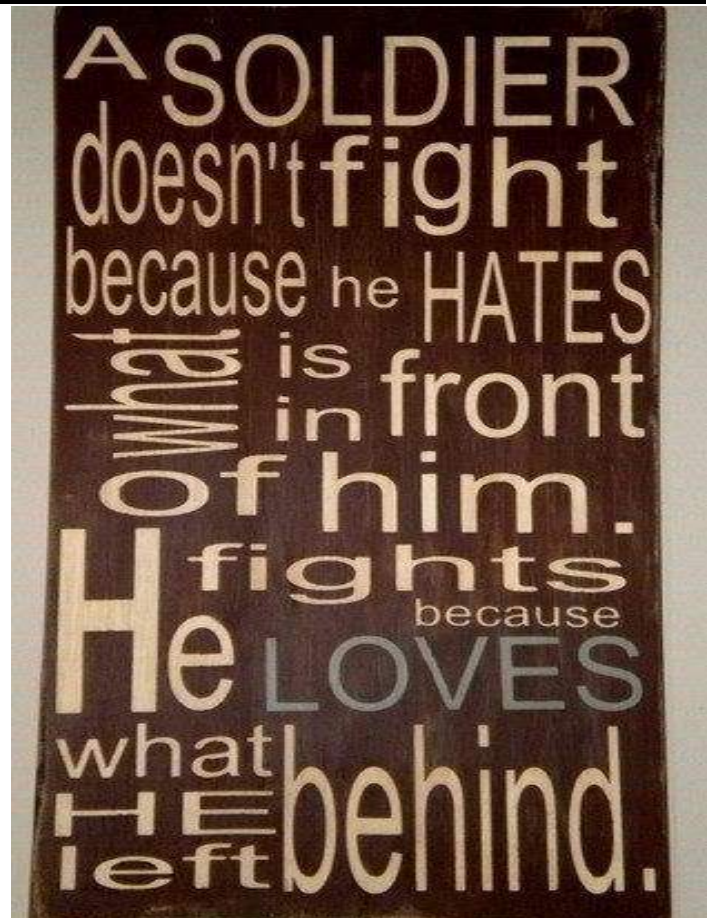
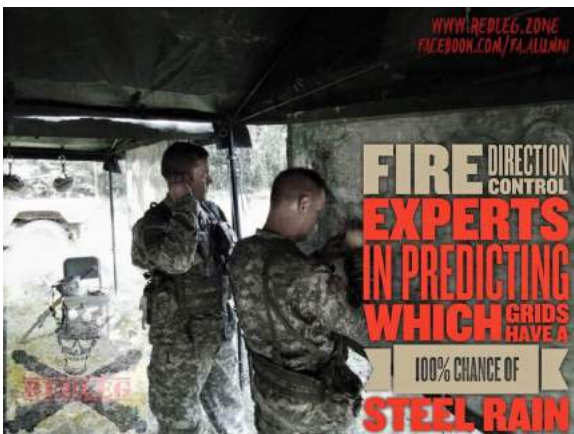
The fact that ANZAC day is a day for the people is evident in the way we mark it. It is not a day of military parades and power. It is a day of gatherings of veterans, of reunions, of service, of community involvement, of reflection and honouring our forebears.

If we do celebrate anything on ANZAC day it is the legacy that those who fought as ANZAC's give us, and those who followed them strengthened and enriched that legacy. In the face of adversity, the ANZAC's demonstrated beyond any doubt the necessary military virtues of duty, courage, teamwork, resolution and self-sacrifice.

But to these they added a few unique qualities of their own - mateship, trust, a discipline based on earned respect and not assumed worth, initiative, resourcefulness, wry humour and, what is often forgotten, a respect for the courage and capability of friend and foe alike. The excellent and unique reputation surrounding ANZAC survives even today in our armed forces.

ANZAC day is a great Australian and New Zealand tradition. It is celebrated all over the two nations and wherever New Zealanders and Australians are overseas. It is our day - a day to remember with affection the courage of people and the value of friendship - to honour the dead and to acknowledge those who suffer still from the effects of war.

We do not celebrate victory or glorify war - we celebrate the human spirit - the spirit of ANZAC.



THE BRONZE GUNNER



The RNZA Heritage Trust and the former NZ Defence Official Artist, Captain Matt Gauldie RNZA, have developed a distinctly Kiwi Gunner trophy of some impact and value with this wonderful bronze of a gunner in action.

This is a limited edition of fifty statues, each individually finished, signed and numbered.

As well as being a superb trophy, the statue represents generations of New Zealand Gunners, fighting their guns with skill, courage and determination.

Available with or without a brass cartridge case mount, we would encourage you to consider purchasing a trophy.

Matt Gauldie is recognised as one of the country's leading artists and has many of his works in galleries and private collections. More recently he has been commissioned in both Australia and New Zealand to complete monumental bronzes for public place display.

This bronze combines his love of both guns and bronze sculpture into a superb collectors' piece.

To purchase contact : rnza.association@gmail.com

Did You Know:

In the Australian Army the Artillery is not accorded the privilege of Right of the Line; the Australian Corps that has this honour is the Corps of Staff Cadets, followed by the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and then the Gunners. Within the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery regiments take precedence according to numerical order, however, the exception to this rule is A Field Battery, which, if listed on the Order of Battle as an independent unit, has precedence over all other Artillery units.

Fortunately we got it right in New Zealand.



The presentation Bronze Gunner to the RA, accepted by the Master Gunner, St James Park (General Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman GBE KCB) - also present at the presentation (at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London following the RA Ceremony of Remembrance) were Mike Wicksteed (ex RNZA) and the NZ Defence Adviser Brig Evan Williams. The presentation was done on our behalf by Maj (Rtd) John Tulloch, MBE, FO 161 Bty RVN and Adjt 16 Fd Regt.



Bet you can't guess who it is

I have a little Satnav, it sits there in my car.

A Satnav is a driver's friend it tells you where you are.

I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life.

It's better than the normal ones, my Satnav is my wife.
It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive

"It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty five".

It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake

And tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake.
It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green

It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene.

It lists the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear.

And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.
I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device.

For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice.

It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught.

So why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort?
Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed.

It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed!

Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff,

I only wish that now and then, I could turn the bugger off.
With apologies to Pam Ayres

Puns for the educated?

1. King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world.

Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan.

Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it."

"But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!"

Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

2. Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss League records were destroyed in a fire, and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

3. A man rushed into a busy doctor's surgery and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

4. An Indian chief was feeling very sick, so he summoned the Medicine man. After a brief examination, the medicine man took out a long, thin strip of elk rawhide and gave it to the chief, telling him to bite off, chew, and swallow one inch of the leather every day. After a month, the medicine man returned to see how the chief was feeling.

The chief shrugged and said, "The thong is ended, but the malady lingers on."

5. A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official, who apologized profusely, saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

6. There were three Indian squaws. One slept on a deer skin, one slept on an elk skin, and the third slept on a hippopotamus skin. All three became pregnant. The first two each had a baby boy. The one who slept on the hippopotamus skin had twin boys. This just goes to prove that the squaw of the hippopotamus is equal to the sons of the squaws of the other two hides.

7. A sceptical anthropologist was cataloguing South American folk remedies with the assistance of a tribal elder who indicated that the leaves of a particular fern were a sure cure for any case of constipation.

When the anthropologist expressed his doubts, the elder looked him in the eye and said, "Let me tell you, with fronds like these, you don't need enemas."

**IF YOU LOVE A
FIELD ARTILLERYMAN
RAISE YOUR HAND.
IF NOT, RAISE YOUR
STANDARDS**

RNZAA Q Store



RNZAA Tee Shirt—quick dry & breathable \$45 incl post



RNZAA Pocket Patch - edged & ready for adding to jacket. \$20 each



RNZAA Hoodie \$75 each incl post



RNZAA Name Tag. Made to order – please advise name required \$27.50 each



Bumper Stickers \$5 each



RNZAA Lapel Pin. \$10 each



RNZAA Cap – \$35 each



RNZAA Beanie \$30 each (incl post)



Polo Shirts – Dual logo. (Email Colin for available sizes before making payment) \$65 each

To place your order or make enquiry contact Colin Jansen on email rnzaaqstore@gmail.com

When making your payment, deposit or computer transfer to: RNZAA Account **38-9007-0694501-00** remember to state your name and "Q-store payment" in the reference fields so we know who and what the payment is for. Goods will only be dispatched or orders placed with our source of supply once your payment has been made, identified as received by the treasurer and a postal address provided.

Patron HE The Governor General, The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, GMNZM, QSO.

Vice Patron Colonel Barry Dreyer RNZA

Colonel Commandant Colonel Matt Beattie. The Colonel Commandant is an ex officio member of the Association

President Lt Col (Rtd) Tony McLeod, 09 4860910, 027 2698472

Secretary Bernie McCort, 07 345 3643, 18 Walford Drive, ROTORUA 3010.
Email: rnza.association@gmail.com

Committee: Greg Thwaite (Vice President), Colin Jansen (Asst Sec, Facebook Mgr. and Quartermaster)
Andrew Donellan, Peter Miles & Maaka McKinney

Committee Members at Large:

Graeme Black (Waikato), Brian Jerry Meyer (Australia), John Osborne (Northland), Jack Mills (Hamilton), Danny and Bernie McCort (BOP), Chris Morriss (Tauranga), Tom Roche/Steve Harvey (Manawatu), Roger Newth (Horowhenua), Lindsay Skinner (Wgtn), Rob Hitchings (Wgtn), Rob Munro (Wgtn), Brian (Skin) Frances (Upper Sth Island), Chris Diedrichs, Robbie Gardner & Al Martin (Dunedin), TBA (16 Fd Regt), Dave Weston (Wgtn, RNZRSA Delegate)

Welfare Support: Northern: Peter Miles 027 476273 Central: Lindsay Skinner 027 5303319
Southern: Pat Duggan 021 02615773

The Gunner News Editor: David Bähler, 8 Mamaku St, PARAPARAUMU 5254. Ph 027 280 7915.
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Facebook Site: [Facebook, RNZA Assn](#)

Subscriptions: For those members wishing to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter a \$20 fee is payable. Please forward by cheque to The Secretary 18 Walford Drive, Rotorua 3010. Subscription **Associate Members:** \$20 per annum. Please send cheque to above address.

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

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, please forward your address. Have you changed ISPs? Have you updated your Internet address? Some mail is being returned.

Input into Gunner News: Short stories, especially with accompanying photographs, are always welcome for inclusion. The Editor's email address is: davidbahler@paradise.net.nz Please send as an attachment in MS Word format.

Member Registration: New members are most welcome. **ALL** Gunners are eligible for Full Membership, it is **FREE**, and automatic once a gunner has served in the Regiment for more than 3 months. Associate Membership is available to anyone who has been attached to an RNZA Unit or has had a close affiliation therewith, and to close family of RNZA Gunners and to Gunners of any nation around the world. Membership application forms are on-line at the new website: rnzaa.org.nz.

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 & websites items to Chris at: webmaster.rnzaa@gmail.com

Secretarial/Treasurer matters to Bernie : rnza.association@gmail.com

Items for Gunner News to David at: davidbahler@paradise.net.nz

RNZA Assn Bank: Ac # 38 9007 0694501 00

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